

Borough of Tenafly

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022

PRESENT: Mayor Zinna and Councilmembers Lauren Dayton, Jeffrey Grossman Venugopal Menon, Adam Michaels, Julie O'Connor, and Daniel Park (arrived at 9:16 a.m.)

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Jimmy Homs, Chief Financial Officer Susan Corrado
Borough Clerk Omar Stovall

At 9:03 a.m. Mayor Rustin read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act P.L. 1975, chapter 231, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates for the year are listed in the Annual Agenda; copies are sent to the Record, Suburbanite, and Northern Valley Press and posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center. The notice of this special budget meeting by Resolution #22-90 has been sent to the Record, Suburbanite, and Northern Valley Press, has been posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center and Borough Website."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

LIBRARY

Ms. Julie Marallo, Tenafly Public Library Director updated Governing Body the activities for the library in 2022. Ms. Marallo expressed that the Library's goal is for life education and offered the Library to everyone. C. Dayton inquired about the total cost of the library façade project. Chief Financial Officer Susan Corrado confirmed that \$175,000 was originally funded and a supplement bond was needed for an additional \$48,000. Martin Gilbert of the Library Board expressed that he is surprised the Governing Body is asking the Library Board to maintain the Library's building. Mr. Gilbert believed the money is being squandered. Zinna responded by expressing that the funds have been fairly distributed throughout the Borough. C. Menon asked if the library would be interested in constructing a library and self-maintain. Kathleen Cook of the Library Board expressed that she does not know if there are funds available to construct a new building. Mrs. Corrado added that since 2018 the auditor expressed that any surplus should be given to the Library and the practice has been done since. She continued that the library is set to receive \$100,000 in surplus. Mrs. Corrado asked if the library is willing to consider using their surplus funds help offset building maintenance cost. Members of the Library Board expressed that the topic will have to be discussed at the next library board meeting. M. Zinna commended the library for their efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

C. Evron - 39 Leroy Street- suggested that the Borough undergoing a maintenance review on its buildings. Ms. Evron asked that the Governing Body consider using the COVID funds on the Tenafly rail station. Ms. Evron asked that the Governing Body consider its vaccination program to screen for undiagnosed mental health matters.

ASSESSOR

Jeff Statham, Tax Assessor presented the budget and noted his only increase was for postage and all other items remained unchanged. Mr. Statham added that his goal is to keep appeals low and hopes that the County Tax Board allows for the appeals to remain low. C. Dayton asked Mr. Statham if he is in need of additional staff. Mr. Statham expressed that he and Sharon Peterson manage the office efficiently. Mrs. Corrado advised that the reserve for tax appeals was increased to \$175,000, but it may need to be reviewed for an additional increase. C. Menon asked how often tax maps are updated. Mr. Statham responded that tax maps are updated often but more so when the county requests a revaluation.

SENIOR CENTER

Michele Hausch, Senior Center Manager thanked the Governing Body for their support. Ms. Hausch expressed that her goal is to add more classes for seniors. M. Zinna asked about the internet/phone service at the Senior Center. Ms. Hausch expressed her dissatisfaction

of the service. C. Dayton asked Ms. Hausch if she is in need of additional staff. Ms. Hausch expressed that she is ok with the staff. Ms. Hausch expressed that need for additional electric devices as she has one laptop and 10 tablets. C. Dayton suggested that the Borough reach out to the School Board to see if they are able to donate those items. A discussion ensued regarding the construction of a new Senior Center building. C. Grossman believed that the approach of construction to a new Senior Center building should be viewed from a holistic view point. M. Zinna asked the Borough Clerk added the upcoming Mayor and Council meeting agenda under "To be Considered" a discussion on the buildings of the Library and Senior Center. C. Menon added that the Senior Center building discussion should be a 2023 budget topic.

C. Dayton inquired about a CBDG grant that would allow the Senior Center bathrooms to be ADA compliant. Hr. Homsy voiced that the bathroom estimate is \$200,000. M. Zinna added that between spending \$200,000 for bathroom and the potential need for a new Senior Center an offline conversation between Mr. Homsy and Ms. Hausch should occur. M. Zinna asked Borough Administrator to look into Verizon's internet/phone service.

