

**BOARD OF FINANCE
BUDGET HEARINGS - PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2022-2023
FEBRUARY 28, 2022**

The Board of Finance held a virtual budget deliberations session on Monday, February 28, 2022 via Zoom. Chairman Lema announced the Board was out of recess and reconvened the budget deliberations meeting in public session at 5:36 p.m.

Board Members Present

Brian Lema, Chairman
Lauren Ranges
Ray Arnold
Meghan Smith

Also Present

Mayor Benjamin G. Blake
Peter Erodici, Finance Director

Excused:

Scott Moulton

(4142) Department of Permitting & Land Use

Joseph Griffith discussed increases in budget due to consolidating all division under DPLU office. Chairman Lema asked if there are any vacancies. Mr. Griffith stated there are two vacancies, 1 building inspector and 1 clerical in Planning Office. Chairman Lema asked if it is difficult filling the inspector position. Mr. Griffith stated it has been difficult due to salary offered. Mr. Arnold asked for explanation of Seasonal Temporary. Mr. Griffith explained when temporary staff would be required within the department. Mr. Griffith discussed Zoning Board of Appeals budget is mostly for publishing required legal notices.

(4131) Law Department

Chairman Lema recused himself as he is a partner with the City Attorney at the law firm of Berchem Moses. Jonathan Berchem, City Attorney, stated there are no changes within the budget with the exception of non-represented wage increase.

(4116) MGAT

Kara Flannery, MGAT Chairman, stated budget reflects increase of \$1,025.00. She explained bulk of budget goes to labor. Ms. Flannery discussed staffing and that the budget reflects staffing at full capacity.

(4410) Health Department

Deepa Joseph, Health Director, stated the budget is flat. Ms. Joseph discussed Covid management, together with managing routine departmental work. Ms. Ranges asked if the Deputy Director position added last year has been filled. Ms. Joseph stated the department is currently recruiting for the position. Ms. Ranges asked if all other positions are filled. Ms. Joseph stated on the Health Department side staffing is full, on Health Nurses there is one vacancy. She discussed difficulties in recruiting for the department.

(4798) Education Health Services/School Nurses

Deepa Joseph, Health Director, stated the only change is increase in seasonal temporary due to minimum wage requirements. Chairman Lema asked if there are specific grants received by the Health Department. Ms. Joseph stated the department management over \$500,000 in grant funding. She provided a brief explanation of various grants. Mayor Blake stated additional FEMA, CARES Act and other Covid response funds have been received which are not included in the \$500,000.

(4417) Milford HSD Agency

Deepa Joseph, Health Director, stated the budget remains flat. She stated the majority of the budget represents salaries. She discussed grant funding that is received by the department for programming.

(8411) Borough of Woodmont

Edward Bonessi, Warden, stated the budget remains the same as last year. Mr. Bonessi gave a brief history of the Borough of Woodmont. Chairman Lema asked if the Borough obtained Covid relief funds. Mr. Bonessi stated some funding was received and will be used per the funding requirements.

(4520) Recreation Department

Bill Garfield, Recreation Director, stated the budget has minimal increases. Chairman Lema asked if Eisenhower Park is under the jurisdiction of Recreation. Mr. Garfield stated Open Space is involved with the open trails. Chairman Lema asked if improvements to the trails is planned. Mr. Garfield stated there is discussion concerning trail renovations. Mayor Blake discussed improvements that were previously performed on the trails.

(8426) Boys & Girls' Club

Megan Altomare, Director, stated the Club had a busy year. She provided statistics and stated they are back to pre-pandemic levels. Ms. Altomare stated the budget has increased due to the numbers increasing. Mr. Arnold asked the percentage of the budget the City grant represents. Ms. Altomare stated the budget is just over \$1 million with the grant being approximately 10%.

Ms. Ranges and Mr. Arnold made and seconded a motion to recess until Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lema stated the Board would stand in recess until March 2, 2022. The Board recessed at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Toni Jo Weeks
Recording Secretary

With permission, I am submitting a resolution to the Board of Directors for their consideration. The resolution is to approve the purchase of a new piece of equipment for the Recreation Department. The resolution is to approve the purchase of a new piece of equipment for the Recreation Department. The resolution is to approve the purchase of a new piece of equipment for the Recreation Department.

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