

**BOROUGH OF LAVALLETTE (minutes)**  
**BUDGET MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
**LAVALLETTE MUNICIPAL BUILDING – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**Wednesday, April 15, 2009 – 4:05 pm**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Walter LaCicero, presiding

**ROLL CALL:** Council Members Wenzel, Zalom, Stogdill and Filippone  
Councilman Horan and Lamb were not present

Also present: Christopher F. Parlow, Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk  
Donnelly Amico, Deputy Municipal Clerk  
Michele Burk, Chief Financial Officer

**READING OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT:** Notice of this meeting complies with the Open Public Meetings Act. Public Notice was given to the Asbury Park Press and the Ocean Star. Notice was posted on the Municipal bulletin board and the Municipal Website.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP:**

Councilwoman Wenzel stated that the last everyone spoke about at the last budget meeting was that we needed to cut \$237,000 off the budget so we should go back to our department heads and do some cutting. In the interim, Mr. Parlow put in his proposal for cuts because no one had got back to him on their proposal.

She was surprised to see the biggest cuts in Mr. Parlow's proposal were in the Public Works Department with the biggest cut being the loss of two laborer positions the department was going to hire. Her opinion on this is that there are other cuts that could have been done without downsizing the department.

Mayor LaCicero stated that just to be clear he and other Council members had discussed this proposal with Mr. Parlow. Mr. Parlow compiled this proposal with guidance from him and also some Council Members. We are trying to obtain a flat rate with this budget so we tried to avoid hurting our employees by using the laborer positions because there is no face or name to the positions as of yet.

Councilwoman Wenzel stated that she understood that aspect of it and agrees with that part however with the new garbage schedule the department will need more hands which means more laborers. She stated that everyone should understand that the laborers due a number of tasks down at the yard. If someone is out we take another laborer and put them in that area temporarily. The position of laborer allows us a lot of flexibility. Her recommendation is to cut a part-time position rather than cutting a full time laborer position.

Mayor LaCicero stated that it makes it a lot easier to cut a title without a name attached.

Councilwoman Wenzel stated that cutting two full time laborer hires is definitely shortchanging the department. You could look at other areas like summer wages or construction repairs. Areas that might hurt us but we can still function properly.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that she was concerned with how the recycling center was going to keep running as well as it is now for the residents if we cut that part timer position.

Councilwoman Wenzel stated that a laborer would cover that position. The service to the residents would stay the same.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that the reasoning behind the cutting of the two full time hires makes sense being that there is no name attached and also you have been working around not having those two positions all this time.

Councilwoman Wenzel stated that the department has managed without filling those two positions as of yet and we have already saved the taxpayers a bunch of money by doing so.

Council President Zalom stated that Public Works has had so many extra jobs added to their workload and they have been doing it with two people short already. No matter what she has asked of them, they get it done in a timely manner without hesitation. She would hate to see this department as well as the employees doing all these jobs being shortchanged. The day of the big snowstorm they managed to get all the streets plowed and collect the garbage all in the same day.

Mr. Parlow explained that his proposal not only removed the two full time positions but also removed the budgeted secretary promotion and a laborer promoted to equipment machine operator / mechanic. The total of those cuts were \$6,875.00. He also did not have any changes to the salary and wage budget to account for the receipt of the Clean Communities Grant, which was \$7,900. The Superintendent stated that this amount could be removed from the salary and wage budget. Mr. Parlow stated that if the two full-time positions are included in the budget in the amount of \$17,400 each and hire them at mid year that would still be a deduction in the budget to \$217,075. On the Superintendent also proposed removing \$2,000 in the garbage other expense account, \$6,000 from the recycling trust by to pay for the benches and \$2,000 from parks and playgrounds. This would leaves only \$14,000 left in cuts to reach \$237,000.

Mr. Parlow stated that additional money may need to be added to the budget to void the contract with Kerwin Communications. Therefore, he is going to have to increase a budget line to do that.

Councilwoman Filippone stated that maybe we could fill one full time employee and supplement the other at an hourly rate.

Mayor LaCicero commended Councilwoman Wenzel for fighting for her department. What we need to know right now is what guidelines are we under with introducing this budget within a certain time period.

Mr. Parlow stated that since the Borough does not apply for any discretionary aid there are no limitations. We only have \$14,000 left to cut so we are doing pretty well.

Mayor LaCicero stated that he will find out this week how much we are going to be responsible for with the Kerwin Contract.

Mr. Parlow stated that solid waste and fuel has stayed the same. We did not give the Fire Department the extra money they were requesting in their budget. We need to look at ways to increase our revenue since the advertising is not going to happen.

Councilwoman Wenzel stated that she thinks we have terrific services in town which we strive hard to maintain. We are going to save some money with the energy audits as well as street lighting when she applies for a grant for solar street lights. Another way to save money for the town is going to the ERT meters for electric like the water/sewer and our guys can even do the installation. That will save us money in salaries and wages in the electric budget.

Mayor LaCicero stated that we are going to keep the tax rate flat this year and he thinks that says a lot about this town. He asked Michele Burk how much money was one point.

Michele Burk stated that \$182,000 is one point.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Wenzel to adjourn the Meeting. The Motion was seconded by Council President Zalom. All were in Favor. The Motion passed. The Meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm.

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Christopher F. Parlow, Municipal Clerk of the Borough of Lavallette, County of Ocean, State of New Jersey do hereby attest these to be a true copy of the minutes of the Budget Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on the **15th** day of **April 2009**.

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**Christopher F. Parlow**  
**Municipal Clerk**