

CITY OF BURTON

MAY 16, 1997, 9:30 A.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Meeting was called to order by Vice President Paula Zelenko at 9:30 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Centilli, Cox, Cross, Walls and Zelenko.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Hammon and Martinbianco.

OTHERS PRESENT: B. Becker, Treasurer/Controller; J. Benthall, Police Chief;
D. Halstead, Fire Chief; D. Lacey, Assistant Chief and G. Webster, Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS:

1. FIRE
2. POLICE
3. RUBBISH

PRESENTATION/COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Zelenko called the meeting to order and turned the budget session over to the Finance Chair Mr. Cox.

Fire Department (pg. 105)

Mr. Becker said the Fire Department's budget is status quo. Line Item, Part-time Firemen reflects the raises established through contract negotiations. This adjustment includes hourly rates and incentives.

Chief Doug Halstead commented on the Fire Department's proposed budget. He would like to purchase a new squad truck for Station #2. Forty-eight thousand dollars had been set aside in Capital Improvements from the 96/97 budget to help pay for a new vehicle.

Chief Halstead will introduce a five year plan, addressing the replacement of old vehicles on a rotation basis, starting with the oldest vehicles first.

There are approximately 60 firemen in the department.

The Chief is looking into the possibility of insurance companies reimbursing the

City for fire runs. Insurance Companies readily will bill back to the City for structure fires. He would like to develop an ordinance to address this issue.

Assistant Chief Dennis Lacey has been inputting Right-To-Know information into the computer system. He is ready to reevaluate the data. He routinely conducts ongoing inspections at Laidlaw. The area is in compliance and meets all safety codes.

Chief Halstead said some safety equipment will need to be repaired or replaced. New helmets have been ordered. In the near future, a personal safety device with an alarm will be added to the firemen's gear.

Station repairs will need to be addressed in the future. Underground storage tanks will need to be removed to meet state requirements.

Chief Halstead said Burton Firemen are the best in Genesee County.

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Police Department (Pgs. 15-16)

Mr. Becker said the new contracts are not included in the Police Department's budget. This may increase the budget by \$5,000 to \$6,000. District Court fees are included in the revenue portion of the budget. These fees will be partially determined due to tickets issued by the new traffic officer. Mr. Austin's administrative fees reflect an increase. Pension Reserves have been frozen and the City has accumulated \$530,000. This budget will draw \$70,000 from the reserve for the first time. Showcase was eliminated from this budget. The Justice Assistant Grant will provide \$26,150 for hiring a new officer for one year. Another officer will retire allowing for the new officer to remain with the department.

Chief John Benthall said the budget reflects only the dollars necessary to maintain the Police Department. He would like to add twelve, heavy duty,

technically advanced lap top computers to police cruisers. These computers are worth \$7,000 a piece. However, through a grant, the Chief is able to purchase these computers for only \$900 per unit. The total cost of \$10,800 is reflected in Office Equipment. Officers will type up their own reports, which will help clerical workers that are overworked. The officers will be able to look up information faster in the data base. This will improve the overall efficiency and save money.

Chief Benthall said the traffic officer reflects a cost effective status in the budget, addressing special problems in the community, reducing accidents and increasing the arrest of alcohol related violations.

Chief Benthall is proposing a reorganization of the Police Department. He will promote Lieutenant Brawner to Deputy Chief of Police, keep two Lieutenant positions and eliminate a Sergeant position. This would provide more accountability, be cost effective and result in a more efficient department.

He would like to refurbish three police cars and purchase a new Chevy Tahoe. He feels Conley's will do the best job of refurbishing cars, adding all new components.

He said the Burton Police Department has a wonderful reputation and is the best Department in the County.

Discussion continued concerning the Police Department budget.

Mr. Cox is concerned with the high cost of contractual fringes in this budget.

Rubbish (Pg. 17)

Mr. Becker said the Rubbish budget reflects a cost of living increase. The contract expires in the year 2000. Instead of a predicted cost of \$119.66 per household for rubbish service per year, the actual cost will be \$116.40 per unit. The projected surplus for the current year is \$25,850.

Mr. Cross is very pleased with the garbage service.

Council agreed we should continue to inform and educate the public on the

recycling. Also, we should evaluate the first year of recycling by determining how many residents are actually utilizing the service. The City should review total tonnage recycled and compare it to the revenue reported.

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AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

Larry Petrella, 1081 Howe Rd., agreed with the proposed budget presented by Chief Halstead. He wanted to know if there would be a full time Fire Department in the new future.

Mr. Cox said there were no plans for a full time Fire Department.

Mr. Petrella said Chief Benthall is doing a fine job.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

Gayle Webster
Burton City Clerk

GW/cml

