

Municipal Building
Park Ridge, NJ
March 25, 2008 – 8:10 p.m.

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council was called to order by Mayor Ruschman at the above time, date and place. Mayor Ruschman led those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Mayor Ruschman, Council members; Ciannella, Brouwer, Wells, Council President Henning and Councilmember Levinson

Absent: Councilmember Maughan

Also Present: Kelley O'Donnell, Acting Borough Clerk
Gene Vinci, Borough Administrator
John D'Anton, Borough Attorney
Ann Kilmartin, CFO

Mayor Ruschman Reads Compliance Statement as required by Open Public Meeting Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231.

AGENDA CHANGES

Mayor Ruschman asks the Borough Clerk if there are any Agenda Changes.

Mrs. O'Donnell states that we have the addition of resolution #8; The Appointment of General Supervisor of Roads.

Mayor Ruschman states that before we begin he would like to acknowledge the Boys Scouts from Troop 80 who visited the Council Chamber last week and we went over some history, and they had many interesting questions, and I invited them back to attend the regular meeting tonight so they could see what a meeting was like. We welcome you here tonight and hope you enjoy the rest of the evening.

PUBLIC PRIVILEGE TO THE FLOOR

Mayor Ruschman asks if anyone present wishes to be heard on any matter.

Audrey Herget – 91 Lawn Street and Joe Hoffman – 273 Vitmar Place-

We are here on behalf of PREF the Park Ridge Education Foundation

Ms. Herget is the current President and she stated that the Council has been great in sharing their ideas in helping us to get our name out there and helping us to raise more money funds for the school. To date we have awarded over \$70,000 in grants, however we need to do more. Steve Hopper, Director of the Recreation Committee had reached out to us and we plan to be part of the Town Picnic, but we need to do more and we would like your help.

Mr. Hoffman states that the group was formed back in 2002. We have raised approximately \$100,000; as Ms. Herget stated we have given away roughly \$70,000 in the past six years. The idea is to enable our children in the middle school and high school to get opportunities in school that they would otherwise not be able to have. You know that things have tightened up as far as getting funds for things that are not part of the core curriculum but do provide a great value to the children. The initial grant requests that we received were small and we were able to keep up with them; lately the type of grant requests that we have been receiving are very well thought out and Dr. Johnson has been involved in many of them. They really could be impactful. We have been able to fund some of them, for example a Middle School Team Teaching Grant, History of Park Ridge Option 2 Grant. We recently received a request for some MAC computers and a server that would allow our children to get much more out of computing than they can with the current system. We know that there is a limit to what we can do. What we need to do now is form additional associations within the community; we have some now BMW, Commerce Bank and our fundraisers but there is only so much we can do. We have sent a letter requesting to be associated with the Golf Outing this year. We would like to get from the Council your endorsement and contact information for the committee so we can move this forward.

Mayor Ruschman states that as far as the Golf Outing the committee you need to talk to is the Golf Outing Committee. I don't know if it has been formed yet. Councilmember Levinson stated that the Golf Committee has not yet been formed. Traditionally the Golf Outing has benefited charities, those with a 501C designation. Ms. Herget states that PREF is a 501C. Mayor Ruschman states that he knows a number of people and organizations have come forward already asking to be considered as benefactors of the Golf Outing. Mayor Ruschman stated that it would be wise for PREF to reach out to the Golf Committee as soon as possible. The Council really does not choose the benefactor, the Golf Committee does. The Golf Committee recommends and the Council traditionally approves their recommendation.

Councilmember Levinson states that she has emailed Ms. Herget and she would also like to put PREF in contact with the Montvale Foundation President as well who is a friend of mine and she has some great ideas. Additionally, I'm happy to hear that you and Steve Hopper have already been in touch. I had asked him to reach out to you. Ms. Herget stated that Steve Hopper was great and she has been in contact with Montvale's Education Foundation. Ms. Herget asked if PREF needed to forward a request to the Golf Committee or had that been done. Councilmember Levinson stated that she would forward the request, at this time there is no chairperson for the event. Ms. Herget asked if the Golf Committee is comprised of Park Ridge residents and she was told that it is. Councilmember Levinson stated that she would reach out to Ms. Herget this week to get a member of PREF on the Golf Committee.

