

BOROUGH OF PARK RIDGE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION

August 26, 2008
8:40 P.M.

Present: Acting Mayor Levinson. Council members; Wells, Brouwer and Ciannella

Absent: Mayor Ruschman, Council members Henning and Maughan

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

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

ENGINEERING REPORT –

Pascack Valley Joint Road Program –

- Project completed by D & L Paving
 - They will be called back for some additional work
 - Change orders not yet received
- Original Quote – Approx. \$187,000
- Total to date – Approx. \$224,094

Curbs & Drainage – Discussed earlier; additional funding needed from cancelled bond ordinances

Train Station Platform –

- Plans have been completed and forwarded to NJ Transit
- Council discussion on status of drainage issue at neighboring property
 - Violation notice issued
 - Gene Vinci stated that he spoke with them a number of times
 - Council asked for the status
 - Gene Vinci stated that the cost was higher than the property owner anticipated and he was looking for a better price
 - John D'Anton stated that the property owner needs to be told that the work needs to be done there is no more time to look for better pricing
- **Suggestion of sending another violation notice**
- **Gene Vinci to work with the Zoning Officer and establish a deadline**
- **Council asked for an updated report at the next meeting – a deadline needs to be set**

COUNCIL CONCERNS –

Councilwoman Ciannella –

- Discussion of motorcycle fatality Saturday, August 23rd on Spring Valley Road opposite Dana Court
- Gene Vinci stated that it was discussed at the Staff Meeting on Monday, August 25th as well
- **Council discussion on possible improvements to the area that could make it safer**
 - **Increased signage; reduced speed limit, double curve, dangerous curve**
 - **Grading similar to Lake Street in Saddle River**
 - **Trees trimmed**
- **Gene Vinci stated that it is a county road and typically the county will want to look at past history and conduct a traffic study before making any changes**
- Acting Mayor Levinson asked if letters were sent to the Bergen County Freeholders if that would help.
- **Councilman Wells noted that the suggestions are very good but that the expertise of the Police department should be used in making recommendations as well**
 - **He recommended these suggestions be given to the Police so that they may revise as needed.**
- **Councilwoman Ciannella will check the address of the trees and if the police consider it a safety issue the town has a contract with a tree company who could take care of it**
- **Councilwoman Ciannella stated that the neighbors were concerned about the response time of the ambulance**
 - **Council asked Gene Vinci to check the call log with Heather at TriBoro Ambulance**
 - Time of report
 - Time of dispatch
 - Time on scene
 - Council discussion on the shortage of volunteers
 - Longer ambulance runs to Valley, Hackensack and Englewood Hospitals

Councilman Brouwer –

- **Property Maintenance Ordinance**
- **Borough needs to be more proactive**
 - The PODS container has been at the property on Pascack Road for nearly 6 months
 - The ordinance allows for 90 days maximum
- Gene Vinci stated that the Zoning Officer is responsible for more than just property maintenance; that is only one aspect of her job
- The Part Time inspector works approximately 10 hours a week
- Generally in a town this size you respond to complaints only

- **Councilman Brouwer asked for a report**
- Gene Vinci stated that he has an inspection log
- **The Council asked Gene Vinci for a Patrol Log**
- **Councilman Brouwer asked that the POD on Pascack Road, the address he believes is 180 be looked into and that Gene call him tomorrow.**

Councilman Wells –

- **Stated that he would like to see a more proactive enforcement and compliance with the Property Maintenance Ordinance**
 - **The Borough has never been in a position where inspections were done based only on complaints; that is not how the ordinance is written**
 - **John D’Anton confirmed that the ordinance does not require a complaint**
 - Councilman Wells stated that now that the Borough has Matt Kent they should be in a position to be more proactive
 - **Councilman Wells agrees with Councilman Brouwer’s statement that there needs to be a recall system or follow-up system in place on PODS permits and repeat offenders**
 - Council discussion on adding property maintenance to the next Borough Newsletter, maybe in the Chief’s corner as it pertains to safety
- **Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce –**
 - Would like to add banners to the cross bars on the lanterns to help the business community; support the chamber and promote local business
 - **Council asked that a proposal be prepared and submitted to the Utility Board as well**
 - Limited to Chamber members only
 - Proposal should include
 - Installation
 - Costs
 - Location
 - Aesthetically pleasing; Sample and colors
 - Maintenance/Replacement
 - Liability
 - Councilman Wells asked if John D’Anton could help the Chamber of Commerce with the language for an agreement that the businesses would sign.
 - **John D’Anton asked Councilman Wells to provide him with examples of other towns**
 - Councilman Wells stated that the Chamber is still in its first year.
 - The president resigned because he took a job in another town
 - Dave Vozza is the acting President for the remainder of this year

