

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE  
BOROUGH OF HAMBURG HELD ON MARCH 18, 2013 AT THE MUNICIPAL  
BUILDING, 16 WALLKILL AVE., HAMBURG, NJ**

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Marino called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG:**

**ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Marino requested a roll call:

Mayor Marino	Councilmember Barr
Councilwoman Oehler	Councilmember Garrett
Councilman Krasnomowitz	Councilman Sena

Absent: Councilmember Law

Also Present: Doreen Schott

**STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION:**

Clerk advised

Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the public and the press January 8, 2013 by delivering to the New Jersey Herald and the Sunday Herald and posting at the Municipal Building a copy of the "Annual Notice of Meetings" pursuant the provisions of the "Open Public Meetings Act".

Mayor Marino suspends the agenda and Introduces Mr. Jeffrey Stabile, Zoning Officer.

Mr. Stabile introduces himself to the Mayor and Council and lets them know that he is here to serve at the pleasure of the council. Discusses that he believes they are looking for a pro active role.

Mayor discusses that they would like him to do an overall assessment of the town, see what he finds. There are issues regarding signage particularly at the intersection. Town wants to be fair to all people. Zoning Officer advises that he recently did a review of the signage ordinance in Hardyston due to many issues regarding line of sight and he would be happy to do the same the Hamburg.

Councilmen Sena advises that there have been long standing issues with several strip malls in town and the post office regarding parking lots and proper parking stripping. Zoning Officer advises that it is something he can address.

Mayor addresses the letter from Hardyston Township with regarding the letter dated March 8, 2013; Computer Maintenance Services. Mr. Stabile is also the computer specialist for Hardyston and we may be interested in partnering with them for computer maintenance service here at the borough.

Mr. Stabile advises the governing body of his background. He presently does the IT work for Hardyston Township, Hardyston Police Department, and in past Hardyston School. The proposal is for \$300.00 which would be a physical review of the Borough's equipment, systems and software.

Following the review he will prepare a report outlining what we currently have and any recommendations. After this is complete Hardyston can present to Hamburg a cost proposal for annual maintenance / trouble shooting agreement for consideration.

Mr. Stabile thanks the Mayor and Council.

Motion by Councilmember Krasnonowitz, second by Councilmember Barr to enter into an agreement with Hardyston Township for computer maintenance services as outlined in their letter dated march 8, 2013 for \$300.00 for an analysis of our computer system.

Roll Call

Ayes	Barr, Krasnomowitz, Oehler, Garrett Sena
Nayes	None
Abstain	None
Absent	Law.

**Budget Introduction:**

Motion by Councilmember Krasnomowitz, second by Barr to open the meeting to Amy Maronpot, CFO and Bill Schroeder, Auditor.

Mr. Bill Schroeder addresses the mayor and council regarding the budget. The budget as presented shows an increase of 2.5 points which equates to an average increase of \$33.00 per home annually. We are \$108,000. Below the tax levy cap and \$120,000. below the expenditure cap. He references an article in the Star Ledger that showed the average taxes statewide was \$7,870., Hamburg was below the statewide average at \$5,653 which is very impressive considering Hamburg also has its own police department. We continue to pay down debt service and this year we again will be self review.

Mayor Marino advises that we received \$120,000.00 as reimbursement from Hurricane Irene and he would like to use some of that money for items such as work on the recreation building, electric sign for the borough hall, shed for road department, OEM light tower, gate opener at the pavilion.

Mr. Schroeder advises that the State of New Jersey has mandated that Irene reimbursement monies be put as miscellaneous revenue in the fund balance. Our fund balance including this \$120,000.00 is approximately \$645,000.00 which is great. We will use the \$120,000.00 from the fund balance to offset the items which will now be appropriated as Municipal Facilities Improvements. Mayor Marino discusses the Recreation budget which receives \$9,500.00 annually. They presently have approximately \$25,000.00 in their checking account. He would like to see some of that money go towards improvements to the recreation field. The recreation department will use the existing monies in the checking account and the budgeted amount of \$9,500.00 will remain in the budget to be reviewed at year end. Councilman Krasnomowitz discusses the town revaluation and tax appeals and whether it needs to be included in the budget. The revaluation is done by Special Emergency Appropriation Ordinance and is outside the cap so it is not included in the budget. We are presently still paying off a police car, when paid off we can look into purchasing another.

Water – We are budgeting \$250,000.00 of that \$150,000.00 a year will be dedicated for capital improvement repair. Last year’s fund went to Water Main Project and this year to Well No. 3 Pump and Motor Replacement Project. The town is trying not to use all of the money so there is

always a cushion for unforeseen circumstances. Mr. Schroeder advises that we lost some money last year and used approximately \$100,000.00 in fund balance leaving approximately 1,000,000.00. The rents collected went down and the budget went up. Mayor discusses that we are in year 3 of the 3 year raise to the water rates and he does not want to raise every year. The other option would be to lower expenses. We will budget \$250,000.00 in Water Capital Outlay and spend \$150,000.00 yearly which is now being done through a 5 year plan of spending. We do have a plus of having \$835,000.00 in the Capital Improvement fund and some of that money could be used for improvements vs. using the fund balance. Council discusses what may occur with the proposal from Hardyston for an interconnection; at this time there is not enough information on that, a meeting with Hardyston is planned at the end of next month. Discussion ensued regarding the potential need to revisit raising rates gradually and what other options may be available. Presently we are budgeting \$250,000.00 yearly for Capital Improvement and if we continue to use only 150,000.00 we will be supplementing the fund balance. Councilman Barr questions the \$518,950.00 delinquent tax amount shown for 2012. Mr. Schroeder advises that part of what was realized was tax title liens in the amount of \$106,000.00 and this amount could not be counted on every year. He also advises that these numbers are based on a percentage of collection as of December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year and monies may come in up to 6 months after before they are actual liens.

