

**TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH  
COMBINED WORK SESSION AND PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00PM by Council President Spiech who read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement as prescribed by law. Notice was advertised in The Record on January 12, 2012 stating this meeting would be held in the Richard J. Martel Municipal Center, 475 Corporate Drive, Mahwah, New Jersey on Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 8:00PM.

Notice of this meeting is posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board. The minutes of this meeting shall be available in the Municipal Clerk's Office once they are approved by the Township Council.

Salute to the Flag

**MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR VETERANS AND THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY**

Moment of Silence was observed for those serving in the military both overseas and here in the United States.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE – CAROLE WILEY**

Moment of Silence was observed for Mrs. Carole Wiley, longtime Township Employee in the Planning and Zoning Departments, who recently passed away. Memorial Service will be held for Mrs. Wiley at the Ramapo Reformed Church on Saturday, September 29, 2012 at 10AM.

Present: Councilmembers Alderisio, DiGiulio, Jandris, Roth, Spiech and Williams.  
Absent: Councilmember Larson

Also present were Mayor William C. Laforet, Township Business Administrator Brian Champion, Township Attorney Andrew Fede, Township Engineer Kevin Boswell, Township Engineer's Associate Michael Kelly and Municipal Clerk Kathrine G. Coletta.

**PRESENTATION**

**Certificates of Recognition – Ramapo Ridge Middle School Problem Solving Team**  
Mayor Laforet presented Certificates of Recognition to the members of the Ramapo Ridge Problem Solving Team.

The Ramapo Ridge Problem Solving Team presented the Mayor with a photograph of the Team.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

On a motion by Roth, seconded by Williams, the meeting was opened to the public at 8:16PM. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Mr. Mai asked Council if they all received the 2011 Audit Report. No one stated they did not.

Mr. Mai stated everything has been handled well with the management. He is confident that the recommendations made in the report will be taken care of.

Alderisio asked about the balance in the reserve for Tax Appeals. Mr. Mai answered the amount was carried over from last year. The Business Administrator interjected and said the \$600,000 plus will be used. He added a Full Report on Tax Appeals will be given at the October 4, 2012 Council Meeting.

Roth questioned the decrease in Salaries. The Business Administrator said there was a reduction in staff through retirements.

Roth questioned the amount of County Taxes decreasing. Mr. Mai said the Township's share of the Taxes to the County is an equalized number. He added the Township also gets a credit for tax appeal refunds. And the County taxes last year went down.

Resolution on the Corrective Action Plan will be voted on in the Public Meeting.

3b. Best Management Practices Checklist

The Business Administrator explained the Best Management Practices Checklist. It is anticipated the Township will receive a score of 42. The Chief Financial Officer will file paperwork with the Division of Local Government Services and the Municipal Clerk shall file the Certification.

Williams feels the score of 42 is too close for comfort. He question of the 8 items where no was answered can those be changed to yes?

3c. 2012 Budget; Periodic Report

The Chief Financial Officer briefly explained the documents provided to Council.

DiGiulio questioned if we have an Employee Analysis Report of what each employee costs. The Chief Financial Officer answered no. However, we have the information and it could be put together. Spiech asked the Chief Financial Officer to look into how much it would cost to be to prepare the Employee Analysis Report and let Administration know. And they shall advise Council.

The Chief Financial Officer shall provide Council with a Summary Report of the Budget.

Williams asked the Business Administrator, Chief Financial Officer and Auditor if there are any areas of concern where the Township will be exceeding the Budget. The Business Administrator said at this point we are on Budget and on target. He did say areas were he is concerned are the Division of Law – Legal Division, the Prosecutor, Municipal Court – Salaries and Police Department – Patrol Salaries. He said there has

1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief Garza said this vehicle will be replacing a 1990 vehicle.

Resolution shall be voted on in the Public Meeting.

3i. Sale of Mahwah Road Property; Block 89, Lots 57.01 and 57.01

The Business Administrator said the Planning Board approved the subdivision of the property. The Township Attorney has drafted a resolution on the sale of the property. Resolution shall be voted on in the Public Meeting.

