

MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
WORK SESSION
September 14, 2021
6:45 P.M.

Present: Councilmembers Capilli, Cozzi, Epstein, Fenwick, Ferguson, Metzdorf and Mayor Misciagna

Absent:

Also Present: Magdalena Giandomenico, Borough Clerk
Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator
Tom Lahey, Borough Attorney

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

- I. **Electric Lineman:** Councilman Ferguson spoke about the Borough starting an apprenticeship program and training some of the current staff to become lineman, this way there is cross training and as the current crew retires, we have trained staff on hand.
 - i. Borough Administrator Falkenstern stated that many of the current DPW staff expressed interest evolving professionally and cross training. She mentioned that she was working with Paul Longo to see program specifications with PSEG. It would be good to get a program in place while the current supervisors and experienced line man are available to guide the trainees. It is about a five year process.

- II. **Storm Damage:** Councilman Fenwick asked what the preliminary assessment from Storm Ida was as it pertains to Borough owned properties.
 - i. Borough Administrator Falkenstern stated that the Borough applied for about a million-dollar worth of reimbursements. The Jiff adjuster came to view damages to work up an assesment and the flood insurance adjuster is coming later this week. The Borough first needs a denial from our current insurance carriers to apply for FEMA money. As for the turf field, it was just the turf that was damaged, and the flood adjuster is coming Thursday so an update will be provided at the next meeting

- III. **CFO Hire:** Councilman Fenwick asked if there were other applicants for the CFO position.
 - i. Borough Administrator Falkenstern spoke about the submitted resumes and the interviews conducted. She informed everyone that the current hire has all her CFO class completed and passed the first part of the CFO exam and will be taking the second one in December. She was also

recommended by Paul Lerch, the auditor, who has worked with her, and she is familiar with Munidex.

- ii. Councilman Fenwick expressed his concerns about an article he found in the Daily Voice how the potential CFO sued a Borough she was previously employed by when she was terminated. He stated that since she sued once, how do we know that if she is terminated from Park Ridge, we would not receive a lawsuit.
- iii. The Borough Clerk stated she was familiar with the lawsuit, and it was because a political party lost control and the new party terminated some staff based on political retribution.
- iv. The Borough Administrator stated that in any matter of termination an employee cannot be discriminated against based on their political affiliation or other protected categories and that would cover the Borough.

IV. Tennis Courts: Councilman Capilli spoke about a meeting he and Councilman Ferguson had with the Park Ridge schools regarding the conditions of the tennis courts. Councilman Capilli proposed that the schools use a court surface that was made from the material used on the Basketball Courts, however, the schools said they would not want that surface. The schools would opt out for a different surface for the tennis courts which is more expensive and closer to \$700,000. The Governing Body is not in favor of splitting the cost of that tennis court surface with the schools.

Open Work Session adjourned to Closed Session at 7:19pm

Councilman Metzdorf made a motion and seconded by Councilman Capilli to confirm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Magdalena Giandomenico
Borough Clerk