

**COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING
RIDGEFIELD PARK
March 22, 2012
7:00 PM**

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 28, 2011 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL

Those present were Commissioners Anlian (7:32), Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick in the Chair.

Also present: Philip Boggia, Esq., Edward Rose, Police Chief, Alan O’Grady, DPW Superintendent, Alex Barrese Auditor, and Deborah Fehre, Interim Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Poli to approve the minutes of the Caucus Meeting of March 8, 2012

On roll call, Commissioners Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.
Absent: Commissioner Anlian

Motion by Commissioner Boyd seconded by Commissioner Poli to approve the minutes of the Closed Meeting of March 8, 2012

On roll call, Commissioners Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.
Absent: Commissioner Anlian

CORRESPONDENCE

- 03-14 Job & Job – Property Acquisitions for Nature Preserves – another survey needed
- 03-15 NJLM – Invite Your Suppliers/Vendors to Exhibit at the League Convention - Informational
- 03-16 Job & Job – Property Acquisitions for Nature Preserve – (same as 03-14)
- 03-17 Boswell Engineering – 2012 Road Improvement Program – Proposal for Laurel and Preston Streets - \$91,000.00 grant for Preston Street
- 03-18 William Betesh, Esq. – Central Union Realty Group v. Village of Ridgefield Park – Resolution passed at the last regular meeting
- 03-19 BC Freeholders – Approved Resolutions and Adopted Ordinance - Informational
- 03-20 DCA – GovConnect Update March 12, 2012 - Informational
- 03-21 BCUA – Rain-Derived Infiltration/Inflow Reduction and Sanitary Sewer Overflow Elimination Plan – 2012 Status - Mr. O’Grady commented that the ordinance would need to be changed to accommodate new restrictions. Mayor Fosdick asked Mr. Boggia to confer with Mr. O’Grady and Mike Kelly, Engineer

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03-22 Commissioner Poli – Copy of MagnaCare’s Response to State Comptroller’s Report Re: State Health Benefit Plan - Informational, not the savings predicted

03-23 Douglas Bern, Esq. – Ridgefield Park Redevelopment Project RFP – Closed Session I

CLOSED SESSION I:

On a motion by Mayor Fosdick, seconded by Commissioner Poli 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 (5, 7) RFP re: Development of Challenger Road and Ground Lease 85 Challenger Road

On roll call, Commissioners Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.
Absent: Commissioner Anlian

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 7:10 p.m.

On a motion by Mayor Fosdick, seconded by Commissioner Poli the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 7:24 p.m.

03-24 Boswell Engineering – 2012 Road Improvement Project – proposal Laurel Street

03-25 BCUA – Sewer Connection Fee Municipal Incentive Program Rebate – Rebate gets credited to Building Department, Mrs. Fehre submitted voucher to County

03-26 NJLM Mayors Advisory – Legislative Updates - Informational

03-27 NJLM Mayors Advisory – Senate Energy Tax Restoration Follow-up Needed - Informational

03-28 NJLM Mayors Advisory – Senate and Assembly Bills scheduled for Voting Sessions - Informational

03-29 NJLM Mayors Advisory – Two New Rule Comments by the League - Informational

03-30 NJLM Mayors Advisory – League President Tells Assembly Budget Committee to Restore Lost Property Tax Relief - Informational

03-31 Philip Boggia, Esq. – Copy of Access Agreement between New Jersey Turnpike Authority and Ridgefield Park

**Resolution 2012-33 Authorize Mayor to Execute the Right of Access Agreement
between the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and the Village of
Ridgefield Park for Parcels R534X and R534X-3.**

Motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Poli, to approve Resolution 2012-33

On roll call, Commissioners Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.
Absent: Commissioner Anlian

