

From: Natasha Joly <npogrebi@gmail.com>

Date: March 17, 2023 at 11:02:53 AM EDT

To: "Kot, Julie" <jkot@bhpsnj.org>

Cc: Joy Young <jyoung@bhpsnj.org>, Angela Penna <apenna@bhpsnj.org>, Robert Cianciulli <rcianciulli@bhpsnj.org>, Gale Bradford <gbradford@bhpsnj.org>, Dipti Khanna <dkhanna@bhpsnj.org>, Thomas Foregger <tforegger@bhpsnj.org>, Jordan Hyman <jhyman@bhpsnj.org>, Pamela Stanley <pstanley@bhpsnj.org>, Stephen Hopkins <shopkins@bhpsnj.org>, "Dr. Melissa Varley" <mvarley@bhpsnj.org>

Subject: Re: Detailed 2023-2024 Budget and OPRA analysis

Good morning.

Thank you for your prompt response.

I'm disappointed that you will not be posting but I don't understand why you wouldn't send it to me if Mr. Hopkins will provide that via OPRA request. Why go through the added bureaucracy and wasted time when you can simply send? I'm fairly certain I'm not the only one requesting the information so why generate OPRA requests for the same information? Also, at the meeting you did say you would make public with the caveat that the county may make changes. And what if the county doesn't come back to you within the next two weeks? Or even if they come back, the community may not have enough time before the next meeting to review and ask relevant questions. Do you see how ridiculous it is to have a public session without the public actually having the necessary information?

With respect to the OPRA analysis, I did meet with Ms. Bradford about a month ago to ask her about what information was provided. I asked what was the projected number of OPRA requests and the time spent to fulfill them. I also asked what numbers were provided to justify that the attorney's fees would be several hundred thousand dollars as Dr. Varley stated. Ms. Bradford said she didn't have that information. I'm not asking for the discussions but for the analysis. There is no confidential information in the numbers. The estimate of \$200k for the attorneys (for 6 mos) translates into 10hrs/ business day of work assuming \$165/hour. Does that mean Mr. Hopkins needs to find 10hrs/day to do this extra OPRA work?

Your comment about speaking to members about their vote is disingenuous as you already stated that anything discussed or presented in Exec Session is confidential. So they have no reason to provide me with any relevant information for fear they would be setting themselves up for an ethics complaint.

I hope the administration reconsiders their position on these two requests.

Thank you,
Natasha

On Mar 17, 2023, at 10:23 AM, Kot, Julie <jkot@bhpsnj.org> wrote:

Good morning,

I will not be posting budget materials on the District Website *until* I hear from the County Office regarding any questions/changes they have with respect to the materials. If you would like a copy of the 105-page PDF that was sent to the Board, Mr. Hopkins will be happy to provide that through your OPRA request now that the budget has been submitted to the County.

With respect to information and data presented in Executive Session, the public would not be privy to those discussions as they involved multiple staff members who were RICE'd for that meeting. Leading up to their vote, the Board received information from both public and internal sources and, after weighing the information, voted to approve the Custodian of Records Designee. You can speak with Board members about their individual votes, however, they cannot reveal any confidential information that was discussed.

We have recently added some information to the OPRA webpage that the public can view and may find informative: [OPRA Responses to Community Members](#).

Best regards,
Julie

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On Thu, Mar 16, 2023 at 11:58 AM Natasha Joly <npogrebi@gmail.com> wrote:

Ms. Kot,

At the March 13th BOE meeting, you stated that you would publish the detailed budget (109 page document) that was given to the BOE. At present, I cannot find it on the website. Please share the document an/or the link if it is available online. The budget meeting is only two weeks away.

At the BOE meeting, you also mentioned that you had provided to the Executive Committee a detailed analysis on the OPRA's to support the 12k position of records custodian. Please provide this analysis. Also, I don't see an Executive Committee listed on the website. Did you mean Executive Session?

Mr. Hopkins,

I would love to avoid any OPRA requests. However, if Ms. Kot does not provide the information above, please consider these OPRA requests.

Thank you,
Natasha