Motion by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Oehler to Introduce the 2013 Budget as presented.

Councilmember Sena questions the police salary and wages; why the increase budgeted went from 2012 to 2013 from \$720,000.00 to \$736,000.00 when the amount spent in 2012 was \$587,013.00. Amy Maronpot, CFO advises that last year there was a 6 month period where the department was down two officers so the amount reflected that. This year we have the 2% contractual increase but the biggest increase is due to the fact that we have a relatively young department and each officer for the first 5 years has steps plus the percentage increase which costs between \$6,000.00 and \$6,500.00 per officer. There is the anticipated Sgt. Promotion which depending upon which of the two potential candidates get it; it would be an increase of \$9,000 to \$15,000.00. Another factor is with the new contract the officers have a one week sick time buy out. Included in this budget is \$50,000.00 for the hiring of a potential 8<sup>th</sup> officer based on what her understanding was from the Director. Mayor advises that they are not planning on hiring an 8<sup>th</sup> officer. CFO advises that even with that amount in it really is only a 2% increase from last year's budget and she took into account the steps for the new officers equaling about \$45,000.00. Councilmember Sena advises that with the unrealistic 8<sup>th</sup> officer, the monies saved on the contract for longevity and the fact that since we have hired new officers we will no longer have the OT we had the budget should be cut, CFO advises that the 2013 budget does take into account ½ the OT costs from last year and auditor advises that his recommendation is to not cut the budget as it may be a bit of a cushion this year but you never know what could happen if we see double digit inflation again. This way we are keeping it at the allowed 2%. CFO advises that if we keep the monies in and do not spend it on police it will drop to fund balance. Discussion ensues between Councilmember's on the pros and cons of having keeping the extra monies in the budget as there are other areas besides police where there is cushion money.

Motion to move on the budget as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes: Barr, Krasnomowitz, Oehler, Garrett

Nays: Sena

Abstain: None

Absent: Law

\*\*Councilmember Law arrives at 8:35 p.m.

**Comet Management:**

Mayor and Council discuss the letter from Comet Management for Snow Plow services in Heritage Lakes for the year 2012 totaling \$77,437.50. Council discusses advises that a letter go out indicating that we already fulfill our obligation as under the law.

**Farmside Landscaping:**

Mayor and Council discuss the proposal from Landside Landscaping for Maintenance of the Orchard Street Extension, Clock Tower, and Municipal Parking Lot. The quote is for spring clean up, fall clean up, bi-weekly weed control and oak mulching. Mayor and Council discuss. Town now has a chipper and they have their own mulch.

Motion by Councilmember Law, seconded by Barr to authorize the contract to Farmside Landscaping for the contract year 2013 for spring clean up, fall clean up and bi-weekly weed control. They are not including the oak mulching. All members present in favor.

**Telephone Proposal:**

Councilmember Krasnomowitz requests that the council carry any action of the proposal from Princeton Solutions. Jess Stable has gone through a similar process at Hardyston Township. He will be looking at what we have and possibly another vendor to see if there could be more of a cost savings. Council agrees to carry any action on the phone system at this time.

**Route 23 Watermain Project**

Councilmember Sena asks if we could request a change order to the Rt 23 project to allow for extended sidewalk in the area where there is none. Clerk will contact engineer.

**Linwood Avenue Retaining Wall**

Council discusses the ongoing issue regarding the fallen retaining wall on the corner of Linwood Avenue. Mayor advises that we tried to see if we could get it fixed under a small cities grant the borough offers bur we cannot. It does not cover any secondary structure on a property.

Councilmember Law will contact John Ruschke to ascertain what is exactly needed to make the area safe. Town will look into other avenues to get it fixed as the property owner does not have the funds to do so.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION:**

Attorney Clemack will offer the following resolution to enter into executive session later this evening.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hamburg find it necessary to enter into executive session for the reasons hereafter cited:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:14012(b) of the Open Public Meetings Act provided for matters of this nature to be discussed in closed session; and

WHEREAS, the minutes of the closed session be taken and made available to the Public upon

conclusion of the matter;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council advises the public that formal action may be taken later this evening on the matters discussed in closed session or on other matter.

**PUBLIC PORTION:**

The meeting was opened to the public for any questions or comments they may have with regard to the good and welfare of the Borough.

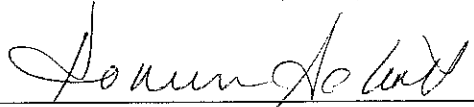
As there was no public present the meeting was closed to the public

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Law to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Date Approved: 5/6/13

Date Released: 5/6/13

  
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Doreen Schott, RMC  
Municipal Clerk