

BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION

September 28, 2010
8:50 P.M.

Present: Council members; Misciagna, Hopper, Maguire, Viola (6:55 p.m.), Maughan, Council President Kane and Mayor Ruschman

Absent: None

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

Mayor Ruschman read the compliance statement as required by the Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY REPORT

- **Board of Health – Dog and Cat Ordinance**
 - Board of Health voted 5-2 in favor of the changes to the proposed ordinance
 - Additions are bold and underlined, deletions have double strike through
 - Licensing age is closer to the State statute
 - 10 days within attainment or within licensing age; permanent teeth, usually 7 months
 - Most significant change is the deletion of any reference to foster pet organizations; cat or dog
 - If based on the state statute they were of licensing age they are to be included in the household count – 4 dogs and 4 cats
 - The Board of Health does have the authority to adopt certain ordinances
 - In a Borough form of government the Mayor and Council have the authority to amend Board of Health ordinances
 - Licensing Kennels – should be handled by the Zoning Board
 - Rob Mancinelli recapped the Board of Health meeting
 - Councilman Hopper asked if the ordinance was consistent with state statute
 - Rob Mancinelli stated that it is as it pertains to licensing age
 - Councilman Viola asked for clarification on the fact that the ordinance does not recognize fostering as separate and distinct. Rob Mancinelli stated that it was a recommendation of the Animal Control person and the majority of the Board of Health that fostering not be treated separately
 - Councilman Viola stated that he feels that is in error, he further advised those present of his opinion and personal situation
 - He further stated that fostering should be recognized as separate living conditions

- Rob Mancinelli stated that conversation had taken place at the Board of Health meeting last night
- Council President Kane stated that since he came on to the Council he has heard that a limit is needed on pets
 - This has been ongoing for years
- Council President Kane further stated that it appears that things have changed as it pertains to adoption of legislature in the Borough
- Board of Health discussed separate licensing for fosters
- Statute empowers the municipality to set limits
 - Council discussion on how the number of pets (4 dogs/4 cats) was decided
 - Councilman Viola asked for clarification on who has the authority
- Discussion on the Board of Health charged by the State of NJ to have ultimate jurisdiction on certain issues
- Mayor and Council has the ultimate authority on adoption of ordinances
 - Rob Mancinelli stated that NJ State law states if you keep or harbor an animal of licensing age you have to have it licensed within the municipality
 - Councilman Viola recommends that the ordinance be tabled
 - Councilman Hopper stated that it appears that fostering is the key issue
 - Council President Kane asked if anyone else had concerns on fostering
 - Councilman Maguire stated that the Board of Health is trying to balance the rights of pet owners and their neighbors
 - Councilman Maguire recommends tabling the ordinance for the time being
- **Council President Kane suggests dropping it completely**
 - **Recommended that Councilman Viola and the other council members attend the 10/21 Board of Health meeting**
- Councilmember Hopper and Misciagna voted to table the ordinance

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- **Proposed Bid Specs – Solid Waste Collection**
 - Sub-committee met
 - Mayor and Council authorized the finalization of bid specs with the options discussed
 - Public litter containers on sidewalks adjacent to public streets
 - Borough determines the market for recyclables and keeps the money from the disposal of them
- **2009 Road Improvement Program**
 - Final Voucher #4/Change Order form in the amount of \$15,573.69
 - Mayor and Council authorize resolution for 10/12 meeting
- **Mill Pond Dredging – BCOSTF Grant of \$75,000**

- Grant awarded in 2007
 - Need to file for an extension
 - Money cannot be used for soft costs
- Mayor and Council authorize resolution for 10/12
- **2010 BC Open Space, recreation and Farmland Historic Preservation Trust Fund Program Application**
 - Applications due 10/8
 - Endorsing Resolution adopted this evening
- **BC Prosecutor Funding of Police Consolidation, Merger or Shared Services Study**
 - Proposed draft agreement distributed to all
 - Mayor and Council would have to agree to the terms including the conditions
 - First step would be letter of intent and adoption of resolution by participating municipalities
 - **Ms. Fall suggested that this be discussed by the Tri Borough sub committee**
 - Recommends a letter of intent be signed
 - Biggest concern at this time is if a recommendation is made and the municipalities do not follow through they could be responsible for the cost of the study
 - Discussion on repayment of money if not implemented for “good reason”
 - Councilman Maughan asked if the issue could be forced
 - Mayor Ruschman stated that it could go to referendum
 - **Ms. Fall stated that the Borough has until June 2011 to send a letter of intent**
 - Mayor Ruschman and Ms. Fall felt Mr. Molinelli gave a good presentation and it was publicly well received
 - Council discussion on exposure
 - Ms. Fall estimates the total cost of the study to be approximately \$45,000 for the Tri Borough
 - \$15,000/municipality, for a municipality this size
 - Council discussion that Civil Service Communities take the lead; our Chief would become Chief
 - County is looking for a vendor
 - Ms. Fall is also seeking possible vendors
 - Councilman Maguire feels that it is money well spent
 - Need to have the data
 - 3-6 month process for the study to take place
 - Next meeting is the second Wednesday of the month (10/13)
 - Councilman Misciagna stated that based on the first meeting it would appear that Montvale and Woodcliff Lake are in favor of the study
 - **Councilman Maughan asks Ms. Fall to check with Civil Service if our Chief would take the lead**

CFO REPORT

- Ms. Ennis stated that with regard to the 2 letters received by the Mayor and Council regarding interest on taxes
 - Ms. Ennis explained to those present the difference in circumstances
 - Ms. Ennis recommends waiver of interest for one
 - **Council agrees with recommendation**
 - Councilman Maughan suggests that Ms. Ennis notify the tax payers of the ability to pay their tax bills electronically

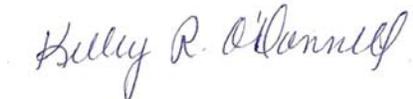
- Ms. Ennis reviewed with those present the discussions that took place at the recent Finance Conference
 - Recommendation to start budget process early for 2011
 - 2% tax cap
 - No tax cap waiver without referendum
 - State is still wrestling with this
 - Realizes referendums are an extra cost to municipalities
 - At this time only debt service is outside the cap calculation

- Governor's toolkit
 - 88 questions releases to Finance Officer
 - Based on answers to survey will see a reduction in state aid
 - Impossible to answer yes to all questions
 - Borough will see a reduction of a little over \$1,000
 - Ms. Ennis stated that she will distribute survey and answers
 - State will permit you to answer based on intent

- **Councilman Maughan asked for a budget update at the next Mayor and Council meeting**

Work Session adjourned to Closed Session at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelley R. O'Donnell, RMC
Borough Clerk