

COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
RIDGEFIELD PARK  
April 13, 2010  
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, 2009 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board.

ROLL CALL\*\*\*\*\*

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

FLAG SALUTE\*\*\*\*\*

The flag salute was led by Mayor Fosdick.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES\*\*\*\*\*

Motion by Commissioner Boyd seconded by Commissioner MacNeill to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting of March 23, 2010. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

PAYMENT OF BILLS\*\*\*\*\*

Motion by Commissioner Boyd seconded by Commissioner Poli to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$3,592,158.58. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

SPECIAL REPORTS\*\*\*\*\*

Commissioner Anlian read a Proclamation for Arbor Day, April 24, 2010. He said Arbor Day Ceremony will take place on Saturday on Park Street near the convent, St. Francis School Annex.

Mayor Fosdick read a Proclamation for Buddy Poppy , Veterans of Foreign Wars, recognizing the merits of this cause and urging all citizens to wear a Buddy Poppy.

CORRESPONDENCE\*\*\*\*\*

Acting Village Clerk read a letter from Hose Co. No. 1 regarding the resignation of Mr. Taylor. Motion by Mayor Fosdick seconded by Commissioner MacNeill to approve the resignation of Mr. Taylor with regrets. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

HEARING OF CITIZENS\*\*\*\*\*

Stella Cummings – 98 Laurel Street.

Ms. Cummings said there is a house by Roosevelt School up for sale. The sign says two to four multi family. Mayor Fosdick said he had checked it out. It is a two family home for sale, that is all, and it will stay that way.

Commissioner Anlian said the certificate of continued occupancy will be for a two family.

Ms. Cummings recently received her tax assessment. A realtor told her that value of property depends on location. Properties in town have gone down 20 to 25%. She said her home has remained at the same assessment. How can you justify that when the houses have dropped?

Commissioner Anlian said it is the same assessment. Everyone is the same ratio. Mayor Fosdick explained that it is the same assessment since the revaluation. He said there is a proposal by the assessor that he would do a general reassessment. He said the property tax system in New Jersey stinks.

Sonia LaValle – 129 Arthur Street.

Ms. LaValle said a huge tree came down in the storm by the curb of her home. She said she knows the town will do repairs to the sidewalk. However, she said there are roots under the lawn that came to the surface and are four to five feet into her lawn. I need to have someone come back and look at it to see what can be done.

Commissioner Anlian said a number of trees came down and sidewalks will be replaced. We may have to make some other provisions so the sidewalks are done in a timely fashion. Ms. LaValle asked if it would be seeded after its all done and she would also like a new tree. Commissioner Anlian said they will take a look at the roots.

Nick DellFave – 127 Arthur Street

He said he is playing telephone tag with Verizon. They still have fios box near the pole on the driveway and a horse sitting there and they have to maneuver getting in. Mr. O'Grady will take a look at it. Mr. DellaFave said the pole is leaning on the property and all he has is a ticket number.

Mayor Fosdick said in terms of things that happened, Ridgefield Park was not a high priority. Mr. DellFave said Verizon was there within two days to put in a new box and the other box is still sitting there. He said when the tree came down, it pulled the pole on the corner of Arthur & Roosevelt. The pole is still leaning.

Commissioner Anlian and I have communicated he said and he thanked Commissioner Poli for his e-mail. The tree on his property is an oak tree about 100 to 150 years old. He said it really got clobbered. Most of the bark is gone. He received a letter from his neighbor wanting him to do something about it, saying he is responsible. He said he needs some kind of help. He said Commissioner Anlian said he would have an arborist look at it..

Commissioner Anlian said he did not know the results, but will find out. Mr. Della Fave said the tree in front of his house was not planted properly and roots are growing on his lawn. Commissioner Anlian said we have a sidewalk repair program. Commissioner Anlian said he would look at the tree.

