

BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION

February 9, 2010
8:30 P.M.

Present: Council President Levinson, Council members; Kane, Maughan, Viola,
and Mayor Ruschman (via telephone)

Absent: Councilmember Maguire

Also Present: Robert Mancinelli, Borough Attorney
Helene Fall, Administrator
Colleen Ennis, CFO
Kelley O'Donnell, Borough Clerk

**Acting Mayor Levinson read the compliance statement earlier as required by the
Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.**

Mayor and Council discussion on sending flowers to Spearing Funeral home for Warren
Kohler; father of Barbara Martine and lifetime Police Reserve member
All present agreed.

BOROUGH CLERK REPORT

- **U.S. Census 2010**
 - Representative stopped by requesting room in Borough Hall to be used as
a Questionnaire Assistance Center
 - Donation of Services Agreement reviewed by Rob Mancinelli and
Robin at Vozza
 - Federal Government – Borough has little input
 - **All present agree to donation of space**

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- **2010 Road Improvement Program**
 - Administrator's Report has update
 - Helene Fall asked Council if they wished to participate
 - Bond Counsel would need to prepare bond ordinance for intro 2/23
 - Bill Beattie has come up with a good plan
 - Colony, Cascade and Lawn
 - Take curbing as an alternate
 - Bond Ordinance for \$330,000
 - Commodity may be higher this year
 - Councilmember Maughan had asked CFO to give breakdown of prior 3
years contracts

- \$375,000 in 2007
- \$224,000 in 2008 Roads only as part of PV Coop
 - Curbs, Sidewalks & Drainage bid received and awarded \$338,000 (not completed)
 - Total for 2008 - \$555,000
- \$160,000 – Roads in 2009 as part of PV Coop
 - \$475,000 – Roads, Curbs, Drainage & Sidewalks
- **\$1,600,000 spent last 3 years, approx. \$500,000 per year**
 - Above numbers do not include engineering
- **Azzolina & Feury estimate \$638,000 for 2010 – before engineering**
- Councilmember Viola stated that the Borough is one of the highest in the Pascack Valley for debt
 - Asked if this Council wants to pay down debt in 2010
- **Council President Levinson stated that the Borough needs a responsible plan on paying back debt while addressing the Borough's infrastructure needs**
 - Councilmember Viola feels the more responsible thing to do this year is pay down debt
 - Councilmember Kane stated that they are valid points
 - This is the year to look at things differently
 - Not just the road program
 - Councilmember Kane said he would agree to reduce the program to \$400,000 this year when it has historically been \$560,000 on average
 - Councilmember Kane stated that the Council and Finance Committee will be receiving many requests this year
 - **Councilmember Kane stated that he would agree to a \$400,000 Bond Ordinance**
 - **Councilmember Viola feels this is the year to pay down debt**
 - **Councilmember Maughan would agree to \$350,000 – 400,000**
 - Represents a 40% reduction from years past
 - **Mayor Ruschman does not want to see services cut too drastically**
 - **He would agree to \$330,000 – 400,000**
 - Councilmember Maughan stated that most streets in town do not have curbs
 - Councilmember Kane feels curbs are important, drainage issues in areas without curbs
 - Council President Levinson said the residents feel strongly both ways
- **Council agrees to \$400,000 Bond Ordinance**
 - Bond will include soft costs

**Council discussion on Snow storm and protocol as set by A-team
Council approves**

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER REPORT

- **Council agrees to extend 1st quarter tax payment grace period until Friday, 2/12**
- **Borough Parties**
 - Colleen Ennis distributed spreadsheet on 2009 Borough Parties
 - Total Cost \$32,825
 - Average per person \$62.00
 - Police reserves includes Police and Spouses
 - Reserves receive no compensation for their volunteer hours
 - Fire Department invites spouses and council
 - They receive LOSAP
 - Utility Board is not compensated
 - Their parties are for Board members, professionals and invited guests
 - Council discussion on parties every other year
 - Colleen suggested a place holder in the budget so it does not get lost
- Colleen Ennis stated the message is out there that policy will be changing
 - Fire Department has their dinner in March they needed to put their deposit in earlier
- Mayor Ruschman stated that if the Borough is going to change policy they need to give notice
- Councilmember Viola stated that notice should be out there that this is the last year and a policy should be set for 2010
 - Council President Levinson stated that the Council needs to look more responsibly at the other committees
 - Councilmember Viola suggested doing it as part of the Budget process
 - Set a per person “not to exceed amount”
 - Helene Fall suggested the Council look at a policy with regard to parties where alcohol is served
- **Council agrees to the Police Reserves holding their party this year**
 - Committee will be formed after 3/9 election for Borough Party Policy
- **Councilmember Viola asked that a letter go to each of the groups stating that the policy will be changing and asking for their input & suggestions**
 - **Helene Fall to send letter**
- **3/15 Mayor will appoint committee**
 - Council President Levinson suggests Liaisons to those Boards & Committees

Public Work Session adjourned to Closed Session at 9:00 p.m.