

## **WORK SESSION OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2010**

Mayor Tedeschi called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Manager Stafford, Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski and Attorney Rosenberg

### **Closed Session**

Upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Baratta, the following closed session resolution was unanimously adopted at 7:35 p.m.

**WHEREAS;** the Open Public Meeting 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 Personnel – Police Department; and

**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 the 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.

Mayor Tedeschi reconvened the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

### **Work Session**

#### **Review of Tentative Agenda (9/14/10)**

Councilmember Trawinski stated that he will not be present to vote on a Capital Bond Ordinance. He suggested polling the Council to make sure they would have the necessary four votes. He indicated, however, that he would have voted in support of the ordinance.

Attorney Rosenberg advised a resolution is required to authorize a credit to Affiliated Management for \$36,000 for garbage collection services.

Acting Manager Kwasniewski stated she was adding a resolution requested by CFO Palermo regarding Medicare Part B Application to appoint UHY Advisors to provide the required actuarial services.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that a new web-based news site in Fair Lawn will begin in about one month. To get an idea of what it will look like, residents can check out Ridgewood Patch.

### **Presentation by Fair Lawn TV**

Gina Brooks, Acting President introduced Fran Moldow, Recording Secretary. Ms. Brooks stated that Fair Lawn TV was experiencing equipment issues. They were looking to see what they could do with their limited budget. Mayor Tedeschi asked about their objectives. Ms. Moldow stated their objective was to produce the best programs they can to make it interesting to the residents.

Ms. Brooks stated that they have a small operating budget and they wish to purchase a server based broadcast system which will improve the clarity of the televised Borough Council Meetings.

Mayor Tedeschi inquired about programs. Ms. Brooks stated that they were looking only at Fair Lawn events and have excluded all outside programming.

Mayor Tedeschi stated that one of the primary concerns was that they were losing members. Ms. Moldow confirmed that they had lost members in several areas, and were still recovering. Ms. Brooks stated that they have brought in three new members. However, they need to be able to stay on the air. Ms. Moldow stated that most of the public access stations have server based systems. They are the only ones that use VHS. Any programming they get from the outside has to be put on VHS format to be broadcast. They purchased two DVD decks; however, the quality is not good because of the archaic condition of their equipment in the Council chambers. She inquired about their budget for next year. They were having issues at the last Council Meeting with the audio drive, as the sound levels kept changing. It could either be the cable or the old equipment that the cable feeds into.

Mayor Tedeschi stated that Fair Lawn TV has to put together a plan that shows where they are now and where they would like to be. The Council's goal is for them to succeed and to keep costs low. Fair Lawn TV's goal has to be to provide the service to Fair Lawn, build membership and make programs interesting. Ms. Brooks reminded him that they are volunteers; they do not have

a staff or salaries. They are only asking for a small amount of equipment. Mayor Tedeschi suggested they put their requests in writing to the Borough Manager so that they can be presented as part of the budget process.

Ms. Moldow thought that Fair Lawn TV should receive some of the franchise fees. Mayor Tedeschi stated that Fair Lawn TV needs funds to operate, but they also need to define their objectives and discuss them with Manager Stafford.

Ms. Moldow stated that residents have called during Council meetings to complain about Councilmembers not speaking into their microphones.

### **Presentation by the Competivization Committee Re: Potable Water Service, Recycling and Park Maintenance**

Mayor Tedeschi stated that the Competivization Committee was formed 18 months ago as a parallel process to look for ways to reduce Borough expenses.

Lou Weiss, Chairman, introduced the Committee Members and indicated that they need clarification from the Mayor and Council for their task. Their charge was to identify savings and bring revenue into the Borough. The Water Department has been a big issue, including the possibility of an outside lease. They met with United Water for some preliminary discussions, but they have not come to any conclusions. He recommended that they hire an engineering firm who does this type of analysis for towns which would enable the Council to make a decision.

They have also discussed the Recycling Department. He noted that privatization is not always best. There are a number of issues that have to be considered. A hybrid may be the answer.

