

Borough of Jamesburg
Special Council Meeting Minutes

January 23, 2008 - 6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER: 6:31pm - Mayor LaMantia called the meeting to order and announced that the same is being held pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act of 1974 and all provisions of the Act have been met. Any contracts awarded tonight or between tonight and the next meeting require the contractor to comply with P.L. 1975. In the event of a fire and pursuant to the N.J. Uniform Fire Code, members of the audience were requested to take notice of the exits at the front and rear of the Council Chambers as well as in the main hallway.

FLAG SALUTE: Led by Mayor LaMantia

ROLL CALL: Those Present: Mayor LaMantia
Council President Kostbar
Council member Bodall
Council member Carpenter
Council member Grimes
Council member Jennings
Council member Longo
Denise Jawidzik, Business Administrator

Those Absent: None

DISCUSSION: 2008 Local Municipal Budget

Council President Kostbar made comment on the Borough's assessed values having decreased and how the loss of rateables accounts for budget increases. The Borough will not apply for Extraordinary Aid this year, considering the decrease seen last year, and the State's forewarnings that the Borough must eliminate its' dependency on said aid. The funding formula (pertaining to the new levy cap) has not been received yet however, the budget committee has done their best to estimate any increases at 4%. Council President Kostbar also stated that he has approached the Police Chief about possible cuts for Police Department overtime for public events.

Finance Officer Denise Jawidzik made comment on the actual costs experienced when applying for Extraordinary Aid. She made presentation regarding the proposed 2008 Local Municipal Budget of the Borough of Jamesburg:

This year's municipal budget currently stands at a 10.5 cent increase. All discretionary department Other Expense budgets have been cut below the 2003 level. This does not account for any increases in Municipal Aid. This will reduce the tax increase.

The Borough will not be applying for Extraordinary Aid this year as the state intimated last year that we need to eliminate our dependency on that aid.

Appropriations without grants and the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes were \$4,966,225 in 2007 and are \$5,141,860.50 in 2008 – with a net increase of \$175,635.50. The largest increases are as follows:

* Pension	120,157 State Phase In Mandatory
* Library	15,142 Mandatory

There is an \$81,050 increase in all insurances. This is due to standard rate increases but also insurance that was previously appropriated in the sewer utility has to be raised in the current budget because there is a \$76,000 increase in our sewer disposal charges from Monroe Township MUA and Middlesex County MUA fees.

There are appropriation reductions in Solid Waste Collection due to the reduction in services of the new contract saving us \$35,000. Recreation has been cut by \$5,000 by removing the Street Fair. Our EDA loan payment was reduced by \$7,800 as this is the final payment on that loan.

The Capital Improvement Fund Appropriation is \$110,000 for the cost of Underground Storage Tank Remediation (mandatory).

Positive Outlook

The Borough has been aggressively paying down our outstanding debt. At the close of 2008, we will owe \$151,000. For a point of reference, in 1999, the Borough owed \$2,500,000. We will pay off in 2009.

** Be advised that up until the date of Introduction of the Budget, revenues and appropriations will be adjusted by any new revenues from grants or other sources.

Sheet 3b

We will have a CAP Bank this year to utilize in next years budget if necessary. It is extremely important to have a CAP Bank to use when the State keeps changing those items placed inside and outside CAP. This allows the Mayor and Council to make budgetary decisions instead of having the State dictate our budget.

Sheet 4

Surplus was generated by deferring the school tax again last year. As of the close of 2007, there is \$413,730 available for future deferments. The Borough will likely continue to defer as long as we can as this is an a legal option for municipalities to reduce the amount to be raised by taxation.

Our interest on investments exceeded anticipated amounts by \$47,000 due to the economy.

Sheet 5

Waiting for State figures.

Sheet 8

Third Party Billing is based on prior year revenues, it has an offsetting appropriation which includes unexpended 2007 appropriations.

Sheet 8

Fire Prevention – same as above

Sheets 12 – 28

See above comments regarding Appropriations.

Sheets 34 – 36

Due to the fact that the projected costs for sewerage disposal increased \$76,000 and the surcharges increase each year by about \$13,000, we moved most of the other appropriations into the current fund. We will increase the rate this year by 5% in an attempt to keep pace with the ever increasing treatment charges from the Municipal Utility Authorities.

We have appropriated \$28,200 for sewer rehabilitation in an effort to repair the infrastructure to reduce infiltration and flows. We had a few emergency repairs in 2007 and we need to put funds aside to prepare for these emergencies.

Our debt service to Monroe Township MUA will increase in 2011 by \$64,000/year and we need to attempt to build up surplus to combat that.

Council President Kostbar stated that a tax point equals \$24,040 and remarked how the finance committee is diligently seeking cost savings (i.e. public events). Council member Carpenter suggested utilizing civic organizations to cover those cuts in order to not eliminate events. Council member Grimes commented that he did not agree with the cuts proposed, namely the lay off of a Public Works employee, or the cutting of the Street Fair or Recreation budget. Council discussed the prudence of not decreasing amounts in surplus, especially in case of emergency. Council also discussed seeking further Interlocal Agreements, energy savings, as well as the impact of some of the proposed budget cuts.

Members of the public wishing to address the Mayor and Borough Council must approach the podium and state their name and address for the record. There is a five (5) minute time limit for all comments and questions.

MOTION TO OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

PROPOSED BY: Longo

SECONDED BY: Grimes

ALL IN FAVOR: Bodall, Carpenter, Grimes, Jennings, Kostbar, Longo.

None Opposed, None Abstaining.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Elliott Stroul – 110 Mendoker Drive

- Jamesburg Civic Association could possibly be in the position to help with certain costs relating to public events, as is the Jamesburg Revitalization Coalition.

MOTION TO CLOSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

PROPOSED BY: Longo

SECONDED BY: Carpenter

ALL IN FAVOR: Bodall, Carpenter, Grimes, Jennings, Kostbar, Longo.

None Opposed, None Abstaining.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Proposed by: Jennings

Seconded by: Kostbar

All In Favor: Bodall, Carpenter, Grimes, Jennings, Kostbar, Longo.

None Opposed, None Abstaining.

TIME OF ADJOURNMENT:

7:22 pm