

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER
HELD APRIL 15, 2013**

PRESENT: Mayor Raia, Council President Mastriano, Council Members: Boardman, Kurpis, Mutter, Toomey, Walenczyk, Borough Clerk Macari, Administrator Cuccia, Attorney Russell Huntington

ABSENT:

PRESIDING: Mayor Raia called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.; Borough Clerk Macari read the following statement:

PUBLIC NOTICE: "Notice of this meeting in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act Chapter 231 of the laws of 1975, has been given by posting a notice of the scheduled dates of all regular meetings of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Saddle River on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and in the office of the Borough Clerk and by emailing a notice thereof to the Ridgewood Newspapers and The Record on December 20, 2012, the Borough website and also via E-Notify.

NOTIFICATION OF FIRE EXITS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AWARDS AND CEREMONIES At this time, Mayor Raia asked for a moment of silence in the wake of the Boston Marathon tragedy.

WORK SESSION:

MAYOR RAI A

Mayor's Update: At this time, Mayor Raia read the following statement regarding the municipal building. " *First, I want to thank and congratulate the Municipal Building Review Committee for the time and effort they have put into their report. I urge everyone to review their work and consider their findings. Of particular concern to me is our need to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. But, based on the feedback from residents and the number of important issues we face in our community, I am recommending that we not divide our attention away from more immediate issues, such as controlling taxes. I don't believe that, at this time, it would be a fair hearing, or it would get fair consideration and therefore I would say let us move on to more pressing issues and most importantly, let us focus on keeping the tax base low in Saddle River and do our best to run as economically as possible.*"

ADMINISTRATOR CUCCIA:

Engineering Update:

- The Lower Cross Road Bridge repair has been delayed and should be completed by June 2013 and is being funded by the County.
- The Saddle River Grand town home development will be ongoing into 2014; CO's have started to be issued.
- The Saddle River Museum stabilization project has begun and will take approximately two months.

- The road re-surfacing program will be underway shortly with the roadway list in the process of being determined.
- The Ackerman Road improvements will commence shortly.
- Pothole repair will continue on an ongoing basis.

Resolution urging sharing burden of property assessment appeal refunds:

Administrator Cuccia explained this bill, currently under consideration by the Senate, in detail at this time. If adopted, it would require school districts and county government to share in the burden of property assessment appeal refunds.

NJ SEM Electric Bid Application: Administrator Cuccia stated that the Borough of Saddle River is a charter member of the Sustainable Energy Joint Meeting (SEM). The street lighting bid was awarded but the regular meters were not as there is not a strike price agreed upon to date.

Appointment of Certified Court Administrator: Administrator Cuccia stated that the Mayor and Council is in receipt of resumes received for this position. Three candidates were interviewed and it was determined by an experienced panel that Janine Napoleone, the current Saddle River Court Deputy Administrator, is certified and the most qualified for this position.

Resolution of Tree Committee: The Environmental Commission is overseeing the process of obtaining the Tree City Designation for the Borough of Saddle River, with one of the criteria being the appointment of a Tree Committee. This resolution is part of the Consent Agenda.

Monmouth County Website Study: Administrator Cuccia stated that the recent article published in The Record, regarding municipal websites was conducted in 2011, prior to the Borough's website being upgraded. Some changes to the current website are now underway.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council President Mastriano stated that she has concerns about the Municipal Building being ADA non-compliant and asked Attorney Huntington to address this at this time. He stated that he is not comfortable with this situation but felt it prudent to address in Executive Session.

Council President Mastriano further stated that she has contacted the County about the utilization of the pothole truck and the potential to partner with other Northwest Bergen municipalities. She also stated that the street names in the Saddle River Grand are extremely similar to other streets in Upper Saddle River. As the zip codes are the same, there has already been a significant issue with mail and package delivery; this issue requires immediate attention, as it could also be a safety issue if emergency vehicles were needed.

Council President Mastriano stated that the street signs throughout the Borough are in need of upgrading; Administrator Cuccia stated he will address this.

Council Member Mutter stated that there has been no update regarding the AT&T cell antenna at the cupola. He addressed the Tree Ordinance and stated that he feels that some of the language is complex. He suggested designing an illustration, which could be posted on the website, in order for home owners to better understand the criteria for tree removal.

Council Member Mutter asked if the Saddle River boom manufacturer had been contacted and Borough Engineer Spence stated that he had not heard back to date.

MUNICIPAL CLERK:

Municipal Clerk Macari stated that the Local Ethic forms will be filed electronically this year and she is waiting for more information.

BOROUGH ATTORNEY:

At this time, Mayor Raia excused himself from the meeting and Council President Mastriano presided.

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE(S):

ORDINANCE NO. 13-876-M

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE 2013 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IN BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$125,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS

Resolution # 53-13 Offered by Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council Member Boardman

Motion to Open to the Public Offered by Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council Member Toomey
Voice Vote: All Ayes

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No one wished to be heard.

Motion to Close the Hearing by Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council Member Boardman
Voice Vote: All Ayes

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES, Unanimous

ORDINANCE NO. 13-877-M

BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE IMPROVEMENT OF ACKERMAN ROAD, IN BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$550,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS

Resolution # 54-13 Offered by Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council Member Kurpis

Motion to Open to the Public Offered by Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council Member Toomey
Voice Vote: All Ayes

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Paul Schulstad, 20 Eckert Farm Road asked how this ordinance will impact the water utility; Administrator Cuccia stated that this ordinance does not affect the water utility as it is a general purpose ordinance. Borough Engineer Spence addressed the addition of hydrants on Ackerman Road at this time.

Corrine Kerner, 229 West Saddle River Road asked for a cost breakdown on the \$550,000 expenditure in this ordinance. Borough Engineer Spence addressed this, stating that this includes drainage, curbing and road improvements up Ackerman Road to Kenwood Road.

Additionally, the extension of the water main up Ackerman Road to Trailside Place will also be part of this project, accounting for the balance of the expenditure. Mrs. Kerner asked if these two phases could be done separately and Administrator Cuccia stated that the repaired roadway would have to be ripped up in order to install the water main.

Motion to Close the Hearing by Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council Member Boardman
Voice Vote: All Ayes

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES, Unanimous

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES: There were none.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Resolution # 55-13 Offered Council Member Walenczyk
Seconded by Council Member Mutter
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

RESOLUTIONS

All matters listed hereunder are considered routine in nature and will be enacted in one motion. Any Council Member may request that an item be removed for separate consideration. Considering approval of minutes, a yes vote will indicate a vote in favor of approval of the minutes of each meeting at which the Council Member was present and abstention with respect to the minutes of meetings at which such Council Member was not present.

Resolution Offered by Council President Mastriano
Seconded by Council Member Toomey

Explanation of Consent Agenda Items

At this time, Administrator Cuccia briefly explained the resolutions on the Consent Agenda.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: No one wished to be heard.

Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

A. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of 3/18/13

B. Resolutions:

R# 56-13	Appointment of Emergency Management Coordinator
R# 57-13	Overpayment of taxes issue refund to Blk 2003 Lot 47
R# 58-13	Refund due to Bergen County Tax Appeal Blk 1808 Lot 11
R# 59-13	Appointment of Certified Court Administrator
R# 60-13	Recognition of Tree Committee
R# 61-13	Cancellation of Tax Lien 12-001

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Health: There was no report at this time.

Const. & Zoning Enforcemt. Council Member Boardman gave the report for March 2013.

Environmental Committee: Council Member Kurpis gave the report for March 2013.

Fire Report: There was no report at this time.

Police Report: Council Member Mutter gave the report for March 2013.

Finance Report: Council Member Walencyk gave the report for March 2013.

Landmarks Committee: There was no report at this time.

Public Works: Council President Mastriano gave the report for March 2013.

Parks and Recreation: There was no report at this time.

Planning Board: Council Member Walencyk gave the report for April 2013.

