

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF HAMBURG HELD ON APRIL 15, 2013 AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
16 WALLKILL AVE., HAMBURG, NJ**

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:

Councilwoman Oehler

Councilmember Garrett

Councilman Krasnomowitz

Councilman Sena

Councilman Law

Mayor Marino

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".

Budget Adoption:

Motion by Councilmember Oehler, second by Garrett to open the meeting to Amy Maronpot, CFO and Bill Schroeder, Auditor. All members present in favor.

Mayor Marino advises that we are here tonight to adopt the 2013 budget. We have tried to keep costs down and are only raising the budget the allowed 2% which is primarily to cover basics like inflation, pensions and salaries. There are a lot of improvements that will be done but they will be done by utilizing the \$120,000.00 FEMA monies for Municipal Facility Improvements.

Motion by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Law to open the meeting to the public with regards to the budget. Hearing no comment from the public, Motion by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Oehler to close the meeting to the public. All members present in favor.

Councilmember Sena addresses the council; he did not vote for the introduction of this budget and will not be voting for the adoption, his position is that there should be no tax increase this year. He addresses some of his concerns; this budget shows an increase of \$51,435.00. He continues advising that the budget shows an 8th police officer which should not be there, the sergeant position will not be filled till half way through this year so that amount is less than shown in the budget, the police repeater monies were to come out of the FEMA monies, the savings we will see for repairs on the ambulance since the town purchased a new one, the sale of assets fund and the allocating of another \$9,500.00 to the existing recreation budget. Mayor Marino advises that we are increasing the budget by what is permissible, that you cannot have increases of 2% in items such as salaries, pension and inflation and not plan for that for the future. If we cut the budget this year, next year we

may need to raise it 4 or 5% and may not be able to. Mr. Schroeder advises that this budget raises an average assessed home in Hamburg of \$134,000.00 \$2.75 per month; there is some room for cutting but likes to err on the side of caution and the future as you cannot always predict what the economy will be like in the future. Councilmember Sena feels that it is mostly through the hard work and efforts of the mayor, council and others that we are in the good position we are in and would like to see the opportunity taken now to trim the budget.

Council discusses that there will be a revaluation of the town done next year. The average revaluation in a town has 1/3 assessments going up, 1/3 assessments going down and 1/3 assessments staying the same. Councilmember Barr appreciates the work that Councilmember Sena has put into this but advises that if we do not go with the allowable 2% - 2-1/2% CAP increase we will find ourselves in a deficit. He would rather reduce the risk of having a 4 – 5% increase next year along with the potential effect the revaluation by having a minimal increase this year. He agrees with Councilmember Sena that through a lot of hard work by the Mayor, council and professionals this town has found many ways for cost savings; he would prefer to keep the increase this year and possibly next year with the revaluation in place show the tax payers a break.

Mayor Marino asks for discussion from the remaining council members. Councilmember Krasnomowitz questions whether we are tied to the 2% increase and does it expire; he agrees with Councilmember Sena with regards to adding another \$9500.00 to their recreation budget considering the present balance in the account. CFO advises that the money is in the recreation line item but that money will not be available for use; they will use the present balance prior to actually receiving the line item money. We will be utilizing that money to cover the cost of the Littell Center. Councilmember Law is concerned with what the future will hold and would rather see this small increase this year and not take the chance of an increase two times as much next year along with the uncertainty of how the revaluation will affect everyone. Councilmember Oehler agrees that she would rather see the budget stay as presented, recreation will not be receiving the budgeted amount which she agrees with and as far as EMS is concerned she agrees that they work very hard to not go over budget or to even spend less than appropriated but would not want to see it cut as you never know what emergency you may find yourself in and this way there is always a reserve to cover the cost of things like unexpected repairs. Councilmember Garrett thanks Councilmember Sena for all the research he has done. He understands and appreciates his point of view but like others at this time the revaluation is a great concern; he would not want to be the resident that gets the 1/3 increase after the revaluation and then on top of that be hit with a possible 4 – 5% local tax increase. He believes that by keeping it this way now we may in turn be helping a lot of citizens next year.

