

Town of Montville Finance Committee Minutes

February 26, 2013

1. The meeting was called to order by Councilor Jaskiewicz at 4:00 PM. Present: Councilors Buebendorf, Jones and Jaskiewicz, Finance Director Terry Hart, and Mayor Ron McDaniel.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Remarks from the Public
 - a. Tony Siragusa requested the committee discuss his proposal for senior tax relief, and the proposed approximately \$500,000 tax increase for townwide trash pickup.
 - b. Bill Peniaz offered support for Mr. Siragusa's tax proposal.
4. Councilor Buebendorf moved, second by Councilor Jones, to approve the minutes for the 1/29/13 special meeting. Vote 3-0 in favor, minutes approved.
5. New Business – discussion of department requests for the 2013-14 budget. Terry Hart distributed binders to committee members with department requests and backup documentation. Councilor Jaskiewicz inquired about the purpose of interviewing department heads before the mayor's budget is finalized. Councilors Jones and Buebendorf stated that the purpose was to learn more about the functions and necessities of each department. Mayor McDaniel explained that last year the timing was difficult in terms of meeting with department heads, and that the committee wanted more time this year.
 - a. Lt. Bunnell and Sgt. Martinez explained requests for the police budget as follows:
 - Additional personnel requests include 1 FT and 1 PT police officer, and a FT clerk. The FT police officer is an incremental step in having the police force adequately staffed; the PT police officer will help fill in when necessary. The FT clerk would respond to the increased walk in requests since the new public safety building opened. Councilor Jones asked if this individual might work staggered hours in order to increase the coverage time now covered by the current clerk.

- Custodial services are in the Public Works section of the budget but Lt. Bunnell claimed that the work currently being performed is inadequate.
 - Lt. Bunnell stated that adding another police officer or a narcotics canine with a dedicated officer would not reduce the overtime budget.
 - It is intended for the SRO position to be staffed beginning with the next school year.
- b. Kathie Doherty-Peck discussed the social services and senior services budgets. Social Services includes a request for the one employee to increase from 30 to 40 hours per week in response to increasing families seeking services. On average, 26 new families are added each month. Senior services budget is mostly flat-funded. They continue to serve approximately 400-500 seniors each week for various programs. The secretary, bus driver and food server all help out in different functions as needed, including covering social services.
- c. Bill O'Neil discussed IT services, stating that his workload is too much for one individual. He services technology in Town Hall, Public Safety Building, fire departments, social services, senior center, youth services and Public Works. He requests an additional FT employee to better serve the Town. Discussion included the possibility of outsourcing extra help or hiring 2 PT employees in lieu of 1 FT.
6. Town Purchasing Policy – Councilor Buebendorf moved, second by Councilor Jones, to table this policy until after the mayor's budget is completed. Vote 3-0, motion carried.
7. Functions of Board of Ed and the Town was not discussed.
8. Remarks from the Public
- a. Tom McNally stated the Board of Ed was told no SRO was available and so they hired their own safety officer; questioned the request for a PT police officer as a "slush fund"; does not understand how a new police officer won't reduce the overtime budget; capital plan for the Police budget was not provided to the Public Safety Commission; dispatchers should answer the phones and greet visitors at the public safety building; and the IT budget is out of control.

- b. Tony Siragusa said the contract allowing police officers to take time off doesn't make sense; IT budget is too high and that the work is not too complicated and should be outsourced.
 - c. Bill Peniaz expressed dismay about the police contract and how the overtime works; asked about the support the state police provides to the Town; and wishes the Town was more technologically advanced with regard to the building permit process.
9. Councilor Buebendorf moved, second by Councilor Jones, to adjourn. Vote 3-0, meeting adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Buebendorf