MAYOR'S MONTLY UPDATE
May 2018

BUDGET

Hearing and Adoption

Our 2018 budget is being reviewed by the N.J. Department of Treasury and a public hearing was held during our regular council meeting on Thursday, June 7th. Township Auditor Steve Wielkotz and Chief Financial Officer Raymond Carnavale were present to answer questions from the public. After the hearing the budget was adopted by the township council. I want to thank township council members and our professionals for working together to ensure this budget has a minimal tax increase without any cuts to services provided to our residents.

General Information and Highlights

The 2018 budget calls for a slight increase of one tax point or $34.63 on a home with a new assessment of $336,707. Total appropriations are $23,116,459, which is an increase of $1,297,987 from 2017. $800,000 of our budget surplus is being utilized to offset some of the tax increase. This budget includes new line items for reserving money for contractual payments to future retirees, holiday lighting along Market Street and start-up funds for a recreation youth summer camp program. We will continue with capital improvements for our road program, upgrading infrastructure and purchasing and servicing equipment for our volunteer fire department and ambulance corps.

GRANTS UPDATE

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Meeting – Tuesday, June 5th

I attended this meeting and presented our application for paving Lewsing Avenue. This road has not been resurfaced since the late 1990s and is generally in poor condition. This work will commence after phase 2 & 3 of the Liberty Street drainage project is complete. The CDBG committee approved our application and allocated $110,000 toward construction costs.

Bergen County Open Space Grant Fund (BCOSGF)

With assistance from our township grant writer, we will be submitting an application through the BCOSGF. We will be requesting financial assistance to help fund a new handicapped accessible playground at Avon Park. The town will partner with Michael Maniscalco, who initiated the proposal to renovate the playground as his Eagle Scout community service project. He has already collected $14,000 toward this effort, but prefers to obtain additional funding to completely rebuild the playground as opposed to refurbishing it with the money he's raised. The council and I are in agreement to provide the necessary funding (approximately $15,000) to rebuild and hope for reimbursement from the BCOSGF.

Pending Grants

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER)

With the assistance of our fire chiefs, our grant writer gathered statistics, call volume and other important information for the SAFER grant application. An application was submitted on April 24, 2018 requesting $30,645 to recruit five new fire department members. Announcement of the award is pending.

Public Safety Foundation – Firehouse Subs

A Firehouse Subs application was submitted for the Saddle Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps on September 7, 2017 requesting an automatic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) unit costing $15,003.71. Announcement of an award is pending.

Little League Funding

Saddle Brook has applied for two grants back in January 2017. Saddle Brook Little League requested $20,000 and Softball requested $10,000. According to Little League National in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, the applications are still under consideration and announcement of awards are pending.

Available Grants

N.J. Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)

Our grant writer issued a grant alert for the NJDOT TAP grant. The township applied last year and was denied, but will reapply again this cycle for a streetscape project on Market Street. The township council passed a resolution in support of submitting an application, which is due on August 23, 2018.

N.J. Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)

Our grant writer also issued a grant alert for NJDOT SRTS grant. We are going to apply for safety improvements in the form of sidewalk replacement and bus drop-off construction at the Helen I Smith School. The grant writer is working with the school district and township engineer to obtain all the required information and documentation. The township council passed a resolution in support of submitting an application, which is due on August 23, 2018.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Meeting of Community Partnership / Access for All Committees, Thu, May 10th

We discussed placement of "Stigma Free Town" signs along main roadways in the township. Other topics included assisting Michael Maniscalco with his Eagle Scout project to build a new handicapped accessible playground at Avon Park, Community Partnership Committee advertising and outreach, the idea of putting food closets in our public schools, and the suggestion of having a barbeque for Community Partnership Committee members and Community Partnership Club students funded by the Saddle Brook Acme Supermarket. The committees will suspend meetings for the summer and will meet again in September, 2018 on a date yet to be announced.

