

BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON
CAUCUS MINUTES, MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2013

Mayor Klaus called the meeting to order at 6:30pm 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: Councilwoman Bergeron, Councilman DeVecchio, Councilwoman Nicholson, and Councilman Robenolt. The Clerk added that Council President Popiolek will be late. Mayor Klaus said that Councilman Ludwig had a death in the family and will not be attending this evening. Also present were CFO Denise Moules, Eileen Holcombe, Secretary to Mayor and Council, Greg Evans, Borough Engineer and Tim Higgins Solicitor. Council President Popiolek arrived at

First Public Portion—on a motion by Councilwoman Nicholson, second by Councilwoman Bergeron, the public portion of the meeting was opened.

Mayor Klaus asked if there is any public comment. Seeing none, on a motion by Councilwoman Nicholson, second by Councilwoman Bergeron, 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.

Action items:

Resolution for DOT applications--the recommended projects are Kent Avenue improvements, Bell Avenue jughandle, improvements to Austin Avenue roadway and storm drainage and the East Atlantic Avenue bikeway.

Curb Ramp program—held pre-construction meeting with Curbcon and anticipate construction within next two weeks.

Streetscape Improvements—DOT wants to schedule a meeting for eligibility assessment.

Hidden Ponds—autodialer was installed in June and is now functional. Trash basket has been ordered and will be installed.

Beaver Drive ponding elimination—awarded a contract to Perna and pre-con was held. Project will commence in next two weeks.

USDA program—anticipate authorization to bid in the very near future. Tim is working on easement with Mr. Samost. Tim said declaration of taking was filed so we technically do have the easement.

Pedestrian safety improvements on Highland—County did receive bids and we requested that they invite the borough to the pre-con meeting.

White Horse Pike—meeting has been scheduled for August 15 with DOT commissioner to discuss the project and approval of the Major Access Permit. Terry said that we are recommending that the DEP work be awarded to Curren. Greg added that they met with the planning board engineer, Mr. Bach, and reviewed his comments and will be submitting amended plans this month.

Mayor Klaus asked if there were any questions for Greg. Councilwoman Bergeron asked if there were any issues from the storm. Mayor Klaus said there was flooding at the Willows and that is always a

concern. Greg said the storm broke all records in the amount of rainfall. We had officially 8.2 inches of rain. Overall, we did not do too badly.

Administration: Terry reported on the following

Special Elections—the special election is August 13. We have received information from the state regarding reimbursement for expenses. Because the state added these two elections, they are covering all costs associated with these elections. We will not incur elections associated with the polls as the County will cover the cost of the machines and board workers. I will be charging the state for my additional hours due to these two elections.

Purchase of defibrillators for municipal building—following the death of an individual at the Gloucester County courthouse, there has been information coming forth about the need for defibrillators at all public buildings including schools. At the safety committee meeting, Barb Willson stressed the importance of this and provided cost information for purchase of a defibrillator and a cabinet. Barb added that they are now so easy to operate that anyone can do it. Once you engage the machine, it actually speaks to you and walks you through operation. I am going to get additional quotes and see if there are any on state contract.

Fireworks—as you are probably aware, Garden State Fireworks was not able to shoot all the shells due to the wet conditions. We did get a credit of \$1160 for the shells that were not used.

JIF Renewal—the 2014 JIF renewal is in process. All worksheets have been distributed to department heads and are due back to me by next week so I can finalize the application.

Second extension of deadline for animal licensing—we got over 900 labels from the mail order company and it took quite a while to go through them and develop the mailing list for unlicensed animals. There was no way we could get the letters out in time for a June 30 extension. Kristy requested that we hold the letters until after the taxes are due as we get a lot of foot traffic with tax payments and licensing that many animals at the same time could create a problem. We would like to extend the due date for licensing to August 31 with your approval. The governing body agreed.

Wednesday meeting—just a reminder that the August council meeting will be Wednesday, August 14 due to the special primary. This has been properly noticed.

