

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the Borough of Hillsdale held at 7:30 PM on Thursday, March 16, 2017, in the Council Chamber, Borough of Hillsdale, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Frank who also led the Salute to the Flag.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT:

This is a meeting of the Hillsdale Borough Council on this 16th day of March, 2017. Notice of the time and place of this meeting has been provided to The Ridgewood News and The Record; a copy was posted on the bulletin board outside of this meeting room and provided to any interested parties.

Please notify the Acting Municipal Clerk for any disability requirements necessary for attendance at Mayor and Council meetings. The fire exits are located through the double doors to your left. Please silence all cell phones.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members DeRosa, Karcich, Lundy, Pizzella, Segalas, Council President Ruocco
(Mayor Frank, Borough Attorney Madaio, CMFO Jonathan DeJoseph, Acting Borough Clerk Kohan)

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:

R17081 To provide for a meeting not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 - *WASTE MANAGEMENT & REDEVELOPMENT*

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale is subject to certain requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq; and

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 provides that an Executive Session not open to the public may be held for certain specified purposes when authorized by Resolution; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale to discuss in a session not open to the public certain matters relating to the item or items authorized by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b) and designated below:

- (1) Matters required by law to be confidential.
- (2) Matters where the release of information would impair the right to receive funds.
- (3) Matters involving individual privacy.
- (4) Matters relating to collective bargaining
- (5) Matters relating to the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property or the investment of public funds.
- (6) Matters relating to public safety and property.
- (7) Matters relating to litigation, negotiations and the attorney-client privilege – *WASTE MANAGEMENT & REDEVELOPMENT*
- (8) Matters relating to the employment relationship
- (9) Matters relating to the potential imposition of a penalty.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Hillsdale assembled in public session this date that an Executive Session closed to the public be and the same is hereby authorized for discussion of matters relating to the specified items designated above. It is anticipated that the deliberations conducted in closed session may be disclosed to the public upon the determination of the Borough Council that the public interest will no longer be served by such confidentiality.

Motion by Councilmember DeRosa, Second by Councilmember Karcich, and unanimously carried.

Borough Attorney Madaio announced that the Closed Session was concluded at approximately 7:45 PM. As everyone is aware, a discussion was held regarding Waste Management Redevelopment and some affordable housing issues.

Return to Open Session:

Motion by Council President Ruocco, Second by Councilmember DeRosa, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Frank said he wished to give a brief report on the conditions of the snow storm. He asked the Council to hold their comments until the last Go-Round. He will ask the Borough Administrator to provide us with some more details. He believed it was called Storm Stella, like the meteor. If you recall, the forecast was from anywhere up to 24" of snow. That was what the forecast was up to until Tuesday morning. We actually ended up somewhere around 12" with a lot of ice on top. Each storm that we get is different, especially these Nor'easters that come up the coast and it requires flexibility and adaptation by our DPW because how you deal with 24" of nice, powdery snow is a lot of different than how you deal with a storm that drops 9" to 12" and then has three inches of ice on it and compresses it. So that is what the men were dealing with. He wanted to talk about the DPW crew because I was there on Tuesday in the afternoon and again at night and I know Councilman DeRosa rode in a truck on Tuesday night; the Borough Administrator was there at the times I was plus we were there at night. I rode around the town between 10:00 PM and 11:30 PM looking at the streets trying to make sure we had everything covered. Our staff, the guys out there doing the plowing, were doing a great job; I know we didn't get all the streets at the time everybody wanted them but when you work 24 hours straight from 3:00 AM Tuesday to almost 2:00 AM on Wednesday, they did a great job; then they came back Wednesday and continued their efforts and were working today. They are pretty tired, I can tell you that. I invited the DPW Superintendent, Dan O'Rourke, to come to the meeting tonight and he told me that his wife gets first bids; he hasn't been home in a while and I totally respect that. We met with Dan this afternoon to look at things.

I know there are some comments about the emails that I send out. One of the things I get a lot of feedback is please keep us informed with the email blasts you send out. Following that on Tuesday after riding the streets in town and meeting with the DPW workers and meeting with the Borough Administrator and the Superintendent, I sent out a blast talking about they had been working non-stop for 11 hours which was probably 12 or 13 hours by the time the blast got out, but they were getting rest as needed. The roads were bad because there was ice on top of the snow but they were working on it and we expected to have things done. By Wednesday morning, the situation was a little different; by then I was getting a massive number of complaints and emails from residents, some of them quite nasty. I felt that after riding the roads I thought it was only fair to be honest and tell the people that the main roads were in terrible condition and they were. I mentioned, and I think it was factual, that the DPW had not salted the roads as early as they probably would have liked to, but again they were dealing with different conditions. They were also dealing with smaller trucks; the smaller trucks had a hard time pushing the snow with all the ice on it. It became very, very heavy, so they had to reallocate their trucks. The fact that we didn't get the salting out there, there was no blame involved. I know the media jumped on it and said I was blaming the DPW, I was stating a fact. There was no blame, these guys were working for hours and hours; that is one of the reasons I have not spoken to the media since they posted all those remarks is because I don't want them to misinterpret and think we are blaming our DPW for anything. We were talking about facts, we were advising the residents of the town that the condition of the roads, the main roads in particular, was not good and we were aware of it. Sometimes if they don't hear anything, they don't know what is going on. The roads were bad and we were working on it as best we could and the plan was to go out and heavily salt the roads but by then the temperature dropped way below the 22 degrees where you get activation by putting salt on them. It was a problem.

The other problem I had is that unfortunately I used a bad choice of words that one of the Councilmen reminded me of, others did as well, that I said the DPW had gotten to salt the roads late. I apologize for that because I was not trying to stick it on DPW; however, the DPW is the one who salts the roads and plows them, and whether I used the word "we" or used the word DPW, the words are the same. If the roads were in bad shape, it had nothing to do with lack of effort by DPW or lack of dedication by those workers. Social media took this from some of the reports and social media has taken over everything and it is crazy all the comments that have come out; it is a shame and it is not the facts. You can say what you want and send as many nasty emails, I do want to comment that a lot of people were very understanding and sent nice emails and requested that we get to their street and we passed that information on and the DPW did get to those streets by the end of the night. Jon was out after midnight on Tuesday, I was out before that and I made sure that any of the roads that people had sent an email that the drivers and DPW knew about it.

The DPW is out there all day today continuing to clean up, continuing to salt the roads, they are a lot better. He was not making any excuses, success is the absence of excuses; we are not making excuses just telling you what happened during the storm; the storm changed its nature, our guys worked very, very hard to get these streets open. I apologize for the conditions of the roads and I feel responsible. We will be looking for improvement,

Borough Administrator DeJoseph thanked the DPW for their work throughout the storm; they worked tirelessly since Monday starting with the preparation for the storm and should finish the bulk of cleanup by tomorrow. They are coming in this evening to clean up the downtown business district starting at midnight which should be cleaned by 8:00 AM, but will probably go into the morning a little further. The DPW started the storm with all full supplies of salt, calcium chloride, diesel fuel, gasoline; all equipment was prepared and ready to go. We had an OEM meeting on Monday to go over preparations of all departments again, went over all the needs of the DPW and all departments to make sure everything was met. Everyone was prepared thoroughly for the storm. The DPW dispatched on March 14 at 2:00 AM, DPW staff was in approximately 3:00 AM starting to work, two contracted snow plows were in approximately 4:00 AM. The DPW has eight full-time employees and utilized four per diem snow plow drivers and one per diem shoveler. The snow amounted to approximately 8 to 10 inches of snow by mid-morning, then sleet started mixing in as well. Roads were fully plowed one time by mid-day. The DPW worked throughout the day to plow the roads and Borough parking lots; additional light snow accumulated until the afternoon and was completed by approximately 5:00 PM. Salt then began being applied; there were a few breakdowns during the storm that were remedied. During the sleet some of the roads were plowed by the loader and larger trucks. This extended the plowing time because the larger trucks were the most effective in getting the snow off the roads since the little trucks were not capable of plowing the heavy snow. All roads were plowed by approximately 3:00 AM on March 15 after 24 hours of hard work by our DPW. Over the last two days, roads have been re-salted and re-plowed based upon inspection by the DPW and Borough staff. We received in the Westwood-Hillsdale area approximately 13" based on the weather report. The DPW Committee is going to work to improve the service of our DPW; Councilman Karcich, Councilwoman Lundy, Councilman Segalas, over the next few days to come up with a remedy for the DPW to improve snow plowing and salting services for our residents. A large forklift was ordered last year which include a salter capable of applying calcium with the salt to treat the salt before it is applied and a new dump truck is also going to be ordered this year as part of our capital/grant budget and look into other options such as trying to improve service to all our valuable residents in the future.

Mayor Frank said he looks forward to the recommendations from the Committee for DPW; this has been going on for a lot of years and we have had a lot of complaints on snow removal and we want to make sure that we solve it for good. Council President Ruocco was driving around Wednesday morning checking out the roads as well and called me with his reports.

PROMOTIONS:

PRESENTATIONS:

OATH OF OFFICE:

PROCLAMATIONS:

INITIAL PUBLIC COMMENT (Time limited, new topics only, one speaker per topic):

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

PROFESSIONALS REPORT/MONTHLY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

(The following correspondence on file in Borough Clerks Office)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman - Anthony DeRosa
Councilman - Scott Karcich
Councilwoman - Abby Lundy
Councilman - Frank Pizzella
Councilman – Steven Segalas
Council President – John Ruocco

Councilman DeRosa said the Regional Board of Education met on Monday; it was a routine meeting but it was mentioned that the girls' varsity basketball team are now state champions. They defeated Ocean City, New Jersey at Toms River just by a point so that is the first state championship since 2008 for the team. It is the

990th career win for Jeff Jasper and he will hold on for one more year and hopes to the 1000 mark next time. Just because they are state champs, they continue playing right now but at half time they were tied. He would like to have the team here to recognize them once they finish winning,

Councilman Karcich would also like to thank our DPW crews; he was away when the weather event happened but he was in constant contact with the Mayor, the Borough Administrator and Dan when all of this was going on. The crews worked really hard and long, they started late. As DPW Liaison, he apologized for the conditions of our roads this week; he will have a DPW Committee meeting and start looking into why this happened and how to correct it with the DPW Superintendent, Administrator, Police Chief. As a committee we will look into ways to minimize the service disruptions during these large weather events like we just had. If any Councilmembers have any specific questions or concerns they would like to address, please email them to me and we will address them in the committee meeting and we will get back to you. We received many complaints and suggestions from our residents; I was on the phone most of the day on Tuesday and Wednesday answering a lot of these emails; these will be taken into consideration during our committee meeting and it is my hope that we start these meetings this week or next week. We had some equipment breakdowns during the storm and also the county gave us some assets that really didn't help us in our efforts. One of the trucks we tried to get was broken down, headlights didn't work; in a storm like this, there is the element of timing and when you put salt on the roads, and unfortunately some of our timing was off during this storm. As part of this inquiry, I am also going to be with the committee interviewing the surrounding DPW Superintendents to compare best practices for the snow removal process. I am bringing the police into this inquiry; it has been brought to my attention that resident and commercial plowing contractors have been dumping and leaving snow on our streets and cause issues when our men are out with the cleaning efforts and sometimes it causes damage and creates a danger for our men when out plowing. He will investigate how we can get our men to communicate with the police so that we can issue warnings and tickets to start discouraging this behavior. We wanted to inform the public as to what was going on with our roads because it is a public safety concern and we would rather be transparent and forthright as to what is going on rather than not saying anything so that residents find their morning travel plans accordingly and be aware of the bad conditions.

Councilman Pizzella said he would follow up on some of the things he said last week. There is a bi-state cleanup schedule for April 29, cleaning the brook, and this is under the Environmental Commission. There is a proposed tree ordinance, which he sent to Councilman Segalas who is working on ordinance changes for input and follow up with the Mayor, and final feedback to the Environmental Commission. The Environmental Commission attended two information sessions regarding the Emerald Ash Bore Issue; they find it to be a very important issue because Hillsdale is just the only town so they would like to present the information that they have and possibly include it on the website so people are aware of what trees and some things to do to avoid it. A number of EC will be attending with Councilman Segalas at the Rivervale meeting regarding the deer issue just to observe since they wrote a report on the deer.

Getting to historic preservation and the train station, Council President Ruocco and I met with Elaine Gold regarding the Bergen County Historic Preservation grant that we received and some follow up items we need to get to her and then schedule the next subcommittee meeting to develop a full strategy to move forward that we will share with the Mayor and Council. Regarding Open Space and the Woodcliff Nature Trail, the BA, Ed Alter and I have a meeting set for Friday afternoon to complete discussions regarding cameras and the gates and some other aspects and he will be meeting with Councilwoman Harrington from Woodcliff Lake on Friday and talk about what both of us are going to say during the dry run at Suez March 20 at 10:00 AM in Paramus. We will also be presenting March 21 at the Haworth treatment plant with the other towns and Hillsdale's assignment is to present the benefits to the community. The WPRB won't be making the decision as to the licensing agreement or the trail, it is just an information gathering session. He brought up redevelopment and how we are taking the issue very slowly and we continue address issues in town that have impacted our advisor's assessment and currently the area hasn't been designated, there is no redevelopment plan, and if anyone wants to talk to me about the process in general, he has no problem meeting with them.

Councilwoman Lundy reminded everyone that a week from Saturday, March 25, is New Jersey Maker's Day at the Library and Dave has a lot of awesome things planned. There will be the Hudson Valley Wood Turners and they are providing 20 time slots for people to do some wood turning. Dave put together a tri-pendulum harmonograph which they tested and it sounds cool and will be available for people to play. There will also be the manufacturer talk radio who will be in attendance interviewing the participants; there are well over 25 participants and it sounds like great activities for the day.

Council President Ruocco said the Pascack Valley High School has scheduled a senior citizens day April 20, Thursday, from 8:10 AM to 2:00 PM. If a senior plans to attend, please call at 201-358-7060, Ext. 24003. Having attended the past couple years, it is a great experience and you see how the school educates our young the way they are structured, seniors actually enroll in classes for the day and have the choices of classes to go to, sitting in the classes with the students. It is an eye opener for the students as well as for the seniors because

seniors can talk about what actually occurred in 1960 or 1970 to help the students understand; it is very valuable and rewarding.

FEMA reimbursement – reduced reimbursement money from FEMA for last year’s snow storm and OEM staff told him that they will know in a few days what that amount will be. We have about a \$56,000 reimbursement for our emergency generator pending on receipt of cancelled checks from the generator vendor; all of the paper work has been submitted.

DISCUSSION:

NEW BUSINESS:

BUDGET PRESENTATION:

2017 Budget Presentation

Council President John Ruocco

Mayor Frank said Council President who also is chair of the Finance Committee promised he would keep it under an hour.

Council President Ruocco said this will take five to 10 minutes.

Council President Ruocco said he is somewhat disappointed there isn’t anyone here in the audience, they are watching at home. Perhaps that communicates a certain trust in the whole process that we are putting the budget through. He thanked the members of the Finance Committee, Councilwoman Lundy, Mayor Frank and Borough Administrator DeJoseph and thanked all the department heads and our auditor Paul Garbarini.

If you turn to slide three in your chart, the town has budgeted for general revenue of approximately \$14.3 million and a part of that is going to come from taxation, not all of it but the good part of it. \$8.9 million will be municipal taxes that we have to raise under the proposed budget and approximately \$600,000 in library taxes. The chart will show you what the main sources of revenue from the town are; taxes represent about 62%, library taxes 4%. The next big piece is the anticipated fund balance that is basically the Borough’s capital fund. This presentation will be posted on the web at the end of the night or tomorrow so for those of you who want to see how the budget is drawn, he suggested you take a look at this line. Moving on to slide four, factors affecting the revenue; it reflects stagnant state aid which is the same as the prior year. We have a modest decline in our local revenue; if anyone has done the budget for a municipality you can’t budget for more than you took in the prior year so we didn’t take in quite as much in terms of revenue, fees and other administrative aspects, so we have to modestly decline for our 2017 budget. It also highlights the use of our fund balances and that is official terminology for what he calls our capital resources. We are using capital resources from prior year’s successful operations to fund a small part of the budget. Slide five, appropriations; it is no miracle that the appropriations equal the general revenues \$14.3 million, it has to be. The appropriations are split out in a pie chart; if you look at the pie chart the biggest piece of appropriation is public safety. That includes our police, our OEM, what we give in LOSAPS to our fire department; the next is the DPW which comes in at 14%. Then you have the capital improvement fund which is 8% and that is basically a reflection of the expenditures that we plan on incurring through various capital acquisitions, equipment, property, etc.

