

MINUTES
Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council
&
Northvale Board of Education
Wednesday, May 4, 2011
7:00 PM

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER –

Mayor Bazela called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building located at 116 Paris Avenue, Northvale, New Jersey 07647.

STATEMENT –

Mayor Bazela read the sunshine statement into the record as follows:

“This is a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale and the Northvale Board of Education. The date, time and location of this meeting has been advertised in the official Newspapers of the Borough, filed with the Borough Clerk and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building. All notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act for this meeting have been fulfilled. Please note the fire exits as required by law at public meetings.”

SALUTE TO THE FLAG – SILENT PRAYER –

Mayor Bazela asked all in attendance to rise and join him in a Salute to the Flag and then called for a moment of silent prayer.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL –

Mayor Bazela, Councilwoman Libby, Councilman Marana, Councilman Piehler, Councilman Sokoloski and Councilman Sotiropoulos were present. Councilman Amend was absent.

ROLL CALL OF SCHOOL BOARD –

Members – Bargisen, Bargna, Brogan, Corrado and McGuire were present as well as Mr. Ammerman, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Pinajian, Principal and Mr. Occhino, Business Administrator.

DISCUSSION –

Mr. Ammerman – stated that they are here tonight because the budget has been defeated by the voters. Mr. Ammerman stated that he felt that the town had a serious issue with their budget and that the school would not get involved in it that issue as they know that the Mayor and Council are good people trying to do a good job. He knows also that the Mayor and Council would not like to get involved with the School budget, but, knew that they had a good relationship with the Mayor and Council and that things could be worked out. He stated that he had a meeting with the Mayor and Council with regard to the budget and they were happy with the budget, the PTO was happy with the budget and when they had the public hearing, no one from the public showed up. He stated that they are below the CAP, and could have gone to the CAP, but decided not to. (that would have added another \$43,000 to their budget). He stated that everyone wanted to show the public that they were more than willing to live within the CAP. They still have capital projects on their agenda as they are getting about \$600,000 from the state to do their improvements. He believes that the Board is being extremely prudent and that they are being protective of the public for not only this year, but 2012. He further stated that over the years they have lost about \$750,000 in state aid. He stated that they don't want to be in a position to cut services and staff. He stated that they had to eliminate the Italian program and some library funding. He would not like to see that happen again.

Mr. Ammerman stated that he is requesting that the Mayor and Council allow them to work with the budget that was presented to the taxpayers and that hopefully they will not have to be back here next year, with the same problem. He explained how they were able to come in under CAP with retirements and some aid from the State. Going forward, if everything stays the same they will already be in the hole \$80,000 (from the retirements). He feels that they have done everything that they could have done to keep the budget where it is and would ask that the Mayor and Council don't cut the budget anymore.

Mayor Bazela spoke with regard to the grants that the school has received to do improvements to the school and to the fields. He stated that the world is at a 2.7% inflation rate and the school has gone down to a 1.7% increase. He agrees with the board and would not like to see them be in the same position that the Borough is in right now.

Councilman Piehler commended the Board for coming in at 1.7% and that he feels that they worked very hard and he agrees that we should just pass the budget.

Councilman Marana stated that he agrees and feels that the board did their best to cut, voluntarily \$50,000 in their own budget.

Councilman Sokoloski agreed with everyone else. He feels that there was no reason for the school budget to fail other than the councils referendum to exceed the 2% Tax CAP levy.

RESOLUTIONS –

Motion by Councilman Piehler; seconded by Councilman Sokoloski to approve Resolution #2011-57, as follows:

Northvale Board of Education Budget Review

WHEREAS, the voters of the Borough of Northvale have rejected the Northvale Board of Education 2011-2012 Budget at the annual school election;

WHEREAS, the budget was submitted to the voters of the Borough of Northvale as follows:

GENERAL TAX FUND LEVY	\$7,828,000.00
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WHEREAS, pursuant to NJSA 18A:22-37, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Northvale consulted with the Northvale Board of Education on May 4, 2011, after receipt of said budget; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has reviewed the defeated school budget to determine the amounts of money necessary to provide a thorough and efficient education by the Northvale Board of Education as follows:

ORIGINAL GENERAL TAX FUND LEVY	\$7,828,000.00
REDUCTION	-0-
TOTAL AMOUNT OF TAX LEVY TO BE CERTIFIED	\$7,828,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforesaid amounts be raised by taxation, as required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amount as determined herein shall be certified by the Borough Clerk to the Board of Taxation of Bergen County and that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the said County Board of Taxation, Bergen County Superintendent of Schools and the Northvale Board of Education on or before May 19, 2011.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All present in favor.

ADJOURNMENT –

Motion by Councilman Sokoloski; seconded by Councilman Piehler to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 PM.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All present in favor.

PAUL BAZELA, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Wanda A. Worner
Borough Clerk

Approved: June 8, 2011