

**COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES  
RIDGEFIELD PARK  
December 17, 2020  
7:00 PM**

Mayor Anlian 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 31, 2019 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and the Village Website.

**ROLL CALL**

Those present were Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson and Mayor Anlian in the chair.

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

Also, present: Philip Boggia, Village Attorney; Joe Rella, Chief of Police and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

12-01 Bergen County Commissioners – Podcasts/Resolutions/Ordinances - Informational

12-02 NJ Conference of Mayors – NJ Health Department Guidance for Holidays - Informational

12-03 Bergen County Utilities Authority – 2021 Proposed Rates - Informational

12-04 State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation – 2021 Municipal Aid Program - Informational

12-05 Sandra Kehrley, PK Environmental – NJDEP Letter of Interpretation 64 Challenger – Informational

12-06 Congressman Bill Pascrell – Update on COVID - Informational

12-07 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

**HEARING OF CITIZENS**

No citizens present.

**DISCUSSION**

Omar Khan, Library Director, was in attendance to discuss proposed salary increases for several staff members. The Library Board of Trustees has accepted the proposed recommendations. Mr. Khan stated several staff members are often performing duties that other libraries have 2-3 additional staff members do. He feels the employees are entitled to an increase per the NJ State Library certification. The library is more than just books – SAT prep, ESL, job learning skills, virtual reading and gaming, job search training, etc. He understands tough economic times are ahead, but the staff should be rewarded for their degrees well earned.

Commissioner MacNeill asked how Ridgefield Park salaries compare to other similar sized libraries. Commissioner Gerken also stated he would like to see a comparison done. Commissioner MacNeill asked why library isn’t open to the public. Mr. Khan advised the Library was scheduled to open in September but needed partitions. The Library is open for services. Commissioner Olson and Mayor Anlian stated he should find a way to open the Library. We need the Library open to serve the public.

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Commissioner Gerken suggested to open the Library by appointment. Mr. Khan stated the main issue is the partitions – need a way to pay for these. He didn't find out about the budget numbers until September. Mayor Anlian advised Mr. Khan the Village has a spending freeze - Do not automatically order things for 2021 or 2022. The Village is spending approx. \$750,000.00 on the Library now. If salaries go up, the increase will come out of operating expenses. The Board of Commissioners would like Mr. Khan to do a comparison of towns in both size and staffing to Ridgefield Park.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Anlian announces that the following business is considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any item may be removed for separate consideration.

### **RESOLUTIONS:**

2020-159 Authorize Mayor to sign 911 Interlocal Agreement  
2020-160 Authorize Tax Lien Redemption  
2020-161 Appoint Green Team Members

Motion by Commissioner Olson, seconded by Commissioner Gerken to approve the consent agenda.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson and Mayor Anlian voted "YEA".

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Resolution:

2020-162 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson, 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) Litigation, Legal Matters

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson and Mayor Anlian voted "YEA".

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 7:42 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 8:21 p.m.

### **REPORTS**

**Commissioner Gerken** advised the Wish Tree is downstairs in the second-floor corridor. The Christmas trees have been planted in the Main Street planters.

**Commissioner Olson** stated car decorating parade probably won't happen. Today's snow removal went ok. The tree sculpture is done. The Village attained Silver Sustainable Jersey status – more people stepped up to help with the process.

**Chief Rella** stated he would like an answer soon to the dispatcher pay differential for next year – they will be working an additional 239 hours. He sent an email to Vince – NJ Transit is looking for payment for Amanda Thomas.

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Amanda Thomas and Anthony D’Elia are off of field training. Camryn Garcia will be off next week. Levron Green will be graduating from the academy in February. Sgt. Baker is still out. 140 cars were ticketed and 37 towed during the snowstorm. Chief Rella suggested a reverse 911 for the next storm and to include telling the residents not to put the snow in the street when shoveling.

**Clerk O’Grady** stated there were employees that did not come to work because of the snow. The Board of Commissioners stated employees that did not come to work because of the snow are to be charged a vacation day. If they are out of vacation time, they don’t get paid for the day.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson to adjourn.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, MacNeill, Olson, and Mayor Anlian voted “YEA”.

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken  
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill  
Commissioner

/s/Mark C. Olson  
Commissioner

Abstain  
Commissioner Portorreal

/s/ John H. Anlian  
Mayor

/s/ Tara O’Grady

Village Clerk

Approved on February 4, 2021