

COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
December 22, 2015
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 31, 2014 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL

Those present were Commissioners Anlian, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick in the Chair.

Absent: Commissioner Boyd

Also present Philip Boggia, Village Attorney and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Mayor Fosdick. Mayor Fosdick then asked for a moment of silent thought for Kay Callahan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Poli, seconded by Commissioner Anlian to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Regular Meeting of December 8, 2015.

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

Absent: Commissioner Boyd

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion by Commissioner MacNeill, seconded by Commissioner Anlian to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$801,237.47.

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

Absent: Commissioner Boyd

SPECIAL REPORTS

Installation of Ridgefield Park Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Officers.

Commissioner Poli asked Captain Kotzias to give his annual report.

Captain Kotzias stated as of December 22nd, there have been 900+ calls. There are currently 89 members and three vehicles. The Ambulance Corps. attends special events: football games, county park events, Annual Easter Egg Hunt, etc.

Captain Kotzias thanked the Commissioners, Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, OEM, and the Clerk’s office. He also thanked Holy Name Hospital’s Mutual Aid. A special thank you to Alan O’Grady for his assistance with the purchase of two Lucas machines.

Mrs. O’Grady administered the Oaths of Office to the Administrative Officers.

Mrs. O’Grady administered the Oaths of Office to:

1st Asst. Chief Jessamyn Alvarado
2nd Asst. Chief Anthony Vince
3rd Asst. Chief Orestis Kotzias
Mechanic Kevin Coyle

December 22, 2015

Commissioner Poli administered the Oath of Office to:

Chief George Kotzias

Commissioner Poli thanked all the members for a great year and thanked the family members. He added being a member of the Ambulance Corps. is not easy work.

Commissioner Anlian stated what the Ambulance Corps. has done in 1 year is impressive. Most people have no idea what you do. It does take a special individual to dedicate the time and effort. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner MacNeill said thank you and keep up the good work. Merry Christmas.

Mayor Fosdick stated 63 years ago the Ambulance Corps. was formed. Their first ambulance was a 1952 Cadillac. You are to be commended on the amount of training you endure. You do your job very well. The Village counts on you and you have not failed. Thank you for what you do. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

RECESS

Motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Poli to recess for 5 minutes.

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

Absent: Commissioner Boyd

The Board of Commissioners convened recess at 7:58 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Poli, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 8:03 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner MacNeill wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Fosdick wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Thomas Blumenthal, resident, asked what the comparison of tax exemption vs. no exemption for the Eagle's Nest Development. Mayor Fosdick explained the PILOT program to Mr. Blumenthal and added the development would not happen without the abatement. The potential net value of the development is \$1 billion dollars. \$48 million in infrastructure work must be completed first. Commissioner MacNeill stated the PILOT program is over a 30 year period.

Mr. Blumenthal asked what would the benefits to the Village be and what would be the impact on Main Street. Mayor Fosdick stated he believes the development would enhance Main Street. There would be new people coming into the Village. Commissioner Anlian added more access to people would make Main Street vibrant.

John Welsek, resident, asked with the Board of Education's mistake, how will our taxes be affected. Mayor Fosdick stated the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education are two separate entities. The Board of Commissioners does not participate in Board of Education policies. We do not know how the taxes will be affected.

December 22, 2015

The Mayor has asked the Board of Education to address 4 critical points:

1. What and how it happened
2. What is the impact on the educational programs
3. What is the impact on the tax structure
4. What steps will be taken to prevent it from happening again.

The Board of Education has submitted a corrective action plan to the state.

Noel Cote, resident, stated he was at Monday's Board of Education meeting. The Business Administrator is on administrative leave with pay. The Board of Education hired a per diem BA at the rate of \$400 per day. The Board of Education went into closed session for 1.5 hours and resolutions were not readily available to the public for review. Mr. Cote stated he did ask Mr. Eric Koenig about the 6% increase in our taxes. He stated Mr. Koenig advised him the County mandated that increase.

NEW BUSINESS
RESOLUTION

2015-186 Authorize Refund of Tax Payment due to Overpayment

Motion by Commissioner Poli, seconded by Commissioner Anlian, that Resolution 2015-186 be approved.

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

Absent: Commissioner Boyd

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ADOPTIONS

2015-11 AN ORDINANCE REVISING COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS &
EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK FOR THE YEAR
2015

The clerk presented affidavit of publication, showing that advertisement had been made according to law, which was ordered filed. Commissioner Anlian moved a public hearing be held on the ordinance and was seconded by Commissioner MacNeill. So ordered. Commissioner Anlian read the ordinance by title on second reading. Commissioner Anlian then announced that all interested parties would now be given opportunity to be heard for or against the adoption of the ordinance.

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

Commissioner Anlian 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".

Absent: Commissioner Boyd

December 22, 2015

2015-12 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE APPLICATION AND FINANCIAL AGREEMENT AUTHORIZING A TAX EXEMPTION AND PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES PROGRAM FOR EAGLE NEST DEVELOPMENT URBAN RENEWAL, LLC FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT LOCATED IN THE “SKYMARK” REDEVELOPMENT AREA

The clerk presented affidavit of publication, showing that advertisement had been made according to law, which was ordered filed. Commissioner MacNeill moved a public hearing be held on the ordinance and was seconded by Commissioner Poli. So ordered. Commissioner MacNeill read the ordinance by title on second reading. Commissioner MacNeill then announced that all interested parties would now be given opportunity to be heard for or against the adoption of the ordinance.

Thomas Blumenthal asked when the PILOT program would commence.
Commissioner MacNeill advised once the Building Dept. issues the first Certificate of Occupancy.
Commissioner MacNeill advised Skymark is now paying taxes of approx. \$900,000.00 per year.
Mr. Blumenthal remarked yes, but as undeveloped land.
Commissioner Anlian stated it is undeveloped land.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Poli, that the meeting be adjourned.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

/s/John H. Anlian
Commissioner

Abstain
Commissioner Boyd

/s/Adam A. MacNeill
Commissioner

/s/ Hugo R. Poli
Commissioner

/s/ Tara O’Grady
Village Clerk

Approved on January 12, 2016

/s/ George D. Fosdick
Mayor