

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE  
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER  
HELD FEBRUARY 11, 2013**

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

**ABSENT:**

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**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**

**WORK SESSION:**

**MAYOR RAI**

**The Mayor's Legislative Meeting:** Mayor Raia stated that he attended this meeting in Trenton and addressed the resolution which was adopted regarding interest arbitration. Additionally, the Mayors addressed the consolidation of services; he reiterated that Saddle River participates in shared services including construction officials, sub-code officials, tax collector, tax assessor, health and fire official. He further stated that it is important to be prepared for consolidation as, in order to keep taxes manageable, this will become mandated in the near future.

He further stated that the purchase of water was addressed and Borough Engineer Spence discussed this in detail at this time. Mr. Spence stated that the Borough purchases water from United Water and DEP is involved in allocating the amounts to be purchased. Saddle River is in the process of getting the allocation reduced as it is not based on actual usage.

**ADMINISTRATOR CUCCIA:** Administrator Cuccia stated that he had intended to do a Power Point presentation to address the 2013 budget but, due to technological problems, hard copies would be distributed.

He asked Borough Engineer Spence to give the engineering update at this time.

## **Engineering Update:**

- The Lower Cross Road Bridge repair should be completed by May 2013 and is being funded by the County.
- The Saddle River Channel Clearing Project has resumed and work is ongoing near the Waldwick/Ho-Ho-Kus border, nearing completion. Some additional bank stabilization will take place in the Spring.
- 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 will commence shortly and will take approximately two months.
- Recommended capital improvements for 2013 include road reconstruction on the bottom portion of Ackerman Road which could include running an additional water line, the road re-surfacing program, improvements to the Vargish Pump Station and tax map updates.

At this time, Mayor Raia asked Police Chief Tim McWilliams to comment on the apprehension of a burglary suspect by Sgt. Cosgriff; he was commended for his swift actions.

## **ADMINISTRATOR CUCCIA:**

**Road Resurfacing Program:** Administrator Cuccia stated that he would like to address this issue at the March 18, 2013 meeting of the Mayor and Council as it is being recommended as a capital improvement, which must be done by ordinance.

**2013 Municipal Budget:** At this time, Administrator Cuccia explained the contents of the Power Point presentation regarding the 2013 Municipal budget in detail. He further stated that it must be introduced, advertised, a public hearing must be conducted and it must be adopted by a minimum of four affirmative votes. The statutory budget process was explained in full at this time for the 2013 Municipal budget in the Borough of Saddle River; there will be no municipal tax increase in 2013.

Mayor Raia commended the Budget Committee and Administrator Cuccia for their diligent work executing the budget and reiterated that there will be no municipal tax increase. The budget information will be available for viewing on the Borough website on February 12, 2013. He reiterated that municipalities all are forced to consolidate services and cut expenses in order to stay within the 2% CAP and praised the effort that has been put forth in Saddle River to meet these objectives.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Council President Mastriano stated that the Municipal Building Renovation Sub-Committee met on January 29, 2013 and February 5, 2013. During the first meeting, an inventory of all related documents was developed. One of the committee's objectives is to insure that all OPRA requests and any other requests for information regarding the Municipal Building Renovation be addressed and answered. All of the related documents are available on the website for review. After the committee has reviewed all of the documents once again, they will meet with the architects, engineers and legal experts to review the proposed plan and consider alternatives. Input from residents will be sought during this process and additional public meetings will be held, outlining all information related to any alternatives. This process is expected to take several months and the town will be made aware of all meetings held regarding this issue.

Council Member Mutter stated that the Health Officer, John Christ will be retiring on July 1, 2013.

He reported that a County health assessment was conducted, finding obesity, hypertension and high cholesterol the largest health risks.

Mayor Raia stated that in an effort to promote a healthy lifestyle, he would like to look into available grants to perhaps include walking paths along the Saddle River and around Rindlaub Park.

Council Member Kurpis stated that the Environmental Commission met on January 26, 2013; Jerry DeCrosta was re-elected as Chairman and Joy Convertini was re-elected as Secretary. He further stated that the Commission addressed objectives and goals for 2013, the re-planting of trees throughout the Borough, creating a page on the Borough website with valuable environmental information for residents and conducting a fund raiser for the tree planting program.