Ray Ziemba – 101 Overpeck Avenue

Mr. Ziemba said he go to meet with the governor twice. He said he talked about Washington's spending. Fifteen years from now the government will only be able to pay off interest on debt. Mr. Ziemba said we have to stop spending. He talked about pension

in New Jersey and said the governor doesn't like automatic increases. He said property taxes are too high. We have to do something about it. He said the governor was put into office to lower taxes. School budgets are too high and sooner or later we will have to close one of our schools.

Commissioner Boyd asked Mr. Ziemba "Why do you think there are so many tax appeals?"

He said people are fed up and taxes are too high. Mr. Ziemba said the property tax rebate is gone, the cost of medicine has gone up and said everyone has to make sacrifices. He said the elected officials are to blame. Elected officials have hurt the people by raising taxes. He asked the Commissioners what they have done to lower taxes.

Mayor Fosdick responded. He said he is expanding his business and moving to Ridgefield Park on Bergen Turnpike. He said people here tonight have asked about trees. That involves spending public funds. It all costs money. Government talks a good talk but has not given us any tools. Our pension cost went up, garbage cost up, sewer cost up, taxes will go up. Our school taxes have not gone up for three years. Mayor Fosdick explained how the Board of Education developed surplus. He said the Fire Department budget has not changed in five years nor has the Police Department budget. The Board of Education accumulated surplus and now the governor says use it because you are not going to receive State Aid. Taxes go up because there are things Trenton makes us pay. The property tax system is the problem. Right now they have made a lot of noise but it will not solve anything. We do a DPW contract on a yearly basis and a Police Department contract two to three years. Some of the things you want us to do we will do. We sat with the Board of Education and they were able to get "give backs" from the teachers. However, costs go up and we have no choice. Recently the Water Company cost \$100,000 and they want 20% more. Electric cost are also up. He said municipal aid which we use to collect and keep is now kept by the State. We are not getting the money we use to get. He quoted Jack Davis "Does anyone really think we want to raise taxes"?.

Mr. Ziemba said he asked the governor where the lottery and gambling money goes. The response was it goes to unemployment in New Jersey which is at 14%.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS\*\*\*\*\*

None.

NEW BUSINESS\*\*\*\*\*

Commissioner Boyd said we have Capital Ordinances since 1998, money left over and we are cleaning them up and using the money for the Ordinance being introduced tonight.

Commissioner Boyd read -

Resolution No. 1 - Approving Cancellation of Capital Ordinance

Motion by Commissioner

Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Poli to approve Resolution No. 1. On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

Commissioner Poli said the money from the Capital Ordinance will be used to buy a garbage truck. Commissioner Poli introduced an Ordinance “PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A GARBAGE TRUCK FOR THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK AND APPROPRIATING \$275,000 FOR SUCH PURPOSE”.

Motion by Commissioner Poli seconded by Commissioner Boyd that the Ordinance “PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A GARBAGE TRUCK FOR THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK AND APPROPRIATING \$275,000 FOR SUCH PURPOSE” BE APPROVED ON FIRST READING, BE DULY ADVERTISED IN THE Record and come up for public hearing on April 27, 2010. On roll call Commissioner Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

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. 2 - Approving Increase in Temporary Budget.

Resolution No. 3 - Supporting Organ And Tissue Donation.

Resolution No. 4 - Opposing Increase For United Water.

Resolution No. 5 - Approving Tax Lien Redemption #06-04 in amount \$28,658.84 To US Bank Cust/Sass Muni V dtr, Philadelphia Pa 19102.

Motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner MacNeill that the Consent Agenda be approved. On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

RECESS\*\*\*\*\*

Motion by Commissioner Anlian seconded by Commissioner Poli to recess the Commissioners Meeting at 8:30 PM to go into Closed Session to discuss legal and personnel matters. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

s/John Anlian  
Commissioner

s/Margaret R. Boyd  
Commissioner

s/Adam MacNeill  
Commissioner

s/Hugo Poli  
Commissioner

s/George Fosdick  
Mayor

Barbara Pettit  
Acting Village Clerk