

Council Special Budget Meeting Minutes March 5, 2022

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

MARCH 5, 2022  
140 EAGLE ROCK AVENUE  
VIA ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL  
9:00 AM OPEN SESSION  
EXECUTIVE SESSION TO FOLLOW IF NEEDED

**COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING MINUTES**

The March 5, 2022 special budget meeting of the Roseland Mayor and Council was called to order at 9:00 AM 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 advertised in The Progress, posted on the public bulletin board in the municipal building, and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**ABSENT:**

Roger Freda, Councilman

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Mayor Spango led the salute to the flag.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS**

None

**DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Chumacas presented the budget summary. At present, the projected municipal rate increase, following all of the cuts previously discussed, would be approximately 1.79%. The budget reflects an increase in revenue of approximately \$460,580.71, mostly from Covid relief funds. There is an increase in appropriations of \$417,880.71. The tax collection rate decreased from 99.17% in 2020 to 98.71% in 2021, which equates to approximately \$200,000.00. In order to

## Council Special Budget Meeting Minutes March 5, 2022

stay within the spending cap, it will be necessary to take approximately \$13,000.00 from the cap bank. The budget is within the tax levy cap by approximately \$120,000.00. However, the budget would have exceeded the tax levy cap had it not been for the exceptions allowed for health care costs, pension costs, and deferred emergency costs.

The budget revenues include \$2,439,210.00 of surplus, the same amount used last year. This will bring the surplus down to \$478,000.00. Each year, the Borough brings back approximately \$2 million dollars in surplus. It was suggested that using an additional \$50,000.00 from surplus would reduce the tax rate increase to 1.5%. As an alternative, Council chose to reduce salaries by \$50,000.00. This reduction will be accommodated by pending retirements from the police department and the department of public works which have been budgeted at 100%, and anticipated hiring dates of new employees which have also been budgeted at 100%. This summary represents the municipal portion of the tax bill. We are awaiting the figures from the West Essex Board of Education, the Roseland Board of Education, and Essex County.

Council discussed a proposal from North Caldwell to share the cost to place two resource officers at West Essex High School. The water/sewer engineer submitted a revised project list, prioritized in order of importance. Council reviewed and agreed upon the final proposed water/sewer capital budget. None of the projects will proceed without prior Council approval. Council agreed to continue debt repayment using note sales rather than having a bond sale. Council agreed to postpone the introduction of the budget until the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The meeting will be relocated to 19 Harrison Avenue so that the meeting can be televised.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

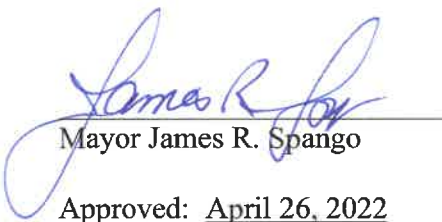
None

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

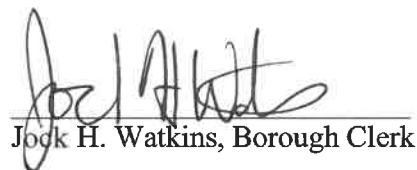
### ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Fishman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 AM. The motion was seconded by Councilman Trillo and approved by a 5-0 voice vote (Freda absent).



Mayor James R. Spango

Approved: April 26, 2022



Jock H. Watkins, Borough Clerk

### VOICE VOTE

Aye: Bardi, Fishman, Perrotti, Tolli, Trillo  
Nay: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: Freda