

**BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE**  
**MAOR AND COUNCIL MEETING**  
**WORK SESSION**

**June 24, 2008**  
**8:25 P.M.**

Present: Mayor Ruschman, Council members; Henning, Brouwer, Ciannella,  
Levinson and Maughan (via telephone)

Absent: Councilmember Wells

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

Bill Koenig introduced the Louis Berger Group and explained that they were invited to give a presentation on alternatives to the Mill Pond Dam repair and pond dredging.

Present from the Louis Berger Group were:

- Ed Samanns
- Jennifer Brunton
- Donald Stevens

Bill Koenig stated that the group had made an on site inspection

- There is the potential for allowing this to evolve into a Wetland
  - Educational Value
  - High School students exposed to environmental sciences
- Story Boards could be developed showing work in progress

Ed Samanns gave a PowerPoint presentation in which an overview of The Louis Berger Group was given

- Worldwide multi-disciplined architectural, engineering and environmental firm
- 4,500+ professionals
- Corporate Headquarters in Morristown, NJ
- An Engineering News Record Top 10 Global Design and Consulting Firm

**Key Clients were noted-**

- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- In addition to others

**Disciplines noted-**

- Emphasized that they have construction mangers which many other firms do not
- Ecosystem Restoration Group

- They have full service capabilities
- Which include
  - Construction Management
  - Monitoring and Adaptive management
  - Public Involvement

**Example of Projects-**

- Finderne Brook
  - Somerset County
  - Part of 150 acre site (County Park)
- **Hoffman Park-**
  - Hunterdon County
  - Approx. 1200 lf of stream restoration (County Park)

**Mill Pond Dam Project-**

- Approx 2000 lf
- Riparian buffer (flood plane)
- Needed for times when stream will overflow
- DEP mandates 50 ft buffer
- Opportunity to expand the Park Area
- Create trails

Al Quackenbush, whom was present in the audience, asked if there were plans to remove the dam.

Jennifer explained that it may be economically viable

- Borough won't be back here in 30 years trying to determine what to do
- Same problems will present themselves again
- Restore Stream and Wetland Habitat
- Wetlands also filter the water and would improve water quality downstream where there is a reservoir
- Obtain regulatory compliance
- Never need to worry about dam safety

*SHPO* – State Historic Preservation Organization wants to maintain cultural value within communities.

- The agency will be a factor in permitting process.
- There may be a historic element to the dam that would need to be considered.

Also Flood Hazard Rules are more rigorous  
Permitting will take the greatest amount of time

**Six Phases have been outlined for the project**

- **Phase I – Project Scoping**
  - Define Project Goals and Objectives
  - Initiate Agency Coordination
  - Identify Project Opportunities and Constraints

- Develop Preliminary Alternative
- Perform Project Funding Analysis
- Identify Potential Contaminants
- Examine Effect on Infrastructure
- **Proposed Fee for Phase I - \$15,500**

If after review of Phase I the Borough decides to move forward then The Berger Group would proceed with:

- Feasibility Studies and Concept Designs
- Structural Integrity
- Contour Survey Mapping
- Preliminary Design/Permit Application Development
- Final Design
- Construction Oversight
- Monitoring – typically 5 years
- Adaptive Management – coming out to make sure it is working as anticipated

**Requires and intense commitment in the 2-4 year range**

**Dam removal is very popular in the state**

Councilman Brouwer asked for examples of dam removals

- Jennifer explained that they have to take into account the normal spawning of aquatic life and have in the past breached a dam partially and then after the spawning season removed it completely

Jennifer explained that the State of New Jersey does not have a very organized plan, unlike Pennsylvania and New York

- Preserving and restoring streams

Mayor Ruschman asked what type of objections could be anticipated from the residents

- Jennifer explained there will be those that are unhappy about the change in landscape
- A member of the audience asked about the potential for more mosquitoes
- Jennifer explained that the stagnant pond is more of a breeding area then running water in a stream would be
- A member of the audience mentioned that this would also eliminate the Geese problem

Bill Beattie, Director of Operations asked if the stream flow had been looked at.

- There are drastic “flash” changes in the stream flow
  - 20 cfm to 500 cfm
- What effect would this have on the Riparian buffer area?
- Jennifer explained that it would be nothing more significant than what is seen now.

