

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
Mayor and Council
Borough of Harrington Park, New Jersey
February 13, 2012

(PAH) Call Meeting to Order **Time: 6:35**

Mayor's Announcement:

In compliance with Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, adequate notice of the meeting was made. It is included in the Annual Meetings posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Center. Copies have been mailed to the BERGEN RECORD, SUBURBANITE and THE NORTHERN VALLEY PRESS. A copy has been filed with the Borough Clerk, and copies have been mailed to individuals requesting the same.

(ALB) Roll Call:

Councilman Napolitano-present	Councilman Roth-present
Councilman Quantmeyer-absent	Councilman Dunlea-present
Councilman Evanella-present	Councilwoman Chung-arrived 7:55pm

Also present:

Ms. Ann H. Bistriz, Borough Clerk
Ms. Anne E. Murphy, CFO

(JR) Budget Discussions

Finalizing of various departments-Budget Adjustments
Budget Introduction Meeting February 27, 2012-7pm

Suspension of Business (GE, second JR-AIF)

Motion to suspend the regular order of business for discussion of the following:

Ms. A. Murphy was present to discuss the progress of the 2012 Budget for Harrington Park. AEM thanked the Mayor and Council for doing a very good job.

The Budget package dated February 13, 2012 is the most current one that incorporates all salary increases and changes within their respective headings.

Council stayed under the 2% cap BY \$89,000. This was important since the amount of incoming funds is lacking in the Borough and there really was no other option. Surplus has been depleted by \$221,000 due to tax appeals. This will still be a problem moving forward, but hopefully the fact that the Borough has plans for a revaluation, may diminish some of the appeals. Last year's Council had opted to put some money into the surplus from an outstanding bond which has helped the situation. No matter how much additional funds were cut from the budget, a 2% lax levy would have to be placed on the taxpayers. AEM expects the capital surplus to drop over the next few years. It takes time to rebuild. Until the values of the properties are straightened out in the Borough the surplus will drain. Last year the Borough lost \$16,000,000 in property values. It should be noted that even though the values go down, the residents still pay the same amount required to the County and the school system; the municipality takes the financial hit.

Council created a very sound budget that took into consideration the big ticket items and truly analyzed what was reduced. Other areas there is not much room to remove any funds that will make a difference on the tax rate.

AEM suggested that Council meet on February 27, 2012 for a 10 minute meeting to introduce the 2012 Budget. Public hearing will be held 28 days later. Council was in agreement. ALB will advertise the meeting.

Motion to move to the regular order of business GE, second JR-AIF

A brief discussion followed regarding School Elections and any impact on the Borough's budget. It was determined that there would be no substantial savings to the budget if Harrington Park has an election in April or in November.

Adjournment-Time: 7:03

Motion: GE

Second: JR

Vote: AIF