Perhaps park maintenance could be done by an outside firm. The employees in town do a lot of crisscrossing in jobs so they cannot just say this department can be replaced.

Mr. Weiss then raised the issue of the finance computer system and recommended replacing it.

Mayor Tedeschi stated that when the Borough's economic situation went downhill, the Council talked of making systemic changes in the way they deliver services. The taxpayers want services. He wanted the Committee to determine if they were delivering that service in the best manner and at the best cost. The only solutions they have to their financial problems is at this level. There will be no help from the County or the State. They must look at every expense and every system to make sure it is done right.

Deputy Mayor Weinstein wanted to know if the Committee was recommending that they proceed with changes to the Water Department. Mr. Weiss presented a number of options, but before a decision can be made they should find out what they have.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that he spoke to Dover Township, as they recently privatized the Dover Municipal Utilities Authority to New Jersey American. Dover indicated that both New Jersey American and United Water did an analysis of the existing system in an effort to get the job. He wondered if that was a way they could save on consultant fees, provided they are aware that they should remain suspect since it is a prospective suitor.

Mr. Weiss stated that an RFP has to be drafted. He expressed concern that the assessment if done by a prospective buyer might be challenged. He stated that Malcolm Pirnie presented a proposal of \$44,000.

Councilmember Trawinski requested that the information be circulated to the Council.

Mayor Tedeschi stated that when the BCUA did this it was a 27 month process. It is a deliberately slow process with benchmarks that follows a very strict timeline because of the process you must go through. They have to understand what they have and what their suitors are willing to give. The final BCUA document was over 450 pages. The BCUA did this on a parallel course. After about five years, following the suggestions they received along the way, they had cut enough costs so that they did not need to privatize and saved 200 jobs. It is not an easy or quick process. They will probably not have an answer in a year, but they had to start the process.

Mr. Weiss stated that privatization came up because the pipes are old so the Borough is experiencing problems. If someone else owns the system, it will be their problem, but there is no guarantee that it will be cheaper or better. They asked United Water if they would take the Borough employees, but whether that will happen is not guaranteed.

Mayor Tedeschi wondered if it was a good idea to reach to American Water and United Water.

There was a unanimous consensus to have the Committee do an asset study themselves and then go back to Malcom Pirnie and ask if it was realistic.

Mayor Tedeschi asked about Recycling. He stated that Acting Manager Kwasniewski had determined that it cost \$2 million a year for them to process recycling. The question was whether or not that was the best price.

Mr. Weiss stated they hadn't analyzed that yet. Mayor Tedeschi stated that the Committee needed to look at it. Councilmember Trawinski stated that they needed to remember what they learned about Parks & Recreation and the sharing and crisscrossing of employees. He suggested they look at whether they should shrink it or expand, but at the same time eliminate some outsourcing that they do. Historically they have not been able to get a third party to do snow plowing. If they eliminate Recycling, they will not have the employees to do the snow plowing. On the other hand, there is a garbage contract that costs a fair amount of money. Toms River did this on an outside basis and switched to the two-person truck that can pick up 180 gallon containers. They are now expanding that to include Recycling. If they were to look at expanding it, perhaps they can eliminate the hauler and its contract which could generate substantial savings. They would have to keep in mind, however, the capital costs of having the properly equipped trucks.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that the Council has been afraid to touch the issue of whether the Borough should continue to pick up leaves. The Borough's storm water management plan, which is not being followed by the residents, states that a resident should not rake leaves into the street and should dispose of leaves himself. The time has come to look at the way leaves are picked up. He noted that there are employees assigned to Recycling and DPW who are not necessarily working there, but have always been assigned there. The Committee should look at that factor as well.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that one of the charges they gave the new CFO was to change the computer system. She was mortified to see how out of date it was. He felt she got caught up in this year's budget crunch and he did not know where it was on her list. The Council has always received any financial information they requested, although sometimes it was done manually.

Mr. Weiss stressed that the first thing they should work on was getting new financial software.

Mayor Tedeschi asked that the Committee work as closely as possible with Manager Stafford. The Council thanked the Committee for their presentation.

