

**COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
October 7, 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.

CORRESPONDENCE

10-01 Bilow & Garrett – Municipal Building Roof – Bilow will prepare bid specs.

10-02 William Betesh – Tax Appeal Settlement – 245 Main, 55 Webster, & 11 Poplar – resolution to be prepared for October 12, 2021 meeting.

10-03 Local Finance Notice 2021-18 - Informational

10-04 2021 Best Practices Inventory – Deadline November 3, 2021

10-05 NJLM – Daily Update - Informational

10-06 Robert Esposito, County of Bergen – Bergen County Community Development - Informational

10-07 Michele Diiorgi, County of Bergen – FEMA (Hurricane Ida) - Information to be placed on Village website.

10-08 Michele Diiorgi, County of Bergen – Small Business Administration (Hurricane Ida) – Information to be placed on Village website.

10-09 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up – Resolution to be prepared for October 12, 2021 meeting opposing bills S-3810/A-5862

10-10 Jennifer Galinsky – Family Court Awareness Month - Informational

10-11 County Executive James Tedesco – Community Development Application Award - Informational

10-12 NJLM – Weekly Round-Up - Informational

10-13 NJ Department of Transportation – Fiscal Year 2022 Local Freight Impact Fund – Edward Monroe will contact Mike Kelly

10-14 National Opioids Settlement – Informational

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CORRESPONDENCE – cont.

10-15 Robert Esposito, County of Bergen – Bergen County Community Development application period - Informational

10-16 Zoning Board Public Hearing – 71 Mt. Vernon Street – Informational

HEARING OF CITIZENS

No citizens present.

REPORTS

Commissioner Portorreal advised she interviewed Stephen Mazella for the Social Media Coordinator position. He is very interested and would like to start immediately. He would need an external hard drive. He would be expected to cover all news in Ridgefield Park. Mr. Mazella will be invited in on October 12th to discuss details.

Commissioner Olson advised he has 3 quotes for the gazebo repairs and for the Nature Preserve tree sculpture. Resolution will be prepared for the October 12, 2021 meeting.

Clerk O’Grady advised there has been numerous complaints regarding the DPW calendar. Complaints have also been received regarding the increase in taxes and how the 4th quarter taxes are due less than a month after the 3rd quarter taxes. The Health Office needs coverage from 3pm – 4:30pm.

DPW Superintendent Monroe stated the CSO Agreement needs to be signed and submitted. The DPW mechanic is retiring in March – need to discuss salary range.

Mayor Anlian stated the K of C vs. Masons softball game is Saturday morning. October 16th is the K of C 100th Anniversary Dinner. Joe Romano is to be appointed as an Associate Member of the Shade Tree Commissioner – resolution to be prepared for the October 12, 2021 meeting.

DISCUSSION

Ridgefield Park Fire Department – Reimbursement Incentives, Fire House Issues, Consolidation

The Board of Commissioners and Firefighters discussed Mayor Anlian’s Sept. 6, 2021 memo.

A, Incentive Payments to Firefighters

Michael Alberque stated when the committee originally met with the Board of Commissioners, they were only looking for reimbursement for members traveling to the academy for school. LOSAP is the incentive for retention. Reimbursements over \$600 is reportable income.

B. Percentage should be changed to 25% and life member with 25+ years are automatically eligible.

C. Clothing Allowance and Officer stipends will be effective for this year.

Discussion of Firehouse Consolidation

George Fosdick stated the goal is to preserve the RP Volunteer Fire Department. He distributed a memo and discussed major issues: response times and numbers, rosters, rules and regulations, officer requirements, budget, fund drive, loans, etc.

Mayor Anlian advised the Village is looking to hire a consultant to review the Fire Department and provide recommendations.

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At this time, members of the Fire Department left the meeting.

Working Remotely

Commissioner MacNeill stated the Village should not permit employees to work remotely. Employees have the option to take family leave.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2021-100 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, 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 (8) Personnel

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

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 10:20 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Olson, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 10:25 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 10:25 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 December 28, 2021

