

BUDGET MEETING MARCH 27, 2010

Mayor Tedeschi called the meeting to order at 8:37 A.M.

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, annual notice of all meetings of the Borough of Fair Lawn was published in the Record issues of December 18, 2009. Notices were also posted on the bulletin board located on the first floor of the Municipal Building and the Maurice Pine Free Public Library. Copies were mailed to The Community News and posted on the Borough of Fair Lawn Website. The annual notice identified the times and locations of the Council meetings and work sessions.

PRESENT: Mayor Tedeschi, Deputy Mayor Weinstein and Councilmembers Baratta and Trawinski.

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Swain

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Manager Kwasniewski, Assistant Municipal Clerk Bojanowski, CFO Palermo and James Cerullo, Borough Auditor.

BUDGET REVIEW

Fire Department

Chief Cicchella introduced Assistant Chief Hoitsma, Deputy Chief Reame and Battalion Chief Greco. Acting Manager Kwasniewski referred to Page 20 and stated that the request has been cut back to the 2009 level in an attempt to balance the budget.

Mayor Tedeschi asked CFO Palermo to give an overview so that everyone understands the Borough's financial picture. CFO Palermo explained that even when the budget was moved back to the 2009 figures, the Borough is still \$1.1 million over the cap limit. The Borough remains in financial trouble which requires additional cuts. Taxes for the Borough are going up \$3.3 million even with the additional cuts. Acting Manager Kwasniewski stated that Chief Cicchella is aware that this is going to be a bad year that has been compounded with the additional cuts by the governor.

Councilmembers discussed the insurance policy and death benefits that covers fire department members. There was confusion since this insurance is in addition to JIF and CFO Palermo will get more information. Rent is for the use of the company owned fire houses and Acting Manager Kwasniewski reduced the rent back to the previous levels in the hopes that this will be acceptable.

CFO Palermo asked if the required training is an annual expense. Chief Cicchella explained that the firemen have to take certain training courses every year and any new members have different training criteria. Councilmember Trawinski asked if the annual training was State mandated and Chief Cicchella said that it is. He asked CFO Palermo to make a list of what the town is paying for that is actually State mandated. Mayor Tedeschi said it is his feeling that if the money is taken away, State mandates should be eliminated. He noted that there is a Council on Unfunded Mandates and he was told

that only been two or three claims had ever been filed. Deputy Mayor Weinstein recognized the importance of this training and he asked that the departments give input on the training that they believe is necessary in order to properly provide the services. Mayor Tedeschi suggested that the Council pass a resolution requesting that the cost of any State mandated course should be calculated outside of the caps. Last year they identified \$414,000 worth of State mandates. Deputy Mayor Weinstein explained that the State would have the ability to understand that what they require as necessary may not be if the experts in the departments give their opinions on the mandates. Councilmembers agreed that this resolution should be passed.

Mayor Tedeschi referred to the radio service and asked Acting Manager Kwasniewski why it had been cut back. Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that the adjustment was made to get under the cap. Chief Cicchella said it is difficult to determine whether or not this is realistic because no one can predict how many pagers or, portable radios are going to break. He said that one of the items in capital is the replacement of some pagers which are well beyond their life expectancy. Chief Cicchella stressed the importance of new pagers.

Chief Cicchella pointed out that the \$4,825 collected in fines is supposed to be added to their budget by law. He reported that the State has increased the death benefit from \$9,200 to \$9,500 which is beyond their control.

Councilmember Baratta asked about the CAD equipment and Chief Cicchella said that that next phase is to get laptops for all of the fire apparatus. The CAD System is operating in Rescue but not in any of the firehouses. Deputy Mayor Weinstein said that each firehouse has one fax number and he thinks there should be a second phone number. Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that they are no longer using the fax machine and communication is done wirelessly. Deputy Chief Reame said they have purchased a printer which is linked to the Police Department and which sends a typed message through an internet based electronic device. This is still slow and inconsistent and can't be used as a reliable tool. Deputy Mayor Weinstein stated that the laptop would be a big improvement. Deputy Chief Reame said that he feels that the Police Department is not on board because this would take hours of time and a lot of input from many different people to make it work. Councilmember Trawinski said that the system was purchased in order to interface and facilitate communications between the Fire and Police Departments.

