



**MAYOR & COUNCIL
THE BOROUGH OF PEAPACK & GLADSTONE,
BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
BUDGET MEETING MARCH 31, 2021**

The budget meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Peapack & Gladstone was held on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at the Municipal Complex, 1 School Street, Peapack, New Jersey and began at 7:01 pm.

Mayor Skinner called the meeting to order. Borough Clerk Nancy A. Bretzger read the Sunshine Notice "Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Adequate notice of this meeting was published in the Courier News and Bernardsville News on March 26, 2021 and posted at the Municipal Complex and the Borough Library. Action may be taken."

Mayor Skinner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call indicated the following present:

Present: Mayor Skinner, Council President Corigliano, Councilman Caminiti, Councilwoman Dietrich, Councilman Lemma, Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Sweeney

Also present were: Randy Bahr, Administrator and Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENTS – 5 MINUTES PER PERSON – NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No one came forward.

DISCUSSION

2021 Municipal Budget-Mayor Skinner turned the meeting over to Council President Corigliano, the Finance Chair. Council President Corigliano started the presentation of the budget review process. He said that he previously sent Council a copy of the spreadsheet he created for budget purposes. He noted that he is starting with capital budget, salary and wages, appropriations and then revenues and tax rates. He said that he will go department by department, ask for any questions, and offer his comments. He explained each column in the budget spreadsheet and gave an overview of what would be discussed for each department. Discussion briefly ensued for each topic.

OEM-OEM was discussed first as Kingsley Hill was present. Mr. Hill mentioned that since the AM radio station has been decommissioned, the line item for repair and maintenance can be cut in half. Councilman Lemma asked if there was a change for the EOC use with the mobile frequency changes from the county. Mr. Hill responded that it is not in this request. Councilman Caminiti asked about the tabletop exercise, as this comes up every year. Mr. Hill said this is a quote from the vendor and it is based on requirements set by the county. There was a discussion for this department concerning clothing allowance and computer equipment as well as other line items. Modifications were made.

Fire Company-Council President Corigliano stated that he would like to start with the two capital items of the rescue truck and the SCBA. Mr. McDermott stated that he received an updated price for the rescue truck and there has been a slight decrease. Next, he explained the need for the SCBA and noted that the current equipment is outdated as it is 15 years old. They have applied for a grant to cover replacement costs, but budgeted for 5 units in case the grant is denied. That money can be reallocated if the grant



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does in fact get approved. Council President Corigliano moved on to operating costs and discussion ensued concerning the line items.

Public Works-Councilman Lemma asked about the age and condition of the current dump truck that the department is requesting to be replaced. Dan Megill, responded that said truck is in pretty rough shape. He then explained the needs for the other vehicle and equipment requests that were submitted. Mr. Megill also explained the line items for building and grounds, including air conditioning for the gym and replacement of the roof and gutters in the Scout Cabin. Next, they discussed streets and roads followed by sewer. Mr. Megill was able to get a quote from another company to replace the valves at a much better price. He also mentioned the need for a new Muffin Monster sewer grinder. Discussion ensued and modifications were made.

Police Department-Councilman Sweeney asked Chief Ferrante for an outline of the current vehicle being replaced and why he would prefer the Chevy Tahoe over one of the other available options. Chief Ferrante stated that after some research, he found the Chevy Tahoe to be a superior vehicle and more efficient for their needs. Councilwoman Murphy asked if there are any Hybrid vehicles available that are comparable. Chief Ferrante responded that while doing the research on these trucks, he found that the Ford does offer a Hybrid model but it is known to have issues.

Additional Police-Council President Corigliano mentioned that there is a line item for \$400 for equipment maintenance, but he raised that to \$1700 to cover the cost of signs that need to be replaced. Councilwoman Murphy asked about the rise in education cost compared to past years. Chief Ferrante responded by saying that due to Covid, they were unable to attend any classes last year and the need exists for our detectives and other officers. Training is also needed for certifications regarding DRE (Drug Recognition Experts) and ALCO. There was discussion regarding Professional Services. Chief Ferrante explained that this line item includes services contracts for the in-car camera systems, Live Scan and QED. The prices listed are based on current quotes received.

Revenues and Appropriations-Council President Corigliano presented a spreadsheet with a tax rate and tax for 2021. He stated that under municipal, he proposes taking \$250,000 more than last year out of the Capital fund balance and moving it to the Operating Fund. Furthermore, these numbers don't reflect the anticipated Federal grant that should be received later this year. It was also noted that there are loan and other grant options available.

2021 Capital Budget-Council President Corigliano presented the spreadsheet pertaining to the 2021 capital budget.

- DPW dump truck-It was decided to hold off on this purchase for one year, but to keep the option open for a possible good deal that may come along.
- Utility truck with a plow-It was decided that we should hold off on this purchase.
- Mini excavator-After a brief discussion, it was decided to split the cost of \$100,000, with 70% coming from O&E and 30% from Sewer.
- Director's vehicle replacement-Mayor Skinner pointed out that since this would be used for overseeing the Sewer Department as well, we can also split the cost between the Sewer and Municipal accounts. It was decided to allocate \$40,000 for an F250 with a plow blade so it can also be used for plowing if the need arises.



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- HVAC system for the gym at the municipal building-Mayor Skinner mentioned that if Council decides to keep the donated EUC units, they will be capable of cooling off the gym which will eliminate the need for the new HVAC system. All concurred on holding off on gym HVAC.
- Scout Cabin roof-All agreed that a new roof is needed.
- Alcohol Test Machines-It was decided to wait until 2022, once the state has the specification requirements set.
- Police vehicle, radar units and in car cameras-All agreed to the replacements.
- SDL software-Randy Bahr, Administrator, expressed that it would be a great investment for the town and that we would be able to charge an additional fee for permits, etc. After a brief discussion, all agreed on the purchase.
- Rescue truck-There were concerns of where to allocate the money that has been budgeted for this purchase. It was decided to leave it as allocated and wait for the Consultation company's recommendations to come in.
- SCBA-All agreed that this is a necessary purchase. There is also a possible grant that has been applied for, to help cover the cost.

Streets and Roads-There was discussion regarding several items, including resurfacing of roads, the fire house apron, and patching the parking lot for the basketball courts. All agreed that these are necessary improvements. Council also spoke about the sidewalks on Holland Ave. Councilman Lemma suggested that we start at Main St. and work our way down to Route 206, as it would be less expensive and we could get more done at a faster pace.

Sewer-Council President Corigliano suggested taking care of all 12 of the forced main valves all at once. It was agreed that this is the most cost-effective way to handle this. Also discussed was the Muffin Monster. All agreed that this is a necessary purchase as is the Effluent Pit roof.

Open Space and Recreation Trust Fund (OSRTF)-Council President Corigliano stated that he recommends budgeting \$35,000 for the trails to help with the costs of the upcoming projects in the next few years.

A continuation of the 2021 budget meeting was planned for April 12, 2021.

Public Comments-John Kappler-25 Holland Ave.-In regards to the sidewalks on Holland Ave., Mr. Kappler wanted to point out that the corner of Holland and Maple is the biggest issue concerning safety and suggested that the sidewalk installation begins there. Mr. Kappler also stated that he believes the purchase of an excavator would be a great asset to the Borough.



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There being no other matters to be addressed by the Governing Body at this time, a motion was made by Councilman Caminiti, seconded by Councilwoman Dietrich, that this meeting be adjourned at 10:31 p.m. This motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Bretzger

Nancy A. Bretzger, Borough Clerk