### LEGAL

4a. Analysis of Current Sign Ordinance and Proposed Ordinance #1712; Continuation of Discussion

Spiech said at the last Council Meeting he asked the Township Attorney if signs could be prohibited on MacArthur Boulevard only. The Township Attorney said that signs can be banned in an area but there must be a reason and must be non-discriminatory as well as there be other channels which the signs can be posted.

Alderisio questioned if what is being said is that signs would be banned on MacArthur Boulevard and the rest of the town they would be allowed.

Roth feels if signs are prohibited on MacArthur Boulevard the problem will migrate to another area of the town. He feels with less than 50 days until the election we are rushing to do something.

Roth made a motion, seconded by DiGiulio, to postpone the conversation on signs until January 1, 2013. Roll call vote: Alderisio, no; DiGiulio, yes; Jandris, yes; Larson, absent; Roth, yes; Williams, no; Spiech, no. Tie vote -- Motion fails.

Spiech pointed out if the subject is postponed the current Ordinance will remain in effect and Administration will enforce it. He added if anyone wants to post signs they will need permission from the Council.

The Township Attorney said in Ordinance #1712 the only change would be taking out the Council permission for signs to be in the Township right-of-way.

Williams suggested another public hearing be held in October and then the vote taken. He suggested the situation be evaluated when it is happening.

Williams made a motion, seconded by Alderisio, to adopt Ordinance #1712. Roll call vote: Alderisio, yes; DiGiulio, no; Jandris, no; Larson, absent; Roth, no; Williams, yes; Spiech, yes. Tie vote -- Motion fails.

Spiech asked if any Councilmember has any recommendations on the Sign Ordinance to give them to the Township Attorney.

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Jandris attended the Planning Board Meeting. A 3 lot subdivision on North Railroad Avenue was discussed. Revisions to the Plans were required by the Township Engineer. Revisions were not yet done by the Builder. Also discussed was the Master Plan.

Jandris attended the 9/11 Ceremony.

Roth attended the 9/11 Ceremony. He thanked DiGiulio for putting the Program together.

Roth attended the Eagle Scout Ceremony.

Roth attended a Cable Committee Meeting. At the Meeting the specifications for the new equipment was reviewed. He said the prices of the equipment have come down. A request will be submitted for the next Budget.

Roth helped the Mahwah Marine Moms pack boxes to be sent to our service men and women.

Roth attended the Fire Department's Ice Cream Event at the A&P Shopping Center.

Williams attended the Board of Education Meeting. He said Betsy Ross School received a Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence. He congratulated all of the Educators.

Williams attended the Recreation Committee Meeting. He said Mahwah Day was discussed. He said it will start at 12 Noon. Festivities will be all day.

Spiech attended the Senior Luncheon. About 130 people attended.

Spiech attended the Library Board Meeting. He said last year the Library Board held a Candidates Night. He said this year with 7 candidates the Library Board will have 1 night for Mayoral Candidates and one night for Council Candidates. Tentative dates are October 10<sup>th</sup> for Council and October 17<sup>th</sup> for Mayoral. The format will be the members of the press will ask the questions. Questions can be submitted to the Library.

DiGiulio thanked Roth for putting the 9/11 Ceremony on the Cable Channel.

DiGiulio thanked Mrs. Lynn Morneweck-Fuld and Mr. Jeff Bitner for helping her with the Program by providing students.

DiGiulio said she attended the Fire Department's Ice Cream Event.

Alderisio attended the 9/11 Ceremony. He said the Tap Players were phenomenal.

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**CLOSED SESSION**

On a motion by Jandris, seconded by Roth, Council went into Closed Session at 11:07PM for the express purposes of discussing Attorney-Client Privilege Information. All in favor. Motion carried.

On a motion by Roth, seconded by Jandris, Council returned to Open Session at 11:15PM. All in favor. Motion carried.

On a motion by Roth, seconded by Jandris, the meeting was adjourned at 11:16PM. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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