

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH
COMBINED WORK SESSION AND PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2015**

The Meeting was called to order at 8:00PM by Council President Roth who read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement as prescribed by law. Notice was advertised in The Record on August 27, 2014 and the Ridgewood News on September 5, 2014 and January 2, 2015 stating this meeting would be held in the Council Chambers of the Richard J. Martel Municipal Offices, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, NJ on Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 8:00PM.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

**MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR VETERANS AND THOSE SERVING IN THE
MILITARY AND ALSO EXTENDED THE COUNCIL'S SYMPATHY TO THE
FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS IN THE OREGON SHOOTINGS**

Moment of Silence was observed for those serving and those who served in the military And the victims' families in the Oregon shootings.

Present: Councilmembers Amoroso, Ariemma, DiGiulio, Hermansen, Roth, Sbarra and Wong

Also present were Mayor William Laforet, Administrative Assistant Denise Storms, Township Attorney Brian Chewcaskie, Township Engineer's Associate Michael Kelly and Deputy Municipal Clerk Janis M. Fox

Roth welcomed the three new Police Officers and their families and friends. He recognized and introduced Municipal Prosecutor Thomas Buonocore, Esq. from Oakland, New Jersey and the Retired Police Chief of Lodi, New Jersey and former past President of Bergen County Police Chief Association Vincent Caruso. Also present was Chief Batelli.

Roth asked the Chief to say a few words. Chief Batelli commented that he was very proud of these three Officers, and out of 350 candidates at the last testing these three applicants came out number one. It is very rigorous testing, he stated.

INTRODUCTION AND SWEARING IN CEREMONY OF NEW MAHWAH

POLICE OFFICERS: Chief Batelli introduced the three Officers; Greg Lehman, Matt Buonocore and Chris Monico. The three Officers were all sworn in by Mayor Laforet with their family beside them. After the Swearing In Ceremony pictures were taken with the Council, Mayor and Police Chief.

PUBLIC PORTION

On a motion by Wong, seconded by Hermansen, the meeting was opened to the public at 8:17PM. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. David May of Oweno Road said he attended the Youth Sports Booster Meeting and they approved purchasing a Township sign. Amoroso said they are having a

Beautification Meeting next week and will advise them. She said she will contact Mr. May to arrange the details.

Mr. Victor D'Ambrosio of 2 Byrne Drive said he is having an issue with the Electrical Inspector. He asked the Mayor and Council to help him and said if they would like to stop by his house, he will show them what he was asked to do. He had an approval sticker in the beginning of his pool project but had a problem with the final inspection. He was told to rip up five sections of pavers and possibly change a few electrical areas. Mr. D'Ambrosio said he would appreciate the Council's help.

Roth said the Council does not get involved, but we can point him in the right direction and told Mr. D'Ambrosio to give the Business Administrator a call.

On a motion by Amoroso, seconded by Hermansen, the meeting was closed to the public at 8:30PM. All in favor. Motion carried.

WORK SESSION

SUBMISSION OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

Roth asked any Councilmember with questions on the Bills and Claims to contact Administration before the Public Meeting.

ENGINEERING (Boswell-McClave)

1a. Written Status Report – October 2015

MA-1340 – East Slope Booster Pumping Station: The Township Engineer said the project is moving forward and they are reviewing the shop drawings made by the contractor.

MA-1500 – 2015 Road, Curb and Sidewalk Program: The Township Engineer stated drainage work was done on Third Street and Avenue A. They are letting the work settle and are expecting to pave in the fall. Avenue B will be paved then too. He stated McKee Drive and Reich Avenue has been paved.

MA-1541 – Ramapo and Mahwah Rivers Stream Cleaning and Flood Control: The Township Engineer said they received the permit for the Mahwah River and should get the permit for the Ramapo River any day. He stated they had a meeting with the Bergen County Mosquito Commission and the Bergen County Floodplain Coordinator in December 2014 to review ways to proceed with this project. He said the project is expected to be performed this fall.

ADMINISTRATION

2a. Authorization to Change Custodian of Petty Cash Fund; Department of Public Works

Roth stated the Custodian will be changed to Glenn Dowson.

Resolution shall be voted on in the Public Meeting.

- 2b. Bergen County Community Development Block Grant Agreement; Stag Hill Road Improvements

Roth mentioned that this grant of \$108,167. is for Stag Hill Road.

Resolution shall be voted on in the Public Meeting.

- 2c. Pay to Play Compliance; Non-Fair and Open Agreement; W.R. Neumann Co., Inc.

Resolution shall be voted on in the Public Meeting.

- 2d. Pay to Play Compliance; Non-Fair and Open Agreement; State Line Fire and Safety Inc.

Resolution shall be voted on in the Public Meeting.

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL and MUNICIPAL CLERK

- 3a. Mahwah Chief of Police Report
For information only.

- 3b. 2016 Council Meeting Dates

Resolution shall be voted on in the Public Meeting.

- 3c1. Firefighter Application; Gary R. Nicholas to Fire Company #2

Resolution shall be voted on in the Public Meeting.