- Mr. Steven stated that their work has been done primarily with that type of stream “flashy” quick to flood.
- During the study period they would calculate the flow and if necessary make adjustments to the plan.
- That is exactly what needed to be done with the Hoffman Park project.

Mr. Quackenbush asked the cost differential between dredging and one of these alternatives they are suggesting.

- The last dredging was done in 1982 or 1983 and it was only partial because the Borough could not afford to complete.
- Jennifer stated that the biggest cost differential is that the Borough would never have to worry about dredging again

Councilmember Ciannella asked about the functioning Hydro Electric Facility.

- Jennifer stated that SHPO may say that it cannot be touched.

Bill Beattie stated that the Borough completed a long permit process for the Hydro Electric facility

- The facility requires water volume of 20 cfm
- Does not run constantly
- Varying flow
- Doesn't power much
- Historic Element of the town

Jennifer explains that this is part of the Project Scoping that would need to be worked out

- What does the community want?
- They would give their professional opinion
- Borough decides what they want to do

Councilmember Brouwer asked if grant money was available

- Jennifer stated that would be part of the process – funding alternatives
- Grants would add to the timeline
- Clean Water Act Section 319 Grants are available

Councilmember Brouwer asked if the improved water quality is measurable

- Jennifer stated that it is
- Studies can be done
  - Baseline and post construction
- DEP asks for these tests

Bob Ludwig asked if the lake is no longer there, what will happen to the sediment

- Sediment transport and flow study
- Watershed erosion study
- Effect upstream and downstream

Bob Ludwig also asked the permitting timeline

- Jennifer explained it is difficult to give due to too many variables
- They would want to get Dam Safety and Land Use together for the permitting
- The permit review process is six months

Bill Koenig asked if a sediment basin is a possibility

- Jennifer stated that it could be

Council President Henning asked how the 10’-20’ head difference would be addressed

- Jennifer explained that there would be a gradual slope to the stream
- Adding rock features for waterfall effect
  - Balances the energy
  - Creation of roughness with the rocks helps to dissipate the energy

All present thanked the group for their presentation.

**The Louis Berger Group left at 9:15 p.m.**

## **ENGINEERING REPORT**

### **General Engineering –**

- Drainage complaint 95 Berthoud Street
- Project complete

### **LeRoy Place –**

- Will be held over to 2009.
- Additional work required to tie into W. Park Ave increased the cost
- Insufficient funds in 2008 budget

### **Musso Lane Improvements –**

- Specifications complete
- Resolution done authorizing advertising and receipt of bids
- Subject to review by John D’Anton
- Need signed agreements from property owners

### **2008 Road Resurfacing Project-**

- Contract awarded to D & L Paving – lowest bidder
- Pre-construction meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>

### **2008 Road Improvements – Drainage, Curbs and Sidewalk**

- Specifications complete
- List previously distributed of locations and estimated costs
- Approximately \$60,000 worth of work
- Resolution done authorizing advertising and receipt of bids
- Subject to review by John D’Anton.

Councilmember Brouwer asked if the property owners will be notified prior to the commencement of work on Musso Lane.

- Eve Mancuso has met with the two property owners whose property is directly affected by the work to be done.
- Neighboring property owners will be notified as is usual procedure.

**Councilmember Brouwer asked the status of the property adjacent to the train station**

- **Still not resolved**
- **Council asked that a violation notice be sent by the Zoning Officer with a time line to resolve this matter**

Council President Henning asked Eve Mancuso her opinion of the O'Donovan restoration work

- Eve said it was done by Mill Brook
- Same concept as presented tonight by The Louis Berger Group
- Council asked Eve's opinion of the presentation
- Major concern would be the affect downstream

### **BOROUGH CLERK REPORT**

- Note of appreciation received from Ken Nibbling and his family
- Bulk Mail – change in policy at USPS
  - All future bulk mailings will have to be delivered to the Allendale facility
  - 12 cartons to be delivered by a borough employee, using a borough vehicle, to the Allendale facility.
  - Washington has centralized this service and we will have to allow at least 10 days from date of application to delivery in home. Will have to take this into consideration especially with the Budget Newsletter which we cut close this year
  - **Councilmember Brouwer asked if a resolution could be done fighting the move by the USPS to regionalize bulk mailing acceptance facilities**
- 2008-2010 County Snow Plowing Agreement – if acceptable we will do reso for 7/8 meeting. Increase of rate – was \$80/hour
- **Volunteer of the year** awards – need one recommendation from the municipality
  - **Council suggests Bob Ludwig and/or Paul Witte**
- Vacation – I will be on vacation Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> through Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Lyn will be working on the agenda in my absence for the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting

### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

#### **Lightning Detection System -**

- Working with Bob Wright, Business Administrator PRBOE
- Coordinating locations and number of alarms needed
- Horn and rotating Beacon - \$1,270/each

#### **Grants –**

- Open Space Park Improvements and Property Acquisition
  - Veteran's Park - \$78,000
  - Forest and Colony Avenues - \$900,000
  - Burgis Associates filing applications
  - Due 6/27/08

- NJDOT Applications
  - T & M Associates filing
  - Improvements to Fifth Street and Storms Avenue

## **COUNCIL CONCERNS**

### **Councilmember Ciannella –**

- Office of Emergency Management –
  - Supplies needed or money for supplies
  - Radio Request - \$500
  - Shelving
  - 2 Magnetic White Boards
- Total Cost – approx. \$4,000

Council discussion on the need to be thorough and itemize the Emergency Management Budget

Councilmember Levinson stated she thought the Fire Department was purchasing new radios and other equipment and perhaps Emergency Management could utilize some of their recycled items.

**Councilmember Brouwer to check with Fire Chief Tom Derienzo and get back to Councilmember Ciannella.**

### **Councilmember Brouwer –**

- Resolution adopted this evening for the **on-line auction**
  - How quickly can we get that going?
  - Discussion on getting input from another local town that has experience. Possible contacting Joe Valente or the League of Municipalities
- Minimum bids have been set
- **Will be auctioned as soon as we can**

### **Asked Gene Vinci to get bids for cleaning the Borough's buildings**

- Gene Vinci explained that the Pascack Valley Administrators are looking at a shared services study by NESO of the municipalities' DPW operations
- Oradell is getting a proposal for cleaning their buildings

**Asked Gene Vinci to find out what the cost would be if Green Sky picked up as opposed to us delivering.**

- Savings of 1 to 1 1/2 days labor.

### **Councilmember Levinson –**

- Recreation has asked for some type of structure for storage at Memorial Field
- Joe Bruno prepared plans at no charge
  - Ann Kilmartin stated that it was an addition onto the bathrooms
- Councilmember Levinson asked if there are any grants available

- Council discussion on ADA Grants for improvements to bathrooms
- John D'Anton explained that Ken Anton, former Recreation Director, was told 5 years ago that the scope of the project was too big and too expensive. He was asked to scale it down, bring in better plans and a better request. Cost at that time was approx. \$80,000

John D'Anton stated that there are used construction trailers available. Recreation could look into that.

**Councilmember Brouwer stated that there are also used shipping containers available.**

- Buy from Port Newark
- 20' trailer - \$1,200
- Outfitted with walls and electric - \$5,000

**Councilmember Brouwer will get quote for Councilmember Levinson.**

**Pool Commission –**

- Lines in the Parking Lot
- Gene Vinci stated that a proposal was received and he forwarded it to the pool

**Council President Henning –**

- Police Chief provided a monthly report which Council President Henning gave to Gene Vinci.
- Included are **2 commendations for Officers Barthel and Visich** for apprehending the 3 burglars that robbed the Apple Store.
  - **Chief would like to make those commendations to both officers at the next meeting, July 8<sup>th</sup>** – Council President Henning gave the information to Gene Vinci
- **Chief would also like to publicly thank Tracey Dickinson for the donation of the Jeep.**
  - **Commendation already prepared for 7/8 meeting**
- Background checks are taking place for 2 candidates for entrance into the Academy.

**Councilmember Maughan –**

Nothing at this time

Councilmember Levinson asked if commendations could also be given to the Boy Scouts and DPW for their help during the Town Picnic.

Councilmember Ciannella stated that the planters should be delivered next week.

- Gene Vinci asked if arrangements have been made to water the planters.
- Councilmember Ciannella stated that they have.

**Mayor Ruschman asked the Council to review the exempt salaries spreadsheet provided to them at the last meeting so that it can be discussed at the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

Council asked the status of the NESC interviews.

- Gene Vinci stated they will be completed this week.

**Work Session adjourned at 9:47 p.m.**