

BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
MAOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION

March 25, 2008
8:35 P.M.

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

Absent: Councilmember Maughan

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

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

ENGINEERING REPORT

General Engineering

Drainage Complaint – 95 Berthoud Street – Park Ridge Auto Center

- Catch Basin
- 2 quotes received
- Ingannamorte - \$16,350
- O'Donovan - \$16,500

Drainage Improvements – LeRoy Place & Musso Lane

- Met with Bergen County – more information was needed
 - Additional Field data and supplemental calculations were required
 - Will be resubmitted to the county asap
- Plan has been forwarded to John D'Anton so that easement agreements, both permanent and temporary, can be acquired.
- Spring Valley Road should not be a problem
- Pascack Road they may need to proceed further down for a viable system

2008 Road Resurfacing

- Numbers were submitted for the joint program
- Scheduling most likely Spring into Summer
- Gene Vinci explained that each of the town's involved in the Joint Road Resurfacing Program have had their own engineers submit numbers individually so that the actual cost savings can be calculated.

- Project scheduled to be bid in April.

Eve Mancuso will meet with Lou Turli to discuss curbs and drainage.

Railroad Corridor and Madison Avenue

- Gene Vinci and Eve Mancuso met with property owner to address storm water run-off from his property. He appeared to be amenable to correcting the problem but we have not yet heard from him.
- Councilman Brouwer stated that the property owner has solicited a quote from Chris Delaney from Dave O'Donovan.

COUNCIL CONCERNS

Councilman Wells – None at this time

Councilman Brouwer – Sooner than later would like to see Goals and Objectives for Mayor and Council and a Personnel Committee

Council asked Gene Vinci to negotiate with NESC a lower quote for the Efficiency Study

Mayor Ruschman informed the council that he will be preparing Gene Vinci's evaluation and would like their feedback as soon as possible. *Council President Henning stated that he has a form that he would share with the other council members.*

Councilwoman Ciannella –

- Board of Utilities is working on the 2009 Contracts.
 - They are working on two different types.
- Thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of the Downtown Beautification Project
 - Others have come forward and expressed interest in joining the committee
- Shade Tree Committee will be meeting April 7th. They are putting together a Tree ordinance.
- Today's paper ran an article on Westwood going green
- Utility Board will be conducting an energy audit – want to be more efficient
- Councilwoman Ciannella stated that she would like to see the Mayor and Council set up Goals and Objectives for themselves.

Councilwoman Levinson –

- DARE Graduation – March 28th at 9:00
- Proposes that the Mayor's Golf Outing be given to PREF for a fundraiser
 - Many have come forward asking to be the recipients of this year's funds
- Council discussed the Golf Outing and giving it to PREF to run and benefit from
- Councilman Wells stated that PREF is looking for help in establishing an identity
- Mayor Ruschman and Councilwoman Levinson to discuss the Mayor's Golf Outing further.

Council President Henning –

- TriBoro Ambulance Dinner March 18th

- Concerns with Park Ridge
 - Buildings and Grounds – Flooding Problem
 - New Exhaust System needed for bays
 - Asking each town to contribute \$6,500, they will contribute \$6,500
 - Complained about the Borough charging them for Electric
 - Last year they had a record number of calls – 1,500
 - Most from the nursing home – problem still not solved
 - We are six months away from Emergency Services in Westwood
 - There have been times that all 4 hospitals have been on divert and Pascack Valley residents had to be transported to Paterson
 - TriBoro Ambulance currently has 31 active members; 8 of those are available during the daytime
 - Rich Henning to meet with Hertz on April 7th to discuss help with daytime membership
 - Need to meet with other companies as well
 - TriBoro turned down the MICU parked at their garage
 - Council would like to see it parked somewhere in Park Ridge, they will be using our fuel depot
 - Councilman Brouwer to check with Fire Department
 - Councilwoman Ciannella to check with Lou Turli
 - Blue Light permits can be signed by Mayor or Administrator
 - Council discussion on Diesel Fuel.
 - Asked if it had been tested and where the town is purchasing it?
 - Low Grade?
 - Local Law 77 – low sulfur
 - Councilwoman Ciannella to discuss with Bill Beattie

