

Capital Budget Meeting March 8, 2016

The Special Capital Budget Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of North Caldwell was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at the Borough Hall, Gould Avenue and began at 5:17pm.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Mayor Alessi

Council Members: Councilman Frank Astorino, Councilman Robert Kessler, Councilman Joshua Raymond, Councilman Arthur Rees

Councilman Chiaia arrived at 5:30pm

Council President Santomauro arrived at 5:37pm

Also, present were David M. Paris, Borough Attorney, Frank Zichelli, Borough Engineer, Mel Levine, Borough Administrator, Chief Mark Deuer, and Nancy Bretzger, Borough Clerk, Richard Mondelli, CFO.

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 Chief Deuer 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 2016 Capital Budget.

2016 Capital Budget –

Police Department- Chief Deuer stated that since he took the police car out of his operating budget this year he needed to keep the truck in the capital budget to replace one of the older police cars. The other two items that are being requested are to refurbish the men's bathroom on the 2nd floor and 3 rifles. He said these are not a high priority this year.

Fire Department – Paul O'Neill, Deputy Chief, stated that the Fire Chief was detained but he could start explaining the list of the requests from the Fire Department. Deputy Chief explained that every year they need to replace the older turn out gear for the firemen.

They would like to purchase a Firefighter Rescue Bailout System and Training. This is a harness that they would wear that allows them to drop from a window safely, if they cannot get out through a doorway. They feel that this is necessary with the Four Seasons and Hidden Ridge Condominiums now that they have higher than second stories. They would need to purchase 14 of the harnesses with training.

The Deputy Chief explained that they would like to have body repair work done on the 1995 Seagrave Custom built Fire Apparatus. If the rust and wear and tear on the body of this apparatus is completed this will allow the engine many more years of service.

They would like to change the nozzle on the top of the ladder on Engine 6 to a combination nozzle which allows them to direct both a fog stream and a smooth bore stream. The present operation calls for them to change the nozzle before committing to use the boom, which takes approximately 5 minutes.

The last thing which is not as important as the others to have this year but is on the wish list, is to upgrade the lighting on Engine 6 from halogen to LED lights.

There was also discussion regarding the HEP B shots that all First Responders are required to have and that the Borough should be offering. It was asked if the Administrator can look into getting pricing and where the First Responders can receive it.

Police Chief Mark Deuer left the meeting at 5:50pm.

Borough Administrator Mel Levine spoke on behalf of the Court and said that they were requesting 2 items. The first, is a Walk through Metal Detector for Court nights.

The second is Speakers and a Digital Mixer for the Court Room which would replace the speakers and mixer that is there now. It would also add a speaker into the court office so that the Deputy Court Administrator can hear what is going on in the Court room during Court nights and trials. The speakers and digital mixer would also be utilized by the Mayor and Council, Planning Board and Zoning Board for their meetings.

Borough Administrator Mel Levine explained Administrations requests which are a printer for his office and an AED for Borough Hall. Richard Mondelli, CFO stated that those items can be purchased through the Operating Budget. Councilman Rees asked if more than one AED could be purchased and one be kept at the pool during the pool season and then kept by the athletic fields once the pool season is over.

Technology

Detective Michael Credico explained the upgrades that are being requested for Borough Hall and the Community. He explained that there is still hardware and software needed for offsite backup to complete the server upgrade. He explained the upgrade cost of the software was that in order for the water, tax, sewer and building software to work efficiently on the new server and to work with the online credit cards system once implemented. There was discussion amongst the Council regarding all of the technology requests. It was decided at this time to take the conference room media out of the requests.

Councilman Kessler stated that he has looked into a new digital sign to replace the sign in front of Borough Hall. There was discussion amongst the Council as to the type of sign and how much they would like to spend on the sign. The decision was to have the sign perpendicular to the street and move it closer to the street. It was suggested to budget \$40,000 for the sign which would include the installation and to run electricity.

Public Works – Frank Zichelli explained that he does the minimum of roads that needs to be done each year. He explained that the traffic signal at the high school is also been added to his list for this year.

A fence at Liberty Field would be to keep the deer off the fields since this has become a major problem with deer feces. This would be for an 8 foot fence around all of the fields.

The Dump Truck he is requesting is in addition to the truck that has already been purchased.

The Leaf blower can be purchased out of the operating budget.

Rich Mondelli, CFO stated that the salter can be purchased out of funds left from last year's Capital Budget .

He explained that the roof at the Firemen's community center is in dire need of replacement at the approximate cost of \$30,000. This item would have to go out for bid.

Recreation – Councilman Raymond

Councilman Raymond explained that the Baby Pool needed to be replaced with a larger baby pool at a cost of \$20,000 - \$30,000 which hopefully would increase the membership of families with younger children. Richard Mondelli, CFO stated that there was still \$18,000 available from a previous year Capital budget. It was suggested to allocate \$30,000 in this years Pool Capital Budget for the replacement of the baby pool which would have to be done after this pool season.

Councilman Raymond said to remove the Splash Park off the capital budget. They received quotes of \$200,000, which were too high at this time. They would like to replace the baby pool with a bigger pool and maybe a small fountain in the middle instead of the splash park at this time.

He also explained that the steps and retaining wall at Mountain Field need to be repaired, he stated that the cost was for the supplies and that DPW will do the repairs.

He asked that drainage and field renovations be changed from Fireman's field to Liberty Field because of the weather this winter DPW has been able to work on Fireman's Field and that is almost completed and will be available for the spring season. Liberty Field now needs to be worked on. Frank Zichelli stated that he feels that it can be done for less money if the work is done in house. There was discussion amongst the Council as to whether or not the Fields should be closed for the Fall season to allow the work to be completed. There was also discussion as to whether there was enough DPW workers to get the work done. Frank explained that they also have 2 very qualified seasonal part timers right now and everything is working fine, but a year or two from now we may be looking to hire a 1 or 2 full timers.

Fire Chief D'Ascensio arrived at the meeting. Mayor Alessi told him that the Deputy Chief went over the Fire Department requests and asked him if there was anything that he wanted to add. The Chief just reiterated what the Deputy Chief explained about the requests.

He also spoke about the HEP B shots and how they are the responsibility of the Borough to supply them to all First Responders. There was discussion regarding as to whether they should get them through their insurance company or not.

He also spoke about his requests for OEM. These include a Trailer Mounted Message Board which can be used by all agencies, the Police, Fire, OEM and DPW, or a portable message board that can be attached to a trailer hitch of any vehicle. There was discussion regarding this and the Council feels that if a digital sign is being purchased for the front of Borough Hall any OEM message during an emergency can be relayed on that sign.

2016 Operating Budget


Mayor Alessi asked Richard Mondelli, CFO to explain what is still needed for the Borough to come in with a flat tax rate. Mr. Mondelli explained that the Council would need to cut \$14,600 from the budget to come in with a flat tax rate. It was asked if this needed to be discussed tonight or if they could study the budget some more and discuss at the next meeting. Mr. Mondelli explained that by state guidelines the budget needed to be introduced at the next meeting on March 22, 2016. The Council discussed where the cuts could come from and took the cuts from line items that were not over spent in 2015 but were still budgeted high.

Executive Session

Resolution R-67-16 Authorization for Executive Session for Certain Specified Purposes of Personnel Issues was Tabled and asked if the item for discussion to be added to the Executive Session in the Regular Meeting which was being held after this 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 that this meeting be adjourned at 7:39p.m. This motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk