

PUBLIC HEARING of the Town Council held Thursday, May 24, 2007 at 7:05 P.M. in the Media Center of the Burrillville High School, 425 East Avenue, Harrisville, for and within the Town of Burrillville.

PRESENT: Council President Nancy F. Binns, Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Kevin M. Blais, Margaret L. Dudley, John M. Karmozyn Jr., and Cynthia L. Roe

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilor Norman C. Mainville was excused due to vacation.

Relative to discussing the Municipal Budget

NOTE: The public hearing was duly advertised in the Woonsocket Call on May 11, 16 and 23, 2007.

1. Comments from the Budget Board

Arthur R. Hurley, Chair, Burrillville Budget Board, discussed the impact of the tax levy act. Mr. Hurley explained the Budget Board recommendation that the Town's vehicle policy be addressed and reviewed details of the Budget Board's recommendation.

Mr. Hurley raised the question of lighting expenses for Hauser Field, voicing the Budget Board's hope that the Pascoag Utility District may work with the Recreation Department to correct what appears to be an error. Mr. Hurley said that FY2009 would bring the full expense related to the new library and noted that the Budget Board is seeking guidance on future expenses related to funding the operating budgets for the libraries. He discussed debt service and upcoming expenses related to the renovation of the Levy Rink.

Mr. Hurley discussed the town's cash generating operations, i.e. Burrillville Extended Care and Spring Lake Beach, recommending that those operations be self-sufficient and self-maintaining. The Budget Board, he said, recommended a general review of Town fees, such as Building Department.

On behalf of the Budget Board, Mr. Hurley thanked all department heads and specifically Finance Director John P. Mainville, Treasurer Mark A. Adams, and Administrative Assistant Dawn Caniff. Mr. Hurley thanked the members of the Budget Board for their tireless devotion.

2. Comments from Michael C. Wood, Town Manager

Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, noted that there were several small adjustments to his recommendation, which were distributed. Mr. Wood reviewed the general budget summary, as outlined in his May

7, 2007 budget message, a copy of which is on file with the record of the hearing. Mr. Wood indicated that the budget is within the 5.25 percent spending cap.

Mr. Wood provided a general overview of projected revenues, discussing the timeframe in which the Town expected to receive information relative to State Aid.

Mr. Wood discussed the proposed tax rate of \$11.60/\$1,000. He said that, while the tax rate per thousand is lower than the current year, this relates to increased valuations. Mr. Wood discussed the revaluation. He said that the recommended budget would result in a tax increase, the extent of which will be more clear as the process continues.

Mr. Wood reviewed the details of his budget recommendation, which is outlined in the May 7, 2007 budget message, a copy of which is on file with the record of the hearing.

Mr. Wood indicated that the funding for the Jesse M. Smith Memorial Library budget would be an issue going forward, once the project is complete. Mr. Wood discussed the Town's obligation related to the state funding of the project.

In conclusion, Mr. Wood recognized the unions and employees for making concessions in health care that resulted in substantial

savings in health care costs. Mr. Wood thanked the Budget Board for a job well done.

3. Public Comment:

Note: Persons who wish to address the Council shall state their name and address.

Bruce Rylah, President, Industrial Foundation of Burrillville, asked that the Foundation be funded in the full amount of their request (\$7,000). He noted that the recommendation is for a \$5,000 appropriation. Mr. Rylah discussed the partnership between the Foundation and the Town, as well as the activity of the Foundation.

Councilor Margaret L. Dudley asked whether the Budget Board had identified non-tax levy methods of increasing revenues. Mr. Hurley reviewed several suggestions, i.e. Christmas tree tags, trash bag fees, etc. Mr. Hurley said that the taxpayer pays these fees but the tax levy is unaffected.

4. VOTED to close the public hearing.

Motion by Councilor Wallace F. Lees. Seconded by Councilor John M. Karmozyn, Jr. The vote was unanimous by the six members present. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Kevin M. Blais, Margaret L. Dudley, John M. Karmozyn Jr., and Cynthia L. Roe. Councilor Norman

C. Mainville was excused.

5. Town Council deliberation

Councilor Margaret L. Dudley expanded on the topic of creating a revenue stream without increasing the tax levy, such as the Christmas tree tags or field use fees.

The issue of the cost of lighting at Hauser Field was discussed. The rate structure under which the Town has been billed was reviewed and negotiations with the Public Utilities Commission and Pascoag Utility District were discussed. The matter was discussed and progress in correcting the problem identified.

Councilor Kevin M. Blais asked whether the Town Engineer takes a vehicle home; it was reported that he does not. Councilor Blais asked for clarification of the adjustments distributed at the beginning of the hearing; they were explained. Councilor Blais asked whether the funding for the incentive program remained in effect; the funding of that program was reviewed.

Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, reviewed the remainder of the budget process. Mr. Wood asked the members of the Town Council to inform the administration of any budget modifications they desired before the June 13, 2007 meeting. This, he said, would allow the administration: to incorporate the changes, calculate the tax rate

projection and ensure that the 5.25 percent cap was not exceeded.

Councilor Kevin M. Blais voiced concerns with possible excess of equipment at the Department of Public Works, suggesting that certain equipment could be auctioned resulting in income to the town and reduced expense of maintaining equipment which might not be in use. Arthur R. Hurley, Chair of the Budget Board, cautioned against selling town assets to support the operating budget. Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, discussed the heavy construction performed by the Department of Public Works. He said that the department does not keep equipment that does not have a purpose. Mr. Wood discussed the practice of declaring surplus equipment for which there is no use.

Councilor John M. Karmozyn, Jr. commended all those who worked on the budget recommendation. Councilor Karmozyn supported increasing the Industrial Foundation appropriation, if possible.

6. VOTED to adjourn.

Motion by Councilor Margaret L. Dudley. Seconded by Councilor Wallace F. Lees. The vote was unanimous by the six members present. Voting in favor of the motion were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Kevin M. Blais, Margaret L. Dudley, John M. Karmozyn Jr., and Cynthia L. Roe. Councilor Norman C. Mainville was excused.

The hearing was taped. The tape is on file with the record of the hearing.

Louise R. Phaneuf, Town Clerk