Mayor's Youth Group (MYG) Meeting, Saturday, May 19th

The Mayor's Youth Group met at town hall at 11AM and discussed upcoming activities. Due to lack of participation, we chose not to march in this year's Memorial Day Parade. We spoke about ways the MYG can help and participate in Michael Maniscalco's Eagle Scout project to renovate the Avon Park playground. We also discussed having an information table and membership drive at the township's National Night Out event on Tuesday, August 7th and having our summer fun outing the same as last year at the Rochelle Park Pool. Thomas Van Winkle, Township Liaison to MYG, requested volunteers for First Reformed Church Vacation Bible School.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Armed Forces Day – Saturday May 12th (11AM – 1PM)

The program included a presentation by Dr. James P. Kane about each branch of our armed forces and a tribute to all the heroic Americans lost in service to our country. There was also be a special performance by the Saddle Brook High School Marching Band. A light lunch was served after the presentation.

Saddle Brook Police Department Memorial Service – Tuesday May 15th

Our police department had their annual police memorial service to honor and offer respect to all deceased officers of the department and their families. Families and friends gathered for a prayerful remembrance ceremony and placed flowers at the Police Memorial Monument on the grounds of the municipal building.

May 15th was "NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY" where our nation officially recognized and offered tribute to all those law enforcement officers who tragically lose their lives in the line of duty. May God bless all our fallen officers and their families.

VFW Post 3484 Installation – Saturday May 19th (7PM – 10PM)

The installation of officers took place in the upper hall of VFW Post 3484 at 44 Market Street, Saddle Brook. This included Post 3484 combat veterans, auxiliary members and Saddle Brook VFW Riders. Congratulations to all the newly installed officers. The installation of officers was videotaped and is airing on Our Town TV, Ch. 77 – Cablevision, Ch. 38 – Verizon Fios. On behalf of the township governing body and the residents of Saddle Brook, I want to thank the VFW for all their charitable work and assistance they provide to our community. Best of luck to Post 3484 for a productive and prosperous year.

VFW Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies – Sunday May 27th

Once again the township celebrated our annual Memorial Day services and parade in remembrance of those 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.

The services and parade were videotaped and are being aired on Our Town TV, Cablevision - Channel 77, Verizon Fios - Channel 38. The video was also posted along with photographs on our township website and Facebook page

UPCOMING EVENTS

Township & Kiwanis Club Fishing Derby – Saturday June 16th

The annual Township & Kiwanis Club Fishing Derby will take place from 9AM-12PM at Otto Pehle Lake in Saddle River County Park. Come join in for a fun-filled morning of fishing. Beverages and snacks will be provided for participants. All anglers receive trophies and there are special awards for the top three catches by size. Participants must bring their own equipment.

Township Fireworks Display, Tuesday, July 3rd

The township will be holding its annual fireworks display in the Saddle River County Park. The fireworks display is scheduled to begin when dark at approximately 9PM and should conclude by 10PM. Saddle River Road will be closed to vehicular traffic at approximately 8:30PM until the conclusion of the event and the departure of the crowd from the park area.

Residents should be prepared for road closures and detours in the area of the park. Motorist should pay extra attention to different traffic patterns, posted emergency No Parking areas and increased pedestrian traffic in the area of Saddle River Road and the Saddle River County Park. Residents are also reminded that ALL personal fireworks are illegal in New Jersey including firecrackers and bottle rockets.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Resurfacing of Streets

Caldwell Avenue
This is a N.J. Department of Transportation (NJDOT) 2016 Municipal Aid Project. The township has authorized the design of Caldwell Avenue from Lanza Avenue to approximately 200 feet north of Hillside Avenue. Preliminary design has been completed by the township engineer and the final design will be issued to NJDOT shortly for approval. Upon approval the project will be issued for bid.

Claremont Avenue
The township engineer is in the process of completing the design and the project should be constructed sometime this summer.

Fairlawn Parkway
The township received notification that our N.J. Department of Transportation – NJDOT FY 2018 Municipal Aid Application for Fairlawn Parkway was selected to receive funding in the amount of $200,000. The township engineer has prepared and submitted two separate proposals, one for Cambridge Avenue to Floral Lane for a total cost of $386,811.71 and the other for Cambridge Avenue to Graham Terrace for a total cost of $295,495.40. The council and I are currently reviewing both proposals.

