

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
BUDGET WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022**

The Meeting was called to order at 6:03PM by Council Vice President Ervin who read the Open Public Meeting Act Statement as prescribed by law. Notice was sent to The Record and The Ridgewood News on March 11, 2022 and was advertised on March 15, 2022 in The Record and for information only to The Ridgewood News stating that this Meeting would be held in the Honorable Judge Anthony J. Gianni, Jr. Chambers at the Richard J. Martel Municipal Offices, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey on Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 6:00PM. Electronic Notice of this Meeting was provided through the Internet by posting the Agenda on the Township's Website on March 29, 2022.

Notice of this Meeting is posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board. The Minutes of this Meeting shall be available in the Municipal Clerk's Office once they are approved by the Township Council.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR VETERANS AND THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Moment of Silence was observed for those who served and those who are serving in the Military both here and abroad and for those affected by the Coronavirus.

Present: Councilmembers Ariemma, Bolan, Ervin, Ferguson, May present at 6:38PM, Paz and Wong.

Also present were Mayor James J. Wysocki, Business Administrator Benjamin Kezmarsky, Chief Financial Officer Joseph Kovalcik, Assistant to the Chief Financial Officer Corinne Hockman, Deputy Clerk Carolyn George and Clerical Assistant Leslie Wen.

PUBLIC PORTION

On a motion by Bolan, seconded by Paz, the Meeting was opened to the public at 6:05PM. All in favor. Motion carried.

On a motion by Bolan, seconded by Paz, the Meeting was closed to the public at 6:06PM. All in favor. Motion carried.

2022 PROPOSED MUNICIPAL BUDGET

B1. POOL COMMITTEE

Pool Director, Mr. Brian Clapp, was in attendance to discuss the Pool Committee Budget.

Mr. Clapp informed the Council the Township Pool had 1,000 members, and took in approximately \$100,000 in revenue last season. He mentioned the high count of members were due to the fact that some Condominium Pools were closed due to Covid. Mr. Clapp also spoke about restarting the Swim and Dive Teams.

Mr. Clapp stated the Township Pool needs caulking because of cracks underneath the gutters around the decking, and the pool is losing approximately 7,000-10,000 gallons of water per day.

Mayor Wysocki asked if the Township Pool needs to be painted. Mr. Clapp responded yes. Mayor Wysocki stated the Department of Public Works may be able to do the painting.

Business Administrator stated the Pool Decking was budgeted for last year and will be going out for Bid in late Spring. The Project should begin at the end of the pool season.

Business Administrator asked the Pool Director if he received more Applicants for Lifeguards since the Township has increased the salary to \$11.90/hour to compete with surrounding pools. Mr. Clapp responded the Township Pool should be fully staffed due to the increase.

Mr. Clapp informed the Council of the Township Pool Rates for the season.

Mr. Ferguson asked what was the mix of Residents and Non-Residents who joined the Township Pool last year. Mr. Clapp responded 733 were Residents and 145 were Non-Residents.

Paz asked for clarification on the 2022 Sanitizing Process for the Township Pool. Mr. Clapp responded last season under the New Jersey State Guidelines one employee was strictly in charge of enforcing Covid restrictions. This upcoming season will go back to a normal Sanitizing Process of cleaning out the Restrooms and emptying garbage cans.

Paz asked if the Township Pool will be using the same Food Vendor. Business Administrator stated no Food Vendor has been awarded the Contract yet.

Paz asked what the cost is to participate in the Swim and Dive Teams. Mr. Clapp responded the individual has to join as a Member of the Township Pool first, and then the cost is \$85. /Child and \$50. /Sibling.

Paz asked if the Summer Recreation Program will continue to go to the pool. Recreation Director, Dennis Burns responded yes.

B2. RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Mr. Dennis Burns, Recreation Director, was in attendance to discuss the Recreation Department Budget.

Mr. Burns stated the supply chain has been a major challenge this year for the start-up of the 2022 Softball and Baseball Programs. Softballs and baseballs are all on back order along with the baseball hats, and Recreation Director does not know when they will be received, however, Mr. Burns stated there is a possibility the baseballs could be delivered by next week. Baseball T-shirts for the Programs have been received in 12 different colors. Mr. Burns also mentioned there is a surplus of 50 basketballs left over from Basketball Season. First Aid Kits and icepacks are in full supply.

Ferguson ask how much income does the Township receive renting out the Township Fields to outside organizations. Chief Financial Officer stated he will get that information.

Ferguson asked if the Township Youth Sports Program gets first priority in the usage of the Township Fields. Mr. Burns responded yes.

Ferguson asked if the Recreation Department has any additional Events planned. Mr. Burns responded there will be additional Corn Hole Events and Movie Nights. He mentioned there will be a future Eagle Scout Project making 6 additional Mahwah Themed Corn Hole Games for the extra Events. He has ordered a new projector and movie screen for the additional Movie Nights.

