

**BOROUGH OF WIND GAP
29 MECHANIC STREET
WIND GAP, PA 18091
610-863-7288**

The Special Council meeting of the Borough of Wind Gap on Monday, December 15, 2003, was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Winton Male, Jr., at which time he reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded. In attendance were Councilmen Lewis Paulhamus, Karen Skorochood, Mitchell D. Mogilski, Sr., William Pysher, Peter Stinson and Kerry Gassler. Also in attendance Secretary/Treasurer Louise Firestone.

Mayor Kenneth George arrived at 7:40 p.m.

The sole purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 2004 budget.

The budget was presented to Council that included past adjustments, a half mill increase and the elimination of major capital purchases and projects. If these changes are accepted by Council the shortfall would be \$6,703, which then could be transferred from the General savings account. Council reviewed the proposed adjustments. The half mill increase would generate approximately \$28,000 in revenue and increase taxes from 5.75 to 6.25 mills.

Council adjourned to Executive Session to discuss real estate, legal and personnel issues at 7:08 p.m. They reconvened at 7:27 p.m. Jeff Schogol, reporter from the Express Times, objected to the Executive Session to discuss the mentioned topics and asked that his objection to the Executive Session be noted in the minutes.

Council reviewed the expense items. Winton had suggested increasing the Zoning Officer from three hours a week to five hours in anticipation of instituting the required state-wide building code, but Council decided to include three hours a week for the first part of the year and then increase his time to five hours a week. His compensation and related payroll taxes to be reduced to reflect the change. The Street department agreed to eliminate the \$10,000 budgeted to pay back the savings due to the purchase of the utility truck in 2003. The engineering for streets had been eliminated, but it was decided that \$10,000 had to remain in the budget for the Woodward and Lehigh project and other minor projects that may require engineering work. The Park budget was reduced to \$5,000 in the capital projects, but Council decided to increase it to \$8,000 in order to complete the installation of the safety mulch in the kiddie play area.

Secretary/Treasurer took her leave from the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Council decided to include anticipated rent from the Wind Gap Ambulance at \$244 a month or \$2,928 for the year 2004.

Council was in agreement that with these changes it would be possible to anticipate approving

the 2004 budget for advertisement during the workshop meeting on Tuesday, December 16, 2003.

Louise Firestone, Secretary / Treasurer