

**BOROUGH OF BARRINGTON**  
**CAUCUS MINUTES, Tuesday, April 5, 2016**

Mayor Klaus 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:

Councilman Rink, Councilwoman Nicholson and Councilman Robenolt. Absent were Council President Popiolek, Councilwoman Bergeron and Councilman Ludwig. Also present were Solicitor Tim Higgins, Secretary Eileen Holcombe and Clerk Terry Shannon.

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

**Engineer**

Mayor Klaus announced that the engineer was not present as his wife was taken to the hospital today with a suspected brain tumor. Please keep them in your thoughts.

Clerk Shannon stated that the following action items from the engineer will be on the agenda:

Award of the contract for installation of a video surveillance system.

Award of a contract to MD Remodeling for the restroom renovations at the VFW.

Award or reject the bids received for the sanitary sewer lateral installation project. Those bids are due in Friday morning.

**Administration**

Clerk Shannon reported on the following items:

Increase of Opt-Out that we offer on medical—if we eliminate the maximum, maybe more people will take advantage. The governing body asked that we poll the employees to see if there would be any interest.

Barrington on Track deadline was yesterday—please get your articles in.

Financial Disclosure Statements are due—deadline is April 30. Same process as last year.

JIF Elected Officials training—for those who have not yet done, deadline is May 30. You can do the training online and the instructions are attached.

Rabies clinic was this past Saturday—we immunized 55 animals. Deadline for licensing is April 30.

Clerk Shannon then reviewed the items scheduled for the council agenda.

**Finance:**

CFO Moules reported on the following items:

Review of standard financial reports including budget status, cash balances and overtime.

2016 Municipal budget—we met with all the department heads. We have no levy cap issue and the budget is a tax increase of 4.25 cents which is under \$70 for the average homeowner. If anyone has any question, let me know. Otherwise we are ready to introduce. Mayor Klaus asked that a meeting be scheduled for a full council review. The meeting was tentatively set for the 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilwoman Nicholson reported baseball opening day was canceled because of the weather but they will be rescheduling. Softball is this Saturday at 10am. The parking lot renovations are underway at Shreve Avenue. Barrington Day will include the inflatables—insurance issues have been resolved. Earth Day is April 23-24; May 21 is Barrington Day; May 30 is Memorial Day. We need a speaker. Sunday's storm hit us hard—over 400 residents without power. Thanks to Mike Coyle for getting a crew out here to get the service back on. Hopefully this weekend will be better for all. Need to start working on July 4. The Fire Department brought the new fire truck to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade car wash this past Saturday and gave them a \$100 donation.

Councilman Robenolt reported he has been meeting with PBA members to look at insurance options. We will be meeting with our healthcare reps to discuss alternate plans. We need to discuss a possible chaplain program. Solicitor Higgins said he discussed with the JIF and they have no objection to a chaplain program and there is a specific statute that covers. Wayne said he would like us to introduce an ordinance establishing a chaplain program and Tim said he will prepare. Everyone agreed it was a great idea.

Councilman Rink reported that he was talking with Bob VanSciver at Time Out about replacement of the bushes that were removed during construction of the traffic signal. He gave him a proposal for 25 arborvites. This needs to be approved. He will discuss with Kirk first to see who is responsible for that bill. Ernie then reported he attended the meeting at DPW with a rep from DEP about the annual sewer system reporting. Mike Ciocco had everything prepared in advance for her. She was ecstatic and said no one is ever prepared like that.

Mayor Klaus reported he was given information regarding a restaurant that was interested in the White Horse Pike and he passed it on to Mr. Juliano. Regarding the CCMUA connection fee, some suggestions were that perhaps we could split the cost with the developer and tenant, or try to negotiate a compromise with CCMUA. We need to request a hardship for a reduction. We may look into this. He asked Tim to draft a letter. On the fire and ambulance building, we asked fire and ambulance to develop a plan. One strategy is to move the ambulance to Reading and Third. We may meet with the Board of Ed to see if they will sell the property to us. We would install Butler buildings and Mike Ciocco is interested in doing the general contracting. Clerk Shannon said we also have contact info for Ms. Zipf for her property so we will reach out to her as well to see if she would be interested in selling. Mayor Klaus said we would need two lots. Uncle Mike wants to retire from Emergency Management. So far no one is interested. Councilman Robenolt said he would talk to the mayor about some ideas. The Clements Bridge Road project is underway and so far, so good. Regarding the senior bus, we do have a driver and we will be operating Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. We are attempting to schedule a meeting with the freeholder and residents of Copley Road to discuss the speeding situation.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

Mayor Klaus announced that we have a guest speaker, Gary Passanante, Mayor of Somerdale, who was present to discuss the abandoned property program they have underway in Somerdale. Mayor Passanante spoke to the group about their program and explained it in detail. He said the first step is to develop the vacant property list. We changed our property maintenance ordinance so that if a property is in violation, for the next two years we no longer have to notice them. We automatically get the property maintained and we use funds from the vacant property registration fund. So far it has not

been challenged. Solicitor Higgins said it could be challenged and that two years may be too long. Passanante then explained they are using the Abandoned Properties Rehabilitation Act to get a hold of the vacant properties that need to be rehabbed. They have to meet the criteria established in the statute. The property has to have been vacant for at least six months. We notice all potential lienholders. We do a title search and anyone who is a potential lienholder is sent notice that we are taking action on the property. They have 30 days to respond. We then petition the court to go in and have contractors look at the property. We do an assessment of the work and determine the value of the work that is needed. We then petition the court to allow us to have the work done. The lienholder can respond to the proceeding. They can post a bond in the amount of 125% of the value of the work to be done. If they don't, then we petition the court to allow us to have the work done. After the work is done, we petition the court to allow us to go to auction recoup the money spent on the rehab plus attorney fees. We become a super lienholder under this process. The mortgage companies are secondary. The contractors are willing to wait until the property is sold to be paid. Mayor Passanante continued to explain in detail two properties they have recently completed. Mayor Klaus thanked Mayor Passanante for taking the time to come explain the program to us and asked the group to look at the ordinance Tim prepared in detail so we can discuss further.

Seeing no further business to be discussed, on a motion by Councilman Robenolt, second by Councilman Rink, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.

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