Fifth Street
This was a N.J. Department of Transportation (NJDOT) 2014, 2015 & 2017 Municipal Aid project., which was awarded to 4-Cleanup in the amount of $390,688.50. The concrete and asphalt work has been completed. Striping schedule is being established.

Kenny Place
Construction of this project was awarded to JA Alexander, Inc. in the amount of $164,555.25. The work was completed between Friday – Sunday, June 8-10.

Mayhill Street
A N.J. Department of Transportation – NJDOT FY 2018 Local Freight Impact Fund application was submitted by our township engineer and confirmation was received from NJDOT that our application is being reviewed. The township is currently awaiting notification from NJDOT.

President Street
Construction of this project has been awarded to AA Berms, LLC in the amount of $97,980.00. A preconstruction meeting was held on October 10, 2017. Contracts have been executed, however this work was put on hold to replace the water main on President Street. Final design is nearly complete. Upon finalizing the project will be issued for bid.

Williams Street
William Street Roadway Improvements (Phase II Paving) is being advertised for bid.

2018 Road Program
The township council and I have authorized the resurfacing of Eire Street, Hayes Drive, Legregni Street and Nedellec Drive. The anticipated schedule for completion is as follows:
Erie Street – Mid June
Hayes Drive –Early July
Legregni Street – Early July
Nedellec Drive – Late July, Early August

<u>Bergen County Senior Housing Building – 29 Caldwell Avenue</u>

The foundation work and building construction should be starting in June and framing in July.

Community Development Block Grant – Phase 2 & 3 Drainage Improvements

The 2016 and 2017 grant allotments have been received. 2016 is $101,044 and 2017 is $160,000. Our township engineer submitted a proposal in March for our consideration. The scope of the project is to overlay Liberty Street and conduct storm sewer improvements where North & South Leswing Avenue meet. The design plans and specifications have been issued to Bergen County for review and concurrence. Upon receipt of approval, the project will be advertised for bid.

Municipal Building Generator

PSE&G installed the meter and overhead main electrical supply from the utility pole at the curb on Thursday, June 7th. The manufacturer of the generator will come shortly to start and test the generator and inspect the equipment. The job will then be closed out.

OTHER

Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) Graduation – Tuesday, May 29th

I want to congratulate all the 6th grade graduates of the Saddle Brook LEAD Program held in the Saddle Brook High / Middle School auditorium. Special acknowledgement to LEAD Officers, School Resource Officer Christopher Stanton, Sergeant Douglas Habermann and Police Officer/ Detective Marc Buchak. A pizza party was held afterwards at the Saddle Brook VFW.

Saddle Brook Police Department “Chief for a Day” – Friday, June 1st

Congratulations to Chief Jake Erickson on being selected to participate in the countywide "CHIEF FOR A DAY" program. Bergen County Sheriff Michael Saudino and Police Chiefs from across the county selected special young people to become honorary "Chiefs For A Day" within their community. Chief Jake’s day began with me administering the oath of office to him. Afterwards Chief Jake took an intensive tour of police headquarters and the township and met with various police commanders and other township employees and offices. A special visit to the Saddle Brook VFW and with VFW Commander Lou Verile enabled Chief Jake to better understand the selfless sacrifices as well as the benevolent generosity of our veterans. A countywide gathering of all the honorary Chiefs took place at the Bergen County Justice Center in Hackensack and culminated with a police motorcade escort to a ceremonial luncheon held at the Greycliff in Moonachie.

Walk to Defeat ALS – Sunday, June 3rd

The Walk to Defeat ALS took place at Saddle River County Park from 9AM-12PM. The organizers did a fantastic job running the event, which ran smoothly and safely. Thank you to all the participants that came out to support this worthy cause. The participation and support of Senator Joe Lagana and Mayor William Hauser of Rochelle Park who came out to cheer everyone on was much appreciated. Special thanks to Captain Harry Reid and crew of the Saddle Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps for standing by to provide emergency medical assistance if necessary.