

**JANUARY 28, 2020
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

The Work Session of the Board of Commissioners of the Borough of Cape May Point was called to order by Mayor Moffatt at 12:00 PM. The Open Public Meetings Statement was read by the Mayor who then led those present in the flag salute. Mayor Moffatt, Commissioner Mullock and Commissioner vanHeeswyk answered roll call. Also in attendance: Administrator Steve O'Connor, Clerk Elaine Wallace, and Solicitor Brock Russell.

BUDGET DISCUSSION WITH CFO JIM CRAFT:

The Commissioners and the CFO went through the budget work sheets and discussed each department and its proposed appropriations for 2020. As proposed, the budget would be a 1.25 cent tax increase - Revenue and Finance would increase \$715, Public Safety would go up \$33,000, mostly due to lifeguard and beach tag salaries, and Public Works would increase \$42,400. While reviewing the capital budget there was discussion on options to fund the Yale Avenue project. The proposed Water Sewer budget contains an increase of \$4,000, but the budget is tight. Commissioner Mullock stated a rate increase may be necessary, per Borough ordinance, due to increased water and sewer charges. Commissioner vanHeeswyk asked if everyone could look at their budget to see if they could be pared down to limit the possible tax increase. Commissioner Mullock wondered if having small increase this year and the following might be a wise approach to build a good surplus cushion in case there were a major event such as a storm. The budget should be ready for introduction at the February 13th meeting, with adoption scheduled for March 12th.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: The drainage piping for the Pearl/Brainard/Yale project should be done at beginning of March. Paving for this project and Ocean/Pavilion/Central will be done when the asphalt plants reopen. The Borough Engineer contacted the Lake Lily landscaping contractor and they will come and stake down the bent trees. Lastly, the Engineer's office is trying to get action with the County Roads Department on the traffic calming measures. If something doesn't happen in the new few weeks, the Borough may have to sit down with Freeholder Morey.

COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION (NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS)

Commissioner vanHeeswyk reported on the CRS 5-year update. There have been big changes over the last 5 years, which make getting points more difficult. These changes mean the Borough may lose 5 points this year. There are changes proposed for 2023 that could result in the Borough losing all its points and qualifying for no flood insurance premium discounts.

Mayor Moffat spoke about having a petition to keep Gina Coulson as the Borough's postal worker and asked the Taxpayers Association to put it out. Taxpayers' Association President Connie Campanella said advocating is against their 501.3.c status. The executive board would have to vote to permit. In addition, there is the larger issue of keeping the post office, that is of greater concern than the employee

that would staff it. Ms. Campanella suggested sending a letter of commendation rather than a petition and getting involved in an external employment issue. Commissioner vanHeeswyk agreed with that approach over a petition.

Mayor Moffatt read correspondence from Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions and asked the Board to consider an ordinance about banning single use plastic. The commissioners agreed with the idea.

RESOLUTIONS:

- 31-20 Appointing Class III Member of the Planning Board
Motions: Moffatt, vanHeeswyk
Roll call: all in favor
- 32-20 Authorizing Executive/Closed Session in Accordance with the Provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, Specifically N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(b): Contract Negotiations – Borough Engineer for 2020
Motions: Mullock, Moffatt
Roll call: all in favor
- 33-20 Approval of Emergency Operation Plan
Motions: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt
Roll call: all in favor
- 34-20 Approval of Bill List
Motions: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt
Roll call: all in favor
- 35-20 Approval of 2019 Update to the Atlantic-Cape Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (MPPI)
Motions: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt
Roll call: all in favor

MAYORAL APPOINTMENT:

Planning Board

- Catherine Busch – Class II member – 3-year term expiring January 31, 2023
Motions: vanHeeswyk, Moffatt
Roll call: all in favor

PUBLIC PORTION:

Catherine Busch felt Commissioner Mullock's statements about small tax increases to keep up with projects, be able to pay lifeguards and other staff enough to keep them, and being able to set aside money for emergencies was sound. She also suggested the Borough look into whether there was a way to assist residents who couldn't afford increased taxes.

Connie Campanella asked if the Board could use more surplus to try to eliminate the tax increase. Commissioner vanHeeswyk was hesitant to do so, feeling the surplus is what makes the Borough financially strong and able to handle possible

emergencies. In addition, this year is a sand replenishment, and if the Federal portion is not properly funded, the Borough could have a greater financial burden.

Mike Keosky commended the Commissioners and the Borough's financial team for doing a great job keeping property taxes down.

Mary Kelly asked how new homes and ratables are added. The increase in ratables was roughly 1.5% this year. The ratables are determined by the assessor, not necessarily by sale price. She also asked when the last revaluation was done. It was about 6 years ago, required by the County because the Borough's assessed values were out of line with the County's table of equalized values. Commissioner Mullock stated the increase in ratables was about \$7 million, with total valuation around \$465 million.

When no one else wished to speak, the meeting was recessed into closed session at 1:24 pm and reconvened at 1:34 pm on motion of Commissioner vanHeeswyk, seconded by Mayor Moffatt. No action was taken as a result of closed session.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 pm on motion of Commissioner vanHeeswyk, seconded by Mayor Moffatt.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted:

Elaine L. Wallace, RMC, CMR
Municipal Clerk

Commissioner Mullock

Commissioner vanHeeswyk

Mayor Moffatt