Council President Henning asked if PREF would consider doing a Golf Outing of their own. Council President Henning acknowledged a gentleman in the audience who was instrumental in running a very successful Golf Outing for West Ridge. Ms. Herget states that they do not want to conflict with the Elementary School's outings in the spring. The Mayor's Golf Outing has always been in the fall. They do have individuals who are experienced and willing to run a Golf Outing. Ms. Herget states that they are one group trying to work together for the children of the town.

Mayor Ruschman stated that PREF has a great ally in Councilmember Levinson and he was happy to hear that steps have already been taken in reaching out to other committees.

Councilmember Wells just wanted to reinforce that we are all on the same team; that the town is working together to do what is best for the students.

Mayor Ruschman thanks the members of the Park Ridge Education Foundation for coming, and they thanked the Mayor and Council for having them.

INTRODUCTION OF 2008 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Ruschman announces that the 2008 Municipal Budget is being introduced tonight, and asks the Council President Rich Henning, to present the budget for introduction.

Council President Henning states that as PREF has duly noted things are a little tighter these days. The budget that we are introducing tonight is an estimated cost to operate the budget of \$11,360,358 and that compares to appropriations of \$11,329,074 which means there will be an increase in the budgeted amount of \$31,284 or 2/10th of a percent. What is difficult this year as everyone has probably read the Governor has saw fit to hurt some of the smaller towns in the state by reducing the state aid. Park Ridge lost a little bit more than \$200,000 and the amount of taxes to be raised this year is actually \$7,580,000, and that is an increase of \$208,000 or 2.8% so the news is not the best news, because no one likes a tax increase, the actual average assessment to a home in Park Ridge valued at \$500,000 would be \$50 per year or roughly \$4 per month. We are anticipating that the state aid that is allocated to the Borough will remain; we understand there are some things within the State Legislature going on with regard to the Governor's proposed budget. We have to anticipate what is proposed to us at this point. We have increased the amount of surplus we are using this year to \$1,280,000 approximately \$280,000 more than last year. This leaves the Borough with a balance of about \$500,000. Some of the notable increases that the budget committee faced this year were in the areas of public safety; an increase of \$45,000, an increase of \$250,000 for pensions and group insurance, line items that decreased this year were \$130,000 for debt service, \$90,000 for capital improvements, close to \$100,000 for utilities and roughly \$40,000 for Social Security Taxes. As such this is a

budget that will still allow us to provide some excellent services to town. We have talked about the Downtown Beautification Committee and our commitment to working very diligently to not only providing a vision but actually making a difference down there. We have some capital items in tow for this year and capital improvements planned for Mill Pond Dam, the Municipal Complex, Road Resurfacing and Curbs and Drainage. There are a number of projects that will still be funded within this budget. Tuesday, April 22nd at 8:00 p.m. will be the full hearing on the budget, when it will be adopted and we encourage all to come down and ask any further questions. We will be sending to each and every resident a budget newsletter which will provide all the details. At this point there were many Saturdays involved in working on this budget, I would like to thank Ann Kilmartin for all of the work that she did, Colleen Ennis as well, her assistant who is not next to her right now, Ken Brouwer and Gerry Maughan who also spent many of their Saturdays away from home, away from their weekends, so I would certainly like to thank the committee that worked on this budget and also Gene Vinci. This was definitely a difficult one to put together, especially after the Governor's announcement of a decrease in state aid.