Deputy Chief Reame said that there was a meeting between the departments and it was decided that they needed to get the rip and run into the firehouses. The department did look at the Spellman demonstration, however, it continues to come down to money and he added that making it work for the Fire Department is totally different than having it work for the Police Department.

Councilmember Baratta stated that the main selling point is that it would integrate with fire, police, rescue, ambulance and emergency management. She said that there seems to be a problem of inputting data that needs to be rectified. She asked the Acting Manager to obtain a status report from the Police Department on this system.

Mayor Tedeschi agreed with Councilmember Baratta in that someone has to put this system together so that everyone is on the same page.

Chief Cicchella said that if there could be a laptop in every fire apparatus Jay Bender's entire data base could be downloaded. The system could be manually updated when necessary. Councilmember Trawinski said he is not in favor of a patch solution and the idea was to have an integrated data base. Mayor Tedeschi said he would support an implementation plan.

Deputy Mayor Weinstein said that this is a time consuming situation and whenever something new is being implemented it is the setting up of the system that takes so long. He feels that it is a priority to get every emergency crew up and running through the system.

Chief Cicchella said they have eight laptops and Councilmember Baratta asked for the cost of the software in the budget. She also requested the cost of the Spellman module. Councilmember Trawinski said that it is obvious that the department needs the data at the scene and the Council needs to make this happen.

Councilmember Baratta recalled the confidentiality between the Police and Fire Departments and Chief Cicchella said that the Police have to allow access to their information, which is one of the reasons why the system has gone nowhere. Mayor Tedeschi indicated his support of the concept provided there is a plan and everyone is willing to contribute. Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that the \$50,000 should adequately complete the project. Deputy Mayor Weinstein said that they need to know exactly when it will be completed.

Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that the first priority was to get the system running for the Police Department, however, it was derailed and she will get it back on track.

Councilmember Trawinski asked Chief Cicchella how many pagers he wanted to purchase. Chief Cicchella said that each pager is just over \$600 and he was hoping to get about fifteen. Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that they will get as many as they can for \$1,200 if the Council leaves the amount unchanged. Chief Cicchella said that this request will be ongoing through 2014. He said that they have had a lot of recent recruits; however, providing the equipment becomes costly. He pointed out that there is a new NFPA requirement that turn out gear must be retired after it is ten years old. He had requested \$4,000 for carbon monoxide meter, however, he would like to put this amount towards new equipment.

Chief Cicchella distributed information and explained each fire house replaces their primary engine every 15 years and 20 years for a ladder truck. The oldest engine in the fleet is Engine 5 and there are only four vehicles in the Borough that are over 20 years old. Engine 5 is the only apparatus with an open cab which means that there is no climate control, however, there is heat. The engine cab only holds 6 people and the other apparatus holds 10. It is 25 years old and the NFPA says that a department cannot have any first line apparatus over 30 years of age. If a new engine were

approved today it would be two years before it would be in service. Chief Cicchella added that the price for this type of equipment increases 7% every year.

Councilmember Trawinski said that people are already asking why there is more fire equipment in all of Bergen County than there is in New York City. He encouraged the Fire Department to take the lead and find out what neighboring community might need a similar piece of replacement equipment and if this could be done on a shared services basis. Chief Cicchella said that this is not a cut and dry situation and if there was a disruption in communication he wouldn't know how many people and apparatus are available in the different stations. Councilmember Trawinski said that although he understands the situation and supports the department, the people of Fair Lawn and the State will no longer be supportive. State or County wide paid Fire Departments may be the next step.

