

**COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING
RIDGEFIELD PARK
August 23, 2018
7:00 PM**

Mayor Fosdick announced that this meeting is being held in accordance with the “Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10 4-6 et seq.” notice of which was sent to the Record, and the Star Ledger on December 28, 2017 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL

Those present were Commissioners Kohles (7:05 p.m.), MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick in the chair.

Absent: Commissioner Anlian

Also present: Philip Boggia, Village Attorney; Alan O’Grady, DPW Superintendent; Charles Gneiding, Police Captain and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Poli, seconded by Commissioner MacNeill to approve the minutes of the Caucus and Closed Session Meetings of August 9, 2018.

On roll call, Commissioners MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

Absent: Commissioners Anlian, Kohles

HEARING OF CITIZENS

John Cataldi, Vice President Ridgefield Park Baseball Organization advised the league has two Babe Ruth fall baseball teams and no fields to play on. Mr. Cataldi inquired about the Hobart Street field and the County fields. Alan O’Grady stated the High School uses that field for soccer along with the Soccer Association. Mayor Fosdick stated the County charges for the use of their fields. Commissioner MacNeill believes a bond has to be posted as well as paying permit fees. Mr. Cataldi advised the football association has disbanded and the children of Ridgefield Park now play in Little Ferry (80% of teams are RP children). He is trying to bring sports back to Ridgefield Park. He inquired about Green Acres or a sponsorship for artificial turf. Commissioner MacNeill advised Green Acres is a loan, only for a portion of the total cost. The approximate cost for turf is \$10 million. Eight years ago the engineer performed a conceptual improvement study and the cost then was \$7 million.

Mayor Fosdick advised to get all involved parties together to develop a plan and present it to the Board of Commissioners. This will take time and unfortunately will not resolve the immediate need for a playing field.

Mr. Cataldi also inquired if the Little League field will be redone properly. Commissioner Kohles advised the contractor fixed all issues, has been paid in full, and the Village Engineer approved it. Mr. Cataldi stated the field is horrible and asked if there is a performance bond. Commissioner Kohles stated they will look into the issues before the next baseball season.

At this time, Mr. Cataldi left the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

08-06 Lorraine Joewono, County of Bergen – Bergen County Senior Picnic – Alan O’Grady advised the school will provide a bus for transporting seniors.

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- 08-07 Norman Schmelz, Mayor of Bergenfield – Meadowlands Power Plant - filed
- 08-08 NJLM – Daily Update – initiatives proposed for Shared Services to reduce government costs.
- 08-09 NJLM – Daily Urgent Alert – Informational – Automatic overtime for Sheriff's Dept. Officers when the Governor issues a State of Emergency.
- 08-10 NJLM – Daily Update - Informational
- 08-11 Suez – Rate Increases - Informational
- 08-12 Niraj Chhabra – Village Newsletter – The Newsletter primarily provides the residents of town events.
- 08-13 NJ Department of Transportation – Traffic Advisory - Informational
- 08-14 NJLM – Weekly Round Up - Informational
- 08-15 MEL Safety Institute Bulletin – Fatalities from Distracted Driving Increase – Informational
- 08-16 Bill Betesh – Won Buddhism – Mr. Boggia advised the burden is on the applicant to prove tax exemption. Commissioner Anlian will invite Art Carlson, Tax Assessor to the Sept. 6th Caucus Meeting to further discuss.

OLD BUSINESS

Municipal Building Parking Lot Ordinance

The Board of Commissioners discussed the Chief Rose's memo regarding the Parking Lot. Capt. Gneiding added there currently is no place for the midnight shift to park. This is a safety issue and in the past, officer's vehicles have been vandalized. The parking lot should be for employees. Mayor Fosdick advised the original plan was to have metered parking on the west side of the lot.

Phil Boggia will draft an ordinance for the Municipal Parking Lot. There will be no overnight parking. Parking in the lot will be for municipal purposes only. Three (3) 30 minute parking spots will be designated for visitors.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Poli advised he received notification from the State Election Law Enforcement Commission regarding his complaint from 2016. He attended the BMED meeting and their budget was introduced. The Village will receive the same dividend as last year. He asked BMED to look into discounting medical supplies (EpiPen, Narcan) to Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Mayor Fosdick advised United Rentals is having a dedication ceremony on Sept. 5th. Fire Prevention has changes in personnel and inspectors will now be paid hourly. Inspectors will receive \$20 per hour and the Senior Inspector will receive \$25 per hour. Another vehicle may be needed in the future for OEM. Bob Lee, All Schools Special Needs, sent a memo. He wants to attend a public meeting – he needs a facility for adult age special needs children. The Korean Association of NJ would like to move to RP – will be attending Sept. 26th Caucus meeting.

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Clerk O’Grady advised a vendor’s license was issued to Steve Nicoletti for a food truck.

Captain Gneiding inquired what the Board of Commissioners stand is on marijuana dispensaries. Phil Boggia will draft a sample ordinance for review.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fosdick adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Abstain
Commissioner Anlian

/s/Theresa A. Kohles
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

/s/ Hugo R. Poli
Commissioner

/s/ George D. Fosdick
Mayor

/s/ Tara O’Grady
Village Clerk
Approved on September 6, 2018