He further stated that the Landmarks Commission met on January 23, 2013; Jon Kurpis was elected Chairman, Mike Trepicchio was elected Vice Chairman and Joy Convertini was re-elected as Secretary. He further stated that the Commission heard an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the Saddle River Museum, presented by Martin Spence. The plan includes the replacement of the roof, exterior siding, a rear window and the extension of a rear overhang; the Commission voted unanimously to approve the application. Additionally, the necessary interior work at the Museum was discussed along with the importance of educating the community about the historical significance of Saddle River.

**MUNICIPAL CLERK:**

**BOROUGH ATTORNEY:**

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE(S):**

**ORDINANCE NO. 13-875-M**

**AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED INDEX CAP RATE FOR THE YEAR 2013**

**Resolution # 39-13** Offered by Council President Mastriano  
Seconded by Council Member Walencyk  
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

**INTRODUCTION OF THE 2013 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

**Resolution #40-13** Offered by Council Member Walencyk  
Seconded by Council Member Boardman  
Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous

**ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE(S):** There were none.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**Resolution # 41-13** Offered Council Member Walencyk  
Seconded by Council Member Kurpis  
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:**

**Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous**

**A. Approval of Minutes:** Regular Meeting of 1/21/13

**B. Resolutions:**

**R# 42-13            Soil Movement – Blk. 1301 Lot 29 - Iwasaki**

**R# 43-13            Refund due to reduced assessment – Blk. 1502 Lot 36**

**R# 44-13            Self Examination of the Budget**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Board of Health:** Council Member Mutter gave the report for January 2013.

**Const. & Zoning Enforcement.** Council Member Boardman gave the report for January 2013.

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

**Fire Report:** Council Member Walencyk gave the report for January 2013.

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

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

**Landmarks Committee:** Council Member gave the report for January 2013.

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

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

**Planning Board:** Council President Walencyk gave the report for February 2013.

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

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

Paul Schulstad, 20 Eckert Farm Road asked about the size of the police force in the Borough and Mayor Raia stated that there are currently 16 officers and there are no plans to make any changes at this time.

Mr. Schulstad asked about any involvement by the prior administration regarding the renovation of the Municipal Building and Mayor Raia stated that it was discussed but that no professionals were retained. He further asked if any of the members of the Ad Hoc Committee, including Mayor Raia had a prior relationship with SNS Architects, the architect retained to work on the municipal building renovation. Mayor Raia stated that Raia Properties had retained SNS in the past but he had no input when they were retained by the Borough.

Mayor Raia encouraged Mr. Schulstad to join a Board, Commission or the Governing Body so he would obtain an understanding of how municipal government operates.

Corrine Kerner, 229 West Saddle River Road asked about the document inventory and if there were any other documents generated by the Ad Hoc Committee that may be available. She further stated that the most recent documents uploaded to the website were not available when she made an OPRA request. Administrator Cuccia stated that Borough Clerk Macari is the responsible official for OPRA requests and she asked both the Ad Hoc Committee as well as the professionals for all information related to this project. Mrs. Kerner asked if an index of all information would be constructed and Council President stated that all of the information was on the website; Mrs. Kerner disagreed. Borough Attorney Huntington reviewed OPRA law, stating that the process mandates making public records available promptly and where those records may be scattered beyond the reach of the records custodian, it is incumbent upon that custodian to reach out to the necessary parties to obtain requested records. He stated that Ms. Macari has complied with all requests for information to date.

Mayor Raia stated that there were several presentations by the Committee and the architects and it is now the job of the sub-committee to evaluate all of the information and make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council; there is no pre-determined direction at this point regarding this project

Marilyn Goldfisher, 124 West Saddle River Road asked who owns the boom behind the Saddle River Inn. Administrator Cuccia stated that the Borough owns the boom. She further stated that there is still a large amount of debris which blocks the river and floods her property and she encouraged the Mayor and Council to consider a different boom.

Borough Engineer Spence stated that the boom presently in place is similar to the prior boom. He further stated that he would see if any further maintenance is required.

**CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC:**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Elena Macari  
Borough Clerk

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