RECREATION

Jamie Cannon, Recreation Director presented the budget. C. Dayton inquired if the organizational chart is being considered in the salary and wages. C. Michaels expressed that there was a reduction in salaries. Ms. Corrado expressed that the reduction is due to Youth Services being under the Recreation Department with the Director of Youth Services recently retiring. C. Dayton that the salary for the Director of the Recreation should be competitive.

C. Dayton asked that furniture be added the Capital Budget. Ms. Cannon expressed that furniture was approved in 2021 Capital Budget. Ms. Cannon requested for a Recreational Aide. C. Michaels asked Ms. Cannon to consult with Human Resources Manager Alisha Dawkins. C. Dayton expressed that she would like a part-time position for field maintenance. C. Menon believed that employees from the DPW could be trained to cover field maintenance around the Borough. M. Zinna asked Ms. Cannon what did field maintenance entails. Ms. Cannon explained, while C. Dayton expressed that field maintenance cannot be covered by one person. M. Zinna asked Ms. Cannon if other option had been explored. Ms. Cannon responded that she receive three quotes for field maintenance with one being \$14,000. C. Grossman asked if little league is still maintaining their field because maintenance is in the little league's budget. C. Grossman expressed that he did not believe the maintenance of fields are on one person. C. Dayton asked what other duties does the Site Supervisor does. Ms. Cannon explained that the Site Supervisor assists in the office during the winter months. C. Dayton suggested that the Recreation Aide trains to maintain the fields. The Governing Body approved of the suggestion.

Ms. Cannon presented the operational budget and noted that nothing was added. C. Grossman inquired if metrics are available for activity signup registration. Ms. Cannon expressed that she has a report of metrics. M. Zinna asked Ms. Cannon to share the registration metrics with either the Borough Administrator or Borough Clerk.

C. Dayton inquired about the plan for the adult fitness equipment. Ms. Cannon explained that she would like to have the equipment in a centralize location, or in multiple parks throughout town. She added that by having the equipment in a centralized location by the walking path would be great. C. Dayton inquired about the installation cost. Ms. Cannon expressed that would be \$30,000 but could be done in phases. C. Grossman inquired about the equipment life expectancy. Ms. Cannon expressed that the life expectancy is 8 years. C. O'Connor about the liability. Ms. Cannon responded that it would be through the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF). The Governing Body expressed that they like the idea and would like to revisit.

Ms. Cannon asked the Governing Body if there is interest in the skate park. C. Menon asked if other area been explored in where to decide to have the skate park. A discussion ensued regarding if the Governing Body's is interested in the skate park. The Governing Body agreed to reclaim land and to build the skate park using open space funds.

CAPITAL

Ms. Corrado expressed that the Governing Body should introduce the Temporary Capital Budget. She continued that the Governing Body tasked to spend \$4 million but came back with \$4.2 million.

C. Menon expressed that the road program be lower than \$1.1 million C. Dayton asked that the \$1.1 million be in the road program. Ms. Corrado explained that with the road program that \$1.1 million would spent plus an additional \$500,000 that bring funding to \$1.6

million. A discussion ensued regarding the road program. The Governing Body agreed to fund the road program at \$1 million. C. Grossman inquired about the oil separator in the DPW's capital. M. Zinna shared the backstory of the oil tank located in the DPW which was determined to be removed and replaced if contaminated. He continued that the project would cost \$100,000. C. Grossman suggested that the Governing Body proceed with the Temporary Capital Budget for items that can be moved until April or May. C. Dayton asked if the roof replace should be place in the Temporary Capital or the General Capital. M. Zinna expressed that a structural engineer is needed to assess the roof. Ms. Corrado explained that if the Governing Body decides to fund the roof by the April 5th meeting that funds could be used 20 days after April 26th. The Governing Body agreed to remove the roof replacement and to place it in the General Capital Budget.

C. Dayton requested that DPW presents their budget on Tuesday, March 29th. Ms. Corrado voiced that she will asked the Director of DPW of his availability.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to come before the Council, on a motion by C. Park, second by C. Grossman, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Omar Stovall,
MPA, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk