

**MINUTES - TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING  
TOWN OF BELVIDERE  
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
691 Water Street  
MARCH 18, 2017**

Mayor Kennedy opened the budget meeting of the Belvidere Town Council with the Pledge of Allegiance and Teresa Yeisley read the following notice in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act:

In accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting was given by way of notice filed with the Star Gazette and/or the Express-Times, filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office and posted in the Belvidere Town Hall, 691 Water Street, Belvidere NJ.

**Roll Call:**

Present - Mayor Kennedy, Councilman Fitzgerald, Councilman Makatura, Councilman McAleer, Councilwoman Miers, Councilwoman Napolitani, Councilman Tutka

Absent - None

**Public Comment:**

Harry Brown - Thanks for meeting on a Saturday. Revenue from Sewer used in budget? Miers - yes, \$26,000 to offset DPW expenses incurred for sewer work

Nancy Brown - Release draft budget worksheet for sake of transparency. Councilman Fitzgerald explained his "clothesline" demonstration for bonding capital purchases. John Mooney explained our current bonding and debt, adding that \$.01 on the tax rate equates to \$12,572 and \$175,000 was used from fund balance in the budget.

Linda Stettler - Road projects without DOT grants have been done in the past. Were salary increases for administration put in the budget? Christine Rolef - there is room for increases in the S/W line items but no salary increases have been discussed.

**Budget Discussion:**

John Mooney provided a recap of reductions to the budget that would provide for a 1.3 cent increase to the tax rate or \$16.00 for the year on an average assessment of \$122,000.

Christine Rolef advised that the PD O/E went down to \$70,000 and that S/W went up to \$610,000.

Councilman Tutka initiated a discussion about the release of the budget worksheet to the public. John Mooney explained that this is a work document meant for Council. The Councilman asked if the \$40,000 used from the sewer utility in 2014 in the current fund budget was returned to the sewer utility. John Mooney explained that those funds were not returned to the sewer utility. Councilman Tutka asked what the increase was for the municipal attorney for 2017. Mayor Kennedy stated that the increase was \$2,400.

**A motion** was made by Councilman Tutka to release to the public the budget worksheet. **No second. Motion failed.**

John Mooney advised that the current proposed budget stood with a \$.02 increase to the tax rate or \$24.00 per average assessment of \$122,000. Council agreed to have Mr. Mooney prepare the budget as discussed with an introduction date of March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Kennedy responded to Councilman Fitzgerald's bonding proposal by stating that he wants the Town to "pay as we go". Councilman Fitzgerald responded that his proposal for bond anticipation notes would not increase the tax rate.

**A motion** was made by Councilwoman Miers, seconded by Councilwoman Napolitani and carried to adjourn the budget meeting of the Belvidere Town Council at 11:21 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa A. Yeisley, RMC/CPM  
Municipal Clerk/Administrator