Deputy Mayor Weinstein recommended doing an analysis of the cost of a paid fire department over the next five to ten years and compare it to the projected cost of a volunteer department. Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that this needs to go on the lower end of the priority scale.

Mayor Tedeschi stated that volunteers are the glue that keeps the community alive. In Trenton, they are missing the essence of the community and he disagrees with the governor in the draconian way these various cuts are being made. Councilmembers agreed to the analysis recommended by Deputy Mayor Weinstein.

Mayor Tedeschi said that he couldn't support a fire truck at this time. Mayor Tedeschi commented that he has participated in drafting many budgets but he has never experienced anything like this. Mayor Tedeschi asked if they could do a comparison between a generic truck and a custom truck. Chief Cicchella pointed out that the 2010 emission standards requirements have added \$30,000 to the cost of the truck.

Chief Cicchella said that there are four fire chiefs and only three chief vehicles. He is hoping for a fourth car. After some discussion, Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that, in the case of an older car, there are expenses associated with maintenance. Chief Cicchella noted that when he joined the department 29 years ago the department had 10 vehicles and now they have 11. All of the other emergency services departments have grown significantly over the years except for the Fire Department. He suggested taking a vehicle from the maintenance garage where there are five vehicles and three employees. Deputy Mayor Weinstein said that if there is a spare vehicle that is owned by the town it should be used. Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that they need to look at all of the vehicles in every department.

Office of Emergency Management and Rescue

Acting Manager Kwasniewski referred to page 26. OEM Director Marks thanked the Council for their kind words at the last Council meeting. OEM Director Marks introduced

Rescue Chief Eric Van Kruiningen; Auxiliary Police Chief, Nick Magarelli; OEM Deputies Wendy Damerowski, Jim Van Kruiningen and Neil Shore.

Mayor Tedeschi questioned the salaries and OEM Director Marks said that he and Ms. Demeraski receive a salary. Acting Manager Kwasniewski stated that the part time secretary in the Fire Prevention Department resigned and was not replaced. Ms. Demeraski assumed those duties. She does spend part of her time in Fire Prevention and this expense could be apportioned to be more accurate. Councilwoman Baratta questioned the overtime and Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that this must be an error.

Councilmember Trawinski asked about the batteries in the siren system. Director Marks said that this is listed under capital. He noted that most of Radburn was without power for two to three days during the recent storm. Land line phones weren't working because wires were down and cell phones worked until the batteries went dead and they couldn't be recharged. The siren system would work to notify residents in the event of an emergency. OEM had looked at purchasing this system but not the cost to maintain it. They could contact vendors regarding the cost of system maintenance and a maintenance schedule. Director Marks suggested that \$1,000 a year could be budgeted so that it is not a major expense.

Deputy Mayor Weinstein recommended an analysis because the system is in place and should be available. He felt that this is a priority and they need to see if it can be incorporated into the budget. Councilmember Trawinski agreed. Upon questioning, Director Marks said that the system has been down for 2½ years and Mayor Tedeschi said that the Borough has managed without it and there are alternatives. Several Councilmembers recalled that the announcement on the siren was so muffled that they couldn't make it out and Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that she wouldn't recommend spending any money on repairing it.

Councilmember Trawinski asked when there would be another emergency preparedness drill. Jim Van Krunejian that they are planning a drill to involve the entire emergency services organizations and the Mutual Aid system, in the summer or fall.

The Council discussed radios and pagers and Councilmember Trawinski asked if these devices were interchangeable between departments. Director Marks explained that on January 1, 2013, the Federal government has mandated a change of band width and many of the older pagers will not work after that date. They are being forced to replace radios and they hope to spread the cost of replacement pagers over two years. The Auxiliary Police have just received new radios that will function when the change occurs. Councilmember Trawinski asked if they should try to get the best unit prices by purchasing in bulk for these various devices such as laptops and pagers. Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that they try to do the purchasing under the State Contract. Acting Manager Kwasniewski reported that the Borough will not be receiving the federal grant for \$70,000. She stated that there doesn't seem to be any other grant money available, however, she will continue to search. Senator Rothman had advised the Borough that funding would be available and only the projects with the proper qualifications were included, however, she is not hopeful at this point.

