

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
RIDGEFIELD PARK

May 27 2008
7:30 P.M.

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 21, 2007 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board. .

ROLL CALL*****

Those present were Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli, and Mayor Fosdick in the Chair. Mayor Fosdick asked for a moment of silence in memory of Thomas Sweeney. Mr. Sweeney passed away this week and was very involved in the community, particularly in the Little League.

FLAG SALUTE*****

The flag salute was led by Mayor Fosdick.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES*****

Motion by Commissioner Boyd seconded by Commissioner Poli to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2008. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA". Commissioner MacNeill abstained.

SPECIAL REPORTS*****

Mayor Fosdick read a Proclamation for Eagle Scout, Steven M. Poli to be presented to him on June 10, 2008.

Mayor Fosdick read a Proclamation proclaiming June as Scleroderma Awareness Month.

CORRESPONDENCE*****

Deputy Village Clerk read a letter received from Hose Company No. 4, regarding Jenisse DePena accepting her as a member. Motion by Mayor Fosdick seconded by Commissioner Poli to approve Jenisse DePena as a regular member of Hose Co. #4. On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

HEARING OF CITIZENS*****

Noel Cote, 418 Teaneck Road:

Mr. Cote said he attended the March 25th Meeting and presented issues regarding parking on Teaneck Road. He asked if anything had been done.

Mayor Fosdick explained that the Police Department conducted a survey for one month; however, they do not have the results of the survey as yet. Sgt. McEntee retired and has been replaced by Sgt. Maglione, who has been undergoing training. He explained that Sgt. Maglione will deal with it.

Ray Ziemba - 101 Overpeck Avenue:

Mr. Ziemba said he had walked through various parks, McGowan, White, Ferris, and the Tennis Courts and congratulated the Commissioners on a fantastic job. However, he asked what could be done concerning the stairs at Veterans Park, particularly the area from the Bicycle Path to the High School.

Mr. Ziemba was advised that it was Board of Education property. Mr. O'Grady will see the Board of Education tomorrow.

Mr. Ziemba also reported the condition of the fences at the ball park. They are in need of repair or should be taken down.

Mayor Fosdick explained that we are applying for a grant between \$100,000 and \$500,000 to deal with the issue.

Mr. Ziemba received the AARP magazine in the mail and called the editor concerning a research program, "Keeping Seniors In Their Homes", regarding taxes and senior citizens.

Mr. Ziemba said he had no idea of what the Commissioner do, except for Mayor Fosdick and Commissioner Anlian. Asked if something could be put in the Newsletter explaining what their jobs are and what they are doing.

Mayor Fosdick explained that during the campaign, literature was distributed explaining what they were doing.

Mayor Fosdick explained some of the jobs of the Commissioners to Mr. Ziemba. He also explained about Closed Sessions, that when the Commissioners go into Closed Session the purpose of it is to discuss in private issues such as personnel, negotiations, development, etc., which becomes public when the issue is resolved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS*****

Mayor Fosdick announced that this was the time and place for the Public Hearing on the 2008 Proposed Budget. He explained the Commissioners felt it was unfair to have a hearing on the Budget before the election and invited Joseph Kelly to speak.

Joseph Kelly of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, Auditors, was in attendance and explained that we would not be adopting a budget tonight. Mr. Kelly explained the breakdown of the budget. He said the municipal portion of the budget was the smallest. However, through the collection of taxes, the Village must collect enough money to pay the school tax as well as the county portion. He said that Extraordinary Aid plays a part in your budget, depending on the amount of aid awarded by the State. Mr. Kelly said the Village had been successful in getting State aid in the past, however, the State operates on a fiscal calendar, while the Village operates on a calendar basis, and to-date the State has not adopted a budget. He said at this point there are no set numbers as far as taxes are concerned.

Mr. Ziemba-101 Overpeck Avenue

Asked if the budget process takes into consideration that the governor is raising tolls, etc, and that it is up to the municipalities to cut the tax.

Statements of the governor cutting aid to municipalities, and he wants the municipalities to reduce taxes. Mr. Kelly said the primary source of revenue is property taxes. He said everyone agrees the tax structure is flawed, but no one has a solution. Main problem are the services that are provided, reduced aid, increased pension costs, BCUA, sewer costs, and many costs in the budget are not flexible.

Mayor Fosdick said there are numerous tax appeals which will be costly to the town. Gas costs have escalated and energy costs are high, and cuts in State aid are very difficult to deal with.

Commissioners Anlian said there are also new mandates by the State COAH, purchasing agents, and paying prevailing wage on all major projects.

DISCUSSION*****

None.

NEW BUSINESS*****

Mayor Fosdick announced that all business is considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any item may be removed for separate consideration:

Resolution No. 1] Authorizing Refund of Taxes on Block 19, Lot 5, 140 Arthur Street.

Resolution No. 2] Authorizing Entering Into Agreement With County of Bergen For
Emergency Service Notification System.

Motion by Commissioner Poli, seconded by Commissioner Boyd that the Resolution be approved. On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

ADJOURNMENT*****

Motion by Commissioner Anlian seconded by Commissioner Boyd to recess the meeting at 8:26 PM to go into Closed Session to discuss negotiations and redevelopment. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

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/ Sarah Warlikowski
Village Clerk