

**BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON**  
**CAUCUS MINUTES, JUNE 3, 2013**

Mayor Klaus called the meeting to order at 6:35pm with the reading of the Sunshine Statement. The Mayor then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called roll with the following present: Council President Popiolek, Councilwoman Bergeron, Councilman DelVecchio, Councilwoman Nicholson, Councilman Ludwig and Councilman Robenolt. Also present were CFO Denise Moules, Eileen Holcombe, Secretary to Mayor and Council, Greg Evans, Borough Engineer and Tim Higgins Solicitor. Also present was John Szczerbinski, Construction Official.

**First Public Portion**—on a motion by Councilman DelVecchio, second by Council President Popiolek, the public portion of the meeting was opened.

Mayor Klaus asked if there is any public comment. Seeing none, on a motion by Councilman DelVecchio, second by Councilwoman Nicholson, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

**Engineer:**

Mayor Klaus called for the engineer to give his report. Greg Evans reviewed the monthly report and specifically reported on the following items. A copy of the engineer's report will be included with these minutes.

Item #3-Curb Ramp Project. Tim notified bonding company that contractor is in default. Residents have expressed concerns. Contractor has been advised that they need to be out this week to remove the piles.

Item #4—Clements Bridge Road Streetscape—correction to the report. Should read \$539,000.00 for the grant amount received.

Item #6—Hidden Ponds pump station. Mike received an email from Site Specific that they will be out Wednesday to install auto-dialer. We met with contractor and he has ordered a new trash basket. We will inform the governing body when it will be installed.

Item #7—2012 Capital Improvement Program. We met with Denise and it will consist of Shreve Avenue guardrail replacement, ponding project on Beaver Drive.

Item #9—Earmark funding for Gateway Project. We got a proposal from Conrail for rent and we advised them that we are not interested in pursuing. We have been advised that the maintenance agreement has been reinstated. There was some discussion about the amount that Conrail wants to charge us for rent to install a pavilion and the amount is ridiculous which is why we are not proceeding.

Item #10—USDA sewer project. We have been providing program with plan amendments for their review. Tim advised that Samost is going to court on Friday. He has served us with a lot of papers claiming stuff that does not exist. We will be going to court to get the easement.

Item #11—Pedestrian improvements at Highland and Mercer. We will be providing the plans and specs to the County tomorrow.

Item #13—Carpet One site improvements. Mr. Jones reached out to Tim regarding lack of progress. Tim said seven day letter last week. We are expecting to hear back from them any day now. John Z added he got a call from a contractor who will be installing a fire alarm system.

Item #1 under Old Business—White Horse Pike Redevelopment project. We are still working with DOT to obtain major access permit for phase one. We will be submitting the revisions for the traffic signal. We are waiting for confirmation on a meeting with them. We did submit an application to the County as a result of the planning board approval. They responded there are no approvals required from them.

Item #2—Fed Ex traffic signal. Developer is working with Conrail to get their work done. They expect the signal to be activated in September.

Councilmen DelVecchio asked if we got a response regarding the grade crossing at Clements Bridge Road. Greg responded that we are not on their list—they have worse areas that will be done first.

Mayor Klaus asked if there were any questions for Greg. Seeing none, Mayor Klaus thanked Greg for his report.

**Administration: Terry reported on the following**

Pet licenses—to date, we have licensed 78 cats and 346 dogs. Last year, we issued 283 dog licenses and 70 cats. That is a 22% improvement in license penetration. We are going to be doing our next round of mailing using the label file we are purchasing from the direct marketing company. We would like to again waive the late fee until June 30 with your approval. If you approve, a resolution waiving the late fee will be on the agenda. Everyone agreed.

Friday hours—we would like to revisit the staff request to adjust Friday hours to be changed to 8:30am-4:00pm. Tim reached out to Judge Zane and he had no problem with the change in hours. We had pulled it from the agenda last month. If you are in agreement, a resolution will be on the agenda. Everyone agreed.

