

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Hightstown Borough Council**  
**Budget Meeting**  
**March 18, 2017**  
**9:00 am**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Quattrone at 9:01am 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 followed Roll Call.

	PRESENT	ABSENT
<i>Councilmember Bluth</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Hansen</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Kurs</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Misiura</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Montferrat</i>		✓
<i>Councilmember Stults</i>		✓
<i>Mayor Quattrone</i>	✓	

Also in attendance: Debra Sopronyi, Borough Clerk/Acting Administrator; and George Lang, CFO

Councilmember Misiura moved the agenda for approval, Councilmember Hansen seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Council members Bluth, Hansen, Kurs, and Montferrat voted yes.

Agenda approved 4-0.

Mayor Quattrone opened the public comment period and the following individuals spoke:

**Scott Caster, 12 Clover Lane** – commented that the schools are located in Hightstown and affect the resident’s taxes; Hightstown residents are at a disadvantage. He suggested that a sub-committee be established to evaluate the situation.

Councilmember Stults arrived during Mr. Caster’s comments.

Mr. Caster then commented regarding various incidents at the High School which were covered by the Borough Police, at a cost to the Hightstown taxpayers.

There being no further comments, the public comment period was closed.

Council then reviewed the budget figures as presented by the Administrator and CFO. George Lang reviewed the set up of the budget book and noted that the budget presented supports a 2.7 cent increase which averages approximately \$54.00 per homeowner. He continued explaining how decreases and increases in debt service effects the tax rate.

Mr. Lang then reviewed the Budget at a Glance including state aid, transfers to the Board of Education, anticipated revenues, surplus, tax collection rate of 98.25%, and payment on the note for the Emergency of Hurricane Irene in 2011.

There was discussion regarding cell towers and communication antennas on the water towers; court revenues; capital fund balances; tax revenue; salaries; and the lack of a budget request from either the Fire Department or First Aid. Council discussed the annual donor agreements with RISE and Better Beginnings and noted that the amounts for these agreements should be at the same level as 2016.

Mr. Lang then reviewed the budget for utilities; the increases and decreases caused by changes to various shared service agreements; grants, the new recycling agreement; salaries, animal control and the AWC; computers; grant writing; small cities and RCA grants; affordable housing trust fund balance depletion; various department budgets; the non-existence of the Economic Development Committee and the lack of a need for one; and the budget requests, or lack thereof, of the various boards and commissions in the Borough.

The Water/Sewer budget was then reviewed by Mr. Lang, noting two outstanding bond issues. There was discussion regarding debt service; salaries; the operating expenses; and the NJEIT interest payment.

Ms. Sopronyi then reviewed several capital projects that are scheduled for this year, including but not limited to, the retaining wall by the First Aid building; the resurfacing of First Avenue; the water main on Stockton Street; and the dredging of Timber Creek.

Council agreed that the next budget workshop will be held on March 27, 2017 at 6:30pm and requested that the Borough Clerk make the proper arrangements for use of a facility.

Councilmember Kurs moved to adjourn at 11:30am, Councilmember Hansen seconded. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra L. Sopronyi  
Borough Clerk