### **Review of Employee Cost Savings Measures**

Manager Stafford stated that the suggestion is to stop the payment of rent to the Fire Companies so as to save approximately \$32,000 per year. Mayor

Tedeschi indicated that was a great idea but wondered what it does to the Fire Companies. Manager Stafford indicated he could discuss it with the Fire Chief.

Mayor Tedeschi stated that if they said they wanted to eliminate 100% of the rents he would say that is not going to happen, but he would support talking to the Fire Department and asking them if they could handle a reduction in the rent.

Councilmember Trawinski suggested asking the Fire Companies whether or not they can explore consolidation. He wondered if they really needed four fire houses. They have more fire fighting apparatus in all of Bergen County than in the entire five Boroughs in New York City. They may be poster child for that. Deputy Mayor Weinstein noted that it has been discussed. Councilmember Trawinski it has been discussed. It is the same problem that they face as a State with home rule. They don't want to share services because they don't want to part with home rule and the same thing on the fire equipment and everything else. Do they really need the percentage of equipment? Every fire fighter in Fair Lawn will tell them absolutely. How does New York City take care of the 8 or 9 million people it does. Deputy Mayor Weinstein stated that is not one hundred percent true. They do share resources. The fire companies are geographically located. There is a good reason for those four companies.

Councilmember Trawinski stated it is among the third rails of Fair Lawn politics. Not one of them has had the intestinal fortitude to address it at any point in time and yet as a State and as a County they are going to have to address it sooner or later. It may be that they are not going to address it this year but eventually it is going to have to be addressed. Mayor Tedeschi stated that they know what next year is bringing so based on that he didn't know if they will have a choice not to look at it.

Deputy Mayor Weinstein stated that in the five Boroughs there are fire stations geographically located. Councilmember Trawinski stated he understood that. Deputy Mayor Weinstein reiterated that they do share resources. Councilmember Trawinski stated that maybe those other communities' taxpayers can save by utilizing the Borough resources. He is not saying necessarily eliminate Fair Lawn but they have to look at a regional and a County approach.

Mayor Tedeschi stated that they should at least start a dialogue. Deputy Mayor Weinstein noted that the question would be how they can better share services. Mayor Tedeschi stated his first question would be how they can make sure that they are taking care of the firematic needs of Fair Lawn

Councilmember Trawinski recalled a conversation they had 15 years ago about third party billing and other services and at that time the answer was a big fat

no they can't do it and no they are not going to do it and yet the Borough and 200 other municipalities in the State are now heading down that route and doing it. That conversation started 15 years ago. Maybe it will be another 15 years but this conversation will come inevitably to different conclusions because the people of New Jersey have said they are not going to support this kind of spending for equipment and apparatus. Now he does not know where they are going to draw that line but it is something that they are starting to discuss. Deputy Mayor Weinstein noted that was different than closing fire houses. Councilmember Trawinski said it is all part of it. You are paying rent that was \$32000 a year and expanding houses and doing things and maybe you don't need to pay \$32000 in this market. Many commercial landlords are reducing rents. He concluded that he was sure tomorrow he was going to hear that he was anti fire department but that is not what it is about. It is not pro or anti anything except to make Fair Lawn as affordable as we can for the taxpayers of Fair Lawn.

Mayor Tedeschi thought they have to understand that even though the governor has said that he closed the budget deficit without adding any new taxes...Councilmember Trawinski said that there is another deficit and new taxes being foisted on the people of Fair Lawn and every town in the State... Mayor Tedeschi continued that they know that there was \$5 million taken away from Fair Lawn, he is foisting it on all the municipalities. They can argue that all day long but that is the reality. They need to start a dialog.

Manager Stafford stated that item two was leasing the fire house to Fire Company #2 and make them responsible for the utilities, etc. Councilmember Baratta asked if everyone agreed that was part of the same dialogue.

Manager Stafford stated that there was a suggestion to stop mailing the Welcome Packets to new residents. Councilmember Baratta liked the suggestion. Deputy Mayor Weinstein stated that the Welcome Packets should be available at Borough Hall, the Library, and the Community Center. He suggested the Chamber of Commerce become involved by having the packets available at various businesses, which would help introduce the new residents to them.

