

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Hightstown Borough Council**  
**June 1, 2021 – Budget Workshop**  
**6:30 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Quattrone at 6:40 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 on the Borough website.” Do to COVID-19 and self-distancing protocols, this meeting was held remotely through [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com).

The flag salute followed Roll Call.

	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
<i>Councilmember Susan Bluth</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Joseph Cicalese</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Cristina Fowler</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Joshua Jackson</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Steven Misiura</i>	✓	
<i>Councilmember Dimitri Musing</i>	✓	
<i>Mayor Quattrone</i>	✓	

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**

Moved by Councilmember Musing; Seconded by Councilmember Cicalese.

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

Agenda approved 6-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENT I**

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

There being no public in attendance, Mayor Quattrone closed the public comment period.

## DISCUSSION

### Budget 2021

George Lang presented the First Aid Budget request. Sneah Sukhadia, Captain of the Squad, explained that the budget request increase was for building maintenance, motor vehicle maintenance, education and training for new EMTs, uniforms for new EMTs, new system for EMS charts, medical supplies due to increased calls, medical equipment due to increased calls. Mr. Sukhadia stated that their membership is up and that the response to calls have more than doubled over the last 2 years. Mr. Sukhadia stated that their fundraising efforts and income from the hall rental are held in a fund for a new ambulance. CFO, George Lang, stated that we will need to look at the entire budget before the first aid amount is approved.

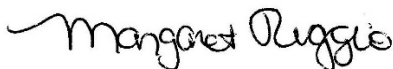
Scott Jenkins and Kevin Brink representing the Fire Department joined at this time. Mr. Lang stated that the Fire Department is requesting \$20,000 over last year's budget. Mr. Brink explained they need an increase in education for their current members. A tablet is needed for the Chief's car so they can be aligned with the County in real time. There is an increase in equipment since prices are continually increasing. Increase in truck maintenance due to older vehicles. Other line items need to be increased just do to rising costs. Discussion ensued. Council suggested budgeting the entire request of \$88,000. Mr. Lang stated that he will pencil in the \$88,000 but again, will need to see the entire budget before that can be confirmed.

Mr. Lang reviewed the Water/Sewer Budget. He stated that the numbers are very rough. Discussion ensued. Council questioned when the rate was last increased. Mr. Lang stated that it had been several years. Council all agreed that we need to look at an increase this year and then a small increase annually. Borough Administrator, Debra Sopronyi, stated that she will have Ken Lewis, Superintendent of Water and Bill Searing, Superintendent of the Sewer Department, take a closer look at their budgets and make cuts were applicable.

## ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Misiura moved to adjourn at 8:13 p.m.; Seconded by Councilmember Fowler. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,



Margaret M. Riggio  
Deputy Borough Clerk

Approved: July 7, 2021