Zoning Board: Council Member Toomey gave the report for March 2013.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Patty Nazzaro, 2 Westwind Court thanked the Mayor and Council for promoting April as Alcohol Awareness Month.

Marilyn Goldfisher, 124 West Saddle River Road stated that the Saddle River and the adjacent pond are important landmarks in the Borough and she has serious concerns about littering. She has collected fishing hooks and lines scattered along the banks of the pond and showed them to the Mayor and Council at this time. She further stated that she has asked for this pond to be a non-fishing pond, which could not be done; she would now like to see a portion of the pond designated as such. She stated that she has cared for animals injured in the pond by hooks and fishing line and reiterated that this is a dangerous issue. She also stated that both a no- littering sign and a trash bin would be very beneficial to the pond area.

Ms. Goldfisher stated that a sign was installed on the roadway adjacent to her home and it is basically ineffective as it is misplaced; Police Chief McWilliams stated that this is a County road and Council President Mastriano stated that she would contact the County about this issue.

Corrine Kerner, 229 West Saddle River Rd. stated that there was a robbery in Burning Hollow last week and asked about what more the Borough can do to increase security. Attorney Huntington stated that these discussions cannot take place in a public forum for security purposes.

Paul Schulstad, 20 Eckert Farm Road asked about the police force and if retiring officers will be replaced. Administrator Cuccia stated that one officer is retiring and will be replaced. Attorney Huntington stated that towns must be prudent with the timing of replacing officers, based on PBA contracts. He further stated that, as this is a personnel matter, it may not be discussed in a public forum at this time. Mr. Schulstad asked about the water fees paid to United Water, seeking clarification on the increase in the run rate. Administrator Cuccia addressed this billing issue in detail at this time.

Ron Gray, 3 Country Squire stated that he lives in Burning Hollow and is concerned about break-ins in this area. He asked why more resources are not allocated to the Police Department in light of these incidents. Attorney Huntington reiterated that any plans to increase security in the Borough may not be discussed in public. Police Chief McWilliams stated that these types of crimes are cyclical and lately the crime rate has been down throughout the Borough.

Mr. Gray asked the Mayor and Council for their specific plan to increase the number of police officers in the Borough. Council Member Walenczyk stated that when the budget was developed, Chief McWilliams was asked for his input about the force's needs for 2013. He further stated that it is the Mayor and Council's intention to keep the police force at the level where the Chief is comfortable with the resources that he needs.

Mr. Schulstad asked if any of the rolls have changed within the police force. Chief McWilliams stated that one of the detectives is currently assigned to a road function.

Jon Kurpis, 12 East Allendale Road stated he has been involved in every aspect of the Saddle River Museum and wished to clarify the facts on record about the Borough's expenditures on this property to date. Council President Mastriano suggested that Mr. Kurpis contact the press and have the facts made public. He explained that the stabilization project, currently underway, came in way under budget and he commended the Mayor and Council for their fiscal responsibility with this effort.

Council Member Walenczyk asked if the students at Wandell School take advantage of the Saddle River Museum and Mr. Kurpis stated that he has worked with the school closely and the students have been to the Museum and this will continue moving forward.

Liz Salazar, 6 West Gate Road asked if 16 police officers is the optimum number, given the size of Saddle River. Chief McWilliams stated that this is driven by utilization and coverage; the current level of coverage requires 16 officers. Council President Mastriano stated that it is the Mayor and Council's intention to keep the residents of Saddle River safe, while keeping within the parameters of the budget.

Council Member Boardman commended the police force and Chief McWilliams for their continued outstanding service in the Borough of Saddle River.

Council Member Kurpis asked if his family was any less safe now than at any time in the last 25 years he has been in Saddle River; Chief McWilliams stated, unequivocally no.

Jon Kurpis stated that he lives close to both Burning Hollow and Route 17 and feels that there is significant security by the police department in this area.

Patty Nazzaro commended the police department for their continued dedication and suggested that residents be vigilant in their own neighborhood.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the regular meeting of the Mayor and Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Elena Macari
Borough Clerk