VFW Event manager—Patti and I had met with John Crawford back in January and he provided valuable information on the responsibilities of the event manager, a summary of which is attached. I was discussing this with John on Saturday and he said the way we have it set-up, wherein the renter pays him directly, effects the tips he may get as bartender. The renters believe that because they are paying him, he should not be putting out a tip jar. He would like us to pay him but if we pay him through accounts payable, we would have to issue a 1099 at year-end causing a tax situation for him. A suggestion would be to put him on payroll and we would pay him when he actually works. This would solve the tax situation and he will not make enough for it to become a pension issue. Everyone agreed.

Financial Disclosure—thank you to everyone for filing. I am still waiting for most of the members of the Planning Board.

Update on health benefits—the HIF will be sending audit letters out to everyone to verify dependent information. This is in preparation to begin working on the 2014 rates. The HIF is having a very good year and the surplus has completely recovered from the 90 large claims that occurred last year. However, unless a miracle happens, I still think that the State Health Benefits Program will be cheaper. The HIF rates should be available in September. The SHBP rates should be released in August. We will know for sure then. I asked Tim to make sure the language written into the contracts allows for a change to the SHBP. I believe the police are agreeable and I am sure AFSCME will be as well. When the rate comparison is ready, I will present it to you for the final decision. We would notify the HIF in September of our intent to leave the fund and then we would hold open enrollment meetings with the employees in October. The rep from the SHBP will attend the employee meetings to answer questions. That will give us November and December to get everyone enrolled for January 1. I will keep you posted as information becomes available.

2012 Audit Report—hopefully everyone had an opportunity to review the audit report, at least the findings section of the report. The audit was again very, very good due to the great job done by Denise

and Kristy. We need to pass a resolution accepting the audit report so I will include the resolution on the agenda if everyone has approved.

Liquor License Renewals—I have received two renewal packages back so we can add the resolution authorizing renewal for Barrington Restaurant LLC and for Dante's. If the other two come back in by the time of the council meeting, they will be added as well.

**Review of action items for the agenda:** Terry reviewed the following items that will be on the agenda

Ordinances for public hearing and adoption—

Ord. 1004 Salary Ordinance for non-union employees and officials

Ordinances for introduction—

Ordinance amending hall rental fees

Resolutions—

Waiving the Late Fee on pet licenses

Approving the June Bill List

Accepting the 2012 Audit Report

Authorizing Renewal of 2013-14 Liquor Licenses

Chapter 159 for grant received—Clean Communities

**Finance:** Denise reported on the following items

Denise reviewed the standard monthly financial reports and bank balances. She then reviewed the overtime breakdown and reported most of the hours were for court staffing. The budget has been posted and everything is in the black. She will continue to monitor with department heads their specific line items.

The audit meeting was productive. We have a couple of items that need to be clarified—namely petty cash and a couple of riders. All in all, it went very well.

Denise then reviewed the capital wish list from department heads. A copy of the list will be included with these minutes. There is no down payment for the streetscape. Greg provided the additional engineering costs for that project. The estimate for engineering and other soft costs is \$75,000 which will be outside the grant. The remediation for White Horse Pike is also a borough obligation and the Second Avenue drainage project and the 200 block of Albany are the roads programs that were submitted by Mike as projects for this year. There is milling to be done on the 200 block and 400 block of Albany. How much can be done will depend on what is left after the guardrail on Shreve and the drainage on Second. We need a decision on a police car and I need an update on the records management system. Denise asked Bob if he knew the status and he said that he did not but will discuss it further. The fire department broke their wish list down into three sections based on priority. Court asked for the digital recorder using a combination of grant and capital monies. As everything stands right now, we don't have enough for the down payment so the list needs to be modified. After more discussion, some revisions were made and Denise said she will prepare a revised capital list and have the necessary financial ordinance prepared.

