

**BUDGET WORKSHOP
FEBRUARY 19, 2014**

A Budget Workshop of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bradley Beach was held in the council chamber on the above date.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gary Engelstad opened the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Sunshine Law

The meeting has been noticed publicly according to the Open Public Meetings Act requirement for "Annual Notice", and posted on the official bulletin board.

Roll Call 6:35 PM

Present: Council: Cotler, Volante, Goldfarb, Galassetti
Mayor Engelstad
Business Administrator Wilkins
Auditor: Kaplan
Absent: Attorney: DuPont
Secretary: Municipal Clerk Mary Ann Solinski
Councilman Cotler arrived at 6:55pm

Mayor Engelstad announced that this is the second budget workshop meeting.

2014 MUNICIPAL BUDGET WORKSHOP

Fire Chief Everett stated that John McLoughlin President of United Engine & Truck could better explain why the department is requesting funding again this year for utility expenses upon his return from vacation and also stressed equipment maintenance costs which are essential, age of present equipment and potential of receiving newer trucks for service. A discussion ensued between the department and council.

Council also discussed the need for roof replacement at the public works garage with Superintendent Bianchi. A discussion also ensued about the number of employees needed for the upcoming season particularly for beach cleaning due to the increase in size of the beach anticipated after the sand replenishment project, radio equipment, beach access mats for the public's use. A discussion again ensued regarding a 2% salary increase for part-time employees at the highest level of steps or not currently on steps. Superintendent Bianchi also requested a shared services agreement with Belmar and Avon for the purchase of a bucket truck which could be used for the maintenance of trees, lights, flowers and banners which must be approved tonight as the deadline is today for a decision whether Bradley Beach will participate. A brief discussion ensued during which council requested more information such as the breakdown of the amount of hours the borough could use the truck with council saying

they are not prepared to make a decision this evening regarding the borough's participation in the shared services.

Council made some changes to the budget draft and expressed concern about county and school tax increase impact on taxpayers. Auditor Kaplan advised that in order to have a zero percent tax increase a reduction of \$150-160,000 is necessary. A brief discussion ensued regarding the debt services. Auditor Kaplan reported that the borough is in excellent shape.

Councilman Galassetti expressed concern if the beach anticipated revenue is not met and its impact on the operating fund.

Council discussed 911 services with Chief Guida as the county has notified the department that they will no longer be able to accommodate the borough along with several other communities due to a switch in their program.

Mayor Engelstad reported that the next budget discussion will be heard at the regular meeting scheduled for February 25th.

Councilmen Galassetti and Cotler expressed concern over the aging sewer and storm water infrastructure systems.

Auditor Kaplan said that the introduction of the budget should be held at the March 11th meeting and that he will update some of the figures with the CFO and have them ready for the February 25th meeting.

Public Comments

John Zech asked why there is a \$5,000 reduction in the First Aid Squad's donation. Councilman Cotler responded that the cut represents the independent audit required for donations from the Borough.

Joe San Felice noted that the fire department building needs the engineer to inspect the building for structural repairs and upgrades to the HVAC system although the building is barely ten years old.

Councilman Cotler suggested that public works look into used buckets trucks and/or check with utility companies for availability of donation of old equipment.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION by Engelstad / Volante the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Mary Ann Solinski, RMC, CMC
Municipal Clerk