

March 1, 2004

A special 2004 Budget work session meeting was held on the above date. Mayor Martin presiding.

PRESENT: Council members Daniel, Villari, Smyth, Cesaretti, Alls-Moffat and Borough Auditor Robert Stewart

ABSENT: Council member Gilmore

The following statement was read by Mayor Martin:

Public notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given by the Municipal Clerk in the following manner:

(a) Having written notification of this meeting published in the Burlington County Times on February 18, 2004

(b) Posting written notice on the official bulletin board on February 25, 2004

Mr. Stewart distributed revenue and expenditure listings for Council to review.

Mr. Stewart reported that presently we are looking at a proposed tax increase of 21.9 cents. This includes an additional 9,000.00 in state aid for this year.

Mr. Stewart explained that the substantial increase is due in part because of a loss of revenue, a decrease in interest rates, police salaries (contractual) and proposed projects to be capitalized (in particular the proposed purchase of a new fire ladder truck. Mr. Stewart reviewed how the bonding process works and what would be required statutorily.

Council then reviewed in detail all of the individual line items to determine where cuts could be made. One of the suggestions was for Council to decline their stipend.

Council queried Scott Reed, Public Works Manager and Fire Chief about his proposed budgets and Chief Norcross about his budget.

Council also discussed proposed across the board salary increases of either 2.12% or 4% for Borough employees not covered by a bargaining unit. Mrs. Villari informed Council that the Streets and Roads Manager was asking for a 5% salary increase for his department. Mr. Reed is also requesting that he be given overtime pay. Council also discussed specific salary (hourly) for the Tax Clerk and Police Secretary. A lengthy discussion then ensued, with no definitive decisions. Mr. Stewart reported that with some of the cuts made here tonight, the proposed tax increase was at 0.204. Council will hold another budget work session on March 15 to discuss and resolve the outstanding issue. The Borough's Auditor will be present at this meeting.

Mr. Stewart also recommended that Council adopt the "Cap Ordinance". Council agreed to this.

ORDINANCE 2-04

"CAP" ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERTON TO EXCEED INDEX RATE: INDEX RATE LESS THAN 5% LIMITATION FOR THE YEAR 2004 (N.J.S. 40A4-45.14)

The above Ordinance was read for the first time by title only by Mr. Smyth, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Cesaretti. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye, Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Gilmore absent, Mr. Mr. Cesaretti aye and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye. It should be noted that second reading and a public hearing on this Ordinance is scheduled for April 14 at 7:00pm.

At this time Mr. Smyth moved that the meeting be adjourned. This was seconded by Mr. Cesaretti, with all present voting in the affirmative.

Mary Longbottom, RMC
Municipal Clerk