

COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
RIDGEFIELD PARK
February 20, 2025
7:00 PM

Mayor MacNeill 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, 2024 and was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and the Village Website.

This agenda is listed as a courtesy and attempt to inform the public of actions being considered by the Village Board of Commissioners. There may be additions and deletions prior to the Board taking final action. Any action may be taken at any meeting, which includes all Caucus and Regular sessions. The Commissioners reserve the right to conduct and/or attend any meetings presently scheduled for the rest of 2025 by a combination of electronic and/or in-person means. Meetings are open to the public.

ROLL CALL

Those present were Commissioners Anlian (7:04pm), Gerken, Portorreal and Mayor MacNeill in the chair.

Absent: Commissioner Mirza

Also, present: Philip Boggia, Chris Chapman, Village Attorney; Edward Monroe, DPW Superintendent; William Morton, Police Lieutenant and Tara O’Grady, Village Clerk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to approve the minutes of the Commissioners Caucus Meeting of February 6, 2025.

On roll call, Commissioners Gerken, Portorreal and Mayor MacNeill voted “YEA”.

Absent: Commissioners Anlian, Mirza

DISCUSSION

Correspondence No. 02-16 - Ordinance 2025-04

John Tumino, Tumino’s Towing was in attendance to discuss the revised Towing Ordinance. He has been in the Village for 28 years. The Village used to have 3 towers and now have 2. Mr. Tumino spoke with Chief Rella who has advised that his main concern is the availability of trucks when it snows. Mr. Tumino stated he will always have 2 trucks available when it snows. Mr. Tumino raised his concerns with extending towers to within a 5-mile radius of the Village. He suggests to keep the towing in the Village or very close. Mayor MacNeill advised the Village only has 1 qualified tower right now. State law states towed vehicles are to be in a secured lot – Neil’s does not adhere to this mandate.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Tumino and will discuss the Ordinance at the next Caucus meeting when Chief Rella is present.

At this time, Mr. Tumino left the meeting.

Ordinance – Foreclosed Property Registration

Attorney Boggia advised the sample ordinance mandates registration of foreclosed, abandoned properties. He will draft the ordinance for Ridgefield Park and re-circulate for discussion.

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CORRESPONDENCE

- 02-05 Boswell Engineering – Geophysical Survey Proposal – Commissioner Gerken will address under Commissioners reports
- 02-06 NJLM Weekly Roundup - Informational
- 02-07 Local Finance Notice 2025-03 - Informational
- 02-08 NJDEP Weekly Update - Informational
- 02-09 Board of County Commissioners – Resolutions, Ordinance, Change of Venue Notice – Informational
- 02-10 NJLM Weekly Roundup - Informational
- 02-11 NJLM Urging Municipalities to Support Legislation – Legal Notices on Government Websites - Informational
- 02-12 Daniele Fede, Mayor of Bogota – Condolence Card - Informational
- 02-13 Stephen Quinn, RP Environmental Commission – Use of Artificial Turf – the Environmental Commission is not in favor of turf. Commissioner Anlian is not either. Commissioner Gerken stated he is undecided.
- 02-14 NJDEP Weekly Update – the Ridgefield Park article is on page 2
- 02-15 Hook & Ladder Co. No. 1 – Street Closure – resolution to be prepared for the February 25, 2025 meeting.
- 02-16 John Tumino – Ordinance 2025-04 – see “Discussion”

HEARING OF CITIZENS

No citizens present.

REPORTS

Commissioner Gerken advised he authorized Boswell Engineering to conduct the geophysical survey on Fellowship Park. It was conducted on Tuesday and no tanks were found. Commissioner Gerken also authorized Suburban Engineering to handle the biennial certification for Veterans Park.

Boswell Engineering has provided a proposal for surveys of Veterans Park south and by the High School for \$28,400.00. This would be funded with the County money.

The CSO Phase 1 will be starting this week. The contractor will be notifying the homeowners that will be impacted. 401 Main Street has complained about survey flags on their property – done in error by the contractor and have been removed.

Commissioner Gerken is setting up a meeting with Mayor MacNeill and Suburban to discuss what Phase 2 may be.

10am meeting tomorrow with the vendor and Mike Landolfi regarding the sound complaints from the Ridgefield Avenue resident.

The DEP is requesting audit forms for the I-Bank loan.

Michelle DeLuca gave 2 websites to review – any concerns, speak up.

The County is offering fiber optics service.

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Commissioner Portorreal advised she met with Daina regarding the summer recreation program. Daina is working on the flyer and waiting on approval for use of the school building. She does not want to do an extended program this year – 6 weeks only. Staffing and location are the issues. Commissioner Portorreal has been in contact with Sustainable RP – No Mow May will be in the upcoming newsletter. Silvio Zapata advised the Ambulance Corps. can assist with some healthcare items.

Commissioner Anlian advised the newsletter deadline is today.

Mayor MacNeill stated a survey is needed for the IGA lot – Boswell Eng. will do it. The Chamber of Commerce is working on the “welcome package” for new residents and businesses.

Clerk O’Grady advised Congressman Gottheimer’s “Mobile Office” will be coming on March 25th at 6:30pm – a table will be needed.

The Scouts Presidential Volunteer Service Awards will be at the March 11th meeting.

The Ramadan service will be March 4th at 5pm.

Mt. Vernon Street railroad crossing will be closed March 12 - March 15.

Superintendent Monroe advised the road paving and Hunter Park improvements will begin, weather permitting.

Bid opening is March 13th for Park Street/Webster Street parking lot.

Boswell Eng. is talking with the Turnpike Authority about the Emerson Street bridge.

Lieutenant Morton thanked the Board of Commissioners for their overwhelming support with Steve Fernandez’s death.

Two of the three repeaters are down. The Village is close to having no radios.

CLOSED SESSION

Resolution:

2025-25 Authorize Closed Session Meeting

On a motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, the public portion of the meeting recessed in order to convene a Closed Session Executive Meeting permitted pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b (7) Fire Department Matters

On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Gerken, Portorreal and Mayor MacNeill voted “YEA”.

Absent: Commissioner Mirza

The Board of Commissioners convened closed session at 8:26 p.m.

On a motion by Commissioner Anlian, seconded by Commissioner Gerken, the Board of Commissioners returned to open session at 8:36 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Gerken, seconded by Commissioner Portorreal to adjourn.

On roll call, Commissioners Anlian, Gerken, Portorreal and Mayor MacNeill voted “YEA”.

Absent: Commissioner Mirza

Mayor MacNeill adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

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/s/ John H. Anlian _____
Commissioner

/s/ William G. Gerken _____
Commissioner

Absent _____
Commissioner Mirza

Absent _____
Commissioner Portorreal

/s/ Adam MacNeill _____
Mayor

/s/Tara O'Grady _____
Village Clerk
Approved on March 6, 2025