

**COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING
RIDGEFIELD PARK
December 22, 2016
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, 2015 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL

Those present were Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli (7:35pm) and Mayor Fosdick in the chair.

Also present: Philp Boggia, Esq., Village Attorney; and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner MacNeill to approve the minutes of the Caucus Meeting and Closed Session Minutes of December 8, 2016.

On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Boyd and MacNeill voted “YEA”.

Abstain: Mayor Fosdick

Absent: Commissioner Poli

DISCUSSION

Richard Guido, KABR – Challenger Road Signage

Mr. Guido advised the Board of Commissioners, the KABR Group would like to place three (3) signs on Challenger Road. The problematic sign would be placed on Village owned property where the movie theatre is located. KABR needs approval from the Village for the site plan application. The Board of Commissioners agrees with the conception. Their consent will be based upon the recommendation of the Village Engineer, Boswell Engineering and the Village Attorney. Mr. Guido will contact Mike Kelly, Boswell Engineering. Mr. Guido advised there is an Overpeck Park Property Owners Association and they are attempting to “clean up” Challenger Road. Mr. Boggia advised the Village of Ridgefield Park would like to be a part of the association.

At this time, Mr. Guido left the meeting.

Art Carlson, Tax Assessor – Tax Appeals and Assessments

Mr. Carlson explained he can only lower assessments. Assessments cannot be raised unless a re-assessment is done on the Village. The advantages of a re-assessment are it will raise assessment values and stabilize tax appeals. Estimated cost for conducting a “rolling” re-assessment is \$140,000.00 per year. Mr. Carlson will perform a “mock” analysis of the entire Village. The Village is ranked 23rd for average house price and tax rate.

At this time, Mr. Carlson left the meeting.

The Board of Commissioners reviewed the 2017 Board/Commission Appointments.

December 22, 2016

CORRESPONDENCE

- 12-07 Superior Court of NJ – Municipal Court Budget - Informational
- 12-08 USWU Local 755 – Labor Leader of the Year Ad - Informational
- 12-09 NJLM – Weekly Update - Informational
- 12-10 County Oath of Office Ceremony - Informational
- 12-11 RP 4th of July Committee – Grand Marshal Nominations - Informational
- 12-12 James Tedesco, County Executive – Kwanzaa Ceremony – Event already took place.
- 12-13 Vantage Health Systems – Mental Health Matters - Informational
- 12-14 Chiesa, Shahinian & Giantomasi – NJ Tpke Property Sale Agreement – Skymark is working on the issues.
- 12-16 NJLM – Webinars - Informational
- 12-17 So. Bergen Municipal Joint Insurance Fund – 2017 Budgets – Commissioner Poli advised the budget was approved.
- 12-18 FEMA – Webinars, Programs - Informational
- 12-19 James Tedesco, County Executive – Hannukkah - Informational
- 12-20 Chris Salcedo – Moody’s Comment Report - Informational
- 12-21 Barbara DeLuca – 7th & 8th Grade Basketball – The Board of Commissioners declined the request.
- 12-22 Kerry Pflugh, DEP – Snow Removal & Disposal Policy – Tabled to next Caucus.
- 12-23 GJEM – JIF Deductibles - Informational
- 12-24 GJEM - Lost Time Frequency Report - Informational
- 12-25 Sen. Loretta Weinberg – Support of Bill – Informational
- 12-26 NJLM – Weekly Update - Informational
- 12-27 Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders – Ordinances - Informational
- 12-28 James Tedesco, County Executive – FEMA Emergency Alert System – Informational
- 12-29 NJLM – Calendar Year Budget Matters - Informational
- 12-30 State of New Jersey, EEO Monitoring Program – Public Agency Compliance Officer – Mrs. O’Grady will submit completed form.

December 22, 2016

CORRESPONDENCE – cont.

12-31 Rutgers – Bergen County Parks Master Plan Sessions - Informational

12-32 NJLM – Weekly Update - Informational

HEARING OF CITIZENS

No citizens present.

REPORTS

Commissioner Boyd inquired if a walk through the Village with the DEP has been scheduled. Municipal employees are not to leave early on Friday, December 23, 2016.

Commissioner MacNeill stated he has received inquiries for the date of the next public meeting from members/employees of the Board of Education. The Village needs to address “entitlement.” The Village cannot sustain the cost of health benefits. Fair policies should be offered to all employees. Commissioner Poli will contact the GJEM for “fair” insurance plans. Mayor Fosdick advised saving \$200,000.00 on health benefits would not account for much of a decrease on the average tax bill. The Village needs ratables.

Mayor Fosdick announced the retirement of Laura Reilly from the Library. The Department of Transportation advises “Blue” lines in roadways are not approved.

Clerk O’Grady inquired if the digital sign can be used to advertise an event at a local business. The Commissioners advised the Board is to be used for Village organizations events. Mr. Frimmer will no longer assist with the newsletter. The printer will take on his duties at no additional cost. The Police Department would like to collect for “Toys for Tots” in the Municipal Building next year. The Municipal Building’s Holiday Party is Dec. 29th. Mrs. O’Grady advised her and employees of the DPW submitted depositions for a lawsuit primarily concerning the Board of Education from 9am until 1:30pm today.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2016-159 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Mayor Fosdick, seconded by Commissioner Anlian, the public portion of the meeting recessed in order to convene a Closed Session Executive Meeting permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b (7) Contract Negotiations

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

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 8:50 p.m.

On a motion by Mayor Fosdick, seconded by Commissioner Anlian, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 9:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fosdick adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

December 22, 2016

/s/John H. Anlian
Commissioner

/s/Margaret R. Boyd
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

/s/ Hugo R. Poli
Commissioner

/s/ George D. Fosdick
Mayor

/s/ Tara O'Grady
Village Clerk

Approved on January 5, 2017