MAYOR'S MONTHLY UPDATE
April 2017

BUDGET

Hearing

Our 2017 budget was reviewed and approved by the N.J. Department of Treasury and a public hearing was held during our regular council meeting on Thursday, May 4th. Township Auditor Steve Wielkotz and Chief Financial Officer Raymond Carnavale were present to answer questions from the public. There will be a special council meeting on Thursday, May 11th to amend said approved budget due to minor changes of anticipated revenue and appropriations.

General Information

As previously stated, the 2017 budget calls for a slight increase of one tax point or $34.43 on a home with a new assessment of $328,547. It includes the three Department of Public Works (DPW) employees who were recently hired to replace those who retired, hiring two part-time police dispatchers and purchasing three new police vehicles. There will also be replacement of outdated HVAC systems and equipment on township buildings without the necessity of bonding for the funds. We paid off two vehicle leases ahead of schedule saving interest payments in the amount of $12,000.

Police Retirements Create Manpower Shortage

A police officer retirement in 2016 and two unanticipated retirement announcements this year will cause a reduction in staff, which has prompted Chief of Police Robert Kugler to request hiring of police officers. One of the retirements becomes effective June 1st and the other on July 1st, therefore there will be breakage or leftover funds, which had been allocated to pay those officers until the end of the year. We are considering using those funds to hire new police officers this year.

Road Resurfacing Program

Ten roads were identified as most in need of repair at a cost of about $2,210,000. The township council and I prefer the option of doing the program over a two year period, using low interest bond anticipatory notes. At the May 4th regular council meeting, for year one (2017), the township council passed on first reading a bond ordinance to authorize the undertaking of road resurfacing, curb replacement and repair and replacement of sewer lines at various locations in the township. The bond ordinance appropriates the sum of $995,000 to pay the cost thereof, to make payment, to authorize the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation notes in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds.

The township was notified by the Bergen County Department of Public Works that county officials have approved milling and paving the entire length of Market Street from the Elmwood Park border to the Rochelle Park border. Work is scheduled to commence in August of this year. Other milling and paving roadway projects include Caldwell Ave and Fifth Street. The township has received grant funding for both these roads under the N.J. Department of Transportation Municipal Aid Project, which requires "match" funding by the township to complete the work.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Community Partnership – Meeting Monday, April 24th

Discussed the update regarding the food drive collection. Locations such as town hall, Kessler Rehabilitation Institute and senior center have been quite productive in receiving donations. The food drive will continue through June 6th. On May 3rd partnership members gathered at Kessler for a photo opportunity where Kessler CEO Philip Driscoll presented donations to the Partnership. Thank you to Kessler and all donors who have supported our food drive.

Mayor's Youth Group – Earth Day Project April 22nd

The Mayor's Youth Group had a clean-up at the Avon Park on Saturday, April 22nd at 10:00AM. Shrubs and a tree were planted near the new Avon Park "Home of the Saddle Brook Angels" sign, erected near the park entrance from Avon Lane. This was done as a community project celebrating Earth Day and to enhance the appearance of the park for the sign dedication ceremony later that same day.

Access for All – Gold Card Emergency ID Program, Wednesday April 26th

Free photo ID cards were issued to residents with autism or developmental disabilities on Thursday, April 26th at 4:30PM at the senior center. The Access for All Committee hosted the program, which is sponsored by the Bergen County Sheriff's Department. Approximately 15 disabled children were photographed and registered for the countywide program. The next Access for All meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7th, 7:00PM at the senior center.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Saddle Brook Little League Opening Day Parade – Saturday April 22nd

It was a pleasure attending this year's Little League parade. Many of us look forward to the beginning of spring and the start of town baseball. Participating in the parade and taking part in the opening day festivities brings many of us together and gives us a sense of community pride. I want to thank Little League President John Tuohy, his executive board, along with all the managers, coaches, volunteers and parents for all they do to support the program. Their dedication and commitment make Little League a better, more positive experience for all. I also want to thank our Police Department and Department of Public Works for assisting with detouring traffic and the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps for participating in the parade. I commend our Little League for doing an outstanding job planning and organizing the parade and opening day festivities. A videotape of the event is being broadcasted on Our Town TV, Channels 77 – Cablevision and 38 – Verizon FiOS. The video and photographs of the event were posted on the township website and this Facebook page.