Mayor Marino asks Councilmember Sena to recap where he would cut the budget not including the 8th officer as the CFO explained we still have approximately \$45,000. 00 in police steps to cover next year. Councilmember Sena suggests the \$9,000.00+ in recreation, the sergeant position will only be filled for a half a year so, the \$9 – 15 thousand will be half, the police repeater which was already purchased, cutting EMS as with the purchase of the new ambulance there will no longer be the repairs and lastly the \$14,537.00 in the sale of assets fund. Mayor Marino advises that when all totaled you are talking approximately \$27,000.00 or approximately \$1.60 per month per \$134,000.00 assessed value.

Mr. Bill Schroeder addresses the council and advises that his role as auditor is not to advise, he

merely makes suggestions as to what he feels is the best route for a town to take. He further explains the role of the fund balance and the need to be consistent year to year. This year we will be using approximately \$400,000.00 in fund balance and last year we used \$250,000.00. To replenish the \$250,000.00 in fund balance and to be consistent we have the \$207,000.00 in what is not being spent in the budget known as budget lapse. He continues that everything Councilmember Sena is stating is factually correct but he looks at it as burning the candle at both ends, shrinking the amount we put back in fund balance will eventually run out of fund balance and will have to fill that hole by increasing taxes. At present we are only allowed to increase 2%. He further advises that at any given year we can make the budget come to zero, but he looks at it in a 10 year span taking into account an inflation rise of 4 – 5 %. It can make our deficit problem that much greater.

Councilmember Sena understands all the points given and feels that that was reason for raising taxes the last 12 years but still feels that this budget is like no other he has seen and there is still room for cutting even taking into account fund balance issues. Discussion ensues, Mayor Marino reads the following resolution into the record.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Hamburg, County of Sussex that the budget herein before set forth is hereby adopted and shall constitute an appropriation for the purposes stated of the sums therein set forth as appropriations, and authorization of the amount of \$1,992,942.00 for municipal purposes.

Motion by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Oehler to adopt budget.

Roll Call

Ayes: Barr, Krasnomowitz, Law, Oehler, Garrett

Nays: Sena

Abstain: None

Absent: None

2012 Watermain Project – Change Order

Council is in receipt of estimate from borough engineer to have the present contractor (PM Construction) on the 2012 Watermain Project to install sidewalks on the site where there is a break in them. The area is on major state highway 23 and the area is frequently traveled by school children. The proposal presented is for \$8,000.00 to extend the sidewalk and \$6,500.00 to add curbing. Motion is made to open the meeting to Mike Schneider, Road Foreman. Mr. Schneider advises that some of the area has curbing and some does not. If the project is to go forward the council would like to see the curbing included. Councilmember Krasnomowitz advises that in speaking to borough engineer he felt that the quote was high and thought we could do better going out to bid. Council discusses; Councilmember Garrett advises that once it becomes a new project we may have other requirements that we would not have as a change order such as engineering done, permits from the DOT as it is a state highway would have to be obtained and the time frame could be extensive. Councilmember Barr addresses that basically the base cost may be less but the time and additional costs may end up being less cost effective.

Motion by Councilmember Garrett, seconded by Councilmember Oehler to authorize PM Construction to do a change order for the 2012 Watermain Project to include additional curbing and sidewalk on the State Highway 23 north bound at a cost of \$14,500.00.

Roll Call

Ayes: Barr, Krasnomowitz, Law, Garrett, Oehler, Sena

Nays: None

Abstain: None
Absent: None

2013 Ford F350 4WD Pickup Truck State contract A83557 T2101

Mayor and Council are in receipt of quote for a 2013 Ford F350 4WD Pickup Truck, State Contract No. A83557 T2101. Councilmember Sena advises that he has been working with Mike Schneider on various issues within the road department and one is the need for a new truck. He had the existing truck looked at by DeBoer's Auto and it was determined that the vehicle could not be repaired as the frame is cracked, it should not be driven over 45mph and should not be taken out of town. CFO advises that for this year, in order to not amend the budget the funding can come out of water budget and the road budget. The cost of the vehicle is \$27,928.00 and included all accessories. Council discusses going with gas vs diesel and Mr. Schneider advises the cost of the vehicle would be greater. As it is a state contract council decides to move on the purchase this evening.

Motion by Councilmember Sena, seconded by Councilmember Barr to purchase a 2013 Ford F350 4WD Pickup Truck; State contract no. A83557 T2101 from DFFLM, LLC.T/A

Ditschman/Flemington Ford, 215 Routes 202 & 31 Flemington, NJ. In the amount of \$27,928.00.