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- 03-32 New Milford Borough – Resolution Urging Freeholders to adopt 2010 Recommendation of Bergen County Open Space Trustees to allocate \$500,000.00 to Water Works Site - Informational
- 03-33 Boswell Engineering – Estimated Cost Summary Re: Veterans Park – Soil and Groundwater Remediation Investigation – Informational
- 03-34 NJLM Mayors Advisory – Study: New Jersey Least Corrupt State in the Nation
- 03-35 NJLM Mayors Advisory – Affordable Housing/Municipal Trust Fund Dollars – Update regarding expenditure of COAH funds
- 03-36 Barbara Smith – Parking in Municipal Lot - Mayor will draft a letter to Ms. Smith, there is a new parking ordinance
- 03-37 NJLM Mayors Advisory – E-mail Lists and the Open Public Records Act – mailing lists, except for “emergency only” are subject to OPRA
- 03-38 Philip Boggia, Esq. – Copy of Correspondence from Douglas Bern Re: RFP for Challenger Road – addressed with Correspondence 03-23 in Closed session I
- 03-39 Lawrence Stefanile – Copy of Correspondence to Bergen County Planning & Economic Development – Conclusion of construction, request for County voucher to reimburse Ridgefield Park

HEARING OF CITIZENS

No public present

DISCUSSION: Budget Workshop

Commissioner Anlian addressed several issues he would like to see amended in his departments regarding the 2012 budget. There is grant money of \$25,000.00 and \$3,000.00 in donations. He stated that the grant money has been spent on projects, therefore he needs the \$25,000, originally allocated for trees, put back into the budget. He has a proposal of \$17,000.00 to finish the repair of sidewalks, and he needs another \$5,000.00 for the Court for a new sound/recording system.

Commissioner MacNeill commented that he has departments that have increased costs. He would like to do repairs on the buildings with current funds rather than bonding. He would like to fix restrooms, replace carpeting in Village Hall and has ideas for the parks. He needs to increase up to the 2% cap to fund these costs. The testing at Veterans Park will cost an additional \$100,000.00 he would like to transfer the rest of the funds available in the old ordinance used to fund the new capital ordinance for the new communication equipment.

The budget will be adjusted to reflect some shifts in line items of Commissioner MacNeill's accounts. Mayor Fosdick suggested taking the funds needed from surplus to avoid any increase to the taxpayer. A resolution to amend the budget will be placed on the April 10, 2012 regular meeting agenda to appropriate \$47,000.00 for Commissioner Anlian's departments and \$20,000.00 for Commissioner MacNeill's parks department from surplus. The amount to be raised by property taxes will remain the same. Mr. Barrese will make the appropriate changes and submit the amending resolution to the Board of Commissioners for approval on April 10, 2012. The Budget hearing will take place on April 10, 2012, the budget will not be adopted until the amending resolution, approved on April 10th, is advertised and then heard at the April 24, 2012 meeting.

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The Commissioners then discussed the status of the municipal pool. Mr. Barrese noted that there is still \$31,000.00 note for repairs available.

Chief Rose noted that the DDEF funds need to be reconciled before the adoption of the budget.

Mr. Barrese left the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

REPORTS

Commissioner Boyd reported that two residents have requested waivers on tax bill interest. State law does not allow waiving of interest.

Commissioner Poli - No report

Commissioner MacNeill - No report

Commissioner Anlian reported that the sidewalk repairs should be done by the end of the month.

Mayor Fosdick reported that the baseball organization will have opening day one week from Saturday, he will not be able to attend.

He asked if the resident who requested an easement over Victory Lane could be accommodated. Consensus was reached to allow the Village Attorney to draft an agreement for an easement.

He asked for an update on the complaint of trailer parked at the old Lobster House restaurant property. Chief Rose responded that they have received permission from the property owner to ticket for parking on private property. They will place a warning sticker first on the trailers.

CLOSED SESSION II:

On a motion by Commissioner Mayor Fosdick, seconded by Commissioner Boyd 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) Village of Ridgefield Park v. County of Bergen

On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 8:20 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Poli, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor Fosdick continued his report: He distributed a draft of a letter to County Executive Donovan for approval. Consensus was reached to approve and send.

School Superintendent Chris Onorato will attend the April 19, 2012 meeting.

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Interim Village Clerk Deborah Fehre informed the Mayor and Commissioners that Greek Flag Raising Day will be celebrated at the County Administrative Offices tomorrow, Friday, at 12:00 noon.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fosdick adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Commissioner

/s/Margaret R. Boyd
Commissioner

/s/Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

/s/Hugo R. Poli
Commissioner

/s/George D. Fosdick
Mayor

/s/Deborah L. Fehre
Interim Village Clerk
Approved on April 5, 2012