Mayor Ruschman thanked Council President Henning and also thanked the individuals that Council President Henning had mentioned for their contributions to the budget. I think the Council President was very nice in his remark about the unconscionable action that the Governor took by cutting towns; with a population of less than 10,000, a large chunk of their state aid. It seems that those towns that are fiscally responsible and do a good job every single year are the ones that got hit the worst. I consider his action to be unconscionable, I don't think he was being prudent in managing his fiscal responsibility.

Mayor Ruschman asks the Borough Clerk to read the budget resolution.

Mrs. O'Donnell stated the Municipal Budget of the Borough of Park Ridge, County of Bergen for the Fiscal year 2008, be it resolved that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2008; be it further resolved, that said Budget be published in the Record in the issue of April 4, 2008.

Mayor Ruschman asks for a motion to introduce the 2008 Municipal Budget and that the budget be published in The Record with a public hearing to be held on April 22.

A motion was made by Council President Henning and seconded by Councilmember Brouwer. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Ruschman asks if any Councilmember wishes to abstain from voting on any resolution on the consent agenda.

Council President Henning will abstain from voting on Resolutions #3 and #4; Authorization to Bid for Water Meters and Authorization to Bid for Laboratory Testing Services.

Mayor Ruschman asks if any Councilmember would like to have any resolution removed from the consent agenda and placed under New Business.

Mayor Ruschman asks for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda with the abstentions so noted: A motion was made by Councilmember Levinson and seconded by Councilmember Wells to confirm. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS

**BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
RESOLUTION
Park Ridge and Leggette, Brashears & Graham
Phase II: Park Ridge from Fleck (Park Ridge Post Office)
38 Park Avenue (Block 1601 Lot 10)**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council had a Phase I examination done on the property commonly known as 38 Park Avenue, Park Ridge; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council desire to have a Phase II investigation of the property; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have received a proposal from Leggette, Brashears & Graham which provides a total cost not to exceed Six Thousand Four Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$6,400.00); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council that Leggette, Brashears & Graham are authorized to conduct a Phase II examination on 38 Park Avenue and the Mayor and Clerk are authorized to execute a contract with Leggette, Brashears & Graham for these services in a contract approved as to form and substance by the Borough Attorney; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this action shall be published in the newspaper of record within ten (10) days from the date of adoption of this Resolution.

**BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
RESOLUTION**

**Requesting Approval of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to
Establish a Dedicated Trust by Rider for Reimbursement of Sale of Gasoline Pursuant to
N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39**

WHEREAS, permission is required of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for approval as a dedication by rider of revenues received by a municipality when the revenue is not subject to reasonable accurate estimates in advance, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 allows municipalities to receive amounts for costs incurred for reimbursement of Sale of Gasoline, and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39 provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve expenditures of monies dedicated by rider,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Park Ridge, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The Mayor and Council hereby request permission of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to pay expenditures for Reimbursement of Sale of Gasoline as per N.J.S.A. 40A:4-39.
2. The municipal clerk of the Borough of Park Ridge is hereby directed to forward two (2) certified copies of this resolution to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

**BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
RESOLUTION**

AUTHORIZATION TO BID FOR WATER METERS

WHEREAS, throughout the period of a year, the water department needs to purchase various sizes of water meters; and

WHEREAS, over a one (1) year period, the anticipated total amount of expenditure for said water meters is over \$29,000; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of New Jersey Statute 40A:11-4 requires the public advertising for bids when the total annual expenditure for similar materials or supplies is over \$29,000; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Works has recommended that the Mayor and Council authorize the receipt of sealed bids for unit prices for water meters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Park Ridge hereby authorize the receipt of sealed bids for unit prices for water meters.

**BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZATION TO BID FOR LABORATORY TESTING SERVICE**

WHEREAS, throughout the period of a year, the Water Department needs to hire a laboratory testing service to perform sampling analysis for various types of tests on potable drinking water; and

WHEREAS, over a one (1) year period, the anticipated total amount of expenditure for said laboratory testing service is over \$29,000; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of New Jersey Statute 40A:11-4 requires the public advertising for bids when the total annual expenditure for similar materials or supplies is over \$29,000; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Works has recommended that the Mayor and Council authorize the receipt of sealed bids for unit prices for Laboratory Testing and Analysis of Potable Drinking Water;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Park Ridge hereby authorize the receipt of sealed bids for unit prices for Laboratory Testing and Analysis of Potable Drinking Water.

**BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
RESOLUTION**

REFUND ESCROW FUNDS

WHEREAS, Richard Timbo has finished the construction of 268 and 270 Prospect Avenue and has received a refund of his cash bond on October 16, 2006; and

WHEREAS, there remains a balance of \$2455.00 in Planning Board Engineering funds and \$86.00 in CCO Engineering funds; and

WHEREAS, there are no more vouchers to be paid.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Park Ridge that the \$2541.00 be refunded to Richard Timbo, 301 Central Avenue, Box 312, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926.

**BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
RESOLUTION
REFUND CCO ESCROW**

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official in order to issue a Certificate of Occupancy to Raymond and Geraldine Dilorenzo of 50 Third Street, Block 808, Lot 15 required a \$5000.00 Cash Bond because the driveway was incomplete; and

WHEREAS, all work has been completed and inspected and approved by the Borough Engineer and Construction Official.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Park Ridge that the Treasurer release the \$5000.00 to Raymond and Geraldine Dilorenzo.

**BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
RESOLUTION
AMENDMENT
RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT UNDER
STATE CONTRACT
(Tri-Borough: Park Ridge, Montvale & Woodcliff Lake)**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Park Ridge as part of the Tri-Borough System, previously approved a resolution to purchase a new phone system for the dispatch area in the amount of \$84,500 from Carousel Industries of North America under state contract; and

WHEREAS, the referenced State Contract Number of A42282 was incorrect; and

WHEREAS, the correct State Contract awarded to Avaya is A42285; and

WHEREAS, Carousel Industries is an authorized Avaya dealer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council that the Borough Administrator is authorized to execute a purchase order and pay for the phone system as set forth on the attached bill and voucher, for a sum not to exceed Eighty-four thousand five hundred dollars and no cents (\$84,500);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this expense shall be forwarded to the two other Tri-Borough communities; the Borough of Montvale and the Borough of Woodcliff Lake, for their contribution as part of the Tri-Borough Agreement.

**BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
RESOLUTION
THE APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL SUPERVISOR OF ROADS**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council had been advised that the prior general supervisor of roads has retired and a selection process was begun by the Park Ridge Board of Public Works to fill this position; and

WHEREAS, this vacancy was posted and candidates resumes received by the Board of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Public Works has recommended the appointment of Louis Turli to become General Supervisor of Roads in the Borough of Park Ridge; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed the recommendation and agree with this selection.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Park Ridge that Louis Turli is hereby appointed General Supervisor of Roads for the Borough of Park Ridge effective April 1, 2008 at an annual salary of \$78,000.00(Seventy Eight Thousand Dollars) plus a \$1,000.00(One Thousand Dollars) a year stipend as the Recycling Coordinator and \$1,000.00(One Thousand Dollars) as an additional stipend as an exempt employee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a true copy of this resolution shall be sent to Louis Turli within ten (10) days of the date of its adoption.

NEW BUSINESS

***IN ADDITION TO COUNCIL PRESIDENT HENNING AND COUNCILMAN WELLS
FOLLOWING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS ARE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR,
THEY ARE THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS WITH COUNCIL CONFIRMATION***

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Tammy Levinson	Ned Barber	Brian Mahoney
Cathy Timpone	Dan Browne	Greg Mathis
Paul Wharton	Terry Maguire	Stu Turner
	Rob Lorenzo	

A motion was made by Council President Henning and seconded by Councilmember Brouwer to Confirm. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Councilmember Wells and seconded by Councilmember Levinson to adjourn the regular Mayor and Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.