Roll Call

Ayes: Barr, Krasnomowitz, Law, Oehler, Garrett, Sena
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Municipal Parking Lot Paving

Mayor and Council are in receipt of three bids for the paving of the Hamburg Borough Municipal Parking Lot; Hank Sanders \$9,200.00, North Jersey Pavement Maintenance LLC \$11,500.00 and Tri county Paving \$11,750.00.

Motion by Councilmember Law, seconded by Councilmember Barr to award the bid to Hank Sanders in the amount of \$9,200.00.

Roll Call

Ayes: Sena, Oehler, Garrett, Law, Krasnomowitz, Barr
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Hamburg Borough Marker

Councilmember Barr advises that at a previous meeting he presented the council with a draft of a bronze marker for the Hamburg Recreation Fields which was approved. Since then he has spoken with the marker company and they have a bronze looking aluminum metal which is approximately half the cost and the aluminum is not as valuable as bronze. He will have a draft for the council to look at, at the May meeting and would recommend that they go with this bronze aluminum option.

Storage Shed – Pavilion Grounds

Mayor and Council are in receipt of quotes to install a shed on the Pavilion grounds to be used by the Road Department for equipment storage. Councilmember Sena advises that he would like to walk the area with Mike Schneider first and asks that this be carried to the May meeting.

Playground Equipment

Councilmember Sena addresses the council and advises that he would like to have the work started again on the recreation fields play ground. Councilmember Barr advises that he did some research a while back and has some literature he will give to Councilmember Sena. Depending on what is purchased the council feels the playground for that area could be obtained at a cost of approximately \$24,000.00. The engineer will be contacted to see if there are any regulations or guidelines we would need to be aware of.

Ambulance

Councilmember Oehler advises that she and Jennifer Brennen will be going to Florida on April 23rd to meet with the manufacturers and tour the plant where the ambulance is being built. There is an approximate delivery date of June 15th. She advises that the console has room for a radio but there is no room for supplies they like to carry like clipboards, maps etc. The cost for something like this is in the neighborhood of \$2,000.00 and would be considered an extra. She does advise that the company would compensate by changing the existing warranty from 12,000 miles / 12 months on the engine to 36/36.

CFO advises that since it would be considered part of the ambulance it can be included in the bond. Councilmember Sena advises that the money can also come out of EMS operating budget. Council will carry

Hamburg Fire Department Golf Outing

Motion by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Law to donate \$100.00 to the annual Hamburg Fire Department Golf Outing.

Roll Call

Ayes: Barr, Krasnomowitz, Sena, Garrett, Oehler, Law

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Tee for Toni Golf Outing

Motion by Councilmember Krasnomowitz, seconded by Councilmember Law to donate \$100.00 to the Tee for Toni Golf Outing.

Roll Call

Ayes: Krasnomowitz, Law, Oehler, Garrett, Sena

Nays: None

Abstain: Barr

Absent: None

Mayor Marino addresses the council with issues of property maintenance. As in the past with so many abandoned homes this especially becomes an issue in the spring / summer when the yards are not maintained. The property maintenance officer will be notified of specific homes that were an issue last year and the mayor advises that any council person, road or police if you see something that looks neglectful to contact the appropriate person so action can be taken.

Mayor Marino also advises that the council will be updated soon on several personnel issues and that the police committee will meet with the candidates for the oral interview and a decision should

be made shortly.

Councilmember Law advises that John Ruschke is preparing the engineering plans for the work on the Kays (Linwood Ave) property and once this is done our department can begin the work they have to do.

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:

Motion by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Law to open the meeting to the public for any comment or questions they may have. All in favor.

- 1. Mr. Chris Fitzpatrick – 20 Glenside Avenue addresses the council and advises that the Sussex County Hamburg Republican Committee would like to hold a primary debate for Hamburg Council, Freeholder, NJ Senate and Assembly. Town addresses the size of the room and advises that if it is to be held here it should be kept to local race only.

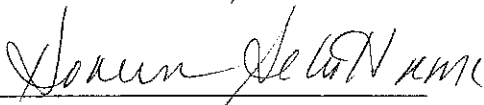
Motion by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Law to close the meeting to the public. All in favor

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Barr, seconded by Councilmember Oehler to adjourn the meeting. Meeting Adjourned. All members present in favor.

Date Approved: 5/6/13

Date Released: 5/6/13



 Doreen Schott, RMC
 Municipal Clerk