

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
November 13, 2012
7:30 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 Commissioner Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick in the Chair. Also present: Joseph Voytus, Esq., Tara O'Grady, Courtney Fitzpatrick

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Fosdick. Mayor Fosdick then asked for a moment of silent thought for Mary Fernandez, who passed away and for the lives lost due to Hurricane Sandy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Poli, to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular Meeting of October 23, 2012 and the Closed Session Meeting of October 23, 2012.

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

SPECIAL REPORTS

Commissioner Boyd thanked all Emergency Service Departments who worked endlessly during Hurricane Sandy. Also, a special thanks to Tito Jackson, Bogota Emergency Management Coordinator, for supplying the Village with a special delivery of diesel fuel.

Mayor Fosdick recapped the events leading up to, during, and after Hurricane Sandy:

October 24 – OEM Coordinator Hansen sent out a memo referencing a potential dangerous storm

October 25 – memo from Mr. Hansen to all Emergency Service Departments for an emergency meeting on October 26

October 26 – OEM meeting with all Emergency Service Departments to discuss general storm preparations and assessment of equipment

October 28 – OEM office was activated. The first reverse 911 call was activated to advise residents the severity of the storm and suggest low lying area residents to evacuate to higher ground.

October 29 – The second reverse 911 call was made: Advising low lying area residents to evacuate. Evacuations began in the evening. Roosevelt School was designated as the evacuation center. The storm created a telephone pole to split next to the school and evacuees were transported to Lincoln School. All special needs list residents were contacted.

As soon as the water receded, basements were pumped for 3 days.

25 & 55 Teaneck Road lost their first floor units.

The firehouses did not have power or heat while volunteers were asked to remain on standby. Numerous CO calls due to generators situated too close to homes.

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Fire Chief Richard LaTour advised the Mayor and Commissioners there were a total of 210 alarms due to the storm.

Mayor Fosdick also stated the DPW moved instantly to remove trees and debris. Electricity and phone service were out throughout the Village. The Police Department drove around the Village with advisories over loudspeakers. The clothing and food drive was overwhelmed with donations for Ridgefield Park, Little Ferry, and Moonachie residents. Moonachie lost the police station, 5 police cars and 3 fire trucks.

November 1 – emergency meeting held to discuss Election Day. Arrangements were made for standby power to polling places.

November 2 – The third reverse 911 call was made: Advising residents New Jersey was still in a State of Emergency per Governor Christie, no reliable information has been given from PSE&G regarding power restoration, and election information.

A meeting is scheduled with all departments for November 15 to re-cap the storm.

Mayor Fosdick added this was an unprecedented storm and asked the residents to be understanding. Mayor Fosdick proceeded to ask residents for their comments relating to the storm.

Louise Maksymowicz, resident, thanked the DPW for their wonderful job on Chestnut Street.

John Freund, resident, inquired if the November 15th meeting is opened or closed to residents. OEM Coordinator Hansen advised it is closed. Mr. Freund stated there was one gap in preparations – communication. Cell phone use was spotty. On Tuesday, October 30, he and a friend went to the Municipal Building and Ambulance Corps. Headquarters to volunteer - left their names and addresses at both places and were never contacted for their assistance. Mr. Freund added that he was not aware Lincoln School was a shelter for residents. He suggested the center of town be designated as an information center – people at town hall to field questions, perhaps a Town Hall meeting. He also suggested a Feet, Hands, Voices approach for emergencies.

Feet – firehouses as zones with neighborhood captains to relay information

Hands – volunteers going door to door to relay information

Voices – flag system for residents, red (need help), green (ok)

A benefit concert is planned for December 1, 2012 for the hurricane victims at Central Unitarian Church on Forest Avenue, Paramus, NJ.

Mr. Hansen responded many municipalities have an Emergency Response Team which requires state mandated training. This is something to look into but you would need interested residents, only had 2 residents offer assistance during this storm.

Mayor Fosdick added the Boy Scouts did volunteer; however, it was not a safe environment with wires down.

Police Captain DiNiro stated there is a Nixel message program in which is free via cell phones. Text 07660 to 888-777. The solar sign board was placed on Main Street in front of the Municipal Building for important messages to the residents. The dispatch center was overwhelmed, had extra personnel on duty and was designated as a cell phone charging station for the residents. He also stated the storm was not a surprise, plenty of advanced warnings, residents need to be prepared.

