

RESOLUTIONS (continued):

budget. Councilman Falkoski stated that this proposes less of a percentage for the police chief than the members of the department and does not seem fair. It cost the borough \$32,381 for medical benefits for some of our part time elected officials. He proposed we introduce an ordinance to permit part time elected officials to receive medical benefits only if they pay the premium. Councilman Astarita stated he would second that. Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated that because we are in the State Health Benefits Plan we need to check what this entails. He will report back by the next meeting. Councilman Falkoski proposed the employee salary increase be four percent. He said nothing is accomplished by making it three percent and our work force are all worthy of the same consideration for salary increase and benefits.

Mayor Budesheim stated the points made are valid. We have among the lowest paid employees in the public sector. When surrounding towns give a 3 percent increase it is more in dollars than our 4 percent raise. A lot of our people are wearing many hats and we're saving considerable amounts of money. The money is available in the budget with a zero tax increase so I don't see where giving 3 percent is productive.

DPW Superintendent Walt Mahon stated his department has the best crew he's ever had and they and the other departments go above and beyond. There's no reason this group of people should be treated less than the police officers or the library staff.

Terri Pelligrini asked why we need to check with the State regarding the elimination of paid health benefits for council members. Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated that we have to work through our insurance carrier to modify our plan. There was a time when with the State Health Benefits Plan you had to offer insurance coverage to elected officials. There have been some changes but we have to look at it. Councilman Astarita stated that we started the process in October but it's taking a while for people to secure other insurance. He said he has been paying for his own company benefits since January, however the paperwork to get out of our system is on hold and in the review process. Councilwoman Wetzel stated that she was taking benefits temporarily but resigned them through the Clerk as of January. She did not know if the paperwork went through. Ms. Pelligrini asked why a 3 percent increase was being proposed if it was budgeted for 4 percent. Councilwoman Bush stated she believed 4 percent was a cap amount. She said that council members agreed it was a fair number considering the economy. She thought the savings would provide a cushion for things throughout the year. Councilman Astarita stated the private sector is giving 0 to 2 percent raises. Our employees do a wonderful job and it comes strictly from an economic point of view. Councilwoman Wetzel agreed that everyone does a great job but it was presented to the council that there was a range and due to the economy many people are not getting raises.

DPW Superintendent Mahon asked why the school is getting over 4 percent and the library 3.5 percent. Councilwoman Wetzel stated that the school and police salaries are contractual. Councilman Carelli stated the library has an autonomous board and is given a lump sum to do with as they want. He said the 3 percent is not a reflection of job performance. We're responsible to the employees and the taxpayers and the intent was to send a message to the residents that we are trying to show some fiscal restraint. Councilwoman Wetzel stated this decision reflects on the council because we have to answer to everyone in town. The fact that you're getting 3 percent should be a great thing under the circumstances. The economy could get worse and we should have a cushion.

Mayor Budesheim stated that traditionally the employees always got the same increase as the police and they got 4 percent this year. That's why it was put in the budget so it's not unreasonable for them to expect we would continue with this unwritten tradition. People complain about the salaries, the number of police cars, fire trucks and some people

RESOLUTIONS (continued):

complain about everything all the time. Riverdale has always had among the lowest salaries. We've done our best for the residents with a zero tax increase and top rated services. An extra 1 percent for our employees who are comparatively underpaid is not something for our residents to complain about. There's more cushion in the budget than \$11,000 and we're not looking to hire any additional people this year.

Sam Dedio asked to hear from Councilman Guis on the matter. Councilman Guis stated 3 percent was a consensus in response to the economy and the concern of the residents. It's not a reflection on the work of the employees. Some people are getting nothing in private industry. Some of our salaries are low and I'd like to try to work on bringing them up at such a time as we can. Mr. Dedio asked if Councilman Guis was receiving health benefits and are we paying over \$14,000 a year for them. Councilman Guis stated he is but is also returning his salary to the borough.

Police Chief Soules stated that the police and some members of the library staff received 4 percent, the teachers get what they negotiated and the employees should get the 4 that is in the budget.

