

**BOROUGH OF ROSELAND**  
**COUNTY OF ESSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

MARCH 3, 2021  
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL  
5:30 PM OPEN SESSION

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency, the March 3, 2021 Special Budget meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 5:30 PM via teleconference by Mayor Spango. Adequate notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act in that the date, time, and location of the meeting were sent to the official newspapers, posted on the Borough's website, and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk. The public was invited to join the Roseland special Council meeting via computer by logging in to:

<https://zoom.us/j/95597784464?pwd=b0dNdHFjZE9lQ2tSamFIT3orS1BUdz09>

or via telephone by calling +1-312-626 6799, or +1-646-558-8656, or +1-301-715-8592, Webinar ID: 955 9778 4464, Passcode: 705407.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

James R. Spango, Mayor  
Christopher Bardi, Councilman  
Eileen Fishman, Council President  
Roger Freda, Councilman  
Jean Perrotti, Councilwoman  
Marcelino Trillo, Councilman

**ABSENT:**

Michele Tolli, Councilwoman

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Maureen Chumacas, Borough Administrator  
Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk  
Joni Noble McDonnell, Borough Attorney

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Spango led the salute to the flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**DISCUSSION**

The draft 2021 budget currently reflects a 2.14% municipal increase from the 2020 adopted budget. Mrs. Chumacas explained that the drop in assessed property value from last year alone will result in a 0.92% tax increase. Due to Covid-19, the scheduled revaluation was postponed and may not be done until 2023. Council discussed making adjustments to cut another \$120,000.00 from the budget to bring the increase below 1%.

Council decided to make the following adjustments to the budget:

Decrease the amount budgeted for prospective employee salaries. The budget anticipates hiring two public works employees and one police officer. We are currently one-third of the way into the calendar year, and even if interviewing and vetting of new employees begins as soon as the budget is adopted, any new employees would not likely be hired until halfway through the year.

Increase the reserve for uncollected taxes from 98.5% to 98.75%. The collection rate in 2020 was over 99%.

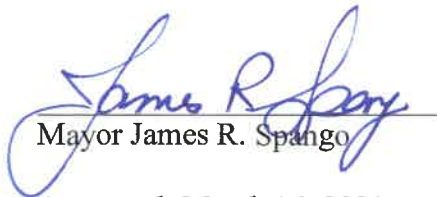
If the federal Covid-19 relief package currently being considered by Congress is approved, then Roseland expects to receive \$570,000.00 in federal aid. Because this amount cannot be anticipated in the budget until there is written notice of the award, Council decided to postpone the introduction of the budget from the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, to a special meeting to be scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup>. The public hearing would then be postponed until the next regular meeting of Council which is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

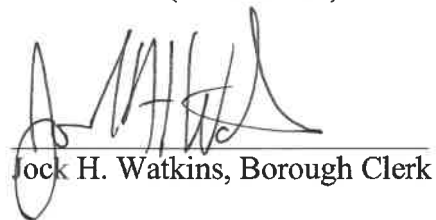
**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Bardi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Fishman and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Tolli absent).



Mayor James R. Spango

Approved: March 16, 2021



Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

**VOICE VOTE**

Aye: Bardi, Fishman, Freda, Perrotti, Trillo

Nay: None

Abstain: Tolli

Absent: None