

COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
September 9, 2008
7:30 P.M.

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 21, 2007 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. Mayor Fosdick asked for a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the 9/11 attack.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES*****

Motion by Commissioner Poli seconded by Commissioner Boyd to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 12, 2008. On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA.

SPECIAL REPORTS****

None.

PAYMENT OF BILLS*****

Motion by Commissioner Boyd seconded by Commissioner MacNeill to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$1,570,521.59. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

CORRESPONDENCE*****

Letter received from the Rescue Squad accepting John Viera and Tyler Olsen as probationary members. Motion by Commissioner Boyd, seconded by Commissioner Poli to approve the acceptance of John Viera and Tyler Olsen as probationary members. On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

HEARING OF CITIZENS*****

David Crago, 99 Teaneck Road

Mr. Crago stated his taxes had increased \$1,800.00. Houses increased \$800.00 or less than half of his amount although he only has a small condo.

Mayor Fosdick explained the problem lies with the state tax system. The revaluation was ordered by the Bergen County Board of Taxation due to a low ratio of assessments to sales. An outside company did the revaluation. There was a shift in assessments from commercial to residential. The tax bill covers three entities: School 57%, County 9%, Municipal 34%. He further explained the low rates resulted in numerous commercial appeals, and Refunding Bond Ordinance on the agenda is needed to pay back for successful appeals.

Assessor Arthur Carlson advised residents in attendance to make an appointment to see him to discuss their assessments and the appeal process.

Mayor Fosdick explained further that many factors increase the budget, i.e., loss of state aid, health benefits, pension costs, fire hydrants, fuel and loss of revenue. The town has done energy savings audits and put restrictions on car use by volunteers.

The town is now in arbitration with the PBA to have new patrolmen pay towards health benefits.

Commissioner Anlian stated salaries, pensions and benefits result in PBA members earning over \$100,00.00

Mayor Fosdick explained several years ago the PBA agreed to a 30 day CAP on accumulated sick time.

Cheryl Perrotta, 15 Union Place.

Ms. Perrotta stated \$100,000.00 would not be enough for her to work in the Police Department.

Mayor Fosdick stated police have responded to over 18,000 incidents in 2007.

The Village has an understanding with AvalonBay to develop upscale residential units with construction starting by the end of 2010 if all approvals are received. Ridgefield Park continues to own the land. Therefore, we will collect rent and taxes on the property.

Ray Ziemba, 101 Overpeck Avenue.

Mr. Ziemba stated New Jersey has the highest taxes in the nation. He said big changes are coming.

Joan Carlson, 199 Bergen Turnpike.

Ms. Carlson thanked the Commissioners for solving the geese problem at McGowan Park. Commissioner Anlian explained that Bernadette Zajichek volunteered to walk her dog in McGowan Park several times per day. It has made a big difference with the geese.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS*****

Commissioner Boyd announced that this was the time and place for the public hearing on the "SALARY ORDINANCE". A citizen asked if the ordinance had been published. He was told it had been in the newspaper. No one else wished to be heard. Motion by Commissioner Boyd seconded by Commissioner Poli to approve the "SALARY ORDINANCE" and have it duly published in the Record. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted "YEA".

Commissioner Boyd announced that this was the time and place for the public hearing on A "REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE FOR TAX APPEALS". Someone questioned if appeals were just settled. It was explained that individual appeals are argues, which can get costly. There were approximately 120 appeals. No one else wished to be heard. Public Hearing on Refunding Bond Ordinance for Tax Appeals. Motion by

Commissioners Boyd seconded by Commissioner Poli to approve the “REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE FOR TAX APPEALS” and have it duly published in the Record. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

NEW BUSINESS*****

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 Cancellation of \$25,000.00 of Bonds or Notes Authorized to be issued for Ordinance No. 08-07 for Tax Appeals. Motion by Commissioner Anlian seconded by Commissioner MacNeill that Resolution No. 1 be approved. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

Resolution No. 2] Appointment to Shade Tree Commission.

Resolution No. 3] Appointment to Board of Recreation.

Resolution No. 4] Authorizing Signing of Agreement with Board of Education for Non-Public School Nursing Services.

Resolution No. 5] Authorizing Dean Boorman to Prepare COAH Work Plan.

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

Mayor Fosdick introduced an “ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 49 ENTITLED “POLICE DEPARTMENT”. Motion by Mayor Fosdick, seconded by Commissioner Poli that “ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 49 ENTITLED “POLICE DEPARTMENT” be approved, and come put for public hearing on August 23, 2008. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

ADJOURNMENT*****

Motion by Commissioner Anlian seconded by Commissioner Boyd that the meeting adjourn at 8:30 PM. On roll call Commissioners Anlian, Boyd, MacNeill, Poli and Mayor Fosdick voted “YEA”.

s/John Anlian
Commissioner

s/Margaret Boyd
Commissioner

s/Adam MacNeill
Commissioner

s/Hugo Poli
Commissioner

s/George D. Fosdick
Mayor

Barbara Pettit, Deputy
Village Clerk

