

**BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON**  
**CAUCUS MINUTES, Tuesday, February 2, 2016**

Council President Popiolek called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with the reading of the Sunshine Statement. He led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk called roll with the following present:

Council President Popiolek, Councilwoman Bergeron, Councilman Rink and Councilman Ludwig. Councilwoman Nicholson and Mayor Klaus were both absent due to illness. Also present were Solicitor Tim Higgins, Secretary Eileen Holcombe and Clerk Terry Shannon. Councilman Robenolt arrived at 6:15 as did CFO Denise Moules.

**First Public Portion**—on a motion by Councilman Ludwig, second by Councilwoman Bergeron, the public portion of the meeting was opened. Seeing no public comment, on a motion by Councilman Rink, second by Councilwoman Bergeron, the public portion of the meeting was closed.

**Engineer**

Greg Evans discussed the following action items:

Reject quotes received for the video surveillance system. Low quoter did not have Public Works Contractor Registration and the others exceeded the quote threshold.

Review the optional project scope evaluation for the VFW ADA restrooms. Bids came in too high because of the size of the restrooms. We will reduce the project scope and go back out for bids.

Award of contract to Environmental Resolutions, Inc., for Streetscape Construction Mgmt. services.

Governing Body agreed to all of the above. Greg then reviewed the rest of the engineer's report and the following is a summary of what he discussed:

Bell Avenue improvements requested by residents—he and Mike Ciocco are developing a cost estimate for roadway improvements.

Copley Road speeding—we will be preparing a report using the speed data collected by the police department for use when meeting with the County.

Streetscape Project—we requested a time extension on the bids as we are waiting on the County. We hope to award at the March meeting. The County had a funding shortfall after they received bids and requested assistance from the Borough which the Mayor agreed to after confirming funding is available with the CFO.

Shreve Ave Little League parking lot—Bellmawr is preparing cost estimate.

Carpet One—they need to post their escrow. They are ready to continue with improvements.

Seeing no questions for the engineer, Greg left the meeting and thanked everyone for their well wishes on his recent medical problems.

**Second Open Public Portion**—on a motion by Councilman Ludwig, second by Councilman Rink, a second public portion was opened. Thomas Holton of 650 Clements Bridge Road was present to talk to the governing body. He is planning to bid on 514 Austin Avenue at an auction to be held tomorrow. This property needs extensive work. The borough has cleaned the property before and has more than \$4700 in liens on the property. He is asking that the borough considering lowering that so he can bid on the property. After some discussion, the governing body agreed that if he is successful in buying the property, they would consider reducing some of the administrative fees on the municipal lien as long as the new owner occupies the property for a specified period of time. Mr. Holton said he will let us know if he gets the property. We will have to amend the lien by resolution.

On a motion by Councilwoman Bergeron, second by Councilman Rink, the second public portion was closed.

### **Administration**

Clerk Shannon reported on the following items:

Vacant property ordinance—need to establish a committee to review and discuss this ordinance in detail so we have a thorough understanding of process and who will manage program. Everyone agreed and all wanted to participate so we will have an open public meeting to discuss.

Solicitor permits—our current ordinance allows solicitors to obtain a permit that is good for one year. Recommending that we shorten that to six months. Governing body agreed and Terry said she will prepare the ordinance.

Rabies clinic is set for April 2 from 9am-11am.

Letter received requesting use of Girl's Softball field to hold vendor/crafter events. Governing body asked that this be forwarded to Councilwoman Nicholson for consideration.

Clerk Shannon then reviewed the following items that will be on the council agenda:

Ordinances for public hearing and adoption—

1045 Accepting south side of Bell Avenue as dedicated street

1046 Amending Chapter 120 as no parking on south side of Bell Avenue

Resolutions—

Awarding a contract to Environmental Resolutions, Inc., for Streetscape Const. Mgmt. svcs.

Rejecting quotes received for video surveillance system

Authorizing 2015 Budget transfers

Establishing a Dedication by Rider for Centennial celebration donations

Authorizing Reassessment of real property in the Borough

February bill list

### **Finance:**

CFO Moules reported on the following items:

Review of monthly financial reports—temporary budget is still in the black; summary of police overtime. Annual Financial Statement shows the year-end surplus is strong due to increased revenue. Denise then explained the dedication by rider resolution and the additional 2015 budget transfers to cover the purchase of the fire truck.

Council President Popiolek then introduced Brian Schneider, Assessor, who was present to discuss the property reassessment program. Brian explained that we are assessed at 107% which leaves us exposed to tax appeals. He is recommending that we do a full property reassessment program in-house. We have to get into at least 50% of the properties. This would give us good data going forward. The governing body agreed. Field visits will start in April. Ordinance for special emergency will be added to the agenda for introduction.

### **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilman Robenolt said he needs a short closed session at the end of this meeting to discuss a personnel matter. New police car is in—just needs an update to radio software. Needs to know what is going on with the crosswalks ordinance. Tim said he needed some information from the police department and he will follow-up. He hopes to have ready for introduction at council. Wayne reported

that the court budget should be done soon. There will be an increase in court security as they will be using retired officers and one special.

Councilman Rink reported that the Barrington Business Association is really on fire getting their membership up. Doctor Kennedy and Carol Secinaro are doing a great job.

Councilman Ludwig reported that Public Works did a good job with the snow removal. They tried using rubber blades on the plows but they didn't work so they went back to the steel blades. Councilman Robenolt asked who clears the sidewalk on the Turnpike bridge. Ludwig said he did not know but he will discuss with Mike Ciocco.

Councilwoman Bergeron reported she has a meeting set-up with Mews management this Thursday at 9am. It was suggested that she take John Szczerbinski with her. She said she would text him to ask him to join her. We want to discuss the smoking situation among other issues. Maureen then reported that she attended the CDBG meeting and provide an update on what was discussed. One thing of interest is you can use your funding for a college scholarship for someone in town who meets the low to moderate income criteria.

Seeing no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned to closed session on a motion by Councilman Ludwig, second by Councilman Robenolt at 7:55pm.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

After a fifteen minute break, the closed session began at 8:10pm. Councilman Robenolt reported the police chief wants to retire. His tentative date is August 1 and he is meeting with the pension division tomorrow. He would be done working in April and would then exhaust his accumulated vacation time. If after he meets with the pension division he makes the final decision to retire, we will need to draft a new termination contract for execution. He will advise the governing body for sure after he hears back from the chief.

Seeing no further business to be discussed in closed session, on a motion by Councilwoman Bergeron, second by Councilman Robenolt, the meeting went back into open session.

On a motion by Councilwomen Bergeron, second by Council President Popiolek, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

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