Councilwoman Levinson –

- Asked the status on the Lightning Detection System
 - Gene Vinci stated that it has been ordered, they have contacted Hillsdale for information on installation

- Asked the status of Sift Reach
 - Gene Vinci stated that the Chief brought it up at the staff meeting on Monday
 - They are working on it
 - Councilman Brouwer stated that they are working with the schools and OEM to update the database

BOROUGH CLERK REPORT –

- Block Party – 21 Chestnut Avenue
 - Saturday September 6th 1:00 – 10:00 pm
 - Rain date Sunday September 7th
 - Chief Madden has been notified
- Avon Walk for Breast Cancer – Olivia Beattie is participating in the 2008 NY Youth Crew
 - I have suggested that she send a poster of pledge sheets for me to put on the back table for sponsors. Donations can be made directly through Olivia’s personal page on the Avon Foundation web site.
- September 9th meeting we will be adopting a resolution supporting the Certificate of Need Application by HUMC to reestablish a hospital at the site of the former Pascack Valley Hospital.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT –

Grants –

- Open Space Applications filed for
 - Park Improvements – Veteran’s Park
 - Property Acquisition – Forest Avenue
 - Public hearing at County 9/8
- NJDOT Applications filed by T & M Engineering
 - 5th Street
 - Storms Avenue
 - NJ Transit platform
- DPW Shared Efficiency Study for Pascack Valley Towns
 - \$21,450 awarded by DCA

Firehouse Exterior – discussed earlier

- **Councilwoman Levinson asked that when the work is done if the holes in the Library exterior could be patched as well.**
 - Same material used.

Cleaning Service –

- Quotes received from National Maintenance Service and Ocean Clean Inc.
- Will be meeting with Bill Beattie and Lou Turli
- Possibly scheduling a meeting with the company again

Borough Hall Roof –

- Quotes received from
 - Quad Three – Approx. \$22,000

- DRG – Approx. \$13,500
- **Councilman Wells asked that the Quad Three quote be distributed to the Council**
 - Council discussion that the quotes still seem very high
- **Gene Vinci was asked to get a third quote**
- **John D’Anton suggested that Gene Vinci contact Don Norbut at T & M Engineering.**

Ladies Room outside Council Chambers -

- Gene Vinci advised the Council of the need to close the ladies room for major repair
- Damage has been done from the roof leaking and pipes leaking
- There is another pipe leaking in the wall
- **Emergency resolution will be needed at the next meeting to repair**
- **Council discussion on the need to look at the whole picture; cannot continue to put “band aids” on the problems.**
- Gene Vinci stated that at one time Joe Bruno, AIA was brought in to look at better utilization of space.
 - No determination was made.
- Councilman Brouwer asked if office space was included in the scope of work NESC was conducting.
 - Colleen Ennis said that aspect was removed when the cost was reduced.

Municipal Open Space Trust –

- Veteran’s Park Improvements
- **Colleen Ennis stated that a resolution will be needed for the next meeting and she needs to know the amount of funds necessary.**
- **Council advised cost was \$78,000 and to figure an additional 20%**

Mill Pond Dam -

- **Council discussion on moving forward very cautiously with Mill Pond.**
- Other options were being considered as a means of reducing the recurring costs of dredging
- Councilman Brouwer asked that if there is no cost savings why would the Council entertain alternatives to repair of the dam and dredging.
- **Council discussion on the need to see possible budgets; even if inflated, for alternatives to repair and dredging before moving forward with Phase II**
- **Council agrees to await the outcome of the DEP meeting before any other steps are taken.**

BOROUGH ATTORNEY REPORT

None at this time.

Public Work Session adjourned at 9:35 pm.