

Budget Meeting February 28, 2017

The Special Budget Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue and began at 5:47pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

Council Members: Council President Cynthia Santomauro, Councilman Frank Astorino, Councilman Chiaia, Councilman Joshua Raymond, Councilman Arthur Rees

Absent: Councilman Robert Kessler

Also, present were David M. Paris, Borough Attorney, Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer, Mel Levine, Borough Administrator, Mark Deuer, Police Chief, Richard Mondelli, CFO, John D'Ascensio, Fire Chief, Bill Maranz, Recreation Director and Nancy Bretzger, Borough Clerk.

Mayor Alessi called the meeting to order announcing that notice was provided in accordance with the requirements of Chapter, 231, P.L. 1975.

Mayor Alessi asked Fire Chief John D'Ascensio to lead those present in the salute to the American flag.

Citizens to Be Heard

Mayor Alessi opened the floor to the public. No one came forward

Items for Discussion

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming in early for this meeting and to discuss the 2017 Budget.

2016 Operating Budget – Richard Mondelli spoke regarding the Operating Budget –

Mr. Mondelli explained that the salary & wages used for the budgets were based on non-union employees would receive a 2% increase, police would receive a 2.5% increase and DPW employees would receive a 2% (\$1,164.80) increase. The police and DPW contracts are based on their existing contracts.

Pool Utility – Mr. Mondelli stated that the pool had a great year compared to recent years. Revenue was \$32,316 over what was anticipated. The pool budget is up by \$5,048 from the 2016 budget, the increases are in salary & wages, debt service and operating expenses.

Water Utility – Mr. Mondelli explained that the water utility had a very good year in 2016, there was an increase in the revenue by \$226,824.00. The water rate in 2016 was increased to \$5.90 from \$5.70 to keep up with the 4% increase from Essex Fells and Passaic Valley. There was discussion as to whether or not to increase the water again in 2017 since there is a 4% increase to North Caldwell from Essex Fells and Passaic Valley. It was decided to increase the water for 2017.

General budget –

Mr. Mondelli explained that as the proposed 2017 budget stands, there is an increase of fifteen tax points (3.91% rate increase), which on an average assessment of \$681,981 would be a tax increase of \$102.30 for the year. Every \$16,002 in budget appropriation = one tax point=\$6.82 in taxes on an average assessment. This budget is not under the State mandated 2% levy cap.

Mr. Mondelli explained that the misc. revenues were down in 2016 by \$25,000.00. The Council then discussed the operating budget by department to see where they could cut expenses.

Fire Chief D'Ascensio stated that he can cut his request for maintenance on the trucks from \$38,000.00 to \$29,000.00.

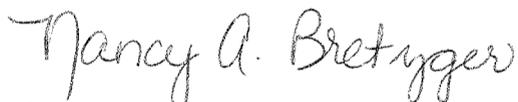
Police Chief Deuer stated that he can cut the new car out of the operating budget this year. The Council decided to cut the car out of the operating budget.

It was decided to cut the snow removal budget to \$45,000.00. It was also discussed that the WE LOSAP contribution can be decreased by \$8,500.00 due to a refund that was received last year.

Mr. Mondelli stated that he would put together a memo summarizing the changes that the Council discussed and will have it ready for their approval at the March 14, 2017 meeting.

There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Council President Santomauro, seconded by Councilman Rees that this meeting be adjourned at 7:17p.m. This motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk