

**Meeting Minutes
Hightstown Borough Council
October 29, 2019
Capital Budget Workshop
6:30 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Quattrone at 6:35 p.m. 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>	ü	
<i>Councilmember Egan</i>		ü
<i>Councilmember Jackson</i>	ü	
<i>Councilmember Misiura</i>	ü	
<i>Councilmember Musing</i>	ü	
<i>Councilmember Stults</i>	ü	
<i>Mayor Quattrone</i>	ü	

Also in attendance: Margaret (Peggy) Riggio, Deputy Borough Clerk; Debra Sopronyi Borough Clerk/Administrator and George Lang, CFO

The Flag Salute followed roll call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Stults moved to amend the agenda by adding the refurbishment of the water towers to discussion; Seconded by Council President Misiura.

Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, , Jackson, Misiura, Musing and Stults voted yes.

Agenda approved as amended 5-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT I

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

Mark Madonia, 224 Sunset Avenue – Asked if Bank Street is being repaved. The road is not in good shape since the water pipe was done last year.

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

DISCUSSION

Fire Department Capital Request

Kevin Brink, Captain, Hightstown Fire Company explained the Fire Departments capital budget request. Mr. Brink explained that a few thousand feet of hose failed inspection along with 1 ladder on the ladder truck. Both the hose and the ladder needs to be replaced. Scott Jenkins, Chief, Hightstown Fire Department stated that they are in need of a new fire truck. They only have front line trucks, no reserves. Their current truck is a 1998 and not in good condition. They currently have three (3) suppression trucks and 1 rescue truck. The trucks serve different purposes. He stated that they cannot rely on mutual aid. The Fire House is also in need of a new ventilation system. During discussion, Mr. Jenkins stated that if a new truck is not purchased, the Fire Department needs more money in their operating budget to maintain the truck they currently have. After discussion, Council stated that they need to see the operating budget of the fire department so they can determine what it costs to run the department. Councilmember Stults moved to approve \$52,500 in capital purchases for the Fire Department; Councilmember Bluth seconded. Roll Call Vote: Councilmembers Bluth, Jackson, Misiura, Musing and Stults voted yes. \$52,500 approved for the Fire Department 5-0.

First Aid Capital Request

Mark Madonia and Keith Stackhouse represented the First Aid Squad. Mr. Madonia stated that the First Aid is requesting \$10,000 for a first responder update. He explained that the first responder is the car which the squad using to get to calls in addition to the ambulance. The current vehicle is in need of numerous repairs. Ms. Sopronyi explained that vehicle repairs are not covered under capital. Discussion ensued. Ms. Sopronyi will reach out Public Works and the Police Department to see what vehicles are available to come out of rotation and turned over to the First Aid Squad to replace their current first responder vehicle.

Water Tower Refurbishment

Borough Administrator/Clerk, Debra Sopronyi, explained that Carmela Roberts, Borough Engineer, had spoken to a representative from the NJEIT regarding Hightstown's inability a low interest loan from NJEIT. Ms. Roberts stated that Hightstown is being penalized for doing things correctly. She explained the need for the Water Tower Refurbishments. She was advised to file the application quickly as the larger towns had not yet filed and funds are still available. Ms. Sopronyi is requesting permission to have Ms. Roberts move forward with the application. Discussion ensued. Council agreed to move forward with the application for the NJEIT loan.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Misiura moved to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.; Councilmember Bluth seconded. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret M. Riggio

Deputy Borough Clerk