Dedication of Avon Park Sign – Saturday April 22nd

A dedication ceremony was held for the newly built sign at Avon Park. Saddle Brook residents, James and Monica Maniscalco, who started a sports program for children with specials needs called the Saddle Brook Angels, spearheaded the project. A team of volunteers were assembled to complete the job, which could not have been done without the generous contributions of William Merritt of Belden Brick, Saddle Brook and Frank Staffa of Well-Built Carpentry & Builders, Lodi. The sign, which is at the Avon Lane entrance, now officially recognizes the park as "The Home of the Angels". Special thanks to the members of the Mayor's Youth Group and our

DPW for planting bushes and an Evergreen tree earlier that morning at the entrance to the park in honor of Earth Day and the sign dedication.

Free Paper Shredding Event – Saturday, May 6th

The township hosted a free mobile paper shredding event from 9:00AM – 1:00PM in the rear of Coolidge School. Many residents took the opportunity to recycle their unwanted confidential documents. Thank you Recycling Coordinator Joan Ramsey and Adam Calderone of the Department of Public Works for their assistance. Special thanks to Administrative Assistant Christine Genuario for planning and organizing the event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Police Memorial – Monday May 15th

The Saddle Brook Police Department is hosting its 17th Annual Police Memorial Service in front of town hall beginning at 12 noon. There will be a reception after the service with refreshments at the VFW on Market Street.

Memorial Day – Sunday May 28th

Once again the township is celebrating our annual Memorial Day services and parade in remembrance of our veterans who have died defending our country and all those who have and currently are serving our country. I want to express our gratitude and appreciation to the Romaine-Sinniger VFW Post 3484 for hosting the parade along with the township. Special thanks also to the American Legion Post 415 and Taejon Chapter 170 Korean War Veterans Association for holding ceremonies at their respective monuments. I also want to commend the Saddle Brook Fire Department and Volunteer Ambulance Corps for conducting their annual memorial services in memory of their deceased members.

Kiwanis Fishing Derby – Saturday June 10th

Come join the Kiwanis and the township for a fun-filled morning at Saddle River County Park, Otto Pehle Lake from 9AM – 12PM. All anglers receive trophies and there are special awards for the top three catches by size. Participants must bring their own equipment.

UPDATE ON SPECIAL PROJECTS

2015 Water and Roadway Project - Part B

The water service construction portion of the Wilson Street and Third Street projects have been completed. The contractor has restarted the project and begun working on curbing, sidewalks and ramps. The final portion of the project will be to mill and pave the roadway.

Other Special Projects

No changes since last month's report.

OTHER

Older Americans Month – May 2017

Each May, our nation celebrates Older Americans Month, which gives us the opportunity to thank our seniors and recognize the enormous contributions they make to our country. On behalf of the township and our seniors, I issued a proclamation recognizing May as Older Americans Month in Saddle Brook. We are very fortunate that medical advancements have made it possible for older people to remain healthy and active well into the later stages of life. The township has a senior center, led by Director Joe Lecce, to connect older adults to vital community services that help them stay healthy and independent. The center offers health, wellness, and entertainment programs and provides our two senior groups (SB Seniors & Local AARP) a place to meet and have fun. The township also has a senior bus service available for transportation to area stores and doctor appointments.

AARP Meeting Doo Wop Performance – Monday May 1st

The Wildcats, a doo-wop group from North Jersey performed at our local AARP chapter meeting. The senior chorus rocked the packed house with "Oldies but Goodies." The Wildcats are a group of seniors in Bergen Community College's Institute for Learning in Retirement Program who have bonded over their love of doo-wop and perform across Bergen and Passaic. The group is part of a larger chorus, Sing Sing Sing, directed by Barbara Heitman of Oakland.

Ordinances

Amending of Filing Fees, Escrow Deposits and Completion Checklist Pertaining to Development Applications (Second Reading)

This ordinance amending filing fees, escrow deposits and a completion checklist for building / construction applications passed unanimously on second reading at the May 4th council meeting and will become law. A great deal of time and effort was spent assessing information, facts, and input obtained from concerned parties prior to said ordinance being introduced. I thank the members and professional of our Zoning Board of Adjustment and Planning Board for their assistance in this matter.

Crane Ordinance

The township council and I have done a great deal of research and are still working on an ordinance that would require a permit for use of certain heavy-duty construction type cranes in the township. The operation and use of these cranes can present serious safety concerns especially in areas that are densely populated. A proposed ordinance would regulate the operation and use of cranes by ensuring that the operator is properly licensed and cranes are inspected and insured in accordance to state and federal regulations. The council and I have discussed this issue at length and have received input from various sources including our township engineer, other municipalities that have adopted similar ordinances, the Engineers Labor-Employer Council, and each other. Based on our review and findings thus far, the township attorney is drafting an ordinance that will be discussed at our May 30th work session meeting.