

BOROUGH OF HIGHLAND PARK

BUDGET WORKSHOP

MARCH 27, 2018 – 6:00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor; Council Members (except Councilman George); Borough Administrator; Borough Clerk; Chief Financial Officer.

Borough Administrator Jover noted the following:

- 2.4% tax increase for municipal purposes. The average tax bill will increase approximately \$91.85.
- Would have had to cut \$400,000 for a flat rate.
- After meeting with Department Heads cut \$141,000 as follows:
 - \$7,500 from Information Technology
 - \$32,000 – eliminated QPQ position
 - \$8,000 from Police OE
 - \$3,000 from OEM
 - \$30,000 from Library – Borough gives Library over \$1.2 million and is only required to give them \$448,000.

Mayor Brill Mittler would like Councilman Fine to ask the Library Board to think about ways to cut their budget.

CFO Ron Gardner outlined the school, county and borough tax rates and how they are arrived at. County increase is approximately \$70, school increase is approximately \$252 and the Borough increase is approximately \$91.

Discussion about short term notes.

Discussion about water and sewer budget. \$4.2 million was budgeted in 2017 and only \$3.5 million was collected. Deficit in collection caused the Borough to do an emergency in December for \$400,000. Borough collected \$3.7 million in 2016. 250 units were anticipated to come on Board in 2017. There was a significant decrease in water consumption in 2017.

Discussion of action plan to handle this deficit and also discussion of better management of the Water & Sewer Department.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Hullings, Borough Clerk