Debt service is only 4%; we will have a little comment on our debt capacity in a moment. Moving to slide 6, it is called the “what’s in other” slide and that is a reference to prior slide where a piece of the appropriation pie, 10% of that is “other.” You might ask what is other; it is our reserve for uncollected taxes, it is the construction code enforcement expense, it is the expense that we put out for public health assistance for the environmental commission plus we have contingent items built into the budget, we have LOSAP for volunteers, accumulated absences and we have expenses that we must budget for the Planning Board. Slide 7, significant factors affecting this year’s appropriation, we have a significant contribution to the capital improvement fund of \$1.2 million. The increase in DPW operating expenses, which is a significant portion of our overall appropriations, is an increase of \$164,000 from 2016 to 2017. We have budgeted for leaf removal equipment rentals, we don’t want to repeat the errors of 2014 and 2015 where we had problems addressing our leaf removal; we budgeted for certain contractual salary step increases for the DPW staff and we have also budgeted for our garbage and recycling contracts which expire in late October. The expectation is that we will be paying a much higher rate for our garbage and recycling contracts than we currently pay. We had a large increase in our health insurance expenses; any of you who have health insurance and pay for it yourselves or pay for it through your employer you understand what I am getting at; we budgeted an increase of \$109,000 for our employees.

Slide 8. This is the slide I want to talk briefly about debt. This budget does not rely on any increase in debt despite a significant capital improvement program and infrastructure and equipment. The Borough continues to pay down debt as it has for the last several years; we decreased our debt in 2016 by \$430,000 and we have

outstanding debt now remaining on bonds that we previously issued of about \$4.2 million as of yearend 2016 and going into 2017, we expect to further decrease outstanding debt by \$440,000. We have a very favorable debt position in my opinion, I measure that by the ratio of debt to equalize property valuation; Hillsdale has a debt ratio of only 0.24%, that is less than 1%; the 16 towns around us have a ratio of 0.67%, so we are about 1/3. The 16 town 0.67% is the average and we are the lowest among all those town; if we choose to we have the capacity to borrow more and not necessarily incur the wrath of a rating agency although they look at a variety of things but this is an important factor in any rating agency's evaluation of our ability to borrow. Turning to the capital budget, the administration which is the Borough Hall, we put in for a capital budget of a little over \$1 million which includes road repaving program and culvert repairs of about \$500,000, repairs to the DPW roof of about \$230,000, train station, which is our portion of the matching grant of about \$100,000; we have several open space matching projects that come to about \$50,000; sewage inspection study of about \$50,000 and a variety of other projects that altogether aggregate about \$100,000. We have some capital items for our police and DPW; the police have various improvements and equipment of about \$106,000 but that doesn't include two new police vehicles to be funded out of prior years' appropriations. Our library, we put in for a new boiler and carpets of \$43,000.

What this means to the Hillsdale taxpayer: We have to raise \$8.9 million for the municipality, that is a slight increase over the \$8.7 million that we had to raise last year; it brings us to a municipal tax rate of basically 53 cents per 100 dollars of assessed valuation, again that is an increase over the 51.9 cents in 2016. What does that mean; I like to talk about the tax rate, it is a good measure of how we get our money but the Mayor prefers hard dollars and cents and forced me to do the next part of the budget. The tax on the average assessed home in Hillsdale is about \$465,000 so that would result in a municipal tax of \$2,466. That is about a 2.42% increase over what we did the prior year. That is an increase of \$58.00 on the average home and if your home is assessed at less than \$465,000 you will pay something less than a \$58 increase; if it is more, you will pay more. That was all I intended to say as an introductory remark to the budget and if there are any questions, I will be glad to take them.

Mayor Frank said that was an excellent summary of where we are; he reminded the people that the \$58.00 increase is not the only increase you are going to see; you've got regional school tax, local school tax, county tax and library tax that go on top of this.

Councilmember DeRosa asked about timing as far as meetings; this is first introduction.

Council President Ruocco said he did go over that last meeting, he provided the dates when we have to approve it.

Mayor Frank said April 17 is our next meeting and that will be for adoption.

Council President Ruocco said the state stipulates certain dates but it also gives you a little bit of wiggle room where they say "if not by that date, then the next full meeting of the Council thereafter."

Administrator DeJoseph said we can't adopt and or have the hearing until 28 days from today. The public hearing is 8:00 PM on April 17 and the public can come and comment on the budget. The actual formal document will be on our website as introduced,

Councilmember Pizzella said this will be on the website and found it very helpful.

2017 BUDGET INTRODUCTION:

17-07 (Introduction)

CALENDAR YEAR 2017 - ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to .5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale in the County of Bergen finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2017 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council hereby determines that a 3% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$293,700 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, in the County of Bergen, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2017 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Hillsdale shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$342,650, and that the CY 2017 municipal budget for the Borough of Hillsdale be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. 17-07 does now pass a first reading and that said Ordinance be further considered for final passage at a meeting of the Mayor and Council in the Municipal Building, 380 Hillsdale Avenue, Hillsdale, New Jersey, on April 17, 2017 and at said time and place all persons interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the same, and the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish said ordinance in the Ridgewood News once, at least one week prior to said hearing, with a notice of its introduction and of the time and place, when and where said ordinance would be considered for final passage.

Motion by Council President Ruocco, Second by Councilmember Lundy.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Council Members DeRosa, Karcich, Lundy, Pizzella, Segalas, Council President Ruocco

Nays: None

BUDGET RESOLUTIONS:

R17082 Introduction of 2017 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statement of revenues and appropriations attached hereto constitute the local Budget of the Borough of Hillsdale, Bergen County, New Jersey for the year 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said budget be published in the Ridgewood News in the issue of March 31, 2017 and that a hearing on the Budget will be held at the Municipal Building on April 17, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached.

Motion by Councilmember DeRosa, Second by Councilmember Karcich, and unanimously carried.

R17097 Self-Examination of the 2017 Budget

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination, and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board on February 11, 1997, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 the Borough of Hillsdale has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial Officer has determined that the Borough meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2017 budget year, so now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & b and based upon the Chief Financial Officers certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference of the following items, the amounts have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at 40A:4-45.3 et seq. are fully met (Complies with the "CAP" law.)
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate, and correctly stated,
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form, arrangement, and content the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality.
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE FORWARDED TO THE (attach Clerk's Certification) DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES UPON ADOPTION.

Motion by Councilmember Lundy, Second by Councilmember DeRosa, and unanimously carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Letter received March 3, 2017 from the Friends of the Pascack Brook requesting use of the Police Booth for their annual Kids fishing Contest on April 15, 2017. Request was already sent to the Police Department and to the Recreation Commission – all approved.

Mayor Frank mentioned that the Fire Department will not be having the Pancake Breakfast this year because this is the day before Easter and no one will be there to cook.

Motion to approve, receipt and file - Motion Council President, Ruocco, Second by Councilmember Karcich and unanimously carried.

2. Letter received February 21, 2017 from Go the Distance for Autism requesting use of various Borough roads for their Bicycling Fundraiser Event on Sunday, June 4, 2017. Request was already sent to the Police and Fire Department as well as the Recreation Commission – all approved.

Motion to approve, receipt and file - Motion by Councilmember Pizzella, Second by Councilmember DeRosa, and unanimously carried.

3. Letter received March 1, 2017 from Mayor John Birkner, Jr. of the Borough of Westwood regarding shared Services for Emergency Services Dispatch

Motion to receipt and file - Motion by Councilmember Lundy, Second by Councilmember DeRosa, and unanimously carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Frank opened the meeting for public comment, anyone wishing to address the Council come forward, identify yourself. Seeing no one, Mayor Frank closed the meeting.

ORDINANCES:

RESOLUTIONS:(Consent Agenda): R17083 through R17096:

R17083 Resolution Approving the Purchase of Two (2) 2017 Police Interceptions Utility, All Wheel Drive Base Vehicles from the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hillsdale, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12a and N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.29(c), may by resolution and without advertising for bids, purchase any goods or services under the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program and other approved Cooperative Purchasing Programs for any State or Cooperative Purchasing contracts entered into on behalf of the State by the Division of Purchase and Property in the Department of the Treasury and/or by the approve the Cooperative Purchasing Program; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hillsdale is a member of the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program; and

WHEREAS, the Borough will purchase two (2) 2017 Ford Police Interceptor Utility, All Wheel Drive Base Vehicles for the Police Department through the State Cooperative Purchasing Program in 2017 on Contract #A88728; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough of Hillsdale approves the Purchase of two (2) 2017 Ford Police Interceptor Utility, All Wheel Drive Base Vehicles from Winner Ford, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, \$48,796.60 in accordance with the State of New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Program, Contract # A88728 valid March 6, 2015 through March 15, 2017.

R17084 Award Payment of 2016 LOSAP Benefits for Eligible Members of the Volunteer Ambulance Service

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, Bergen County, New Jersey, has adopted Ordinance #99-17 establishing and implementing Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) pursuant to P.L. 1997, c. 399, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the LOSAP program, a list of eligible members and corresponding award has been presented to the Borough Administrator, a copy of the same being annexed hereto; and

WHEREAS, a list of eligible members and proposed award has been reviewed and approved by the Borough Administrator, and funds have been certified by the Certified Municipal Finance Officer; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, does hereby approve the list of eight (8) eligible members to receive full benefits, One Thousand Four Hundred Nine Dollars and Eighty Seven (\$1,409.87) per eligible member, three (3) members to receive fifty percent (50%) of the benefit, Seven Hundred Four Dollars and Ninety Four cents,(\$704.94) proposed total award of Thirteen Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Three Dollars and Seventy Eight Cents (\$13,393.78) for 2016 LOSAP

benefits, for eligible Volunteer Ambulance Service members as annexed hereto and made a part hereof and authorizes payment in accordance therewith.

R17085 Award Payment of 2016 LOSAP Benefits for Eligible Members of the Volunteer Fire Department

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, Bergen County, New Jersey, has adopted Ordinance #99-17 establishing and implementing Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) pursuant to P.L. 1997, c. 399, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the LOSAP program, a list of eligible members and corresponding award has been presented to the Borough Administrator, a copy of the same being annexed hereto; and

WHEREAS, a list of eligible members and proposed award has been reviewed and approved by the Borough Administrator, and funds have been certified by the Certified Municipal Finance Officer; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, does hereby approve the list of twenty-two (22) eligible members, One Thousand Four Hundred Nine Dollars and Eighty Seven Cents (\$1,409.87) per eligible member, proposed total award of Thirty One Thousand Seventeen Dollars and Fourteen Cents (\$31,017.14) for 2016 LOSAP benefits, for eligible Fire Department members as annexed hereto and made a part hereof and authorizes payment in accordance therewith.

R17086 Award Retro Payment of 2014 LOSAP Benefits for Eligible Members of the Volunteer Ambulance and Volunteer Fire Department

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, Bergen County, New Jersey, has adopted Ordinance #99-17 establishing and implementing Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) pursuant to P.L. 1997, c. 399, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the LOSAP program, a list of eligible members and corresponding award has been presented to the Borough Administrator, a copy of the same being annexed hereto; and

WHEREAS, a list of eligible members and the proposed retro award payment for 2014 has been reviewed and approved by the Borough Administrator, and funds have been certified by the Certified Municipal Finance Officer; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, does hereby approve the attached list of thirty-five (35) eligible members, a proposed total award of Seven Hundred fifty-four Dollars and Eighty Cents (\$754.80) for the Retro Award Payment for 2014 LOSAP benefits, for eligible Volunteer Fire Department members and eligible Volunteer Ambulance Members as annexed hereto and made a part hereof and authorizes payment in accordance therewith.

R17087 Award Retro Payment of 2015 LOSAP Benefits for Eligible Members of the Volunteer Ambulance and Volunteer Fire Department

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, Bergen County, New Jersey, has adopted Ordinance #99-17 establishing and implementing Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP) pursuant to P.L. 1997, c. 399, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the LOSAP program, a list of eligible members and corresponding award has been presented to the Borough Administrator, a copy of the same being annexed hereto; and

WHEREAS, a list of eligible members and the proposed retro award payment for 2015 has been reviewed and approved by the Borough Administrator, and funds have been certified by the Certified Municipal Finance Officer; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, does hereby approve the attached list of thirty-five (35) eligible members, a proposed total award of Seven Hundred

Sixty Five Dollars and Ninety Cents (\$765.90) for the Retro Award Payment for 2015 LOSAP benefits, for eligible Volunteer Fire Department members and eligible Volunteer Ambulance Members as annexed hereto and made a part hereof and authorizes payment in accordance therewith.

R17088 Authorize the Acting Borough Clerk to Advertise for Bids for 2017 Summer Pool Rental

WHEREAS, the Borough of Hillsdale has the opportunity to rent out the pools at Stonybrook Swim Club;

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of this contract is not to exceed 1 year, however there will be an option to extend such contract; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, et seq. that the Acting Borough Clerk is hereby authorized to advertise for the 2017 Summer Pool Rental at Stonybrook Swim Club.

R17090 Payment of Bills

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Hillsdale that the following bill in the sum of \$4,717,111.03 as authorized by the Department Head and approved by a Council member liaison, be paid; and that the Mayor, Clerk and Certified Municipal Financial Officer be and they are hereby authorized and directed to issue warrants in payment of same.

R17091 Authorizing the Borough of Hillsdale to Retain the Services of Maser Consulting Services, Inc for Matters concerning Waste Management of NJ, Inc.'s " Application for a Solid Waste Facility Permit – Permit Renewal"

WHEREAS, Waste Management of NJ, Inc. has made an application for a permit renewal for the Solid Waste Facility in Hillsdale, Facility ID Number 133484 ; and

WHEREAS, the solid waste facility has been closed for some time, portions have been leased and there is considerable concern expressed by the Governing Body that a permit extension is unnecessary and not in the best interest of the residents of the Borough of Hillsdale; and

WHEREAS, The Borough desires to oppose this permit renewal; and

WHEREAS, it is in the Borough's best interest to obtain Maser Consulting Services to assist the Borough in this opposition; and

WHEREAS, the required professional planning services to be rendered are "professional services" and are therefore exempt from public bidding requirements; and

WHEREAS, Maser Consulting has submitted a proposed budget for said services;

WHEREAS, the Borough is desirous of hiring Maser Consulting with the limitation that the fees not exceed \$1,500.00.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale, that it does hereby retain Maser Consulting under the terms of the Proposal, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents to retain Maser Consulting in accordance with the Proposal.

R17092 Developers Agreement – Public Service Electric and Gas Block 1212, Lot 14 Address 295 Patterson Street and Block 1209, Lot 18 – 319 Knickerbocker Avenue

WHEREAS, the Hillsdale Planning Board, on March 1, 2017, approved the application presented by Public Service Electric and Gas with respect to Block 1212, Lot 14 and Block 1209, Lot 18; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to that approval the applicant shall enter into a Developer's Agreement as prepared by the Planning Board Attorney with the Borough of Hillsdale to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the Planning Board Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the form of the Developer's Agreement is satisfactory to the Mayor and Council for consideration; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to execute this agreement on behalf of the Borough.

R17093 Tax Certification – Recycling

WHEREAS, the Recycling Enhancement Act, P.L. 2007, Chapter 311, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grants may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, there is levied upon the owner or operator of every solid waste facility a recycling tax of \$3.00 per ton on all solid waste accepted for disposal or transfer at the solid waste facility; and

WHEREAS, whenever a municipality operates a municipal service system for solid waste collection, or provides for regular solid waste collection service under a contract awarded pursuant to the "Local Public Contracts Law", the amount of grant monies received by the municipality shall not be less than the annual amount of recycling tax paid by the municipality except that all grant moneys received by the municipality shall be expended only for its recycling program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Borough of Hillsdale hereby certifies a submission of expenditure for taxes paid pursuant to P.L. 2007, Chapter 311, in 2016 in the amount of \$10,258.92. Documentation supporting this submission is available at 380 Hillsdale Avenue, Hillsdale, NJ and shall be maintained for no less than five years from this date.

