

The workshop meeting of the Borough of Riverdale Mayor and Council opened on the above date at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor William Budesheim presiding.

ROLL CALL: **Present:** **Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzel, Falkoski**
 Absent: **Astarita (vacation)**

Mayor Budesheim announced that proper notice of this meeting was made as to time, date, place and agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING OF 2007 MUNICIPAL BUDGET:

Jane Rowan, 13 Evans Road, stated that she wants to know about raising the taxes and about the nurse. She said she thought the taxes were going down with the additional industry and instead we are getting more traffic and a 14 point tax increase. You're letting go of the nurse after they said they would keep her part time. Mayor Budesheim stated that was a Board of Health decision and the Governing Body does not control the Health Department or nurse. They are replacing the nurse with the services provided by Pequannock who is providing our other health department services. Ms. Rowan stated that at the last Board of Health meeting it was decided that they would keep the nurse and reduce her time. Then the next day that was cancelled. Various unidentified audience members also commented and asked questions regarding the nurse. They wanted to know why the Board of Health members changed their minds after deciding to keep her at the last meeting. Councilwoman Wetzel stated that she is the council liaison to the Board of Health and even she did not know about it in advance. She said the last she heard was of the decision made at the last meeting where the nurse's hours were reduced from 15 to 10. She was not available to attend the rescheduled meeting and the matter was not on the agenda. She explained that the Board of Health met and the subject was discussed under "old business". She said it was an advertised public meeting and although she was not there she does not believe anything was done behind anybody's back. She stated she can give her opinion but is not a voting member of the Board of Health. The decision was made for financial reasons, and because it's contractual and Pequannock does provide nursing service. We had a duplication of services that we were paying for. She stated that the residents will not have the nurse they had but they will be getting nursing services.

Mary Gambino asked if a nurse would continue to come to the Senior Center once a month to take blood pressure. Councilwoman Wetzel stated that because she was not at the meeting she does not have all of the information but she will get it. She stated the Health Officer comes to Riverdale to conduct business and she has no reason to think that the nurse would not. The blood pressure clinics, flu clinics and SMAC testing will continue and we will not be deprived of services. She stated that our relationship with the Pequannock Health Department has been very reasonable. Mrs. Gambino stated that we have people willing to have the nurse come and pay her because that's how good she is. Councilwoman Wetzel stated that none of this has to do with Stacey personally. It had to do with the position. Mrs. Gambino asked if eliminating the position has something to do with the budget. Councilwoman Wetzel stated that every department tries to save money in their budget. We were paying more money for a second nurse while we were already paying for a contract that included a nurse. Several unidentified audience members asked questions regarding services in the contract. Councilwoman Wetzel stated the services include the Health Officer, the clinics, and the sanitarian. Councilman Guis stated that in addition to traditional health services the Health Officer is responsible for responding to any type of spills or emergencies, the sanitarian is responsible for work on septic systems, restaurant inspections, etc. An unidentified audience member asked why we couldn't negotiate a contract that did not include a nurse so we could keep the nurse we had. Mayor Budesheim stated that the difference in cost

PUBLIC HEARING OF 2007 MUNICIPAL BUDGET (continued):

was \$24,000. The nursing services from Pequannock cost about \$8,700 versus the \$34,000 it cost for our nurse's salary and benefits. He explained that for 25 years we contracted with Lincoln Park for Health Services. Last year they gave us 90 days notice that they were cancelling the contract and we had to find another provider for those health services. Pequannock's contract cost almost half of what Lincoln Park was charging. The contract provides for a nurse to come to Riverdale and provide the services we now get with clinics. To have a nurse come and spend additional time here cost an additional \$8,700 which is about a \$24,000 savings. The Board of Health negotiated the contract and made this decision knowing that we are trying to cut expenses.

An unidentified audience member asked if the taxes were going up to pay the debt for the fire engines. Mayor Budesheim stated that was a small part of it. She asked why the taxpayers have to pay for that when we didn't need it until the apartments and stores came in. Mayor Budesheim stated that we are not allowed to charge the stores and they pay taxes like everyone else. He explained the shift in the tax burden from commercial to residential properties after the re-val we had two years ago.

An unidentified audience member asked if they would still get home visits from the nurse. Mayor Budesheim stated that he did not know. She said we always had our own nurse and there must be a way to keep our own nurse. Mayor Budesheim stated that Lincoln Park provided our nurse for 20 years as part of their contract and we got our own nurse about 5 years ago when they gave that up. Another unidentified audience member stated that for 10 hours a week we should have our own nurse to support the seniors in our community. Several other unidentified audience members commented that there were other items we should not spend money on so that we can have the nurse. Councilwoman Wetzel stated that this concern needs to be brought to a Board of Health meeting because they are the ones who would make or change that decision. Their next meeting will be July 24th. She explained her position as the liaison between the two boards. She also stated that the money is in the budget right now and the budget has not been adopted yet. Mayor Budesheim stated that he believed they had already signed the contract with Pequannock.