BOROUGH CLERK REPORT

- Email – asked how the Council would like their email set up. Councilmembers Ciannella and Levinson would like it forwarded to their personal emails. Still need direction from Councilmembers Henning, Brouwer and Maughan. Councilman Wells has already been set up to forward to his personal email.
- Doxey Subdivision – In keeping with tradition of naming new streets after a veteran which would the Mayor and Council like for the new subdivision?
- Cpl. Jedh – In honor of Jedh Barker – Barker Court already directly across the street
- Edwin or Englehart in honor of Edwin C. Englehart
- Eugene in honor of Eugene Lourier
- Council asked the Mayor to decide. Mayor will get back to me.
- Post Office Plan –
- Distributed for all to see. Councilman Wells was asked to give a brief explanation of the courtesy meeting that took place with the Planning Board.
 - The Planning Board made recommendations to change the driveway layouts, the roof and sign.

- Those suggestions will be brought back to the USPS.
- They will probably change the driveway.
- They will add trees in the front and also include the lanterns in their plan.
- PRAA – Asked the Mayor and Council if they wanted to sponsor and ad in this year’s Directory. All agreed to, Councilwoman Levinson to prepare.
- Community Hospice of Bergen County, Inc.
Invite them to come to the April 8th or 22nd meeting. They would like to give a brief 5-10 minute presentation introducing themselves and seeking any assistance or suggestions in launching their program. Council agreed to invite them to the April 8th meeting.

Council discussion on \$41,000 still owed the Borough. The attorney for the Board of Education still has not gotten back to John D’Anton. John D’Anton spoke with Bob Wright, Business Administrator for the Board of Education. Councilman Brouwer will speak with the Board of Education.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Open Space Grants – Meeting April 9th
- Park Improvement Grants – August
 - Councilmember Ciannella asked about Veteran’s Park
- Parking and No Parking signs have been installed.
- Recycling Tax – Notified by State that it will be passed through the hauler based on solid waste disposal tonnage.
- Summer Camp – They will be renting a golf cart for the counselors to use between Sulak and Davies Fields.
- Bears Nest – annual request for Snow and Leaf removal reimbursements
- Total request - \$8,100 – 2007 Budget
- The Grants were received for the ADA compliant baths
 - Total - \$42,252

Council President Henning met with Joe Madden and Paul Marchese. They did Community Policing Event, which they will conduct again.

Mayor Ruschman stated that the Police are very appreciative of the support from the town.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY REPORT

- 37 Park Avenue has been approved for 1 COAH residential unit on the first floor.

- Councilman Wells explained that it is a mixed use building which was approved for 2 units on the first floor and one unit on the second floor.
 - The first floor residential unit is approx 600 square feet.
 - During Round 2 of COAH the Borough promised to put \$98,000 back into the community.
 - We have been told that if we do not use it within our own community they will take it.
 - Park Ridge currently has approximately \$450,000 in the COAH Escrow account
 - Throughout the state there is a total of \$600 million in collected COAH fees.
 - The going contribution rate for one town to send to another is \$160,000
 - The Board of Adjustment liked the idea of using the \$98,000 for this unit
 - COAH was contacted and gave verbal approval – must follow COAH regulations
 - Trying to develop a downtown initiative
 - Vision Plan Committee will come up with a mixed use concept
 - This will satisfy Round 2 requirements
 - Round 3 is tied up in court
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- Council agrees that it is a good idea, a resolution will be needed.

Mayor Ruschman will make committee appointments at next meeting.

All are anxious to see what the Open Space Tax will be.

Work Session adjourned at 10:00 p.m.