Mayor Tedeschi wondered how many Welcome Packets were mailed each year. Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that the packets started out smaller and now they cost \$7.00 to mail. Councilmember Baratta questioned if the postage was more than \$4.90 listed. Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that the cost grew as they added items. Another option would be to review what was included. Every department has something in the packet. Mayor Tedeschi wondered if they could outsource the entire Welcome Packet to the Chamber

of Commerce. Councilmember Trawinski suggested putting the packet online, which would allow the resident to print the information they wanted.

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that some residents heard about the packets through their realtors and have come to Borough Hall to pick them up. Mayor Tedeschi suggested they give the packets to the local realtors to give them to their clients at closing. Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that sending a letter to new residents will be easier and less expensive. Deputy Mayor Weinstein felt that by stating the packets were available at the Community Center, Library or Senior Center it let the residents know that the town had such facilities and encouraged them to go see them.

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that she will prepare a letter from the Mayor to be mailed out to new residents. Councilmember Trawinski suggested that Manager update each employee who submitted a suggestion.

Manager Stafford stated that the next suggestion involved eliminating paying a private contractor to test inspect backflow prevention deices throughout the Borough because one of the employees, Alan Neggia is a certified backflow inspector. The Council agreed to implement this suggestion.

The next suggestion was eliminate the curbside pickup of construction materials. Councilmember Trawinski asked if that could be eliminated from their current contract. Manager Stafford stated that they could look into making changes when they rebid the contract.

Councilmember Baratta did not think the suggestions would result in any savings. Councilmember Trawinski reminded the Council that the reason this program was started several years ago was to get the construction debris out of the garbage and to provide a lawful means of disposal. He felt there was a hidden cost to eliminating this service rather than a savings because it was an increase in the waste stream.

Manager Stafford stated that the next suggestion was require landscapers to apply for a \$100 permit. There are currently over 100 landscapers in Fair Lawn. Councilmember Baratta noted that this program was currently being used in Ridgewood. She suggested that they obtain the information from them.

Deputy Mayor Swain stated that she was concerned that this suggestion would be costly for the residents. Mayor Tedeschi stated that in essence it was a subtle tax.

Manager Stafford stated that the next suggestion pertained to eliminating overtime for leaf collection.

Mayor Tedeschi stated that he did not understand the suggestion since it was indicated that the suggestion could not be implemented. Councilmember Trawinski stated that he was on a prior Council when this was tried and it was a dismal failure.

Manager Stafford stated that the next suggestion was to reduce recycling pickups from paper one week and comingle the other to everything being picked up together on an every other week basis and to eliminate yard waste pickup completely.

Manager Stafford stated that the next suggestion was to outsource the entire recycling program, retaining a minimum amount of employees at the center. Mayor Tedeschi stated that the Competitization Committee was looking at this because of the \$2 million cost per year. He noted that they may not have a true idea as to the costs as some employees were crossing over into other departments.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that they needed to determine the hidden cost of those suggestions. They began encouraging residents to recycle 25 years ago; they should not be making it harder for them to do so. He was afraid residents would put recyclables back into the waste stream which would increase tipping fees. He suggested Manager Stafford speak with Recycling Coordinator Lottermann to find out the history of the program.

Councilmember Trawinski suggested they ask for positive recommendations to show what savings are really achieved and to demonstrate to the residents the various benefits of increased recycling.

Manager Stafford stated that the next suggestion was to eliminate the twice a week garbage collection during the summer. This suggestion is precluded by the contract.

Manager Stafford stated that a suggestion was made to put the Recycling Handbook on the website rather than mail it. The projected savings would be approximately \$6,200 per year. Councilmember Baratta stated that there are residents that look forward to receiving the book. Mayor Tedeschi stated that the Borough Newsletter and Calendar are now delivered in the Community News. Deputy Mayor Swain felt it was too important for everyone to know their schedule. Councilmember Trawinski felt that the Recycling information should be included on the website regardless. Mayor Tedeschi stated that the Welcome Packet should also be mentioned on the website.