An unidentified audience member asked why we would entice businesses to come into Riverdale when they are getting tax breaks and costing us money. We had to get more fire trucks, more police and a lot of people really didn't want them. Mayor Budesheim stated that we took a big hit with the revaluation. We were ordered to do the re-val by the county. He also stated that you need some businesses and you need to have a balance. Several unidentified audience members stated that the taxes were too high and keep going up. Mayor Budesheim stated that the borough's share of municipal taxes has not gone up in three years. The rest was county and school tax. He stated the school's tax levy went up \$600,000 this year and that was approved by a 3 to 1 vote.

An unidentified audience member asked why the Mayor's salary is \$45,000 and the Mayor in Wayne only gets \$18,000 and Haledon gets \$4,000. Mayor Budesheim stated that they have full time administrators and that salary is from \$100,000 to \$150,000 per year.

Mrs. Adornetto asked how much it would increase the taxes to keep the Borough Nurse because we all agreed to have our taxes raised to keep a full time nurse like that. Mayor Budesheim stated he is getting mixed signals. Some people want us to cut spending and others want us to increase it. Some people want us to buy property to preserve open space and others are telling us to sell it. We are trying to provide the services you need at a price that we can afford. He explained the miscellaneous revenues went down last year \$756,000 and reserve for uncollected taxes went up \$114,000. We have to start paying

PUBLIC HEARING OF 2007 MUNICIPAL BUDGET (continued):

off debt because we pay a lot of interest on that. He stated that a lot of things are out of our control. An unidentified audience member asked how much of it is in your control. Mayor Budesheim gave examples of some state mandated regulations and paperwork requirements. The audience member said he is only asking about the controllable amounts in each department and things that we decide that we want. Councilman Falkoski explained how the individual departments request their budgets from the council through the liaisons. Mayor Budesheim stated that the total increases for all the departments amounted to 1 tax point this year. Our total operating budget amounted to a 4 point tax increase which would have been more than offset by the increase in ratables.

An unidentified audience member asked why we were paying for health benefits for the elected officials. Mayor Budesheim stated that it is state law to offer them to members of the governing body when you are in the state health plan. John Conroy stated that there are more and more cops and cars and if you don't have the money you don't spend it. Another unidentified audience member stated that it's the priorities of what we spend money on that makes some people uncomfortable in terms of the fiscal responsibilities. Mayor Budesheim asked for examples of where priorities are mixed up. The audience member stated that she sees additional cars, cars not being used for business purposes, a decrease in human services such as the nurse. Mayor Budesheim stated that 3-1/2 years ago we invited the residents to discuss our plans for the future which included a police and fire presentation explaining everything we were going to purchase. At that time our taxes were going up 10 points and when Councilman Carelli explained everything he got an ovation. We did not deviate from that plan. Mayor Budesheim explained the need for the new emergency vehicles and emergency service expenses. He stated that our police department collects more money per person than any other department in Morris County and the police cars were paid for the first year out of the ticket money.

Mayor Budesheim commented on handout sheets that were anonymously left in the lobby prior to the meeting. He stated the handout contained many inaccuracies and he addressed the issues listed. He stated that several of the purchases listed were paid for with grant money received for those purposes. Fire Chief Pat Cleary stated many fire department purchases are also made with grant money and donations.

An unidentified audience member asked when work would begin on the Grecco House. Mayor Budesheim stated that we just received a \$140,000 grant and received a \$35,000 grant last year to begin restoration. Councilwoman Bush explained that certain governmental inspections were required before we can receive the grant money.

Board of Education member Pat Salvati stated that we all do our best to manage our spending but she wanted it on the record that for the 2007 tax rate the school's increase was offset by the increase in ratables and the net effect to the taxpayers was a reduction of about 1/3 of a tax point. She asked for confirmation from the C.F.O. or Finance Officer that the tax rate went from .707 down to .698. Councilman Carelli stated that was correct. Councilwoman Bush stated that some people are wondering why it is that we have all these ratables coming in and we're not enjoying a tax break. That is because the ratables have come in and they've been used. What could have been a reduction to the population goes to services, like the school, for example.

An unidentified audience member stated that he was present at the meetings in 2004 when our taxes went up 10 points and we were lead to believe than when all the industry and apartments came into town that our taxes were going to drop, and we haven't seen it. Mayor Budesheim stated that he did not disagree. Councilman Falkoski stated that it is important to become informed citizens so that you can provide input throughout the year and make an educated decision as to whether the budget is fair. He said the budget is a very complex document. Mrs. Ezzo stated that people feel that if they come out, no

PUBLIC HEARING OF 2007 MUNICIPAL BUDGET (continued):

matter what they say it is not going to do any good because it's already planned. She said that a lot of us can't stay in town any more with the tax rate going up. Mayor Budesheim stated there isn't one person on the Council who wanted to have a tax increase. We have a responsibility and everyone wants services to continue. He said that in spite of the increase we still have some of the lowest taxes in New Jersey. The Mayor and Council continued to answer questions regarding the budget, debt, taxes and ways to cut costs.