Chief Van Kruiningen stated that the boat should be replaced and he said he would forgo the confined space use of \$12,000 in order to do this. A 13 ½ ft. inflatable boat could be purchased for just under \$12,000 and the existing motor could be used. Councilmembers agreed to the purchase of a replacement boat and this price will include the replacement of the trailer.

Chief Van Kruiningen referred to the overhaul of the portable radios and he said that \$4,000 is enough to fully upgrade the system in Rescue 4 with the appropriate band width. They will need \$6,000 next year to complete the job and this was included in the five year plan.

Chief Van Kruiningen stated that they are considering a prefab building and it is the preparation, such as sprinklers, which adds to the cost. He has a price of \$18,000 to demolish and remove the old building and prepare the site for the new building. Mr. Van Kruiningen said that they met with the High School and Jim Graff and have determined that to build and occupy the building within a year would cost \$150,000. The membership has asked that the Borough fund at least half of the project. Councilmember Trawinski recalled that the Council had committed to fund \$80,000 of the project contingent upon the sale of the Heights Building.

Deputy Mayor Weinstein recommended budgeting for the \$80,000 because this is a priority and the cost will only increase if the project is postponed. The property will eventually be sold to cover the initial financial outlay. There was a consensus by Councilmembers directing Acting Manager Kwasniewski to change the figure in the budget from \$40,000 to \$80,000 and to remove the \$70,000. The trailer costs the Borough \$95 per month and it will be needed for at least another year.

CFO Palermo said she would look into how a payment to the Rescue Squad would affect the bond law. Councilmember Trawinski noted that the Council guaranteed the bond for the Community Center and this is the same type of process. Chief Van Kruiningen will meet with the CFO to iron out the details.

Chief Van Kruiningen said that he did not add the cost of the CAD software. He asked the Council to move forward with the purchase of the software and Mayor Tedeschi agreed that this makes sense.

Chief Magarelli reported that everything is running well with the Auxiliary Police.

Ambulance

Acting Manager Kwasniewski referred to Page 40 which describes the Ambulance Operating Budget. She introduced Gail Cebular, President of the Ambulance Squad and Dan Furphy. Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that this budget remains the same as 2009.

Acting Manager Kwasniewski explained that in order to reduce costs, the Borough is looking into proposals for ambulance billing service. The insurance company would be billed and if a resident doesn't have insurance they will not be required to pay for the

ambulance service. The private billing service will send out the bill and not the Ambulance Corps. Mr. Furphy stated that there would be information in the Explanation of Benefits section of the bill indicating that the service has been paid for by the insurance company. Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that other towns have implemented this system and this could bring in between \$200,000 and \$300,000 as a revenue item. Mr. Furphy expressed concern that the fund drive could suffer as a result of residents being charged this service. He pointed out that fund raising has declined already. Mayor Tedeschi said that the Council could consider supplementing the Ambulance Corps to the amount of their average fund raising. He suggested going back ten years to come up with an average dollar amount for fund raising and the Council could consider the remaining amount that would have to be supplemented. Acting Manager Kwasniewski reiterated that they are only exploring this option and an RFP was distributed to the Council for their review.

Mr. Furphy explained that another area of risk in the operational budget is that the line item for first aid supplies which has not been increased. He said that the police and OEM have asked them for First Aid supplies to supplement what they have and they have tried to help out.

Regarding capital, Mr. Furphy thanked the Council for funding the matching portion of the grant that was received for the radios. They have already discussed replacement of radios that is necessary due to the change in band frequency. They have requested \$950 for the replacement of two mobile radios.