R17094 Approve the Tonnage Grant Report and Application for Year 2016

WHEREAS, the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L.1987, c.102, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grant may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and

WHEREAS, the recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing the municipality to apply for such Recycling Tonnage Grant for calendar year 2016 will memorialize the commitment of the municipality to recycling and to indicate the assent of the Hillsdale Mayor and Council to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

WHEREAS, such resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Hillsdale Mayor and Council does hereby endorses the submission of the Recycling Tonnage Grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates Daniel O'Rourke, Recycling Coordinator, to ensure that the application is properly filed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purposes of recycling.

R17095 Refund of Tax Overpayment Block 1414 Lot 8 – 61 Hopper Street

WHEREAS, a duplicate tax payment has resulted in overpayment of taxes for 2017 on the property listed below,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale authorize the Tax Collector to refund the following taxes:

Block 1414 Lot 8

61 Hopper St. \$3,265.60

Refund to:

John & Judith Lee

R17096 Resolution Urging the Legislature to Reduce Local Affordable Housing Burdens and Provide Defined Rules and Relief in Providing Thereof

WHEREAS, municipalities do not have the resources to provide court mandated housing to comply with the Mount Laurel doctrine without proper funding; and

WHEREAS, lawsuits increase housing four-fold through court mandates and without an affirmative defense municipalities can do nothing to stop growth and sprawl, costing millions of dollars outside of local budgets; and

WHEREAS, property taxes must be raised exponentially to pay the costs associated with court mandates and, therefore, population, further overburdening taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of years of unfunded court mandates has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

WHEREAS, expected state population growth of .3 percent does not provide sufficient demand to justify court-mandated 30 percent housing supply increase; further congesting our state; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey is already the most densely populated state in the country with 1,195 persons per square mile; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life and public welfare in this municipality will be reduced, negatively impacting infrastructure, water and sewer capacities; school class sizes and school services; municipal services such as volunteer and staffed ambulatory services and fire departments, police departments, public transportation and traffic; and

WHEREAS, the lack of affordable housing and rentals is not due to a lack of units, rather it stems from residents paying property taxes that are unaffordable and increasing by roughly \$700 million annually; and

WHEREAS, the state of New Jersey should relieve the burden of unfunded court mandates and provide statewide parity and predictability in regard to municipal affordable housing obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly is urged to pass Assembly Bill No. 4666 imposing an end-of-year moratorium on all affordable housing litigation; and Assembly Bill No. 4667 establishing the “Affordable Housing Obligation Study Commission” to assist in finding solutions to the affordable housing crisis foisted upon municipalities; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the state and the legislature to assist municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the time has come to reasonably address affordable housing needs in New Jersey to preserve the integrity of the state and its quality of life; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hillsdale urges the state and the legislature to aid municipalities over-burdened by court-mandated affordable housing; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we enthusiastically must reach a solution to affordable housing in New Jersey; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Chris Christie, Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno, Department of Community Affairs, Commissioner Charles A. Richman, New Jersey Senate President Steve Sweeney, New Jersey Senate Republican Leader Thomas Kean, Jr., New Jersey Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto, New Jersey Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick, our State Senator Gerald Cardinale, Assemblyman Robert Auth, and Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Councilmember Lundy asked about R17083 Police Vehicles; the contract expired yesterday, is that price still valid?

Administrator DeJoseph said yes it is.

Councilmember Pizzella asked that R17095 be pulled so that he can vote on that separately.

Motion by Council President Ruocco, Second by Councilmember Karcich.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmembers DeRosa, Karcich, Lundy, Pizzella.

Councilmember Segalas said he believed there are two pages that need to be pulled from R17091, he could be mistaken, but he thinks that last two pages may have included, he just noted it. Emails that are internal and others may be related to some of the discussions we had earlier. He asked that they be removed.

Mayor Frank said we can approve not being part of it.

Roll Call Continued:

Ayes: Councilmembers Segalas, Council President Ruocco

Nays: None

R17095 Refund of Tax Overpayment Block 1414, Lot 8, 61 Hopper.

Motion by Councilmember Karcich, Second by Council President Ruocco.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councilmember DeRosa, Karcich, Lundy, Segalas, Council President Ruocco

Nays: None

Abstain: Councilmember Pizzella

OFF-CONSENT:

Motion _____ Second _____

Councilmembers DeRosa, Karcich, Lundy, Pizzella, Segalas, Council President Ruocco

COUNCIL COMMENTARIES:

Council President Ruocco wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day. St. John the Baptist is sponsoring the St. Patrick's dinner for March 18, it is not too late, at 6:00 PM, \$30.00 including wine and beer, BYO dessert. Contact Carolyn at 201-739-6041. BSA Troop 108 is having a Pancake Breakfast at United Methodist Church at 8:00 AM Saturday, March 18.