Mayor Budesheim stated that there is a Budget Amendment resolution tonight and he will put both the budget and amendment on our website. Final adoption of the budget will be on July 11th. Councilman Carelli stated the only other thing we can do is reduce the amount we pay for debt and change the library line item amount. There was additional discussion regarding reducing the debt service and how that will affect the tax levy.

There being no further comments, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzel, to close the public session.

ALL IN FAVOR.**ORDINANCES:**

Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated that Ordinance 09-2007 amends our existing ordinance to permit contribution by employees for medical insurance.

- 1) Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to introduce the following ordinance and moved its adoption.

ORDINANCE 09-2007**ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 45 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE**

ROLL CALL: **Ayes:** **Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzel, Falkoski**
 Nays: **None**
 (5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

COPY OF ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 67-A

Mayor Budesheim stated that Ordinance 10-2007 primarily affects large commercial properties.

- 2) Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to introduce the following ordinance and moved its adoption.

ORDINANCE 10-2007**ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTERS 136 AND 164 OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE AND AMENDING CERTAIN WATER AND SEWER RATES.**

ROLL CALL: **Ayes:** **Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzel, Falkoski**
 Nays: **None**
 (5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

COPY OF ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTION IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 67-B

RESOLUTIONS:

Councilman Guis set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzel, to approve the following resolutions:

- 1) **Resolution #44-2007;** Tax Title Lien #5-03 Redemption.
- 2) Approval of Permit for Social Affair for the Riverdale Fire Department for one day to be held on August 25, 2007.
- 3) Approval of Cash Management Plan for the Borough of Riverdale as required by N.J.S.A. 40A:5-2 and N.J.S.A. 40A:5-14.
- 4) Approval of soil movement permit for Daniel & Susan Sautner, 1 Stoneleigh Terrace Block 37 Lot 69. (this is a minor soil movement permit per Borough Engineer Paul Darmofalski)
- 5) **Resolution #45-2007;** Refund of Tax Overpayments.
- 6) **Resolution #47-2007;** Emergency Temporary Appropriations.
- 7) Approval of payments for the following:

a) Walter Mahon	Petty Cash	\$ 54.06
b) Ringwood State Park	Recreation Trip	\$110.00

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzel, Falkoski**
 Nays: None
 (5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

COPY OF RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 68-C, D AND E**Scheduling of special meeting for public hearing of amendment and adoption of budget.**

Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Carelli, to schedule a special meeting to be held at the Municipal Building on July 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. for a public hearing of amendment and adoption of the 2007 budget.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzel, Falkoski**
 Nays: None
 (5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

RESOLUTIONS:

- 8) **Resolution #46-2007;** Amendment to 2007 Approved Budget.

Councilman Falkoski made the recommendation of reducing the debt service by \$100,000 and library aid \$35,000 and to include this in the budget amendment. He stated that this would reduce the tax rate by almost 2 points. Councilman Carelli stated it is short-term tax relief for a year. There was discussion regarding the matter. It was determined these additional changes would reduce the average residential tax increase by about \$70. Mayor Budesheim and Councilman Guis stated they agreed with the library aid reduction but think it's a mistake to reduce the debt service. Councilwoman Bush agreed. Councilwoman Wetzel stated she would agree with both reductions because that is what she feels the public wants. Councilman Carelli agreed with her.

Mayor Budesheim announced a 10 minute recess at 10:20 for the Chief Financial Officer to make the changes to the budget amendment.

Back to Order at 10:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes:** **Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzl, Falkoski**
 Nays: **None**
 (5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

The Deputy Borough Clerk read the Budget Resolution Amendment in its entirety.

Thereupon, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Carelli, to approve **Resolution No. 46-2006**; Amendment to 2007 Approved Budget, as read.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes:** **Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzl, Falkoski**
 Nays: **None**
 (5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

COPY OF RESOLUTION IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 69-F

BOROUGH CLERK REPORT:

Deputy Clerk Forbes reported on the Local Finance Notice dated June 20, 2007 to alert the Mayor and Council to new sections of “CORE” legislation relating to budget adoption and employee contracts. She also reported that the Borough of Bloomingdale will hold a public hearing on July 17 at 7:30 p.m. regarding a Zoning Ordinance to establish a new AH Affordable Housing zone.

BOROUGH ENGINEER REPORT:

Borough Engineer Darmofalski reported that Mr. Canella has requested a refund of his money and he disagrees with that for valid reasons. Majestic Homes is about to request their money back and there are legitimate reasons not to do that. He distributed letters to the Mayor and Council to explain these matters. He reported that the Newark Pompton Turnpike and Mead Avenue are his recommendations for the state aid applications due in August. His opinion is Newark Pompton Turnpike is the number one priority. He reported on the Mathews Avenue project. He reviewed a road opening request for 17 Overlook Drive and recommended against a circular drive on that lot which is only 100 feet wide. However, it is a private road and we don't have any control.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 2:

An unidentified audience member asked if she could get a no U-Turn sign on Wayside off of Windbeam. Mayor Budesheim stated the cars are using it as a through street and that could only be done if we made the road one-way which would be an inconvenience.

There being no further comments, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to close the public session.

ALL IN FAVOR.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzl, to adjourn the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol J. Talerico, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk