

**Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes
November 30, 2009**

A meeting of the Finance Committee of Borough Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairwoman Lori Carnes. Committee members present in addition to Mrs. Carnes were Terry Mest, Patrick Maloney and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also in attendance were Council members Raynard Spaide, Keith Endy, and Gene Gabel; Mayor Marianne Deery; Borough Manager Patricia Spaide, and a concerned citizen.

The committee, members of council present, and Mayor Deery performed a line by line review and discussion of the 2010 Proposed Budget for the General Fund.

The General Fund has a budget deficit of approximately \$57,000. Discussion was held concerning pay increases for non-bargaining unit employees. It was noted that the Proposed Budget does not include pay increases for non-bargaining unit employees. Following discussion, the committee and council members present agreed that no pay increases would be given to non-bargaining unit employees, including the Chief of Police. Discussion was also held concerning employee contribution to the cost of medical insurance. Following a somewhat lengthy discussion, it was decided that employee contributions will not be required in 2010. Mrs. Carnes will research pay scales and co-pays of other municipalities for future discussion on this subject.

Discussion was also held on the cost of Code Enforcement. Mrs. Spaide noted that the current third party costs are very high; however, the service is not good. Mrs. Spaide is looking at options and advised the members that a new third party agency should be retained to provide all code enforcement services or a third party agency should be retained to perform UCC work and a part-time employee could be hired to perform zoning, property maintenance, and rental unit work. This matter will be reviewed further early in 2010.

Discussion was also held regarding a reduction in the number of police officers. It was noted that the 2010 budget includes \$56,000 in additional costs related to the police department. This increase is the result of four percent pay increases for all officers, and three officers who will advance from second class to first class officers in 2010. In addition, one officer recently married and is now entitled to medical insurance coverage for his spouse. A somewhat lengthy discussion was held on the subject of reducing the police force by one officer. The committee and council members present agreed not to reduce the number of officers at this time, noting that if a resignation or retirement occurs council can determine at that time if the vacancy will be filled.

A somewhat lengthy discussion was held regarding a small increase in real estate tax millage to reduce the deficit. Following discussion, the committee and council members

present agreed to increase the tax rate from 4.84 mills to 4.99 mills, which will generate approximately \$25,000 in additional revenue.

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. was made by Mrs. Carnes and seconded by Mr. Mest.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Spaide
Borough Secretary