Mr. Furphy said that they would be asking for a replacement ambulance next year because several vehicles are approaching 100,000 miles. Mayor Tedeschi commented that the revenue stream involved with the billing process could help to cover this cost. Mr. Furphy said that the service is abused from time to time and he pointed out that they visit the Broadway Adult Care on a daily basis and many of the calls do not involve elderly patients. He recommended billing non-residents for these calls. Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that it would be their responsibility to pay if they don't have insurance.

Councilmember Baratta pointed out that many surgeries or same day procedures are done in the industrial park areas of Fair Lawn and she asked if there were a lot of calls originating here. Mr. Furphy said that this is not the case with the exception of the dialysis.

Police

Chief Rose said that he recognizes that the Borough has to deal with the Governor's budget constraints and the Acting Manager has indicated that the officer who left the police department will not be replaced. The Borough will realize some savings because this was a highly paid officer. Chief Rose said that he has been asking for additional officers since 2004 and he will continue to ask for what he feels will allow the department to continue provide services to Fair Lawn residents. Chief Rose has continually asked for another police lieutenant slot since 2004. There will be two supervisory officers retiring in the summer and these officers must be replaced or more

overtime will be necessary. Overtime actually costs the town more money than hiring a new officer and these hirings will only be for a partial year.

Chief Rose referred to accreditation which can be expensive and time consuming; however, it can also be beneficial. There is a company that provides an accreditation officer to work one on one several days a week with the accreditation manager for a fee. This company is on County bid at a cost of \$34,000. He has spoken with the Prosecutor's Office who looks favorably on accreditation and who will allow the use of forfeiture funds to pay for the accreditation company. Chief Rose proposed adding a second lieutenant to act as an accreditation manager. He realizes these are difficult times, however, the nominal cost of this additional rank will allow the Police Department to move forward in order to avoid future problems.

Chief Rose said that there are two sergeants that are retiring this year and the Acting Manager has indicated that they will not be replaced. He recommended that supervisors be put in their place so that they do not have a case of supervisors working inappropriately and there is not a situation where people who are not supervisors are attempting to do the job of supervisors. This would involve the payment of overtime.

Chief Rose has consulted with the Accreditation Company who anticipates a 12 to 18 month training period. Accreditation is a commitment that must be maintained by both the Borough and the Department. Although this will require changes, Chief Rose feels it is the right way to go. He recommended that the sergeants who are retiring should be replaced with interim sergeants. He proposed promoting two sergeants to lieutenants to be determined by the Acting Manager. Two patrolmen would also be promoted to Sergeants, to be determined by the Acting Manager, based on the civil service list. Chief Rose stated that while he recognizes that this is an expense it is nominal based on the situation.

Mayor Tedeschi asked if Chief Rose could provide a written report regarding the cost of accreditation and certification. Mayor Tedeschi said that he believes in certification because it forces a review of all procedures and SOPs. The problem is that it costs money. Chief Rose stressed the importance of having an Accreditation Manager who stays. Mayor Tedeschi said that the Council needs to look at this separately from the budget and Chief Rose indicated that he would work on this with the CFO.

Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that she had discussed staggering the promotions over the next few years. She is also aware of an officer who wants to be promoted without being compensated at a higher rate at the moment. Chief Rose will check with the Department of Personnel to see if this would be possible. Mayor Tedeschi commented that this plan is costly and the department may not get the staffing that Chief Rose desires but they need to have a plan.

Councilmember Trawinski said that he realizes that Chief Cicchella would like to have a full staff of 64 officers; however, this will be difficult given the budget numbers. They need to factor in the savings involved with the retirement of the senior officers. Mayor Tedeschi said that an evaluation of the current number of patrol officers hasn't been done for 40 years. Deputy Mayor Weinstein said that accreditation would provide

different levels of status in the police department. Chief Rose stated that the upper level staff welcomes accreditation even though it is a lot of work.

