

**BOROUGH OF HATORO
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, 2015**

PRESENT

President Tompkins, Vice President Rich, Councilpersons Harbaugh, Hegele, Palmer & Zygmont; Borough Manager Zollers, & Assistant Borough Secretary Hegele.

ABSENT

Councilman Forgeng & Mayor Hawkes were absent.

CALL TO ORDER

Councilman Harbaugh called to order the November 2nd, 2015 Budget Workshop to order at 6:00 PM.

Councilman Harbaugh stated Council was in receipt of Version #1 of the 2016 Budget for the Borough of Hatboro. He stated the numbers in version one were derived using September 30th actual, then the last three months were projected out to year end. He stated this was a very conservative budget. There was a decrease in Real Estate taxes and also local earned income tax which equate to a shortfall in revenue.

Councilman Harbaugh reviewed the budget with Council by department.

Councilman Harbaugh stated that Raises for employees in the police department are set by contract; Council is in the process of negotiating a contract with the Public Works Department, he stated the finance committee has put numbers in, but this is dependent on negotiations. The tax collector raise is set by resolution that was passed last year sets her raise at 2% for 2015. He stated health insurance rates only rose by 3% this year which saved money.

Councilman Harbaugh reviewed a new line item for 2016, cost to dispose of recycling. He stated the finance committee and staff worked to present a balanced budget with no tax increase.

Mr. Battis, W. Moreland Avenue asked why Engineering costs were low. President Tompkins responded most of the work was billable as a result of development, etc. Mr. Battis asked why Loller expenditures were down and more in the police budget, he stated Loller needs improvement now that it will be operational 24/7 with the police move. Council briefly explained how expenditures would be coded. Mr. Battis questioned the salary of a code person and felt it is too low.

Councilman Harbaugh stated the surplus in the operating would be transferred to the Capital Fund for future projects. He stated the pool had a surplus this year, for the first time in years, the pool was self-sufficient.

Councilman Zygmont explained the sinking fund line items. He stated Council would be considering changing the sinking fund rates in 2016. The plan is to reduce the rate, move the excess to capital and increase the General Fund rate. He stated this would be still equate to the same millage, just different allotments.

Councilman Palmer thanked the Finance Committee and staff for all their efforts. Councilman Harbaugh thanked John and staff for their work.

President Tompkins asked for a recap of the process. Councilman Harbaugh stated it will be on the agenda in November for preliminary adoption and then final adoption in December along with the approval of the 2016 Tax Ordinance. He stated there also would not be a TAN needed this year.

Assistant Secretary Hegele would have a summary available for public comment and will handle advertising in the paper.

ADJOURNMENT

The November 2nd, 2015 Budget Workshop Meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Alfred Zollers
Borough Manager

Transcribed by Diane Hegele, Assistant Borough Secretary