

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG  
MAYOR & COUNCIL MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 - 10:00 A.M.**

**MAYOR'S STATEMENT:** Mayor Keith S. Balla called the meeting to order at 10:01 and stated the following: Under the provisions of N.J.S.A.10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting was given by way of special notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG and a MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING HOME AND ABROAD.**

**ROLL CALL**

Robinson [ P ]   Black [ A ]   Goodloe [ P ]   Eisenberg Knegten [ P ]   Jubin [ P ] Martino [ A ]

Mayor Balla opened up stating that this is the first of the department workshop review as the Governing Body prepares for the upcoming fiscal challenges. This workshop is meant to allow Council Member the opportunity to understand the inner workings of all the various departments.

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**DISCUSSION**

❖ Long range planning and budget items

Fire Chief Albert DeSandolo and Captain Tom Carlucci were present to provide input and answer various questions by the Governing Body regarding the Fire Department’s budget. The Fire Chief also spoke on their future budget requests and the replacements that the Department is looking to replace.

The Governing Body made several inquiries on the apparatus, the PPE, replacement of fire gear, and the timing of future purchases and agreements with surrounding municipalities. A detailed breakdown of the department’s fleet, vehicle assignments and the departments stipend program was discussed.

Additionally, the following items were discussed in greater detail:

- Training costs, current and anticipated
- Replacement of air packs and various fire gear equipment
- Last Rogers and ISO report
- Agreements with surrounding municipalities
- Member retention, response time and incentives provided
- Fire whistle
- Recruiting practices

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**PUBLIC PORTION**

1. Raymond Barrat, Valley Road, inquired on the Borough’s comparison with other volunteer services of surrounding similar municipalities.

Fire Chief DeSandolo responded that while he does not have exact numbers, the Borough of Watchung has less expenditures in comparison to some similar towns.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned to the Call of the Chair at 12:00 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Mayor and Council will be held at 6:30 PM on Thursday, October 1, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Edith G. Gil  
Borough Clerk