

**COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES**  
**RIDGEFIELD PARK**  
**June 3, 2021**  
**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 28, 2020 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and the Village Website.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Also, present: Priscilla Boggia, Village Attorney; Edward Monroe, DPW Superintendent; Joe Rella, Chief of Police and Jana Carratu, Finance Office Manager.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Caucus Meeting of May 20, 2021.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

05-12 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

05-13 Board of County Commissioners – Podcasts/Resolutions/Ordinances - Informational

05-14 Department of Transportation – Safe Routes to School – Commissioner MacNeill stated perhaps repairs to the bike path should be submitted.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS**

No citizens present.

**REPORTS**

**Commissioner Gerken** stated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July events will start with the flag raising, followed by the fire inspection, baby parade, main parade and ending with fireworks. The Rotary Club submitted a \$9,000.00 check for the fireworks deposit. The COVID vaccination clinic took place yesterday at the Civic Center – only 18 people received the vaccine.

**Commissioner Olson** stated the Summer Arts Festival will take place on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm – roads will close at 4pm. Mayor Anlian will do a reverse 9-11 mentioning the Artsfest and 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The Sustainable Jersey filing deadline is June 6<sup>th</sup>. A resolution needs to be adopted to create the Public Arts Champions.

**Commissioner Portorreal** stated the Rescue Squad will be hosting breakfast on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Superintendent Monroe** stated he met with Mike Kelly regarding the flooding issue at 25 Teaneck Road. As a courtesy, the Village will clean catch basins and dye test the manhole.

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**Mayor Anlian** stated the Department of Transportation deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mike Kelly is working on the application – Main Street - Summit to North Avenue. The newsletter material is slowly coming in - the deadline is Tuesday. State may give the Village a grant for a large road project due to the loss of revenue from the NJ Transit property. Ordinance for Tax Abatement has expired – need to remove it from our code. Letter from Ms. Kvilesz was given to Priscilla Boggia. Mayor Anlian will draft a letter to business property owners regarding garbage/litter.

**Chief Rella** stated applications are being accepted for body cameras.

**PUBLIC HEARING – 7:35pm**

Mount Vernon Street Pedestrian Walkway & Park

Mayor Anlian announced this is the time and place for the public hearing on the Mount Vernon Street Pedestrian Walkway & Park

No comments from the public.

Mayor Anlian closed the public hearing at 7:37pm.

**DISCUSSION**

Ridgefield Park Fire Department

Discussion between the Board of Commissioners and Officers/Presidents of the Ridgefield Park Fire Department Companies on recruitment and retention of members.

The Village is losing potential members once they are informed on the amount of training (two nights/week for approx. 9 months) that is needed to become certified. Training in Bergen County is free to the Village and the classes take longer than other counties. Classes can be taken out of the Bergen County but there will be costs.

Reimbursement for mileage and class completions were discussed.

Mayor Anlian inquired about other incentives for active members – pool memberships, free building permits, etc. Incentives are needed to keep the current active members.

Response rates are currently based on trust. A CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch and record management system can help but are costly. Money currently being disbursed is taxpayer's money. Mayor Anlian suggested sending a letter to each member to be signed for response verification purposes – keep volunteers honest.

New equipment is needed – portable radios and two new apparatus. Mayor Anlian stated two new apparatus are approved and portable radios will be leased once the new budget is approved.

Some of the firehouses need upgrades. Engine 3 and Truck 2 have structural issues.

Mayor Anlian stated the old Boswell property located on Mt. Vernon Street is still being processed by the Village with the idea that in the future, it could be a centralized firehouse location.

The Commissioners would like to see a 5-year plan so budgeting can be done accordingly.

The Commissioners thanked the firemen for attending, will discuss and get back to them.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Mayor Anlian to adjourn.

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

Absent: Commissioner Portorreal

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken  
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill  
Commissioner

/s/Mark C. Olson  
Commissioner

Absent  
Commissioner Portorreal

/s/ John H. Anlian  
Mayor

/s/Tara O’Grady  
Village Clerk

Approved on December 28, 2021