Manager Stafford stated that several suggestions were made including eliminating the clothing allowance, eliminating the private cleaning company

and freezing longevity and the salaries for all employees. These items are all contractual items. However, Manager Stafford will find out the actual cost savings might be achieved by eliminating the private cleaning contract.

Manager Stafford stated that a suggestion was made to institute a pay as you throw garbage program. Mayor Tedeschi stated that the Council discussed this 15 years ago. A bag was purchased and then the residents paid something per bag. Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated this program is used in Washington Township. She pays \$39.00 a quarter and then \$1 a bag. Councilmember Baratta stated that they would also pick up from a resident's backyard.

Councilmember Trawinski stated Toms River changed to a 124 lb barrel, which was mechanically lifted. If a resident wanted to go beyond that size, a second container could be purchased. He has heard this has increased recycling. Mayor Tedeschi stated that this was counter-intuitive to them having less recycling days and pickups.

Councilmember Baratta felt this was too drastic; she would not support it. She would, however, like to start with the idea of having the Recycling Coordinator Lottermann encourage residents to increase recycling.

Manager Stafford stated there was a suggestion to charge a \$10.00 membership fee to use the Community Center. There are approximately 60,000 members enrolled which would generate \$60,000. Councilmember Baratta felt this was a good idea. She thought this could be instituted with the card scanner. Mayor Tedeschi stated that he liked the scanner; however people were already paying for the Community Center. The Borough was supplying the location and paying the utilities while the instructor kept 100% of the fees. He felt the instructors should be charged a fee to use the Center. He suggested they obtain a list of classes and the number of attendees from the Recreation Department.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that residents pay for the pool but are also charged a membership fee to use it. Other entities use the pool at a reduced fee and garner the revenue from the use of the pool. They eliminated sewer rodding, even though residents paid for this service in their taxes. The same argument could be made that people were already paying for these and other services. The question becomes what should residents be paying for in their taxes versus what should they be paying for because they utilize the services. Many people use the Community Center as their private gym while the other taxpayers who chose not to use the Center pay for this. Councilmember Baratta stated that the Art Class is a business. The instructor is receiving free use of the facilities and charging a significant fee. Councilmember Trawinski stated that this was not any different from the non-municipal owned camps collecting

their revenues while the Borough gets a modest stipend. There needs to be logical consistency. If the Borough taxpayers are paying for a Borough facility, they should be consistent in the way people pay. If they are really going to change the way they do business, the Manager and the Competitization Committee need to look into what items should be a "pay as you go" service versus what should be included in taxes.

Councilmember Trawinski wondered if the card swipe system could end up being a cost savings, as employees could be utilized elsewhere. Deputy Mayor Swain wanted to make sure that progress is being made on the installation of this system.

Manager Stafford is to continue to explore this suggestion.

Manager Stafford stated that the next suggestion is to establish a permit process and an assessment program for sidewalks. Councilmember Baratta stated that they have been talking about sidewalks for years. The Property Maintenance Committee discusses this at every meeting.

Mayor Tedeschi asked when he could expect Manager Stafford to get back to the Council on these matters. Manager Stafford stated that some items would be available soon but others would take some time. Mayor Tedeschi requested that a modified summary be prepared to include action dates.

### **Stipend Conversion to Salary**

Manager Stafford stated that he should have something from Labor Attorney Giblin for the next work session. Mayor Tedeschi requested that the Council could get something in writing before that meeting.

### **Current Status of Animal Control**

Manager Stafford stated that he had requested a detailed analysis from the Health Department and Animal Control Officer Coates by the end of September and he should be ready sometime in October .

### **Status of RFP Insurance Broker & Risk Manager**

Manager Stafford stated that they are accepting RFPs tomorrow at 2:00 p.m.

