

North Arlington: Funds from Meadows Panel Can Cut Taxes

Tuesday, April 07, 2009

Nick Clunn

Staff Writer

Bergen Record

NORTH ARLINGTON -- Municipal property taxes could drop this year if the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission gives an additional \$800,000 to the borough, local officials said Monday.

That amount would cover garbage collection for the second half of the year and help make up for the loss of a \$1 million annual fee paid by the operator of a garbage transfer station.

After the commission closed the station in December, it promised to cover garbage collection through June and half of the annual fee.

A spokesman for the commission, Brian Aberback, would only reiterate the existence of the current aid program when asked if the planning authority would consider extending it.

The Borough Council is expected to vote on a resolution calling on the commission to extend the program at a special budget meeting tonight, borough spokesman Thom Ammirato said.

A \$20.9 million municipal budget, which includes a 5 percent tax hike, is also slated for introduction. The proposed tax rate of \$1.61 per \$100 of assessed value means that a property assessed at the borough average of \$180,000 would be hit with a \$2,900 municipal tax bill, figures show.

However, if the borough receives the additional revenue from the Meadowlands Commission, municipal taxes would go down slightly, instead, Ammirato said.

The commission closed the hub in December as part of a development agreement with EnCap, which has since collapsed.

Borough officials want the transfer station reopened pending new plans for redevelopment.

###