Ferguson asked if the Recreation Department will again host the Spring Sports Parade on Memorial Day Weekend. Mr. Burns responded yes.

May asked if the Recreation Department is moving the venue for the Food Truck Festival. Mr. Burns responded the Food Truck Festival will remain at the same venue and will be held on August 28, 2022. Mr. Burns mentioned he will possibly be changing the layout.

Ferguson asked if a Beer Garden could be included at Mahwah Day. Mr. Burns responded the Recreation Department has spoken about this addition, but as of now, no.

Mr. Burns stated the Summer Recreation Program will be offered this year after an absence of two years due to Covid. The Program is Monday thru Friday, 9:00AM – 12:00PM, and will also be offering additional Summer Sports Camps from 12:00PM – 4:00PM to complete a full day.

Paz asked since there was no Summer Recreation Program last year, how did the allocated money get spent. Mr. Burns explained the allocated money from last year is being spent on the upcoming additional Events the Recreation Department is sponsoring.

May asked where is the Revenue Line on the Budget for the income being taken in for the Summer Recreation Program. Chief Financial Officer stated there is not a Revenue Line on the Budget because all Summer Recreation Program Income is deposited into the Summer Recreation Trust Account.

Mr. Burns spoke about a new Program he was interested in bringing into the Township called the Honoring Hero's Program. He will give more particulars on this Program at a later date.

Ariemma questioned the Summer Recreation Counselor's wages not being the Minimum Wage of \$13. /Hour. Business Administrator stated Seasonal Wages are different and do not fall under the Minimum Wage.

Ariemma asked why the Food Truck Festival cannot be held at the Commodore Perry Field. Mr. Burns responded the Food Trucks need to be parked on a hard surface. If Commodore Perry Field is wet, the Food Trucks will destroy the field driving on them.

Bolan thanked Mr. Burns for all he does and said she enjoys all the different events. She mentioned to Mr. Burns to think about adding Music Bands to the Food Truck Festival and charge an Entrance Fee.

Bolan asked if the Recreation Department Budget can handle an increase of more Counselors if there is a shortage of Counselors-in-Training for the Summer Recreation Program. Mr. Burns responded yes.

Ervin asked if the Adult Sports Program was self-sustaining. Mr. Burns responded yes.

Ervin asked if the Township is charging enough to the Vendors to participate in the Food Truck Festival. Mr. Burns responded there is a \$25.00 increase to the Vendors to participate in this year's Festival.

May asked what Expenses does the Township incur for the Food Truck Festival. Mr. Burns responded the Township pays for the Music Bands.

Paz asked when is Mahwah Day. Mr. Burns responded September 24, 2022.

Ferguson is requesting to the Council to add an additional \$12,000. to the Youth Sports Boosters. He stated the Indoor Sports cost families much more money to join than the Outdoor Sports due to the fact that the Board of Education charges Janitorial Fees to these Programs. He would like to help subsidize some of these costs for the families who participate in these sports.

May questioned the idea of the Township paying for all of the \$12,000. for the Youth Sports Boosters. He would like to see the Board of Education pay half of the \$12,000. since they are the ones who charge for Janitorial Fees.

Bolan stated there have been other Asks and Needs from other Departments, and she would like to see the whole List of Requests before making a decision on Ferguson's request.

Mr. Burns explained the Lighting System at Continental Park is below standard, and bulb replacements will no longer be available in 2023.

Wong asked is the proposed amount to replace the Lighting System at Continental Park in the Capital Budget. Business Administrator stated yes.

B3. CAPITAL BUDGET

Mr. Joseph Kovalcik, Chief Financial Officer, gave a Presentation explaining the Capital Budget for 2022.

Ariemma asked if the Township borrowed money in 2021 for the new Department of Public Works Facility. She questioned where the Line Item is located in the Budget for this Project. Chief Financial Officer explained it is not listed in the Capital Budget, it is part of your Debt in the Budget.

Ferguson asked will the Township receive State or Federal Funds for the Filtration System for Well #19. Business Administrator responded he will be submitting Applications for both State and Federal Funds for this Project. He also explained this money will not be seen until next year's Budget.

Paz asked if the \$850,000 will bring the Township into compliance with State Regulations on Well #19. Business Administrator stated yes. He also explained lead time on materials will be a problem with approximately 40 other towns ordering the same Filtration System. Money will still have to be put into the Budget to maintain the Wells. He also mentioned this Project should be completed by August 2023.

Business Administrator stated the Municipal Budget will be introduced at the Council Meeting on April 7, 2022.

B4. CENTRAL ACCOUNTS

No questions were asked by the Council for these Accounts.

On a motion by Paz, seconded by Wong, the Meeting was adjourned at 8:43PM. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathrine G. Coviello, RMC/CMC/MMC
Municipal Clerk