

<b>BUDGET MEETING</b>
-----------------------

Mayor Robert Patten called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Laudenberger</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Quattrone</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Sackowitz</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Schneider</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Sikorski</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Thompson</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Candace Gallagher, Borough Clerk/Administrator.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon motion by Councilman Sikorski, seconded by Councilwoman Laudenberger, the agenda was unanimously approved as submitted.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Patten opened the floor for public comment.

**Eugene Sarafin**, 600-628 South Main Street, noted his presence at the meeting.

No one else came forward and the floor was closed.

### RESOLUTION 2005-75, AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GENERATOR

Following a brief review by Ms. Gallagher, Resolution 2005-75 was moved by Councilman Quattrone, seconded by Councilman Sikorski.

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

**Resolution adopted, 6-0.**

**WHEREAS** the Borough received a \$125,000 Special Legislative Grant for municipal building renovations or acquisition, which grant expired on December 31, 2004; and

**WHEREAS** all but \$9,070.16 of those grant funds have been expended by the Borough; and

**WHEREAS** in October of 2004, Larry Blake, Superintendent of Public Works, recommended that the remaining funds be utilized toward the purchase and installation of a generator at the municipal building; and

**WHEREAS** on November 12, 2004, the Department of Community Affairs has approved the use of the funds remaining in the Special Legislative Grant for this purpose, and funds were encumbered prior to December 31, 2004; and

**WHEREAS** competitive quotations have been solicited, and Mr. Blake has recommended that the generator be purchased from and installed by George E. Conley IV, Electrical Contractor, 1 Hightstown-Cranbury Station Road, Cranbury, New Jersey at a total price of \$12,532.00, as detailed on their proposal which is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

**WHEREAS the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds for the remaining \$3,461.84 are available in previously adopted Bond Ordinances;**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hightstown that the purchase of a 40KW generator from George E. Conley IV, Electrical Contractor, 1 Hightstown-Cranbury Station Road, Cranbury, New Jersey, for a total price of \$12,532.00, including installation, is hereby approved.

## BUDGET DISCUSSION

### ***Better Beginnings***

Luz Horta, Executive Director of Better Beginnings, addressed the Mayor and Council regarding their 2005 contribution request of \$10,000. Ms. Horta provided an overview of the agency, noting they currently serve 98 children between the ages of 2½ and 10, 38 of whom are from Hightstown. They serve families also, and in total, services are provided to 130 Hightstown residents. 87% of those they serve are Hispanic, and 15% of the children have special needs.

Better Beginnings operates on an annual budget of approximately \$638,000, Ms. Horta said. For every \$1 received from the Borough, they will receive \$3 from the Division of Family Development (up to a pre-established cap). East Windsor currently contributes \$22,700 to Better Beginnings. They hold an annual Gala, which is a major fundraising event.

Council discussed at some length the amount of the Borough's 2005 contribution to Better Beginnings. It was eventually agreed that the amount would remain at \$8,500, the same amount as was contributed in 2004.

### ***Community Action Service Center***

Amanda Porter of the Community Action Service Center addressed the Mayor and Council and provided an overview of the services provided by this agency. Those services include: health services, HIV case management, substance abuse counseling and referral, income tax preparation, and assistance with basic needs (including a food pantry). They participate in a holiday program with East Windsor P.B.A. to deliver dinners to the needy, and hold an annual health fair as a service to the community. The Center operates on an annual budget of approximately \$300,000, and East Windsor contributes \$8,000 annually. The Borough's contribution could be directed toward their summer day care program which, last year, served 74 children on a sliding scale basis.

Councilman Sikorski asked about the possibility of combining Hightstown's summer Dawes Park program and the Center's summer day care program. Councilwoman Laudenberger stated that this may be a possibility "in a couple of years."

After some discussion among Council, it was agreed that the contribution to the Community Action Service Center would remain at last year's level of \$4,000.

***East Windsor P.A.L.***

Mayor Patten reported that the P.A.L. is requesting \$2,000 from the Borough again this year. This was discussed at some length, and it was eventually agreed that the contribution for 2005 would remain at \$2,000.

***General budget discussion***

During further discussion of the budget, it was generally agreed that:

- The amount budgeted for the purchase of police vehicles would be cut by 50%, and would provide for the purchase of just one vehicle rather than two.
- The amount budgeted for the shade tree program would remain at last year's level (\$3,000). The Commission's original request for the program was \$6,400.

Adjournment was then moved by Councilwoman Laudemberger, seconded by Councilman Sikorski and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Candace B. Gallagher, RMC  
Borough Clerk