CITY OF BURTON
COUNCIL BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
JUNE 4, 2012, 5:30 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS
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The Budget Workshop was called to order by Finance Chairman Vaughn Smith at 5:40 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Smith, Wells, Ellenburg, O'Keefe, Heffner, and Martinbianco.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Haskins.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor P. Zelenko, G. Burke-Miller, Controller, T. Osterholzer, Police Chief and J. Adams, City Clerk.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: COUNCIL WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED 2012-2013 CITY OF BURTON BUDGETS

PRESENTATION:

Mayor Zelenko said we did some refiguring and got the fund balance to be $2.4 or $2.5 million. She said she has given them a letter from Jean Johnson with explanations of her budget. There are things that Jean Johnson must perform for the City to remain qualified for the highest amount of the County Senior millage.

Ms. Johnson spoke in reference to her budget. She said a lot of the things that are in her budget are required. She mentioned the maintenance of the building and parking lot at the Senior Center. If she did not have the Senior Center Newsletter, she would not be in compliance. To be at a level 3 funding, the City must offer 20 days of socialization, 12 days of education, 16 days of health, 20 days of nutrition, 20 days of transportation, 12 days of Social Services, volunteer services, support groups, legal services, health screening each month, and serve an unduplicated amount of seniors of at least 1,000 per year. Senior Centers are only one part that is funded through the Senior Millage. Part of the money goes to Meals on Wheels, MTA, in-home services, and adult protective services. They have eighty volunteers that the City doesn't pay for.

Mr. Martinbianco said he apologizes for minimizing the volunteers' role at the Senior Center.

Mrs. Ellenburg said without those volunteers we would be hiring someone to do those things.

Ms. Johnson said they have volunteers that help seniors figure out their health care insurance and income taxes. The senior volunteers help donate food to those who don't have any and register people for the Bridge card at the Senior Center.

Mr. Martinbianco asked how many hours are spent documenting paperwork.

Ms. Johnson replied 20 hours.

Mr. Smith inquired about the Utilities line item.

Ms. Johnson replied we had a very mild winter this year and hopes to have a cost savings through the new energy efficient equipment.

Mr. Smith asked Ms. Burke-Miller for a projection on the Senior Center utilities.

Ms. Burke-Miller replied $27,000 last year and $24,000 this year.

Mr. O'Keefe asked the dollar amount of the cuts that drop us to a level 2 funding.

Mayor Zelenko replied $31,000.

Mr. O'Keefe said we would cut $31,000 to lose $64,000, which would be disastrous.

Mr. Wells said the Senior Center has long taken care of them selves. They are the most self-sufficient department in the City. She is the most respected Senior Center director in the area.

Mr. Martinbianco asked about hall rental rates and where the money goes.

Ms. Johnson said she checks rates of similar sizes yearly. Rates have gone down, but she has left our rates alone and would like to eliminate alcohol. Saturday night is $400 and Sunday is $250.

Ms. Burke-Miller said she ran copies of the three biggest funds including General fund, Police/Fire and the Senior Center. She changed the salaries from 3% down to 0%. They cut into the Fire Department for on-call fire fighters. They dipped into the Senior Center fund balance by $50,000 to help offset the money coming in from General Fund. The projected fund balance for June 30th is $2.5 million. Looking at the beginning audited balance we were at $2.7 with a difference of $200,000.

Mr. Martinbianco said he wondered why they are not being conservative, at least in the beginning stages.

Mr. Smith asked how much in cuts Ms. Burke-Miller was looking to take out of the General Fund.

Ms. Burke-Miller said the difference now to keep us on an even keel with what the audited fund balance was as of June 30, 2011 is $100,876.00.

Mr. Heffner asked how much the 80/20 would save us.

Ms. Burke-Miller said it would get us there.

Mr. Martinbianco said that could be equated to bargaining in bad faith. We talked back in December and sent a clear message to our bargaining units about our position. He thought the consensus of the Council was to not take it on all at once.

Mr. Wells said it was not taken lightly. The majority of the Council said we should not try to balance everything on the backs of the employees.

Mr. Smith said the General Fund is at $2.6 million. If we were to make no future cuts, we would have to go into our General Fund by over $100,000.

Ms. Burke-Miller said we would have to add back in Ms. Johnson's $31,000 making it $131,000.

Mr. O'Keefe says he has a pretty good comfort level with that number.

Mr. Heffner said he is concerned about MERS. The mistake of a past Council should not affect our employees.

Mayor Zelenko said she would bring all the information before Council in the beginning of July.

Mr. Heffner said he is concerned about the employees.

Mr. Wells said no one could have imagined what was to happen twenty years down the line. We cannot continue to absorb the hit of the $6 million in properties.

Mr. Smith said he doesn't want to make any more cuts. We are down 84 employees and can't afford anymore cut.

Mayor Zelenko said she is continuing with cross training and implementing new equipment and software.

Mr. Wells asked about PEG money.

Mayor Zelenko replied PEG money means they could get their Council meetings aired for free, but would still have to pay for the filming and production.

Mr. Wells said that would be $5,000, which would include uploading it to the website. We all agree we want transparency in the governmental meetings.

Ms. Ellenburg said they should check with Flint Township and see where exactly where the money is coming from.

Mr. Martinbianco listed the issues that still need to be discussed regarding the budget.

Mr. Heffner said they should fund the house on Saginaw St. out of the DDA budget.

Mr. Wells said it would take a few thousand and some volunteer work to fix up the house.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.
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