- 3c2. Firefighter Application; Ian M. Heinz to Fire Company #3

Resolution shall be voted on in the Public Meeting.

- 3d. Request for Permission to Post signs in Township Right-of-Ways;
Peter Wendrychowicz

Resolution shall be voted on in the Public Meeting.

- 3e. Request for Permission to Post signs in Township Right-of-Ways;
Kenneth Tyburczy, John Mitchell, Daisy Ortiz Berger

Resolution shall be voted on in the Public Meeting.

- 3f. Request for Permission to post signs in the Township Right-of-Ways; Holly Schepisi and Robert Auth

Resolution shall be voted on in the Public Meeting.

- 3g. Request for Permission to post signs in the Township Right-of-Ways; Leslie Konikow

Resolution shall be voted on in the Public Meeting.

LEGAL

4a. Ramsey Auto Body Towing License; Discussion
This item has been removed from the Agenda.

PUBLIC MEETING

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

On a motion by Hermansen, seconded by Wong, the Bills and Claims, previously signed, totaling \$558,262.37, were approved. Roll call vote: Amoroso, yes; Ariemma, yes; DiGiulio, yes; Hermansen, yes; Sbarra, yes; Wong, yes; Roth, yes. A List of Bills and Claims is on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by DiGiulio, seconded by Amoroso, the Combined Work Session and Public Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2015 and the Closed Session Meeting Minutes of

September 3, 2015 were approved. Roll call vote: Amoroso, yes; Ariemma, yes; DiGiulio, yes; Hermansen, absent; Sbarra, yes; Wong, yes; Roth, yes.

REPORTS OF TOWNSHIP COUNCIL and MUNICIPAL CLERK

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL; COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Amoroso attended the Board of Education Meeting last night which had 30 to 40 Board of Education Association Members in attendance. They are in the middle of mediations on their contract. Both sides reached an impasse in April and had another meeting in September and no progress was made. Another meeting is scheduled for January.

Amoroso stated, at this meeting, the Principal at Ramapo Ridge presented, the head of the local VFW, etchings that the 8th grade students made from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and for the three Mahwah residents that died.

Amoroso said there was a presentation on a new curriculum common online site. This is so the curriculum will not be in binders and teachers can add their own teaching plans. It is called Rubicon Atlas System Curriculum Mapping System .

Amoroso mentioned that she distributed a new statement of a Municipality Report on Affordable Housing numbers. The Fair Share Housing Center released a report that New Jersey Municipalities have to provide 350,000 Affordable Units. Since they are supposed to come from private resources with the developer getting density bonuses the State League of Municipalities said it is more like 30,000 to 40,000 units.

Amoroso attended the Brandy Wine Senior Assisted Living Home Grand Opening. She was very impressed with the facility.

Ariemma also attended the Grand Opening of the Brandy Wine Senior Assisted Living Home and was impressed by the facility and the rates. She said the facility is like a

luxury hotel resort.

Ariemma attended the Planning Board Meeting and Apple Ridge was discussed. She does not know what they are going to do. There was a lot of discussion on saving trees. All the trees have not been tested along the perimeter and the soil will be tested again in this area.

DiGiulio attended the Brandy Wine Senior Assisted Living Grand Opening and said the staff was very nice.

DiGiulio thanked everyone who volunteered at the 9/11 Ceremony. She said she was especially impressed with the teachers that stayed to make sure she was covered with taps.

Hermansen congratulated former Councilman Williams on being elected to the Council in South Carolina where he has moved to.

Hermansen said the Pool Committee issued a report on what they feel should be upgraded and any other changes that have to be worked on.

Hermansen congratulated the three new Police Officers.

Hermansen mentioned the tragedy that happened in Oregon and said he feels confident about our Police Department keeping our community safe.

Hermansen said Mahwah Day was phenomenal and it just gets better each year. He congratulated the OEM, who were heroes of the day, and Recreation Director Dawn DaPuzzo

Hermansen mentioned that the fireworks show was as good as Macy's. Hermansen thanked the Ramsey Auto Group who sponsored it.

Hermansen stated he is tired of mandates on Affordable Housing that are put on residents and tax payers. The new mandate will be expensive to our Township. He feels we should make our own decision in our Township.

Sbarra congratulated former Councilman Williams on his election to the Council in South Carolina.

Sbarra attended Mahwah Day and commented that Director DaPuzzo and the Recreation Committee did a fantastic job.

Sbarra attended the Brandy Wine Senior Assisted Living Home Grand Opening also. He said it was very nice and a good addition to our community.

Sbarra mentioned that on Sunday a Ramapo College student almost died crossing Route

17. If it was not for Police Officer Matt Lombardo, the student's life would not have been saved. Sbarra feels the Officer deserves some recognition from the Council due to what he did in his line of duty.

Hermansen interjected and said there is a "Bergen County 200 Club" that honors Police Officers who do something extraordinary in their call of duty. He suggested reaching out to them.

DiGiulio agreed and said the Officer's quick action saved the life of this student.