Terry then reviewed the items thus far that will be on the council agenda:

Ordinances for public hearing and adoption—

Ord. 1006 2013 Bond Ordinance

Ord. 1008 Amending Chapter 120, Vehicles and Traffic (don't block the box ordinance)

Resolutions—

Resolutions for DOT Municipal Aid Applications

Chapter 159 for grants received

Approving the August Bill List

Tim reported there will be one additional resolution for an expert appraisal on the Barrington Business Center as we are in the middle of a tax appeal with them which is being handled by Brian Schneider. The cost will be shared with Magnolia.

Finance: Denise reported on the following items

Denise reviewed the standard monthly financial reports and bank balances. Regarding budget expenditures, all controls are in the black. Police overtime report is attached. Denise then reviewed a few budget lines that are over-expended but the controls are okay. There have been quite a few projects that required Tim's legal assistance so legal litigation is over-expended. Next month she will provide a report showing the VFW revenue vs. the expenses. There had previously been a discussion about setting up a stipend but it was not accounted for in the budget. We will need a resolution authorizing the stipend and hopefully the revenue will cover the cost. Mayor Klaus said it was discussed and they decided on \$1000 per year for the coordinator. He asked if there were any comments or concerns but there were none. Patti added that we have rentals scheduled in October and November so we should be fine. Denise then reported that she is working with bond counsel on going out for funding on the USDA project. We got a favorable rate and the interest can be charged to the project funding. First Colonial provided the best rate.

Denise then reported that because of the tax appeals, we are having cash flow challenges. She is working with Sam at the Board of Ed to work out a payment schedule. She then reviewed the revenue report. Compared to last year, revenues are down. She will continue to monitor as we may need to cancel appropriations and will have to curtail spending. Fees and permits are down as well as municipal court. Court revenue is down \$15,000 compared to this time last year.

► COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Nicholson:

VFW—rentals are going well.

Harvest Fest—we have a meeting August 15 and a public safety meeting on September 12. Everything is moving along.

Mr. Uron's 100th birthday party—please keep September 7 open as Mayor and Council will be invited. They would like proclamation read at the party and again at the council meeting.

Councilman Robenolt:

Recorder is in for court and will be in use. The metal detector is in as well but we have not determined how overtime for manning it will be funded yet so he will report on when it is ready to be implemented.

Councilman DelVecchio reported on the following:

He asked Tim if we have anything from the PBA regarding arbitration for the contract and Tim said he has not heard anything as of yet.

Last week the police department conducted an MIT checkpoint on the White Horse Pike. That is a mobile inspection team. They were on the Pike by Bok Bok. They issued 87 summonses. We will get about half of the revenue on the majority of the summonses. They are doing another one this Thursday. They plan to do one every other month. The hours are 9am-2pm.

Public Safety committee met to discuss three ideas for new police chief. Our recommendation to Mayor and Council is to promote within and their chosen candidate is Lt. Dave Roberts. We interviewed Dave and he had a lot of good ideas including the MIT's and using specials which he fully

supports for doing traffic only. They can also work the Harvest Fest, Barrington Day, etc. We talked about getting a detective bureau back in operation. We were really pleased with him and we would like to swear him in at council next week. Terry asked is it is for a six-month probationary period and Bob said yes. He understands that for now, he will not have a second in command. Maureen asked if anyone else was interviewed and Bob said no. We looked at a possible shared chief, a public safety director or promoting from within and the recommendation was to promote from within. He asked if everyone is in agreement with putting the promotion resolution on the agenda. Terry said it will outside the consent agenda so it can be done early in the meeting so Dave can be sworn in. Kirk said he presented his questions to the committee. Bob said he never got anything from Kirk and Wayne said he did not either. Kirk said he does not like the new email program and everyone agreed that they did not like it either. Patti said she has problems logging in. Denise said she can ask the company to change it back. It was the upgrade from Fat Cow that everyone seems to be having issues with. She said she will talk to Fat Cow. Bob asked if everyone is in favor of putting the resolution on the agenda and no one voiced any objections.

Tim suggested that Bob reach out to other towns as there seems to be a pool of specials out there that Dave may want to tap into. Mayor Klaus said people are going to ask why we are not exploring the Colonial Alliance so be prepared to answer.

