



**MAYOR AND COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**Budget Workshop Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 27, 2009**  
**7:30 P.M.**  
**BOROUGH HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
Municipal Place  
Emerson, NJ 07630

**Call to Order**

Mayor Lamatina called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Ms. Brown led the salute to the flag followed by a moment of silence at the request of the Mayor.

**O.P.M.A. Statement**

Mayor Lamatina read the Sunshine Statement announcing that the meeting of January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009 had been adequately noticed and was in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Further, that the meeting was included in the Annual Meeting Notice Resolution sent to the Bergen Record and Ridgewood News and advertised in said newspapers; posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall, Municipal Place, Emerson, NJ 07630 and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statute. In addition, a copy of the notice was on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk and had been available to the public since its approval by the governing body.

**Roll Call:**

Mayor Louis J. Lamatina-Present  
Councilman Steven Bair -Present  
Councilman Browne - Present  
Councilman Heyer-Present  
Council President Hoffman-Present  
Councilman Lazar - Present  
Councilman Loffredo - Absent

Also present were Carol Dray, Borough Clerk, Joseph Scarpa, Borough Administrator, and Catherine Henderson, Chief Financial Officer. Borough Attorney Phil Boggia's attendance was not required.

## 6. BUDGET WORKSHOP

### 2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

#### Departmental Discussions

1) Police Department - Police Chief Saudino reviewed his budget requests for 2009:

- Calea Accreditation would allow state accreditation and national recognition allowing an update to current rules and regulations and 112 policies that would professionalize the Police Department. The cost was \$34,000 which could be paid over a two year period; the process would take eight months. He said that it would help with lawsuit and liability issues and prevent anyone from attacking the creditability of the department.
- Digital recorders - The Chief detailed the status of the video tape machines and suggested bonding for digital recorders and purchasing a few per year to spread the expense over several years.
- Sports utility vehicle – The current vehicle has over 96,000 miles on it and this type of vehicle was provided guaranteed mobility for police patrols in snow storms.

2) Fire Department – Fire Chief Mark Savino requested the following:

- Rescue Pumper Truck - Chief Savino detailed the issues with the 1983 rescue truck and asked to replace it with a Rescue Pumper which would be a two function vehicle and replace two trucks. He added that it would save the Borough from having to purchase another truck for about 15 years.
- Generator – The current generator only handled lighting. He emphasized that as a temporary shelter, the Fire House should have an emergency generator that could run the HVAC system and other electrical systems.
- Boat – He stated that the money was already available for a new boat.

3) Ambulance Corps – Captain Larry Hagberg requested the following:

- A level of supplies to sustain the Corps until more help can arrive.
- Fireproof safe for call sheets – he mentioned that this legally required item would cost approximately \$5,000.
- Clothing uniform and work uniform

### Agenda No. 3

- 4) DPW – Superintendent Joe Solimando requested the following:
- Sewer Jet – Mayor Lamatina explained that the company that was awarded the contract for this shared service was under investigation by the Attorney General’s Office and would be rebid. Mr. Solimando and Mr. Scarpa both detailed their frustrating experiences trying to get this resolved with the County. Mr. Solimando emphasized that the borough owned machine was dying and that at some point the Borough might not have a machine at all. Mayor Lamatina asked Mr. Scarpa to get the bid information through an OPRA request and requested that the Administrators’ Association take the lead to get this resolved. Mr. Scarpa suggested instead that he draft a letter for the eight Mayors for submission to the County; he thought that this would have more impact. The Mayor agreed and asked him to draft it so that he could bring it to the next Mayors’ meeting in February.
  - Street sweeper – Councilman Lazar explained that he had looked at the current street sweeper and agreed with Mr. Solimando that it was in bad shape. He added that some components were still useable, but it was rotting out and could not continue to be used as a vacuum for the road. If the vacuum system was removed, it could perhaps be used for some other purpose such as a salt or sand spreader.
  - Large mower for \$14,000 – Mr. Solimando explained in detail that the one large grass-catching mower currently in use was over ten years old and that a second one was necessary to properly care for the sod installed at Hillman Field. The Mayor asked if it would be possible to share the mower with Westwood or another neighboring town. Mr. Solimando said that he would look into it. Councilman Lazar commented that he would research cost saving options as well.
  - Brine machine – Mr. Solimando detailed his visit to Clarkstown, New York where the DPW pre-treat roads with brine up to 48 hours before a storm. He added that River Vale is also using this system on a smaller scale. The Governing Body discussed making this a shared service item.

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Before opening the meeting for comments from the public, Mayor Lamatina reminded everyone to turn off their cell phones, keep their comments as brief as possible and try to limit them only to governmental issues of concern to an Emerson resident. He further requested that if a subject matter was addressed and answered, to please refrain from repeating it unless they had something new to contribute. A five-minute rule was in effect for each speaker at the discretion of the Council. Mayor Lamatina asked that everyone do their part to be civil, to the point and respectful of another's point of view and opinion. He further warned that speaking out without recognition would not be tolerated and a second warning could result in removal from the Council Chambers.

☞ **Motion** to open the meeting for comments from the public was **moved** by Councilman Lazar, **seconded** by Council President Hoffman and carried.

Ms. Karen Browne, 114 Pine Drive suggested using frying oil from the school cafeterias for fuel in Borough vehicles. She also questioned whether brine was allowed to be dumped into the storm drains. Mr. Solimando stated that the brine was rechanneled into tanks and recycled. She also asked why a street sweeper was necessary in the Borough. Mr. Solimando explained that it picked up leaves, litter and sand which would otherwise get stuck in the catch basins and have to get sucked out.

☞ **Motion** to close the meeting to comments from the public was **moved** by Council President Hoffman, **seconded** by Councilman Browne and carried at 10:00 p.m.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to address, at the request of Mayor Lamatina, Councilman Heyer **moved** to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by Council President Hoffman and carried at 10:02 p.m.

Carol Dray, RMC, CMC

March 3, 2009

(Proofed 03/16/09)