Wong attended the September 15, 2015 Meeting of the Ordinance Committee. He said they discussed the Noise Ordinance and Traffic Ordinance. It is currently in draft form and being reviewed.

Wong congratulated the newly sworn in Police Officers.

Wong mentioned on October 11, 2015 there is a Joyce Kilmer Presentation at the Library. Council President Roth is the Honorary Co-Chairman and Wong is in the play.

Wong reminded everyone that in honor of Mike Drozd, there is a Blood Drive this coming Sunday from 10:00AM to 3:00PM at Fire Company #1.

Wong extended his prayers to the families and students of the college campus people that were shot in Oregon.

Roth attended a breakfast in Warren, New Jersey for Maser Consulting who was awarded for the plan they did for Mahwah.

Roth said September 19, 2015 was Mahwah Day and he had a great time as he is sure everyone did. Roth thanked all the volunteers on the fabulous job they did.

Roth attended the Brandy Wine Senior Assisted Living Home Grand Opening on September 24th. He said it was a quality facility and caring staff.

Roth attended an IT Security Meeting with Denise Storms on September 28, 2015.

Roth thanked Chief Batelli putting together tonight's ceremony as it was a cooperative effort with the Police Department and the Chief's roll. Roth said it is a proud moment meeting the Police Officers and having the Council meet them.

REPORTS OF MAYOR AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Laforet said on September 18th he joined Roth for the Maser Plan. It was an extensive Economic Development Report.

The Mayor attended Mahwah Day and every year the event gets better and better.

Mayor Laforet said on September 22nd he attended the Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament at Apple Ridge Country Club. Realtor Terri O'Connor who does a lot for our community was honored Humanitarian of the Year.

Mayor Laforet said Apple Ridge is moving through the process.

The Mayor said he met with White and Blue Collar Unions and options are still being discussed.

Mayor Laforet met at Fire Company #2 with Capacity Coverage which is a Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. They donated a significant amount of money for a CPR body dummy. Capacity Coverage is one of the top 100 privately owned businesses in New Jersey and in the list are three companies in Mahwah on it. He said that is a great accomplishment for our Township.

Mayor Laforet recognized Officer Lombardo from Sunday night's life save. He said he agrees with everyone that this was an extraordinary event and he should be brought before Council and recognized for his efforts.

Mayor Laforet said there was another incident where a hiker at Ramapo Reservation fell and had a heart attack. It took Mahwah Police, the Fire Department, Ambulance Corp. and members of the Valley Critical Care team to get him out of the mountain and get him to the hospital. They all worked together so closely and he gave recognition to the team.

Mayor Laforet said if there is a hurricane our community is prepared and tomorrow morning he will meet with all the department heads and the Police Chief to make sure we are all working on the same page.

Mayor Laforet said he accepted the resignation of Charles Jandris from the Planning Board and he appointed Chris Howard.

Mayor Laforet attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Brandy Wine Senior Assisted Living Home and it is quite the place.

PUBLIC PORTION

On a motion by Sbarra, seconded by DiGiulio, the meeting was opened to the public at 9:20PM. All in favor. Motion carried.

On a motion by Sbarra, seconded by DiGiulio, the meeting was closed to the public at 9:21PM. All in favor. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolutions #251-15 through #260-15 and #262-15 were voted on under the Consent Agenda. Resolutions are attached to and made part of these Meeting Minutes.

OLD BUSINESS

Amoroso said she was wondering what was happening with the Les Paul Plaza Project. Mayor Laforet said they have met with the Les Paul Foundation and are now meeting with their directors with ideas they have crafted. He will come back to the Council after this meeting with a report.

NEW BUSINESS

Ariemma asked if there is any planning being done if something should happen due to the hurricane. Mayor Laforet said there is no plan to open the Municipal Building as a shelter.

Ariemma asked if the Council will be discussing hunting and what other Townships do. Roth said this will be discussed in Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION

On a motion by Hermansen, seconded by DiGiulio, Council went into Closed Session at 9:30PM for the purpose of discussing:

- C1. Affordable Housing; Litigation Report
- C2. Amendment to Municipal Shared Services Defense Agreement; Proposed Agreement with Econsult Solutions, Inc.
- C3. Regulation of Firearms/Hunting; Discussion
- C4. Mahwah vs. Merrill Update

All in favor. Motion carried.

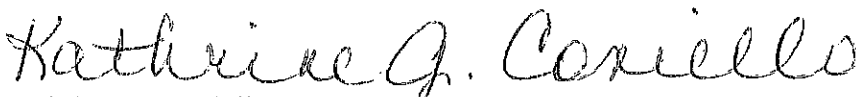
On a motion by Hermansen, seconded by DiGiulio, Council returned to Open Session at 10:25PM. All in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION

Resolution #261-15 was voted on separately and is attached to and made part of these Meeting Minutes.

On a motion by Hermansen, seconded by Wong, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30PM. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathrine G. Coviello, RMC/CMC/MMC
Municipal Clerk

Meeting Minutes prepared and typed by Deputy Municipal Clerk Janis Fox

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