

BUDGET MEETING

Mayor Robert Patten called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and read the Open Public Meetings Act statement which stated that adequate notice and posting of the meeting had taken place in accordance with the requirements of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.

The flag salute was followed by the roll call.

ROLL CALL

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Mayor Patten</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Sackowitz</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Laudenberger</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Schneider</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Sikorski</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Thompson</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Candace Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator; and George Lang, Chief Financial Officer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was moved as presented by Councilman Sikorski, seconded by Councilman Thompson and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Patten opened the floor for public comment.

Eugene Sarafin, 600-628 South Main Street, stated that the Borough should thank our legislators for their part in securing \$280,000 in CY2005 Extraordinary Aid for the Borough.

No one else came forward and the floor was closed.

RESOLUTION 2005-164, AMENDING THE 2005 BUDGET

Ms. Gallagher read aloud and in full Resolution 2005-164, amending the 2005 budget to incorporate the \$280,000 received in Extraordinary Aid and to correct the amounts included in the budget for Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation funding. The effect of this amendment, she said, is to reduce the proposed tax rate from \$1.254 to \$1.124.

Resolution 2005-164 was moved by Councilwoman Laudenberger, seconded by Council President Schneider.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Laudenberger, Quattrone, Sackowitz, Schneider, Sikorski and Thompson voted yes.

Resolution adopted, 6-0.

RESOLUTION 2005-164 AMENDING THE 2005 BUDGET
(included at end of these 7/18/05 minutes)

RESOLUTION 2005-165, ADOPTING THE 2005 BUDGET

Councilman Thompson stated that the Borough received \$250,000 in Extraordinary Aid in 2004 and \$280,000 this year, and commented that the Borough's relationship with Trenton during this time has made a big difference. He commended Ms. Gallagher for her work in preparing the grant applications, and said that this proves that, "when we put our mind to it, we can accomplish a lot." He added that the Borough "is not on the path of self-sufficiency, and we must be judicious."

Councilman Sikorski stated that he is concerned about the "sustainability of our budget without intervention" and said that there must be "radical changes in the method of property taxation."

Councilman Quattrone expressed his appreciation to the State for granting us \$280,000 in Extraordinary Aid. He commended Ms. Gallagher for her work on the application, and Mayor Patten and Council President Schneider for their fight at the State level to obtain the aid. He added that he wished it could have been closer to the \$350,000 requested.

Councilwoman Laudenbergler noted that a lot of positive things are happening in the Borough which should begin to bring us some additional revenue soon.

Councilman Thompson noted that he has requested an analysis by Borough staff and professionals to illustrate this.

Mayor Patten stated that the Borough has set goals and is making plans for its future.

Resolution 2005-165 was read aloud and in full by Ms. Gallagher. It was then moved by Council President Schneider, seconded by Councilwoman Laudenbergler.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Laudenbergler, Quattrone, Sackowitz, Schneider, and Thompson voted yes.
Councilman Sikorski voted no.

Resolution adopted, 6-0.

RESOLUTION 2005-165 ADOPTING THE 2005 BUDGET
(included at end of these 7/18/05 minutes)

RESOLUTION 2005-166, AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

Resolution 2005-166 was moved by Councilman Thompson, seconded by Councilman Sikorski.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Laudenbergler, Quattrone, Sackowitz, Schneider, Sikorski and Thompson voted yes.

Resolution adopted, 6-0.

RESOLUTION 2005-166 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

WHEREAS, certain bills are due and payable as per itemized claims listed on the following schedules, which are made a part of the minutes of this meeting as a supplemental record;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the bills be paid on audit and approval of the Mayor, the appropriate Councilmember and the Treasurer in the amount of \$563,071.42 from the following accounts:

Current	\$ 262,964.98
W/S Operating	148,708.88
General Capital	805.00
W/S Capital	82,135.27
Animal Control	344.40
Trust Account	7,780.00
RCA-COAH Escrow	39,816.00
Grant	703.03
Escrow – Subdivision & Site Plan (First Washington Bank)	19,813.86
Total	\$ 563,071.42

There being no further business, adjournment was moved by Councilman Thompson, seconded by Councilman Sikorski and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace B. Gallagher, RMC
Borough Clerk