

**BOROUGH OF ROCKY HILL
COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2008**

The special meeting was called to order by Mayor Edward Zimmerman at 7:30 PM followed by the salute to the Flag.

NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The following notice was read into the record by Mayor Zimmerman: This special meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notices of this meeting were faxed to the Courier News and Messenger Gazette on February 5, 2008. In addition, copy of said notice was posted accordingly and filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk on aforementioned date. Notices on the bulletin boards have remained continuously posted.

CALL OF THE ROLL

Mr. James Banks-*present*, Mr. Brian Griner-*present*, Ms. Linda Goldman-*present*, Mr. William Hallman-*present*, Ms. Julia Hasser-*present*, Ms. Courtney White-*present*.

Also in attendance: Borough Auditor Bob Morrison, CFO Ross Bobal.

BUDGET WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

It was noted that the statutory date for the introduction of calendar year budgets has been extended to March 10, 2008. Mayor Zimmerman suggested that the budget workshop process should begin earlier (Nov./Dec.) for the upcoming budget years. A draft budget modeled after last year's budget was provided.

Discussion ensued regarding possible increases in the expenditures portion of the budget to include (but not limited to): general administration, park maintenance, liability insurance, aid to fire and rescue, buildings and grounds, legal expenses. State mandated and in-house increases in the pension fund contributions was noted. It was noted by Auditor Morrison that the Borough will fulfill the unfunded pension liability obligation by 2009. A 3% salary increase for most employees was discussed. An overview of the grant monies received, expended, and remaining was provided. Status of the capital improvement fund and anticipated capital projects over the next three years was discussed. Financing of the new fire truck was discussed, i.e., purchasing, financing, securing grant monies. The Water/Sewer operating account was reviewed and it was noted that there are surplus monies in that account which can be transferred to the general operating account.

An overview of the revenues portion of the budget was provided. The tax collection rate for 2007 is estimated to be 99+%. Discussion ensued regarding the impact on the budget and tax rate due to the levy cap being imposed by the State along with the possibility of losing state aid. The potential need for a modest increase in the municipal tax was discussed.

Recommendations will be incorporated by Auditor Morrison into final form for introduction at the March 3, 2008, Council meeting.

(Council member *Griner left the meeting at 9:00 PM and returned at 9:30 PM.*)

FEBRUARY 18, 2008
PAGE 2

OPEN TO PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion was made by Griner with a second by Banks to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM. All voted in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna M. Griffiths, RMC
Borough Clerk