**► COUNCIL REPORTS**

Council President reported on the following:

White Horse Pike—waiting on DOT permitting and finalization of DEP permit. Then we are ready to go. Redeveloper will be acquiring the Bok Bok site soon. Tim said both Bok Bok and the Shiv properties are ready to go once they are funded. We have an agreement on 111 LLC with Sam Ross. We have two complaints filed on Southoaks and A&B Restoration and the hearing are scheduled for July 17. We don't anticipate any problems. Kirk said we just need DOT approval.

Rich Hill apartment project—got a call from Mike Dinella who is trying to broker a deal to buy Rich Hill's plans and modify the project a little. They may want to change to town homes rather than apartments. None of this is definite—these are just discussions. Patti said she wish they would do something because the property is an eyesore. Shawn asked if they would have to come back to the planning board if they change the plans. Tim said yes because the redevelopment plan was modified to accommodate the original project. If the project is changed, it would require new approvals.

Kirk added thanks to Denise for a great audit. Mayor Klaus concurred and thanked all involved.

Councilwoman Bergeron reported on the following:

I met with the health committee to discuss licensing. As Terry reported, we gave her the go ahead to purchase the mailing list so we can go after the pet owners who are not getting their licenses. We also discussed the trap and release program. The committee is going to look at possible locations to release the cats. We are considering behind DPW, the woods behind the Willows and possibly the wetlands behind the redevelopment area. Kirk did not think this would be a good idea since there will be a restaurant there. Another possible location is Primer Park. The County is actively supporting T-N-R programs. They dramatically reduce your feral cat population. We put the information out there and I already got my first volunteer. Councilman DeVecchio asked who pays for the neutering and Terry said the TNR committee will have to fund raise.

Government Day was a success and the kids had a good time during the visitations. Thanks to Patti and Bob for sharing the day. One of the projects we had the kids do was to come up with proclamation for the month of June and she showed the posters the kids came up with honoring Chief Eisenhardt. We asked the kids to come to the June council meeting to present to him. We also asked them to come up with an event for the town and they would like to do a walk for breast cancer. Maureen said she wants to work with the school to put it together. We also asked the kids to discuss a current issue and they chose the County police. They had to come up with pros and cons. They listed the reasons for and against and the consensus is we should have a local police force.

Patti and I attended the "I Believe" project at Haddon Heights High School. I strongly encourage anyone to participate if you have the opportunity. The kids put their hearts and souls into it. There is a huge difference between the girls and the boys in what they shared. They all said social media has had an impact on their lives and they have all had a negative experience. Some told tragic stories about things that have happened in their lives and it was very eye-opening and emotional.

Barrington Seniors have a bunch of events coming up and she reviewed the upcoming schedule. Also, the senior vouchers came out for the food program. They cut the program a lot. Seniors have to qualify.

Councilman DeVecchio reported on the following:

Police contract negotiations—the police did not sign the contract and for now we are going to mediation. He thanked everyone for their work on the contract.

Regarding the capital—the records management system is combined with other towns. Our server needs to be upgraded to support the system. The lockers can be removed from the capital request as they are not necessary right now.

Talked to the Chief today and Sgt. Uron will be checking out the camera tonight to make sure it is coming through to the computers. They will be going up in the bucket truck to make some adjustments.

Council President added “an excellent job” done on the police contract.

Councilwoman Nicholson reported on the following:

We got \$1000 from Runnemedede for the fireworks. They will come Tuesday to the meeting so we can recognize them. We will have a banner made to thank the sponsors.

Everyone has been booked for the parade. We are using a string band instead of the fancy brigade. Bob Del is going to handle the line-up. We will be meeting with the Grand Marshal tomorrow. We will release the names after they agree.

Harvest Fest is starting slowly but it is moving along.

