

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD BUDGET WORK SESSION
MARCH 3, 2016**

At 4:05pm, this meeting was called to order by Mary Canesi, Municipal Clerk. It was advertised in the Press of Atlantic City on January 23, 2016, in accordance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Chau.

ROLL CALL

Present: Dewees, Murray, O'Neill, Perri, Piergiovanni, Travagline
Absent: Lischin

CFO Dawn Stollenwerk, Acting Chief Newman and Chief Cummings were also in the audience.

Council President Travagline turned the meeting over to Councilman Murray, Finance Chair.

Councilman Murray introduced CFO Stollenwerk, who reviewed changes that had been made since the last budget meeting, including the usage of additional monies from the Birch Grove Park Trust Fund to offset salaries. She said at present we are at an increase of 3.9 cents.

At 4:07pm Councilman Lischin entered the meeting.

Council President Travagline asked about the capital plan.

CFO Stollenwerk replied that we put \$100,000.00 in the fund as down payment; the fund was depleted last year.

Councilman Perri questioned how the \$100,000.00 would be used.

CFO Stollenwerk noted that part would be for the down payment and part for emergencies. She explained the detriment of reducing the capital fund.

Councilman Perri expressed concern about increased spending; he urged reduction in the capital fund and use of emergency appropriation if the need arose.

CFO Stollenwerk advocated for replenishing the capital fund; emergency appropriation pushes expenses to the following year.

Councilman Perri mentioned that furloughs had come up.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD BUDGET WORK SESSION
MARCH 3, 2016**

Council President Travagline stated that furloughs were discussed in committee meetings. Furloughs would not apply to public safety and that is where the lion's share of salaries are. He also didn't feel that using furloughs in departments with 1 or 2 people would be efficient as the departments are too small.

Councilman O'Neill stated that he had talked to FAN about insurance.

Council President Travagline asked if the insurance was already paid.

Municipal Clerk Canesi replied yes, just recently. FAN was approximately \$11,000.00; she didn't recall the premium for baseball.

Council President Travagline noted that Little League could get insurance through Little League International for approximately \$1,800.00.

Councilman Perri stated that the total for all of the sports groups was approximately \$18,000.00.

Council President Travagline asked how much surplus we were using and what did we use last year.

CFO Stollenwerk replied that we were using \$1.3 million this year and last year we used \$1.6 million.

At 4:23pm Councilman Piergiovanni excused himself for the balance of the meeting.

Council President Travagline announced that the Community School will have a decrease this year because they had bonds mature; that tax increase should be relatively flat between the two.

Council President Travagline stated he was not happy with 3.9 cents but it was better than 4.8 cents.

CFO Stollenwerk asked about capital, she had received additional requests around 3pm today.

Councilman Dewees referred to the list, and the need for a cleaning apparatus for the new Route 9 sidewalks. As part of the agreement we will have to clean the sidewalks.

CFO Stollenwerk explained the need to get a general idea of what projects would be undertaken this year.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD BUDGET WORK SESSION
MARCH 3, 2016**

Councilman Lischin advocated for the purchase of new hose for the Fire Department. The Department is using old hose that was previously used when they got it. New hoses are necessary for four trucks along with new quick-release adapters for each.

At 4:37pm Council President Travagline excused himself for the balance of the meeting.

As Council President Travagline was on his way out the door, Mayor Chau asked him if there would be another budget meeting.

Council President Travagline noted that these were last minute requests being considered; he suggested tabling the new requests for further assistance.

CFO Stollenwerk suggested doing capital at the workshop session of the March 22nd Council meeting.

Council President Travagline asked those who submitted late requests to provide additional justification, for further discussion.

CFO Stollenwerk asked if Council wanted to do a Capital Ordinance this year; she explained that the 2006 bond would expire in 2018, and the current projects would be combined with the 2013, 2014 and 2015 projects into a new bond sale, that would be structured so that the 1st payment was in 2019, right after the retirement of the last bond. This would be done intentionally to keep our debt service stable.

Councilmen O'Neill and Perri voted no on increasing capital.

Mayor Chau, Councilmen Dewees, Murray and Lischin agreed to add just the fire hoses.

CFO Stollenwerk asked if the council was okay with this budget at a 3.9 cent tax increase.

Councilmen O'Neill and Perri both replied no.

Councilman Perri noted that 4 votes were needed but everyone left; suggested further discussion at the work session.

CFO Stollenwerk noted that Council President Travagline expressed that he would approve at 3.9 cents.

Councilman Perri expressed frustration that there were State mandates that we don't get help with.

**CITY OF NORTHFIELD BUDGET WORK SESSION
MARCH 3, 2016**

Council President Pro-Tempore Dewees opened the meeting to the public.

Seeing no one wishing to speak he closed the public session.

At 4:54pm, on motions properly made and seconded, this meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Canesi, RMC, Municipal Clerk