Councilman Falkoski stated that private sector salaries are a lot higher and a private company's income is based on the economy today. We're not in that same situation. The additional 1 percent is in the budget and it's not going to affect the tax rate. By not giving it, we get a lot of bad feelings from the employees and we're not doing any good at all by doing this. Mayor Budesheim stated that private sector also gives bonuses and stock options when they're doing well and we can't compare private sector when it benefits our argument. He said he can understand the appearance of trying to cut back but the residents aren't going to enjoy this symbolic gesture. Councilman Carelli stated that we know the salaries aren't comparable to other towns and effort has been made to change that. Councilwoman Wetzel stated that if everyone wants to further discuss the matter that we could table it and come up with another solution. Mayor Budesheim asked the council to weigh the facts and make a decision.

Thereupon, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Astarita, to approve the following resolution and that it reflect a four percent increase in the salaries listed, subject to the adoption of Ordinance No. 9-2009:

3) **Resolution #59-2009; Municipal Employees Salaries 2009.**

ROLL CALL: Ayes: Astarita, Bush, Falkoski, Guis, Wetzel, Carelli
Nays: 6
(6 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)

COPY OF RESOLUTION IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 52-B

Councilman Astarita asked as a Point of Order if there was a motion made and seconded with regard to health benefits for elected officials. Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated that we need to first determine how to implement that.

Thereupon, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to approve the following resolutions:

- 1) Approval of payment of a \$185.00 to Gloria Carelli for expenses paid for items needed for the food pantry that will be charged to the donations to the food pantry trust fund.
- 2) Approval of release of unused escrow funds to Glenn Foss, Advanced Sports Medicine in the amount of \$37.50.

RESOLUTIONS (continued):

- 3) Removed (see above).
- 4) **Resolution #60-2009;** Professional Service Agreement for professional real estate appraisal – Certified Valuations, Inc. at a rate of \$145.00 per hour for all services.
- 5) Approval of \$100,000 payment to the Board of Education towards the \$1,000,000 commitment made by the Governing Body.
- 6) Approval of payment of Petty Cash refund to June Carelli for Recreation for receipts totaling \$97.41.
- 7) Approval of payment to Advanced Integration Security LLC in the total amount of \$4,515.25, pending the Mayor's verification that the Access Control System at the Senior Community Center is installed and performing satisfactorily.

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

COPY OF RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 53-C**OTHER BUSINESS:**

- 1) Minimum working hours of borough men for weekend delivery and pick up of the showmobile rented by out of town entities that will be charged for the time at \$80.00 per hour for a minimum of 6 hours per day.

Mayor Budesheim stated that this policy should be formalized.

Thereupon, Councilman Guis set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzel, that minimum working hours of borough men for weekend delivery and pick up of the showmobile rented by out of town entities that will be charged for the time at \$80.00 per hour, be a minimum of 6 hours per day.

ALL IN FAVOR.**PUBLIC HEARING OF 2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

Mayor Budesheim announced that the state has not reviewed the budget and therefore it cannot be adopted this evening. He then announced the meeting was open to the public for comments on the budget.

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

Mayor Budesheim announced the Adoption of the 2009 Municipal Budget is scheduled for July 20, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

MAYOR REPORT:

Mayor Budesheim stated that we would like to establish a quarterly payment schedule for the library.

Thereupon, Councilman Carelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to establish a quarterly payment schedule for the library.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Mayor Budesheim reported on the dangers of illegal fireworks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilwoman Wetzel reported that Summer Rec is underway and going well and the Summer Concerts begin next week.

Councilwoman Bush reported the Municipal Alliance will receive \$6,443 for the year 2010.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 2:

Nancy Salazar, Newberry Place, spoke regarding an ongoing problem she and her neighbors are having with brown water. She brought samples and asked if it could be tested and if anything could be done. DPW Superintendent Mahon stated the coloration is iron and manganese which is a typical characteristic of well water and it is drinkable. The problem will be worse on a dead end street. We do not filter the water and do a main flushing twice a year. The water is tested frequently and meets every state and federal standard. We cannot send an individual bottle for testing. Several council members stated they have also had problems and purchased filters.

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 Wetzel, to adjourn the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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