

**MAYOR & COUNCIL  
BUDGET MEETING  
MARCH 23, 2013  
9:00 a.m.**

The Budget Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Rockaway, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, was held in the Community Center, 21-25 Union Street, Rockaway, N.J. with Mayor Russell Greuter presiding. Mayor Greuter called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

Mayor Greuter read the following statement: In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, Public Laws, 1975, be advised that notice of this meeting was made by posting on the Bulletin Board, Town Hall, and sending to the officially designated newspapers, a list of meeting dates annually, indicating that the meeting would take place at the Community Center at 9:00 a.m. on March 9, 2013. Mayor Greuter announced the location of the fire exits.

Councilmembers Present

Thomas Donofrio  
Joyce Kanigel  
Thomas Mulligan  
Joseph Vicente (arrived at 9:04 a.m.)  
John Willer  
Melissa Burnside - Council President

Councilmembers Absent

Everyone present participated in the salute to the flag.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Greuter opened the meeting to the public. There being no public, Mayor Greuter closed the meeting to the public.

2013 BUDGET

Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer John Doherty and Borough Auditor Kathryn Mantell, Nisivocchia LLC, distributed the preliminary projected 2013 budget summary that would provide for a 3 percent tax increase, including the school and county taxes, or \$230.36 on the average property assessed at \$300,000. The budget will be scheduled for introduction on March 28.

(Councilman Vicente arrived at 9:04 a.m.)

Discussion ensued regarding the water utility and the need to increase water rates.

Council President Burnside reported that the PBA approved the negotiated contract with minor edifications.

Council President Burnside reported that the Borough is not compliant with state laws regarding employees opting out of health insurance. The opt-out payment is the lesser of a certain percentage or \$5,000; the Borough's \$3,000 payment is not consistent with this. Furthermore, employees whose spouses are covered by the State Health Benefits plan are not eligible for the opt-out payment.

Mayor Greuter would like to send a letter to the Township of Rockaway to discuss the possibility of sharing the Construction Department services; the Council agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Approved: As Submitted

Sheila Seifert, Borough Clerk

Date: April 11, 2013