On the issue of snow removal, the DPW workers serve the Borough well in a variety of different capacities and for the past several seasons, neither leaf nor snow removal nor how they carry out any of their other responsibilities have been a significant issue. This week there was an issue and both the Mayor and the DPW

have acknowledged that and while the governing body is not directly responsible for the plowing of the streets and the execution of the plan, that is the DPW's responsibility, this body is ultimately responsible for making sure the results meet our expectations. When they don't, we are the body that must determine why not, what needs to be done to correct the situation and to implement the correction. I am very glad to see the DPW committee is working with the Borough Administrator to examine what happened and to look for ways to improve the process so that it doesn't repeat again and deliver better service.

Councilmember DeRosa said he is not questioning the hard work the DPW did during the storm, most worked 24 hours taking breaks. He stopped by the garage around 10:00 PM on Tuesday and was offered a ride in the DPW plow and at that point, the snow was packed and we were moving loose snow. There is no denying the condition of the Hillsdale roads compared to other towns was poor, we can't have that happen again and it is our responsibility to find out why and he looks forward to making some suggestions with the DPW committee. The Ambulance Corps is having their fund raiser on Saturday, May 13, beefsteak dinner at St. John's. There is a blood drive for Ruta Fiorino on Saturday, the 29th from 9:00 to 1:00 here. If you are coaching in the Borough of Hillsdale, there are requirements and one of the clinics is being done in the conference room behind us right now. You must be fingerprinted and those are valid for three years, you must sign a coach's code of conduct, pass an online coaching, concussion training and sign a lightning safety policy if your sport is outdoors. Re-scheduling of the mobile clerk for three days is now April 4, 5 and 6, a great opportunity to get your passports updated and documents notarized. Reminder if you have a fire hydrant on your property or close by, be sure it is dug out. Thanks to the Finance Committee for their work on the budget.

Councilmember Segalas said we often look to the Fire Department to put out fires; the Fire Department was out before the storm tagging and identifying fire hydrants and scouts helped them do it. He gave his Public thanks to Troop 91349, Jack Costello and members of the Fire Department.

Councilmember Pizzella thanked Hillsdale volunteers and employees for their continued hard work. He reminded Council President Ruocco of the time we did the budget and had no one to help us and try to figure it out. You have come up with a professional way of doing it and explain it to who doesn't understand it and he thanked the Finance Committee. He reminded residents to come out April 27 to speak out against the permit renewal for Waste Management. Waste Management made a business decision to leave Hillsdale and left the property in an unsafe condition and there has been no attempt to work with the Borough and all they have done is stand in the way of progress. Please sign the petition on line and send letters, you can find that information on the website. The issue of plowing has existed for a very long time and many Councils have tried to address it. It is our turn which we should see it as an opportunity. The problem is multi-faceted but it is in the best interest of the town to move past what may or may not have been done. We should seize this opportunity and work together and address the problem once and for all. He also wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day and come to the party at St. John's.

Councilmember Karcich thanked the Fire Chief for bringing to our attention some of these retro payments regarding LOSAP as this Council was not aware. Some of these payments were missed and the Chief caught it and for the Ambulance Corps. We have gotten these payments to our volunteers.

Mayor Frank said the Bergen County Care Fair is being held on April 23 at Hilton Hasbrouck Heights which is a resource for health care providers, social services resources all in one place.

He put out on email discussions with the Farm Board on Demarest Farms. Our objective is to work with Demarest Farms to create a safe venue for their customers, so their customers can park somewhere safely and travel to the farm safely. Sometime it seems adversarial; it shouldn't be and encouraged the farm to talk to us. We will come to a resolution by talking to each other and encourages Demarest Farms to meet with us and find a solution that will keep people safe.

He thanked Assemblywoman Holly Schepisi and Gerry Cardinale for introducing legislation to level the field on affordable housing. We passed a resolution tonight supporting that. The field is not even now and we are in litigation against fair share housing center and it is before the courts and it is about time legislature steps and takes control and represents the people in general and applauded both of them for doing that. That is the kind of representation we all deserve to have.

We are having a special meeting at 9:00 AM on March 28 to cover two items; one is to approve a pool closing contract which is normal. We had to pull it because there was an error on a quotation that was submitted to the town and because of the time for the opening of the pool we have to do that. We have an anticipated award of a contract to repair a drainage pipe that comes down from Horizon Place under Weirimus and the pipe is in bad shape. That will be March 28 at 9:00AM. When you have a special Council meeting that is the only thing that we can discuss. He agreed with Councilmember Pizzella's comments on Waste Management and please sign the petition and it will help if you are present for the hearing on April 27.

This is another budget put together showing continuing fiscal constraint by the Borough. We are spending over a million dollars on infrastructure items without increasing any debt. We are also funding other things that are going on. He thanked the Borough Administrator for guidance he has given us and the Finance Chair and this budget is very realistic, we have to continue to maintain and improve our infrastructure.

The Do Not Knock Ordinance is to keep people from knocking on your door and soliciting. You can sign up on line and that list is given to anyone who is given a solicitor permit. This is good for seniors. The next meeting will be April 17 for budget adoption. He got a lot of emails saying they have never written or complained about anything in town before; we are looking at the DPW committee looking at snow removal and it means it is a serious problem. He thanked the people who never write and never complain who did comment and did give us feedback on the fact that we did not provide their street with the proper salting and plowing. We need everyone to tell us. We wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING:

Motion to reconvene _____ Second _____
Councilmembers DeRosa, Karcich, Lundy, Pizzella, Segalas, Council President Ruocco

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Pizzella, Second by Councilmember Lundy, and unanimously carried.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WILL BE
April 17, 2017 7:30 PM**

Denise Kohan, Acting Municipal Clerk

APPROVED AS PRESENTED

Denise Kohan, Acting Municipal Clerk