### **Deferred Charge to Cover Accumulated Leave Payouts**

Mayor Tedeschi stated that there are employees "burning days" which is absorbing more money than they have and preventing them from bringing in

other employees. They needed to find funds outside the budget that will allow them to offset these costs. He thanked Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski, Manager Stafford and CFO Palermo for their help, as they have been working on this for six weeks.

Manager Stafford stated that he has spoken to the Division of Local Government Services regarding the new legislation making payments over five years. It is in its infancy so they have to follow the legislation carefully..

Mayor Tedeschi stated that he spoke to Senator Gordon, who said that the cap on vacation pay would have a grandfather clause. People who are working now will not lose what they have. This opens the door to a lot of things they have to do. Employees are being paid until the end of the year and into next year, and the Borough does not have the money.

Mayor Tedeschi stated that the reality is that if the legislation comes through, there is no grandfather clause. There is a 67% increase this year of people retiring from the various systems; that number will increase even higher. It will be an impossible task. He asked Manager Stafford to let the Council know when he had received the Auditor's report.

### **Solar Energy**

Deputy Mayor Swain asked that the Manager pursue this to see if it is possible for the Borough. Councilmember Trawinski stated that the Morris County Improvement Authority has a program they are doing county-wide because of the tax benefits that are available to private firms who use solar energy. They are pooling a number of municipalities and achieving a 35% savings on utility costs. He suggested Manager Stafford speak to the Authority to obtain more information. Perhaps Fair Lawn could set up their own group as act as lead municipality.

### **Opposing State Cut to EMT Funding**

Deputy Mayor Weinstein stated that one of the Ambulance Corps major concerns about third party billing was the possibility of dwindling fundraising for EMT training. He felt the Council should support the resolution regarding this.

It was the consensus of Council that this resolution be adopted.

### **Endorsement of CDBG Application – Care Plus NJ, Inc.**

It was the consensus of the Council to support this application.

**Special Meeting**

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Weinstein and a second by Councilmember Trawinski, the meeting was adjourned to the Special Meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Mayor Tedeschi reconvened the Work Session at 10:10 p.m.

**Public Comments**

Pamela Coles, 13-34 George Street inquired about the proposals to reduce services. Councilmember Trawinski stated that they only discussed possible cuts because Borough employees submitted the ideas.

Ms. Coles stated that she has not heard any suggestions about increasing revenues. She expressed concern that with the proposals for new development that they were discussing cutting employees and services.

Mayor Tedeschi stated that Ms. Coles may have missed some of the conversations. One of the predicates that the Council started with is how do they deliver services that people want at a more economical rate. They didn't use the word "cut". They are not trying to cut services; they are trying to maintain services. They lost \$5 million from the State and health care costs have increased. Not one Councilmember voted on anything.

Ms. Coles asked about salary freezes. Councilmember Trawinski stated that they were not freezing salaries. He asked Ms. Coles if she thought the Borough employees should not have made suggestions. He stated that she had a right as a citizen to make a suggestion to the Council. He asked to hear her proposals. They reacted tonight to the employees' suggestions. They have been asking the residents all along for theirs. Mayor Tedeschi stated that the major source of revenue is taxes. This is the one revenue that they do not want to increase. They are looking at alternate ways to increase revenue and also provide the same services at a reduced cost. What she heard tonight was a preliminary budget meeting for 2011.

Ms. Coles stated that she was not in support of consolidating the Fire Departments.

David Boone, PBA President read a letter from Noreen Messina regarding the incident at Walgreens. She expressed outrage that no one from the Council reached out to the Police officers injured in that incident.

Craig Miller, 5 Ramapo Terrace stated that Park Ridge High School is doing a solar energy project. He noted that he drops his yard waste at the Recycling

Center but if the collection is eliminated it will create a traffic nightmare. He concluded that there was a car parked in front of his house for days but they cannot get information on whether the car was called in. The Police have not been issuing tickets.

Tony Castillo, 24-01 Rosalie Street was concerned that they were tracking employees and who did what on a spread sheet. They needed to modernize their system. He was concerned that the Competivization Committee had such a hard time obtaining an accounting of items that he felt should be public knowledge.

