



CITY OF ABSECON  
Municipal Complex  
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Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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**FEBRUARY 11, 2010**  
**BUDGET MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**FLAG SALUTE** – Mayor

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Seher, Fishman, Green, Falivene, Vizthum, Gorman, Caterson

**Absent:**

Also Present: Mayor Elco, Terry Dolan, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone

**Notification of Meeting** – Lynn

**Lynn** – explained that they are doing the Police Dept. budget tonight and the Police Chief is in attendance also.

Printing – requested \$600, draft budget recommended \$400 – the chief had a project that never came up and he would like to do it this year. He can live with the \$400.

Equipment Maintenance – requested \$8,000 – draft budget recommending \$7,000 – would be hard this year. The contract or maintenance agreement for finger printing machine is up this year.

Discussion on Cameras

Professional consultants – \$4,000

Supplies – \$6,000

Clothing & Uniforms - \$1,000

Books and Publications - \$1,000

Office Supplies – discussion of new shredder

Conference & Meetings - \$15,000

Education & Training – contract valued at \$30,000 may be tight. Discussion on qualifications for tuition reimbursement

Uniform allowance – contractual

Professional Association Dues - \$1,500

Training – Chief – we are behind on training. Last year we were short handed so we couldn't send people to class. Believes we can work with \$6,000.

Purchase of Vehicles – he is requesting 3 vehicles – drafted budget recommended 1. Discussion on what we currently have and how the car rotation works. Chief believes we can get by with two and if one is unmarked, it would cost less.

Other equipment – spent \$1,700 in 09 requesting \$9,000 – recommending \$5,000

### **Capital Improvements**

Furniture replacement - \$50,900 requested – all are the original when the building was built.

**Chief Cowan - Chairs** – different types were discussed and prices – desks need to be replaced. This company was willing to come in and do the walk-through and I needed a number for the budget. I know it's a scary number but I needed someone to come in so we could get an estimate.

**Mayor** – it's important to know that the Chief references a walk-through by this company to at least get started and develop some type of plan.

Cell mattresses – separate items – 3 @ \$108 each.

**Chris** – asked how this would be paid.

**Jessica** – it would probably be best to pay it out of the current year. In past years, we would finance 5% in the budget and borrow the rest of the money in short-term notes that would eventually turn into bonds. We can still do that but the question is with the economic times the way they are, do we want to continue to borrow at this time or not. We did not borrow any additional money last year. We also financed all our short-term notes in 2008. We don't have any short-term debt right now. You have to think about what you want to do.

**Chris** – couldn't we do it in phases – some this year – some next? I've seen a lot of catalogs and you don't have to pick the "Cadillac" versions so he doesn't know if the \$50,000 is that or not. It is a sticker shock.

Jim will work with the chief to get other estimates.

**Computer Server** – replace and upgrade the current server

**Chief** – this is going back to state mandates but they don't want to pay. The brain of our computer is the server and the one we have now is functioning. What we want to do is replace that one and take the one we have and upgrade it so it can be used as an email server. He explained the Attorney General guidelines.

Portable Radio Equipment – I want to start a small replacement program. This is just a way to recycle them out; they are starting to show their age. We should do a few at a time because they are very expensive.

Security Cameras & Video - explained where they should go and possible costs.

911 Phone system - \$50,000 – Verizon sent a letter to the chief in November who is the statewide 911 provider and the only one, they indicated that they will no longer after Sept. 30, 2011, support the equipment we have here for 911 (the Marz equipment). They are giving us almost 2 years to find a replacement.

**Fred** – we need to find out from other communities that it effects.

**Joe** – the only other community is Pleasantville that has the same situation as us. KML Technology is the “Chevy” version that other towns have. We talked to KML and if the countywide dispatch center does go through, I asked if we could pick this system up and carry it to a new building and make it work with others and they said yes. Ours is old and antiquated and has a lot of “band-aids” on it.

**Lynn** – is the estimated cost the total or for what we start in 2010 and then 2011?

**Joe** – when I wrote the budget request, I did not have the actual estimate. Their written request came in at \$48,000 total.

## **Building Repairs**

**Joe** – the floors in the police dept. are horrible. I we could get them cleaned and waxed and buffed up, it would be nice. There’s a lot of carpeted areas that need cleaning; painting around certain rooms; but the absolute priority has got to be the detention area. We talked about it many times at Public Safety meetings and I mentioned about loose floor tiles and two weeks ago, a prisoner was in there and threatened an officer, that he could take the tile up and cut him up with it. It’s two rooms and a small hallway. My thought was to rip out the tiles and paint the floor with no skid paint.

**Terry** – will get Lloyd on it.

## **Overtime**

**Lynn** – we have a problem with this. Looking at it now, we are talking over \$200,000.

**Joe** – most of last year we operated under-staffed.

**Lynn** – the budget in 2008 was \$100,000.

**Jessica** – you can see what they expended on the sheets each year.

**Joe** - The officer hired in December is still invisible to the schedule. He is still in training and creates a hole. February is going to be bad. Today an officer got injured and is out at least a few weeks.

Feels 26 should be our absolute lowest number instead of our highest. We only have 25, including the new hiree, since the 26<sup>th</sup> is out on terminal leave.

**Mayor** – the management group that came in does work with cities to solve this problem and the chief was supposed to meet and we will see where it goes from there.

**Joe** – some goes back to contractual issues.

**Chris** – there are other cities in our area equivalent to us, so there must be some guidelines that say you have “x” number of policemen or a city this size should have a certain number.

**Joe** – it is based on your demographics, crime rates, crime index and I will have them do that.

**Chris** – is this overtime the same as Pleasantville, Northfield, Linwood and Somers Point expend?

**Joe** – no, ours is on the surface higher than some of those and lower than others. Northfield, Linwood, Somers Point, Brigantine all use a different schedule, which is a 12-hour schedule.

**Drew** – Chief, do we see anything happening this year with any retirees?

**Joe** – there is the potential in less than 2 years, for 5 out of the top 6 to leave.

**Lynn** – didn't we address terminal leave?

**Terry** - The last time we did anything with terminal leave, it was the contract prior to the one we are in now, where we said when an officer went on terminal leave, the only thing they got was their salary, their fringe benefits, their health insurance but they did not accumulate additional sick time, vacation time, holiday time while on terminal leave.

**Jessica** – explained how terminal leave works and the count of officers and the account where terminal leave comes from. This is getting depleted and we will run into a problem soon. We've been also paying them yearly for their unused vacation and holiday so it doesn't accumulate.

## **Communications**

**Joe** - The systems that we have – some are mandated and none are cheap. Most of ours are out of warranty. Radio maintenance comes out of this budget.

**Jessica** - It was not really changed that much.

**Lynn** – proposes next budget meeting for March 25<sup>th</sup> and then we will have more numbers and we could introduce on April 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn meeting – Councilman Seher - second – Councilman Green

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Carie A. Crone, Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_