

**BUDGET MEETING
MINUTES**

Budget Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held via Zoom and called to order at 6:00pm. Adequate notification was published in the official newspaper of the Borough of Montvale.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to The Bergen Record informing the public of the time and place according to the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975).

Present: Mayor Ghassali; Administrator, Joe Voytus; Councilmembers, Arendacs, Cudequest, Koelling, Lane, Roche and Russo-Vogelsang; Treasurer, Christine Kalafut; CFO, Matt Cavallo and Deputy Clerk, Fran Scordo

○ **Montvale Police Department - Chief Doug McDowell**

Chief McDowell stated that the department must buy Live Scan fingerprint machine because the software will not support the current system. Some other items requested were to update the office furniture in the front desk of the police station, purchase additional tasers and 2 Plate reader cameras that would be placed at Chestnut Ridge Road and Summit Ave. Chief also mentioned he would like to expand on the Junior Academy.

○ **Office of Emergency Management – Frank DiPalma**

Frank mentioned OEM was able to apply to FEMA and received approximately \$300,000 for prior storms and COVID relief. He would like to replace/upgrade the antennas on the cell tower for the amateur radios

○ **Buildings & Grounds – Chris Gruber**

Chris started off by saying that the construction department brought in approximately \$700,000 in fees. He mentioned that borough hall A/C unit needs to be replaced. It was recommended by the Police department to install video cameras in the hallway of borough hall and also the stairwells. Chris was getting quotes to replace the reading garden located outside of the library. The library uses it for their events. Some repairs are needed at the community center. Lights at the fields need to be replaced.

○ **Senior Club - John Rotante**

John mentioned membership has increased to 200 active members; he is asking for an increase in funds due to the expense of trips, buses and catering events which increased in price

Councilmember Lane reiterated that all of the requests are tentative at this point and will be reviewed prior to finalizing the 2023 budget.

At this time the meeting was open to the public:

Carolee Adams spoke and mentioned she was not aware that the meeting was being held by Zoom; Ms. Adams suggested to look into solar panels for the lights at the fields.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

The next Budget Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. – via ZOOM on Monday, January 23rd and January 30th. Link will be provided on Montvale website for these budget meetings.

Respectfully submitted, Fran Scordo, Deputy Municipal Clerk