He stated that both he and his son had benefitted from Community Policing programs. He wondered if the Council had done everything possible to avoid the layoffs of the four Police officers. He felt the Police Department offered valuable services that impact on the quality of life in town.

Mayor Tedeschi stated the budget will still fall short at the end of the year because Governor Christie cut \$1.2 million dollars at the last minute. There is no growth of surplus. Library employees have given up 18 days and overtime on Sundays. Borough employees who do not work in the Police Department have given up 14 days. The Council is trying to spread the pain. There are no conventions this year, and the Council has cut its salary.

He is concerned that next year the Governor is going to cut the budget more. They have used \$5 million in surplus this year and they are looking at \$3 million next year. Before they even spend the first dollar they will be \$2 million behind. That is why they are sitting here having these discussions.

Mr. Castillo said they need to make sure they prepare an analysis of what they are delivering versus what they should be paying for. They have to make sure they can audit internally what it is costing to provide that service. It did not seem that they had that transparency.

Councilmember Trawinski stated they have the transparency, but they do not have the data in the form that they want it. Their former CFO understood the system and did not what to change it. With the new CFO, they have overcome that resistance. Mayor Tedeschi reminded him that they were supposed to set policy. They have hired a new Manager and CFO. They, along with the Municipal Clerk, are supposed to have this information in front of them to make business decisions.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that until they made their last presentation to the PBA, which they rejected, he did not believe they had done everything possible. He now believes that they have. The PBA had within its grasp the

opportunity to eliminate the layoffs. They had no choice, because they had to look at the sacrifices of all the Borough employees. The Police Department did not share in these sacrifices.

Mr. Castillo stated that the amount of money they were talking about comes to about \$13 per household. Councilmember Trawinski stated that when they added it up in the context of everything they were \$1 million short. The budget was finished and balanced and they lost the aid.

Mr. Castillo concluded by saying that the Council should find a way to save the Police officers. Mayor Tedeschi reminded Ms. Castillo that he had an obligation to look out for all the residents in town.

Susan Swierczewski, 7-28 Fern Street stated that she is a long time resident of Fair Lawn. The Police Department has saved the lives of her family members. She felt the Citizens Police Academy and the D.A.R.E. program were important for the community.

Nick Messina, 12 Wyckoff Terrace objected to the suggestions regarding the Fire Department. He noted that Mayor Tedeschi said that Borough employees gave up 14 days. The employees didn't give up days; they couldn't come in because the building was closed.

He was tired of the comments about the Police Department. The Police were laid off and he saw what happened to his family when his son was injured. He could not believe they let four Police officers go to save \$130,000. The Borough should sell the Community Center, Memorial Pool and Walsh Pools instead.

He concluded by saying that when his son was injured, he received calls and emails from other Mayors and Councilmembers, but no one from Fair Lawn called. Mayor Tedeschi stated that he called Mr. Messina at least six times and got a busy signal. Councilmember Trawinski stated that he called another Police officer and asked if he could go visit Officer Messina. He was told "Mike Messina doesn't even want to see the Police Chief. What makes you think he wants to see you". He tried to reach out.

Noreen Messina stated that she called Mayor Tedeschi. Mayor Tedeschi replied that he called her back. She stated that she was the one who wouldn't let Chief Rose in to see her husband.

### **Closed Session**

Upon motion by Councilmember Baratta and a second by Deputy Mayor Swain the following closed session resolution was unanimously adopted at 11:05 p.m.

**WHEREAS;** the Open Public Meeting 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 Attorney/Client Privilege – Desk Audit Decision, Possible Litigation Against Judiciary for State Imposed Mandates for Court Security, and Unfair Labor Practice – Insurance; Contract Negotiations – Third Party Billing for Ambulance Services, Lease of Municipal Property; and

**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 the 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.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joanne M. Kwasniewski, RMC/CMC/MMC  
Municipal Clerk

The undersigned have read and approve the foregoing minutes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Joseph Tedeschi

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Jeanne Baratta

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Mayor Lisa Swain

\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilmember Ed Trawinski

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Mayor Steven Weinstein