Councilman Ludwig reported on the following:

We are going to talk to Bellmawr about paving some of the side streets—not the County roads—just some of the smaller projects. Bob and I are going to drive around to identify potential small projects.

One of the DPW employees is working full-time hours but does not have health benefits. He has been here for a long period of time. He should have health benefits. Terry said the senior temp guy usually works year-round without benefits. Shawn said Mike asked for benefits for him in his budget. How the position was set-up is not how it is being used. Tim said Terry should investigate as personnel officer and get back to Shawn. Terry said she will look into and report back to Shawn so he can discuss with the rest of the committee. Councilman DelVecchio said the former employee waited a long time for his benefits and worked just as hard. Now we are giving them to this guy just like that? Shawn said he understands the system was flawed but that we have to fix it going forward.

Shawn received a grievance that he is looking into and will report further. He will discuss with Terry as personnel officer after the meeting.

Councilman DelVecchio asked when the AFSCME contract negotiations will begin. Shawn replied that he has given them dates and is waiting for them to get back to him.

Councilman Robenolt reported on the following:

Nothing to report on regarding Judicial—everything running smoothly.

Continuing to work with Keith Knight on the fire company storage building. John Z gave us some information on a possible lead.

Green Team seems to be floundering. Can we look at a different date and time to move it away from caucus and council? We need to bolster some new interest. Shawn said we can discuss.

Teen Center is closed for the season. Bob Haas asked to borrow some equipment and we will discuss with Patti.

Mayor Klaus reported on the following:

We requested that the Hidden Ponds residents meet with myself, Councilman Ludwig and Tim Higgins. We will propose a five-year plan where they will be assessed additional money over the flow charges from Runnemedede. We will see what comes out of the meeting.

We got a thank you card from the Fultano family for flowers sent on the passing of Jeff's Mom.

I was approached by two residents who want to assist low-mod families in town for lunches for the children during the summer. They approached the school board and will get information on who may qualify. They would like to take care of this through the Rec program. Patti said the kids who qualify don't go to Summer Rec. Mayor said they received some money and may help subsidize the kids. Patti said we would then need to be state certified. We are looking at the schools taking over Summer Rec next year as they are more qualified to run such a program anyway. Bob Del asked how many kids we are taking about and the Mayor said they estimated about 95. Patti said she will follow-up with the residents and with Sam to discuss what can be done.

Senior bus—talked to Mike and he will talk to DeHart tomorrow about repairs. Patti asked if we were sure the bus can be rehabilitated and Mayor Klaus said yes.

The radio communications event is June 21-23 at Woodland School. These are ham radio guys who really take this seriously and you should try to stop by to see them in action. They are talking to people from all over the world. One of the guys has a short-wave unit that is solar operated. Definitely try to stop down—it is a great event.

Regarding crossing guards—we have not heard anything back from the school board. We really need to get these guys to take this over if we can. We have approached Sam, Tony and Mark Correa but have not gotten an answer. Patti said we also need to talk to them about the Pre-k. Shawn said he would set-up a meeting.

Next ABLE distribution is July 20. They will get together on July 19 to sort and bag.

The owner of 1 Gloucester Pike is getting prices for demolition. He has two so far and is waiting for a third. Then he can come in for the demolition permit.

Patti added that Eileen had called her today to say the Pre-K did not know about the special election tomorrow so we are letting them use the senior center.

On a motion by Councilwoman Bergeron, second by Councilman Ludwig, the second public portion was opened. Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Councilwoman Nicholson, second by Councilman Ludwig, the public portion was closed.

Councilman DeVecchio added that he would like someone to help him put together some things for Walt Uron's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Terry said we can take care of inviting all the dignitaries. Bob added we want to get the news media to come to the party. He will also find out if the Urons are planning to invite the governing body to the party.

Seeing no further business, on a motion by Council President Popiolek, second by Councilwoman Bergeron, the caucus meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.

Approved: *Terry Shannon*  
Terry Shannon, Clerk/RMC