Councilwoman Bergeron reported on the following:

Fire Alliance—Steve was having some problems keeping up with administrative stuff so we hired another part-time inspector. We have the funds so there is no budget issue. This will give Steve an opportunity to work with Jen in the office two days per week to get the administrative stuff caught-up.

Health Department—I got quite a few emails from residents interested in the TNR program. She said she will forward the contacts to Terry. The first meeting will be August 16 at 6:30. We have about seven residents who are interested. She added that her home computer is not working so if you need to get in touch with her, please call her cell.

She has been working with Patti on the Harvest Fest and is looking forward to continuing the tradition.

Council President Popiolek reported on the following:

We had a productive meeting with the Economic Development Team. We have a meeting set at the DOT on August 15 where we will sit down with everyone in charge of this project and find out what we need to do to get our approvals. We have control over all but one property and we are shovel ready.

Harvey's—Rich Hill applied for the demolition permits so his project will hopefully be starting soon.

Tim added that we need an additional ordinance amending the settlement price on the Duckrey property. The amount of the \$637,500.

Mayor Klaus reported on the following:

Barb Willson will not be around for a while. Andy had his gall bladder removed and his wife had back surgery so she is taking care of them and the kids as they are out of commission.

The funding has ceased for the food we have at this meeting and it will be taken care of by the sunshine fund going forward. Tim said he will be helping with those costs as well.

1 Gloucester Pike—needs DEP approval for demolition because of asbestos.

Hidden Ponds—we heard back from some of the residents. They have not yet signed our proposal and are having it reviewed by their attorney. They asked for an extension but it is up to Mr. Ragusa.

The CDBG group is now with the Improvement Authority. They may decide to make the CDBF funds competitive. There are numerous municipalities that are not spending their money.

Mr. Samost requested a meeting to discuss his property and why we wanted the easement. He apparently thought it may have more value to us than it does but all we need is the easement for the pump station. We made sure he understood. He wants a stipulation that he can connect to the sewer line if needed.

Councilwoman Nicholson added that she met with six members of the Camden County Open Space program regarding the improvements needed at Shreve Avenue Little League complex and it seems to be a good sign. Hopefully they will get the funding they need for the electric upgrades and the suppression system. Wayne said they are going to look at a suppression system in Maple Shade that they may be able to buy for \$500. It was just certified but the building is no longer needed. Bob asked what other things they are going to use the grant for and Patti said they have an extensive list which was submitted to Terry. Electric upgrades, bathrooms, something with the bubble, a warning track, another storage building, green lighting on the major field and lighting on the minor field, among others. Wayne and Patti also reported they are looking at lighting upgrades to help reduce their monthly electric bill. Patti also reported that Deere Field did sustain some field damage from the storm and a group of residents led by Nick Aceto are going to make the repairs.

Mayor Klaus added that the seniors are arguing over the temperature in the senior center. One senior in particular is complaining about the temperature and he does not want to hear what we have to say. He feels we are keeping the center cool or warm during long periods when it is not in use. One option is to install a programmable thermostat which we are considering. Maureen said she checked with the County and because we use the center as our cooling center, the temperature is supposed to be kept at 72. That was not good enough for him so we are looking into a programmable thermostat.

Tim said he just got a text from Greg reminding him that we need to add a resolution to cancel the LGP contract. That will close-out the contract with LGP and we will continue to pursue the bond

Councilman DelVecchio asked if the banner for Mr. Uron can be hung on Clements Bridge out near borough hall. There is nothing hanging there now. Patti said it will be done. He also added that it is hurricane season so if we have to do something again this year, Jack Kaiser will move up to Joe's spot. He added that he will be out of town from August 16 – September 1 for baseball. Wayne and Shawn will handle anything that comes up.

Maureen added that she has been attending meetings regarding hurricanes and they are telling municipalities that we will just be a welcoming center—not a center to handle emergencies. We won't be responsible to provide shelters—they will be the responsibility of the County.

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

Seeing no further business, on a motion by Councilwoman Nicholson, second by Councilwoman Bergeron, the caucus meeting was adjourned to closed session at 7:56pm.

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