

**COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES**  
**RIDGEFIELD PARK**  
**September 9, 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: Philip Boggia, Village Attorney; Edward Monroe, DPW Superintendent and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Caucus Meetings of August 5, 2021 and August 19, 2021.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

08-06 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

08-07 Tracy Silna Zur, Bergen County Commissioner – Hunger Action Month – Resolution to be prepared for September 14, 2021 meeting.

08-08 Board of County Commissioners – Podcasts/Resolutions/Ordinances - Informational

08-09 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

08-10 William Betesh - Tax Appeal Settlement Resolution – 422-430 Teaneck Road – Resolution to be placed on September 14, 2021 meeting agenda.

08-11 William Betesh - Tax Appeal Settlement Resolution – 116 Hudson Avenue – Resolution to be placed on September 14, 2021 meeting agenda.

09-01 Ridgefield Park Recall Committee – Dr. Bender - Informational

09-02 Local Finance Notice 2021-15 – Tropical Storm Ida - Informational

09-03 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

09-04 Steven Spoto, County of Bergen Department of Public Works – Mosquito Spraying - Informational

09-05 NJLM – Daily Update – Informational

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**CORRESPONDENCE - cont.**

09-06 Borough of Bogota – Public Hearing on Bogota Golf Site - Informational

09-07 Hetal Mistry, Suez Water – Lead Replacement Program - Informational

**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:**

- 2021-91 Authorize Tax Collector to Process Third Quarter Estimated Tax Bills
- 2021-92 Appoint Board of Recreation Members
- 2021-93 Authorize Street Closure for Block Party on Sept. 19, 2021 – Highland Place
- 2021-94 Authorize Street Closure for Block Party on Oct. 30, 2021 – Highland Place

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Olson, that the consent agenda be approved.

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

**HEARING OF CITIZENS**

No citizens present.

**REPORTS**

**Commissioner Gerken** stated Tom Quirico was sworn in as Municipal Judge on September 1. Judge Perna retired effective September 1. The new Prosecutor will start on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Health Fair has been cancelled.

Work on the Nature Preserve has started.

September 11 Ceremony will be held at 10am.

He has looked into the internet in the Municipal Building to make sure we’re not paying for service that is not working or needed. The Civic Center internet is high. Commissioner MacNeill stated he believes it is for a firewall from the provider. Commissioner Gerken stated that Dart Computer suggested to pre-set the Civic Center as an alternate work area in case of an emergency. Mayor Anlian stated a memo should go out to all employees that it is prohibited to use Village computers for personal use.

**Commissioner Portorreal** stated the pool took in \$105,00 in revenue but no final numbers yet. Bob O’s stated at best he broke even. Commissioner Olson added the pool motors are possibly damaged due to Hurricane Ida. Also lost the refrigerator, freezer and hot water heater.

Commissioner Portorreal stated she received an estimate for the topical survey for Veterans Park - \$38,000. MKW says topographic study is the next step before the design concept. She will see if Boswell can do just the topographical survey. Attorney Boggia stated a survey was done in 2010 – check with MKW and see if the 2010 survey is enough. Commissioner MacNeill asked if we should bid out the design portion.

There have been 45 responses to the Social Media Coordinator post. Mrs. O’Grady stated she has heard back from a few municipalities. Bergenfield hired a public relations firm that handles all their social media content accounts. Mrs. O’Grady will contact Bergenfield for contact information.

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**Commissioner Olson** advised the Wanda Canoe Club will be conducting a race on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. He is working on an agreement with WCC to use the containers. He is trying to find room for a third container – would like to eventually take out the police range. He is comparing quotes from the Ambulance Corps for the 1<sup>st</sup> vehicle replacement. The Green Team will be submitting the Sustainable Jersey application tomorrow. Idea has been raised for Board of Recreation to have croquet in McGowan Park – activity keeps geese away. September 11<sup>th</sup> is the last scheduled concert – Ferris Park at 4:30 pm. Public Arts Meeting is next Wednesday at 7pm. Brewster Park building has been cleaned up and a mural has been painted on it. Street Fair – no response to his email messages to Maggie Boyd or Dominick Frontera for the Business Association meeting. Bogota didn't vote for a Recycling Center – they want to talk to Ridgefield Park. Commissioner Olson sent the CSO document to the firm in South Bend – will send proposal to review. The end of Bergen Turnpike is Ridgefield Park property – launch area for Fire Department boat. McGowan Park meeting tomorrow for gazebo. Thoughts for each Commissioner to have an intern for the summer next year – not in agreement. He and Mike Monroe opened the C-box – hope to use the VFW to sort through the documents. Newspaper collection will be once per month.

**Commissioner MacNeill** would like to know what the Village is responsible for in the IGA parking lot. Attorney Boggia will look at easement documents.

**Clerk O'Grady** stated the Village is receiving a monthly bill from CLB Partners – are they still needed? Attorney Boggia will look into it. The Wanda Canoe Club inquired about a vendor giving away free alcohol at the end of their race. The Commissioners were ok with it. Mrs. O'Grady asked who is planning on attending the League Conference this year – registration is now open.

**Edward Monroe** stated road paving will start at the end of September.

**Attorney Boggia** stated they are meeting with NJ Transit on September 20<sup>th</sup>. He hasn't heard anything on the Pedestrian Bridge – will follow up.

**Mayor Anlian** sent the firehouse centralization concept memo to the Fire Department for review. Will ask for a meeting with the Fire Department (captains, presidents, chiefs and assistant chiefs) at the 1<sup>st</sup> Caucus in October. He will ask Boswell Engineering for an estimate to look at the structural integrity of each firehouse. Radios for the Fire Department turned out to be a 5-year purchase agreement with a 3-year warranty and not a lease agreement. Cost would be approximately \$270,000 from Motorola.

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**CLOSED SESSION**

Resolution:

2021-95 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Mayor 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 (8) Personnel

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

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 9:35 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Mayor Anlian, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 9:50 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Mayor Anlian adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

/s/William G. Gerken  
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill  
Commissioner

/s/Mark C. Olson  
Commissioner

/s/ Wanda C. Portorreal  
Commissioner

/s/ John H. Anlian  
Mayor

/s/Tara O’Grady

Village Clerk

Approved on October 21, 2021