

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Hightstown Borough Council**  
**Budget Workshop Meeting**  
**March 7, 2012**  
**7:00 pm**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kirson at 7:01 pm and he read the Open Public Meetings Act statement which stated, "Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice was sent to the *Trenton Times* and the *Windsor-Hights Herald*, and is posted in the Borough Clerk's office."

The Flag Salute was followed by roll call.

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Councilmember Bibens</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Bluth</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Doran</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Thibault</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Woods</i>	✓	
<i>Mayor Kirson</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Debra Sopronyi, Borough Clerk; Michael Theokas, Borough Administrator; George Lang, Chief Finance Officer; Larry Blake, Lead Water Plant Operator; and Bill Searing, AWWTP Superintendent.

Mayor Kirson opened the Public Comment Period and there being no comments, the public comment period was closed.

**Budget Discussion**

The CFO distributed materials consisting of the Water Plant and Advanced Waste Water Plant budgets and Borough debt information. Mr. Lang reviewed revenues and appropriates for these two departments and explained that bonds are long-term permanent debt while notes are short-term debt.

There was discussion regarding staffing and salaries, health benefits costs, union agreement requirements, water and sewer rates, sludge removal costs, infrastructure improvements, and the possibility of charging fees for back-flow prevention and fire service connections.

Mr. Blake and Mr. Searing were excused from the meeting at this time.

Mr. Lang explained the bonding process, the difference between funded and unfunded debt, and reviewed the Borough debt. He went on to explain the process for emergency appropriations such as those for recovery from Hurricane Irene.

There was further discussion regarding the budget process and strategies for relief to the residents.

It was decided that the budget would be introduced on March 19, 2012 with an additional budget workshop meeting to be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at 7:00pm in the Historic Society building.

Mayor Kirson opened Public Comment Period II and there being no comments, the public comment period was closed.

Councilmember Bibens moved to adjourn at 9:05 pm, Councilmember Doran seconded. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi, RMC  
 Borough Clerk