Councilmember Baratta said that accreditation is important and asked that this topic be put on a work session agenda so that Chief Rose can discuss this in more detail. Acting Manager Kwasniewski remarked that this must be part of the budget. Councilmembers agreed to this course of action. CFO Palermo asked if the accreditation dictates the level of staffing and Chief Rose said that in certain places it would.

Mayor Tedeschi referred to 10-07, Special Projects and asked for information concerning the \$76,000 spent in 2006. CFO Palermo indicated she would get back to him. Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that \$14,000 was budgeted and she doesn't know how another \$50,000 was spent.

Deputy Mayor Weinstein asked about college credits and Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that this category has existed for 30 years and was never removed by former CFO Eccleston. Chief Rose explained that in the 1960s police were encouraged to get college degrees and they received \$17 for every college credit that was received. Acting Manager Kwasniewski pointed out this item is contained in the contract.

Mayor Tedeschi questioned 20-28 Contractual Services. CFO Palermo explained that there are several departments which have contractual expenses that are above and beyond the 2009 cut. These departments have had the annual service cost of their equipment included in capital expense and in 2010 multiple departments can no longer expense this contractual maintenance agreement because bond law requires that this can only be done in the first and second year. Mayor Tedeschi said he wanted to see how these services are contracted and what services make up this number. Chief Rose will provide this information.

Regarding clothing allowances, Mayor Tedeschi said that Acting Manager Kwasniewski has recommended \$3,000 less than what was requested. Chief Rose said that he doesn't anticipate any retiring officers to be replaced. He is proposing to decrease the clothing allowance from \$68,100 to \$62,100.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that any additional rank or interim sergeants created after July 1st would delay the implementation of the step for them until 2011. Chief Rose said that an officer promoted after July 1st would be entitled to a second step the following January; however, an officer promoted after July 1st would remain on the first step for the next calendar year and wouldn't be entitled to the second step until the following year. Therefore, there would be a savings to the Borough if the promotions were delayed until after July and this has been discussed with Acting Manager Kwasniewski. Mayor Tedeschi commented that any cuts that are made really only have a six month effect.

Councilmember Trawinski asked if the training money takes into account a sufficient amount of ammunition used to train at the range. Chief Rose said that it does and several weapons have been replaced. He reminded the Council that they received \$12,000 worth of rifles in a trade in at no cost to taxpayers. Councilmember Trawinski

asked why less was being budgeted for medical services. Chief Rose explained that they won't need as many tests because they are not hiring. The cost for medical testing increased from \$600 to \$1,200, however, he has no choice because it is only done at Hackensack Medical Center. CFO Palermo will find out if this is County mandated.

Acting Manager Kwasniewski noted that the body armor is a necessity and they have a grant for \$20,000 which is why the cost is \$61,000 and she added that the warranties expire in June. Captain Cook added that state money is also available and the cost came in at less than originally anticipated. The cost is now \$41,000 and covers current police and the auxiliary police.

Officer Mergler explained that the radio room is vintage 1986 and there are no parts left to use. Chief Rose explained that there is a radio repair contract, however, it doesn't cover everything and in many instances the parts are no longer available. There is no system back up and it involves police, fire, EMS and DPW communications. Acting Manager Kwasniewski is optimistic regarding the \$990,000 grant she is working on for the radios and the Borough would have to pay \$110,000 of the cost. She recommended exploring the possibility of putting a cell tower on the back of the building to replace the current tower which is 40 years old. Chief Rose agreed and pointed out that another source of revenue would be to lease space to cell phone carriers. Mayor Tedeschi said that even though cell towers have been discouraged in the Borough in the past they may be forced to revisit this option. Councilmember Trawinski recalled that whenever a tower is proposed the surrounding residents come out in force and the Borough does not go forward. Councilmember Baratta pointed out that they are replacing an existing tower. Councilmember Trawinski suggested that they find a carrier that would be willing to finance and build the tower while allowing it to house Borough equipment and he recommended an RFQ.

