

**BOROUGH OF MOUNT ARLINGTON
SPECIAL COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2007
5:45 PM**

1. Call to Order

- 2. Adequate notice** of this Special Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington was given as required by the Open Meetings Act as follows: Notice was published in the Daily Record and the Roxbury Register on February 1, 2007; notice was posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building on January 23, 2007 and said notice is on file in the office of the Borough Clerk.

3. Flag Salute

The Mayor asked for a moment of silence for the safe return of our troops overseas.

4. Roll Call

Councilwoman Mulligan, Councilman Doran, Councilwoman Cerasoli, Council President Driscoll, Councilman Stone, Mayor Ondish. JoAnne Sendler, Borough Administrator, and Allan Dickinson, CFO, were also present. Councilman Sorge was absent due to illness.

5. Open to Public

6. Budget Discussion

- JoAnne Sendler stated that she and Allan Dickinson have been working diligently on the budget and have taken well over \$100,000 out of the capital budget. Allan Dickinson stated we have to assume state aid is going to be the same as last year but we won't know that number until July. Ms. Sendler stated that she has spoken with the Department Heads who have been more than accommodating and understanding and each finding their own way to cut budgets. Since the last Council Meeting, Ms. Sendler sent a memorandum to employees indicating no purchases other than urgencies were to be made. Ms. Sendler asked the Council if the budget introduction could be put off until at least April or May. Mr. Dickinson intends to speak to Bud Jones about the possibility of having a bond sale in the summer, which would mean we would not have to put payment of notes in this budget. Ms. Sendler stated that she needs to cut \$420,000 to get to two-cents; Mr. Dickinson stated that two-cents is unrealistic. Ms. Sendler stated that she and Mr. Dickinson are not prepared to give Council all the information yet in order for the Council to make an educated vote on this budget. Ms. Sendler stated we need some more time as things are in the air with a couple of developers which will impact on how we move forward, dollar-wise, and plus we need to understand what will happen with the 4% cap – will it hit us next year; to reduce this budget this year and not to be able to go forward next year could be a huge mistake. Ms. Sendler stated that we cannot anticipate funds we did not get, the best we can do is maybe take a chance in the debt area if we see that Kara is building. Mr. Dickinson stated that the new state tax refund is based on an individuals complete tax bill, factoring in income. Mr. Dickinson stated that a Mount Arlington resident who uses a minimum amount of water will be paying \$120 less this year than last year, but not every resident is on Mount Arlington water. Ms. Sendler stated that the taxes we did not get from Kara were post-bankruptcy; we can potentially sue to get that money back. Ms. Sendler stated that we anticipated exactly what the taxes were from Kara, but they never paid them; if we do not get the money from last year, we cannot anticipate it for this year or next year. However, if they are paid up this year, we can anticipate the taxes we received in 2007 for the budget of 2008. Mr. Dickinson stated that when we don't collect the taxes it affects us in two ways – we do not have the surplus to use next year and we can't anticipate collecting for the following year.

7. Executive Session

2007-29 Resolution of the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Mount Arlington, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Authorizing Conference of the Mayor and Borough Council with the Public Excluded.

Motion to Go into Executive Session: Councilman Stone.

Second: Councilwoman Mulligan.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

Motion to Go into Open Session: Councilman Doran.

Second: Councilwoman Cerasoli.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

8. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Councilman Doran.

Second: Councilwoman Mulligan.

All in Favor – Aye; None Opposed.

Motion Approved.

Linda DeSantis, RMC
Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved at Council Meeting of February 26, 2007.