

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD
MARCH 13, 2004**

A Special Meeting of the Borough of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in the Council Chambers of the Borough Municipal Building at 9:06 A.M. on Saturday, March 13, 2004 for the purposes of reviewing the 2004 Municipal Budget.

Roll Call: Present: Wagner-Glaser, Bertoline, Housel, Giaimis (arrived late), McDonald & Van Deursen

Absent: Doty

Also Present: Alan M. Fisher, Borough Manager, Recreation Commissioners Dawn Higgins, Terrence Finnegan, Richard Feldman, Peter Jacobson, John Unorski, and James Prendergast

Mayor Van Deursen read the following Statement into the Record:

“The requirements of the ‘Open Public Meetings Law, 1972, Chapter 231 have been satisfied in that adequate notice of this meeting has been published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Washington and posted on the Bulletin board of the Borough Municipal Building stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.”

The Council met with the members of the Recreation Commission to review the proposed Recreation Commission budget.

The Revenue accounts were reviewed. The Mayor and Council increased the revenue anticipated in the Pool Membership account to \$23,000.00. (Councilman Giaimis entered at 9:22 a.m.)

The Other Expense Detail report was reviewed next. The Commission Expense accounts were first to be reviewed. The Postage account was reduced to \$500.00.

Under Parks and Playgrounds, the governing body reduced the Equipment Maintenance Account to \$2,700.00. The Recreation Commission pointed out that they neglected to budget for a portable pitching mound at an estimated cost of \$1,400.00. The Council agreed to include this under the Capital Improvement account grouping.

There were no changes made to the Concession Stand account, Swimming Program, Adult Basketball, Swim Team, Social/Cultural Outings, Girl’s Field Hockey, Arts & Crafts, Soccer Program, Girl’s Softball, Entertainment in the Park, Youth Basketball, Fourth of July, Egg Hunt, Lacrosse, Street Hockey, and Advertising Signs accounts.

In the Swimming Lessons account the Council reduced the General Supplies account to \$50.00.

In the Seasonal Decorating Contest account, the Council reduced the General Supplies account to \$200.00.

In the National Night Out account, the Council reduced the General Supplies account to \$100.00.

In the Grand Illuminations account, the Council reduced the General Supplies account to \$650.00.

The Salary and Wage Detail accounts were reviewed next. Under the Commission Expenses the Council budgeted \$17,340.00 for the Recreation Supervisor and \$6,000.00 for the Secretary Board/Commission position.

Under Parks and Playgrounds the Council budgeted \$10,000.00 under the Maintenance Workers account.

No other changes were made to the Salary and Wage Detail accounts.

The Mayor declared a recess at the conclusion of the Recreation Commission budget review at 11:00 a.m. The council reconvened at 11:15 a.m.

The Borough Manager presented additional information requested from the budget workshops on March 6th & 7th. Also presented were a proposal from Converse Consultants for the Alleger Street Garage site groundwater contamination and a letter from Code/Zoning Enforcement Officer Rudy Bescherer on funding for remediation of unsafe and dangerous building conditions where the owner can not be located or has failed to take corrective actions to abate public health and safety concerns. Also provide was information on the cost of having the Borough Code available for viewing on the Internet. Additional information on administrative fees for the Consolidated Police and Firemen's Pension Fund, 2003 Body Armor Replacement Program Notification of Award of Funds letter, an invoice for the K-9 Insurance Endorsement, and information on the proposed leaf loader were all presented to the governing body. Finally, the Manager indicated he had not heard from the Auditor in regards to his comments on the proposed budget. The Manager indicated that he was hopeful to have this information by the Council's next regular meeting on March 16th.

Council decided to have the Borough Manager look into the availability of grants for the remediation work at the Alleger Street Garage facility. No funding was placed in the budget for this work.

Council decided that no funding should be added to the budget for remediation of unsafe and dangerous buildings. Council directed the Manager to have individual requests presented to it for consideration on a case by case basis as the need arises. Funding will be handled on thorough the Contingency account or as an emergency appropriation.

The council amended the budget document to provide for additional appropriation for the Consolidated Police and Firemen's Pension Fund, 2003 Body Armor Replacement

Program Notification of Award of Funds letter, an invoice for the K-9 Insurance Endorsement.

Council stated that it would not make the Borough Code available on-line from its website this year.

Council proceeded to review the Capital Improvement budget. Councilwoman Bertoline left the meeting at 12:17 p.m. Council decided to defer the leaf-loader purchase until 2005. The Council also decided to budget \$12,000.00 for 2004, 2005 and 2006 for computer replacement. Funding for the video conferencing equipment was deleted.

The Council then proceeded to review the items it had marked for revisiting. The Council decided to reduce the appropriation in the Police Department Equipment Purchase account to \$5,000.00. No other account appropriations were changed.

It was moved by Councilwoman Wagner-Glaser and seconded by Councilman McDonald to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Marianne Van Deursen, Mayor

Alan M. Fisher, Deputy Clerk