Chief Rose said that if a cell company was willing to build the tower he would go further and ask that this company provide complementary cell service for employees. This would be another area of savings for the Borough and Acting Manager Kwasniewski indicated that this provision could be part of the RFQ. Councilmembers agreed with this recommendation.

Chief Rose spoke about mobile driver license scanning devices, however, he feels that at this point dispatcher chairs are more important. The chairs in use now are seven years old and used all day, seven days a week. The Council agreed to the \$4,000 request for the chairs and \$1,000 will go towards the scanning devices.

Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that two cars have been included in the budget. Chief Rose listed the cars that had been purchased since 1982 and he reiterated that this is a bad year. The Borough of Cranford has a cooperative bidding process where half the price of the car is paid the first year; another half is paid the second year; and, \$1 is paid the last year, which avoids the year to year increase on the cost of a car.

Chief Rose said that he wasn't aware that the Fire Department wanted old police cars and they had planned on sending three cars to auction. He explained the type of cars that made the most sense for the police department and he stated that the Borough of Westwood leases several Mercury Milans which are a good size and get good gas mileage.

Following more discussion, Councilmember Trawinski suggested that this topic should be placed on the undecided list. He asked for an inventory of current vehicles and who drives Borough vehicles home.

Fireworks Display

This will be held off to a later date.

Miscellaneous Public Comments

Craig Miller, 5 Ramapo Terrace, said that he agreed with Mayor Tedeschi in that the Police Department shouldn't get any vehicles. People are being forced to hang onto their vehicles for longer periods and the police should as well. He asked if the Fire Department really needs all the vehicles that they have. Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that they probably do not. She pointed out that the cars belonging to Fire Prevention are quite old and it is cheaper to keep these cars running than it is to pay for mileage. She agreed that this is something to consider.

Vladimir Itkin, 4004 Tierney Place, stated that the Council is faced with a tough job. The Fire Department wants a new apparatus and it may make sense to begin putting money aside for these big expenses that don't occur every year. Mayor Tedeschi explained that they do the reverse. Fire apparatus could be purchased today with 5% down and payments spread over 20 years by means of a bonding ordinance. Acting Manager Kwasniewski said that there haven't been sufficient funds to set aside reserves for some time.

Mr. Itkin said that he was surprised to learn that different departments want the same things and there doesn't seem to be any cooperation or co-ordination in order to buy things collectively. Acting Manager Kwasniewski stated that if the Council agrees that radios should be purchased, all radios will be bid together. Mr. Itkin suggested getting together with other towns and Acting Manager Kwasniewski explained that this is done through cooperative purchasing.

Mr. Itkin asked for a definition of the Auxiliary Police. Acting Manager Kwasniewski explained that auxiliary police have powers under the police but they don't have the authority to carry a gun or make arrests. They are used for court, traffic, emergencies, parades, fireworks, etc. and save a considerable amount of money. They do not have an operating budget. Mr. Itkin wished the Council good luck with the budget.

Closed Session

Upon motion by Councilmember Baratta and a second by Councilmember Trawinski, the following closed session resolution was unanimously adopted at 12:21 P.M.

WHEREAS; the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey permits the public to be excluded from certain matters to be discussed by the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS; the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fair Lawn desire to discuss Borough Manager Interviews

WHEREAS; these matters are ones which permit the exclusion of the public from such discussions; and

WHEREAS; minutes will be taken during this closed session and once the need for confidentiality no longer exists the minutes will be available to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fair Lawn that the public be excluded since these matters as set forth above are ones which permit the exclusion of the public from such discussions.

Adjournment

Upon motion by Councilmember Baratta seconded by Councilmember Trawinski, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn B. Bojanowski, RMC
Assistant Municipal Clerk

The undersigned have read and approved the foregoing minutes.

Mayor Joseph Tedeschi

Councilmember Jeanne Baratta

Absent

Deputy Mayor Lisa Swain

Deputy Mayor Steven Weinstein

Councilmember Ed Trawinski