

COMMISSIONERS MEETING
RIDGEFIELD PARK
February 24, 2009
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, 2008 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 Poli to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Meeting of February 10, 2009. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA". Commissioner MacNeill abstained.

SPECIAL REPORTS*****

Commissioner Boyd read a proclamation for "Women's History Month"

Mayor Fosdick read a proclamation for "Rare Disease Day"

CORRESPONDENCE*****

None.

HEARING OF CITIZENS*****

Mr. Ray Ziemba, 101 Overpeck Avenue:

Mr. Ziemba said salaries are the municipality's biggest expense. They have raised faster than the rate of inflation. Arbitrators have no connection with towns. Budget must be addressed as a top priority. If town was run as a business, there would be staff cuts, sharing of health costs and elimination of pension benefits.

Ed Coyle, 24 Eighth Street:

Mr. Coyle asked if the retro money was put in past budgets. He was told it had been.

Nick DellaFave, 127 Arthur Street:

He stated his taxes went up \$861.00 last year. The increase is hard when you're on a fixed income. He may have to move.

Mayor Fosdick explained municipalities have many expenses over which they have no control:

1. BCUA (water/CSO) \$1,000,000.00 plus per year
2. BCUA (garbage) 650,000.00 plus per year
3. PSE&G - continuing increases. The Village has had energy audits done.
4. Telephone - Audits have been done.
5. Fire Hydrants - \$90,000.00 plus.

An immediate issue is police are not allowed to strike and have the right to go to arbitration. Arbitration cost the Village \$150,000.00. New employees will contribute to medical benefits. Ridgefield Park police start at \$25,000.00. The police responded to 18,000 incidents last year.

Crossing guard hours have been cut by 45 minutes at lunchtime resulting in a \$59,000.00 saving. Not having the fireworks saves \$50,000.00.

Economy has made it impossible for Challenger Road project to go ahead. COAH regulations have also made it difficult to go forward.

Ridgefield Park has proposed a list of projects for the stimulus program.

Commissioner MacNeill and Mayor Fosdick have met with the Mayor and Administrator of Bogota to discuss sharing services. Also, Mayor Fosdick and Planning Board Chairman Fred Rosen met with Ridgefield's Mayor to discuss development on both sides of the creek.

Commissioner Anlian stated our Police Department is one of the best in Bergen County, and the State of New Jersey. They have the highest drunk arrests record. Our problem is we are stuck in a bad arbitration system. The legislature has to make the proper changes. There should be a cap on increases based on the income of an average household. Appeals should be made as high as possible. Residents can't afford to live in Ridgefield Park any longer. He stated he is pro-police, but the town cannot afford the increase.

Mayor Fosdick:

Our labor attorney advised it was a waste of money to try to appeal arbitrator's decision. A start had been made with future employees paying towards hospitalization.

Tom Christiansen, 17 Main Street:

Mr. Christiansen stated you can't expect a union member to give back 5% of their salary.

Ray Ziemba:

For tax relief we have to look into shared services.

Mayor Fosdick explained consolidation and regionalization cause costs to go up. Ridgefield Park pays \$10 to \$11,000 per student but Becton Regional pays \$15 to \$16,000.00.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS*****

Commissioner Poli announced that this was the time and place for the public hearing on an "ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 99 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK ENTITLED "FAIR SHARE AND MARKETING". No one wished to be heard. Motion by Commissioner Poli seconded by Commissioner Boyd that the "ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 99 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEFIELD PARK ENTITLED "FAIR CHARE AND MARKETING" be approve and duly advertised in the Record. On roll call Commissioners Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA". Commissioner Anlian voted "No".

Commissioner Poli stated police officers get to emergency calls before the emergency services. For heart attack victims, the police perform CPR within two minutes. During fires they carry people down and out of buildings. The police officers are second to none and worth every penny they earn. He wants to save money, but there is no price when you save lives.

Mayor Fosidck explained the extensive hiring and promotion procedures for the Police Department. As a result, our civilian complaints are down and arrests are up. The department is now working on accreditation.

NEW BUSINESS*****

Commissioner MacNeill introduced "AN ORDINANCE OF REVISED DEVELOPER'S FEE ORDINANCE". Motion by Commissioner MacNeill seconded by Commissioner Boyd that the "ORDINANCE OF REVISED DEVELOPER'S FEE ORDINANCE" be approved on its first read, be duly advertised in the Record and come up for public hearing on March 10, 2009. On roll call Commissioners 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. 1. Authorizing Closing of Third Street for Block Party.
- Resolution No. 2. Authorizing Refund of Duplicate Payment of Taxes on Block 7, Lot 1.
- Resolution No. 3. Authorizing Signing of Mutual Aid Agreement with Ridgefield.
- Resolution No. 4. Authorizing Signing of Contract with Association of RP DPW Employees.
- Resolution No. 5. Authorizing Amendment to Municipal Swimming Pool Regulations.

Ed Coyle, 24 Eighth Street:

Asked address of property referred to in Resolution No. 2. He was advised it was 54 Hackensack Avenue.

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

Dolores DellaFave, 127 Arthur Street:

Mr. DellaFave asked how long Christmas lights were going to be lit.

Commissioner Anlian said usually they are on from November to March (Thanksgiving to St. Patrick's).

Mrs. DellaFave asked if we can save money by not lighting them.

Commissioner MacNeill stated we are checking into different ways to light the trees that are cost efficient.

RECESS*****

Motion by Commissioner Anlian seconded by Commissioner Boyd to recess the meeting to go into Closed Session to discuss personnel issues. On roll call Commissioner 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