

## Other

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internal meetings regarding the budget. He said he was planning to meet with the chief financial officers on Wednesday "to do hard number crunching," but had not yet determined where the city would stand with next year's budget.

"We're still in the beginning with labor contracts. We were to complete and finalize an agreement with the UAW in May - but that was before the state legislature approved the 2 percent levy cap," he said. "At that time the wage increase was 2.9 percent."

The UAW represents certain blue collar employers, including public works and the water and sewer department workers, as well as white collar workers who are administrative staff employees, dispatchers, and middle and upper management -

about 65 employees in all.

Asked if there was anticipated or speculated need for more revenue, MacLeod said whether the tax levy cap was 4 percent or 2 percent, the state's intention was to restrict the amount of revenue the city can raise through the tax base.

"Based on that notion, the way you can support continued services would be to either cut expenses...or create new revenue streams that were beyond the tax base," he said.

MacLeod said budget increases resulting in increases in wages, pensions, health insurance, etc., in excess of the \$150,000 allowed by law, would result in a need for other revenue sources to balance the budget.

"Or we would have to evaluate the expenditure side. Ultimately it translates to reduced services, because we

have to balance the budget," he said.

MacLeod said assuming Cape May would be like other municipalities, the city is looking at certain fees in the city to see if they might be raised.

"Recently we introduced an ordinance to increase fees for the Jackson and Bank Street parking lots. We will look at mercantile licenses and other license fees that give us the opportunity to raise funds beyond real estate taxes," MacLeod said.

MacLeod said he has not received any feedback on the possibility of raising mercantile license fees.

"There may be some discussion or questions raised should we start to develop changes in the rate structure for mercantile licenses, but there hasn't been any discussion raised yet because there has been no formal discussion

of what changes might entail," he said.

MacLeod said the city has been reducing spending by reducing the number of city employees through attrition. He said over the past several years, when an employee was retired, quite often the city has not filled the position but has continued to provide the service with a reduced staff. Reductions in forces have occurred in administration, public works and the water/sewer department.

One example of reducing staff was in the city clerk's office, with regard to the licensing division. The licensing office was on the first floor and the clerk's administrative office was on the third floor. There were five employees. The city moved the licensing division into the clerk's office and the staff is now four instead of five.

"It seems to work based on

the decision to put the two offices together, from physical plant perspective," MacLeod said.

"Generally we have not made those kinds of staff reductions in area of public safety, however, as move forward that is something we will have to evaluate as well," MacLeod said.

### Lower began budget process early

According to Lower Township Manager Kathy McPherson, Lower Township began the 2011 budget process immediately after the 2010 budget was adopted.

"We started like the day after this budget was approved. It's been a work in progress all year," she said.

McPherson said the township took the prior amount raised by taxes, subtracted the capital budget, applied

the 2 percent cap, added pensions and increased health-care costs, estimated new ratables, and added what their known costs would be; e.g. salary increases.

"That's how we arrived at our shortfall," McPherson said.

The 2011 Lower Township budget was anticipated to have a deficit of around \$1 million. McPherson said the pension bill just came in and it was a little higher than anticipated.

"By the end of the week we should have new construction figures, and on Oct. 18 I need all the department requests for 2011," she said.

Lower has scheduled public hearings on department budgets on Oct. 4 and 5.

## Manor

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Engineering.

"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world,"

Kaithern said during her speech at the ceremony. "This home was built with the tenacity of a team, and that's how everyone worked, as a team."

In order to obtain funds for the project, the local government, CIS and CSPNJ had to secure development and construction financing by working with a number of groups. The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, Department of Community Affairs, the Federal Loan Bank of New York and The Reinvestment Fund, Inc. were all involved in the financing of Cape Manor.

Anthony Marchetta, executive director of the New

Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency was very pleased with the success of the project.

"I'd like to congratulate everyone involved," Marchetta said. "The right resources and people were brought together to get the job done."

With the project now finished, the full ownership of Cape Manor is in the hands of CSP who will run the facility completely.

"We are happy to pass the torch onto them, we know they will do well," Marchetta said.

According to Kolluri, CSPNJ as the service provider will select the individuals who will live in Cape Manor. The human services group has a list of people that meet the qualifications to live in the housing units and will decide which ones will be the

best fit.

CSPNJ, founded in 1984, is dedicated to providing support services to people with special needs and currently helps over 2,500 people through self-help centers, financial services, mutual aid, supportive housing as well as advocacy and entrepreneurial programs.

"It's a beautiful house, with a meaningful purpose," said Irene Sanborn, director of Community Outreach. "As the mother of an adult with special needs, this means so much to me and I know it means a lot to everyone involved too."

Kaithern ended the ceremony by cutting the ribbon and letting all in attendance walk through the house and see the success of the project for themselves.

"It's a milestone in our community," Sanborn said.

## I Am

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"This makes things much easier on every call," he said.

He said since the installation there have been four or five calls and it has helped immensely on all of them.

Nelson said he first became aware of the system when he saw it at the Stone Harbor Fire Department about a year ago.

"They showed me how it worked, and it really seemed like the thing to do," he said.

I Am Responding is not only used for fireman response during a call. Its messaging system can also be used for role call, letting volunteer members know about upcoming drills, meetings and even what trucks are out of service

during an emergency call.

The West Cape May VFC has 23 members who all live south of the canal so response time is shorter. According to McPherson, the system has impressed all of them.

The cost of the system is reasonably low. Nelson said that the only money involved was purchasing cables for the system and mounting brackets for the monitor and an annual fee of \$300. The monitor was donated by Sturdy Savings Bank where Nelson works.

Geyer is happy the firehouse received this system at such a low cost because according to him, the department has a considerably low budget.

"A fire department should

have a budget of at least \$150,000, while this department only has a budget of \$40,000," he said.

According to Nelson, the VFC is fortunate enough to raise money each year to help improve their budget.

Geyer has wanted to make the department "more visible in the community" and help people better understand all that they do. He said the newly installed system along with some other advancements within the department and October being National Fire Protection Month, it would be a good opportunity for the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company to catch more of the public eye.

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