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Bernadette Zajicek, resident, stated everyone was great with the issues at the lower end of town. The men and women who worked did a tremendous job. Thanks to all.

Joan Carlson, resident, stated the volunteers came out and left their own families. Please give credit where credit is due.

Commissioner Poli added that the DPW did not have power and worked through it all.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Commissioner Boyd seconded by Commissioner Poli to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$4,050,585.56.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

Ridgefield Park Volunteer Fire Department Hose Co. 4 – New Member

On a motion by Mayor Fosdick, seconded by Commissioner Boyd, the membership of Roberth Agudelo was accepted subject to approval by the New Jersey State Firemen's Association.

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

Mayor Fosdick welcomed the young man to the Ridgefield Park Fire Department and thanked him for volunteering.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Barbara Johnson, resident, complained about the condemned house located at 54 Teaneck Road. There is presently a dumped dumpster in the backyard, boarding is off the windows, and the house is not secure. Commissioner MacNeill stated the Building Department is aware of the situation and is in contact with the bank.

Bernadette Zajicek, resident, added the previous resident hoarded medication which is now lying in the backyard. There is an odor coming from the house. Commissioner MacNeill stated he will look into the matter.

Walter Richter, resident, stated the ongoing parking issues that he has addressed in the past are still on-going and appears nothing is being done. The car that is continuously parked on the sidewalk on Bergen Turnpike should be ticketed since he was ticketed in the past for two tires of his parked vehicle were on the curb. Parking on sidewalks is prohibited.

Joan Carlson, resident, stated this was the worst election she has worked and commended Tara O'Grady for the excellent job she did.

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Patricia O'Grady, resident, inquired why, in general, it takes so long to get things done. Mayor Fosdick responded there are two sides to every story, sometimes three. Mrs. O'Grady also asked how long the contract term is with Time Warner Cable since the rates recently increased. She stated if you contact them and advise them you can't afford the increase, they will lower your bill. Mayor Fosdick responded the term is 15 years.

Alan Arthur, resident, stated he could not hear the loudspeakers during the storm since he lives in a rear condo, suggested the police continue to drive around the back of the condominium complex. The Police Department was incredibly helpful and has no complaints.

Mayor Fosdick wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.

RESOLUTIONS

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.

Mayor Fosdick read the resolutions by title.

Resolutions:

2012-138	Authorize Public Auction of Police Vehicle
2012-139	Authorize Amendment to Resolution 2012-132 – Tax Overpayment Refund
2012-140	Authorize Amendment to Resolution 2012-133 – Lien Redemption

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Poli, that the Consent Agenda be approved.

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

ORDINANCE: PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION

COMMISSIONER POLI CALLED UP FOR SECOND READING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED:

ORDINANCE 2012-08

2012-08	ORDINANCE FIXING COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS & EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK FOR THE YEAR 2012
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The clerk presented affidavit of publication, showing that advertisement had been made according to law, which was ordered filed. Commissioner Poli moved a public hearing be held on the ordinance and was seconded by Commissioner MacNeill. So ordered. Commissioner Poli read the ordinance by title on second reading. Commissioner Poli then announced that all interested parties would now be given opportunity to be heard for or against the adoption of the ordinance.

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After ample opportunity was given, no interested parties commented on the ordinance.

Commissioner Poli moved the hearing be closed. So ordered.

Commissioner Poli moved the ordinance be adopted on second reading and final passage, which motion was seconded by Commissioner MacNeill and adopted upon a call of the roll.

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

PROCLAMATIONS

Eagle Scout – Mark N. Alberque

RECESS

Motion by Commissioner Anlian seconded by Commissioner Boyd that the public meeting be recessed in order to convene a Closed Session Executive Meeting permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b (5) Skymark Development

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

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 8:37 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Boyd, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 8:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Fosdick adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

/s/ John H. Anlian
Commissioner

Commissioner

/s/ Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

/s/ Hugo R. Poli
Commissioner

/s/ George D. Fosdick
Mayor

/s/ Tara O'Grady
Acting Village Clerk
Approved on November 27, 2012