

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE  
BOROUGH OF SADDLE RIVER  
HELD MAY 20, 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:** Mayor Raia stated that the Valley Club is celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; this club embodies many of the principles that make Saddle River the special community it is and he congratulated them on their continued endeavors in the Borough.

**WORK SESSION:**

**MAYOR RAI A**

**Mayors Conference:** Mayor Raia stated that he attended the Mayor's Conference in Atlantic City and it was extremely informative and productive. He further stated that he has been asked to serve on the legislative committee for the New Jersey League of Municipalities. He encouraged the public to research the S-2 Bill, which will **force consolidation and shared services, within municipalities if passed.** He further stated that **"he is in favor of encouraging Mayor's to share services rather than penalize them"** if they fail to comply. COAH was also discussed at detail.

**Northwest Bergen Mayor's Meeting:** Mayor Raia stated that a contract is currently in place to enable municipalities to purchase fire trucks at a reduced rate and this was discussed at the meeting. Additionally, shared services between municipalities continue to be addressed among this group of mayors.

**Bergen Mayor's Meeting:** Mayor Raia stated that he attended this meeting with all of the mayors of Bergen County and Congressman Pascarella was a guest speaker.

**Administrators Meeting:** Saddle River hosted the Administrator's meeting and Mayor Raia was in attendance along with Administrator Cuccia.

**Hackensack University Medical Center:** Mayor Raia stated that he attended a gala with other Bergen Mayors at the Pascack Valley location. He further stated that he is on the Board of the Hackensack University Medical Center.

**ADMINISTRATOR CUCCIA:**

**Engineering Update:**

- The Lower Cross Road Bridge repair, a County project, has been delayed and should be completed by the end of June 2013.
- The Saddle River Grand town home development will be ongoing into the spring of 2014; CO's have started to be issued.
- The Saddle River Museum stabilization project has begun and will take approximately two months. The new roof has been installed and window replacement and trim is currently underway.
- The road re-surfacing program will be underway shortly with the roadway list in the process of being determined. The bids were done on a co-op basis with Ramsey.
- The Ackerman Road improvements went out to bid and was awarded to D.R. Mullen Construction. The project was outlined in detail at this time.
- Pothole repair will continue on an ongoing basis.
- The Saddle River channel clearing project has been completed with some areas of additional stabilization necessary in the fall of 2013.
- The boom in the private pond in Barnstable is being accessed and may need to be moved to the north, which would provide more of a diversion for debris.

**Report on meeting with United Water:** Administrator Cuccia stated that, in 2010, the DEP arrived at a water calculation that exceeded actual usage in the Borough to insure there is an adequate amount available. It was determined that the allocation was excessive for Saddle River and Borough officials met with United Water in order to rectify this issue. The agreement is in the process of being amended with the new allocation figures and will be presented to the Mayor and Council upon completion.

**Request for Personnel:** Administrator Cuccia stated that there are two upcoming retirements within the Police Department and three new officers will be hired. The hiring process will be somewhat time consuming; Council Member Mutter encouraged the Mayor and Council to work expediently on this process. Additionally, there will be an employee retiring in the Building Department, who will be replaced with a part time employee.

Council President Mastriano made a motion to begin the process of hiring three new police officers as well as a part time employee for the Building Department. Seconded by Council Member Kurpis  
Voice Vote: All Ayes

**Proposed Ordinance Review – Personal Grooming Establishments:** Administrator Cuccia stated that there are several hair and nail salons in Saddle River and the current ordinance does not provide enough regulation. Council Member Mutter explained the licensing criteria for these establishments and outlined what was deficient in specific salons in the Borough. He further stated that this ordinance mirrors the State criteria and asked for the Council to review it for introduction at the June 17, 2013 Mayor and Council meeting.

**Municipal Septic Sewer Line:** Administrator Cuccia stated that there was a major repair done on the septic line in the Municipal Building.

**Authorization to bid on construction projects:** Administrative Cuccia stated that approval will be necessary to bid on several construction projects in the Borough. Mayor Raia stated that the Borough is in receipt of grant monies in the amount of \$157,491.00 from the NJDOT for streetscape improvements on East Allendale Rd. Additionally, a Clean Communities Grant was received in the amount of \$9512.00.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Council President Mastriano stated that the County pothole truck will be in the Borough the week of May 27, 2013 and encouraged everyone to report all potholes they were aware of. She further stated that the Lower Cross Bridge completion date should be complete by July 1, 2013.

The Wandell School Field day is June 13, 2013 and the Invention Convention is scheduled shortly as well.

The Memorial Day Celebration preparations are ongoing, with the parade beginning at 11:00am on May 27, 2013. Festivities will continue on the Municipal Building front lawn.

The Summer Concert Series begins on May 29, 2013. Additional concerts are scheduled on Thursdays through the summer.

Council Member Toomey stated that the ordinance review committee is continuing to meet to work on the clarification of several zoning ordinances.

Council Member Mutter reviewed the 2012 Annual Board of Health Report for the Borough of Saddle River in detail at this time.

**MUNICIPAL CLERK:**

Municipal Clerk Macari stated that the Local Ethic forms will be filed electronically this year and receipts are to be forwarded to the Municipal Clerk after completion.

**BOROUGH ATTORNEY:**

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

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:** There were none.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

**Resolution # 62-13** 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 Boardman

### **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:**

Rebecca Rogers, 12 Twin Brooks Road stated that there is a significant accumulation of debris at the bottom of Ackerman Road and East Saddle River Road. She also asked if the Ackerman Road improvement project will include the side roads and the pot hole repairs on these streets. Borough Engineer Spence stated that the ancillary roads off of Ackerman will be repaired and he will bring the debris issue to the attention of the County.

Paul Schulstad, 20 Eckert Farm Road asked how much it would cost to repair the pot holes on Ackerman Road and not install a new water main. Borough Engineer Spence addressed this question stating that it would be approximately \$158,000 and this would include curbing drainage and pot hole repair. It will also provide 16 additional homes with the access to new fire hydrants.

John Sywilok, 22 Ackerman Road stated that there have not been many fires on Ackerman Road and asked about the need for the proposed water line in this area. Administrator Cuccia stated that water cannot be taken from ponds or pools to fight fires in the Borough any longer and the hydrants have proven more effective and have saved residents money on home owner insurance premiums.

Patty Nazzaro, 3 Westwind Court thanked the Mayor and Council for the proposed Ackerman Road improvement as there is a significant amount of debris that washes onto East Saddle River Road and is a traffic hazard.

### **Roll Call Vote: AYES, Unanimous**

**A. Approval of Minutes:** Regular Meeting of 4/15/13

**B. Resolutions:**

<b>R# 63-13</b>	<b>Award of bid for improvements to Ackerman Road</b>
<b>R# 64-13</b>	<b>Soil movement 185 ESRR Blk 140 Lot 31</b>
<b>R# 65-13</b>	<b>Refund of taxes due to Civil Action Judgment Blk 1901 Lot 2 &amp; Blk 2001 Lot 1.06</b>
<b>R# 66-13</b>	<b>Click it or Ticket</b>

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

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

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

**Fire Report:** Council Member Walencyk gave the report for February and March 2013.

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

**Finance Report:** There was no report at this time.

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

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

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

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

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

## **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:**

Rebecca Rogers, 12 Twin Brooks Road asked about the March 12, 2013 meeting of the Cell Tower Task Force. Administrator Cuccia stated that the committee met to address moving the AT&T tower currently located on the cupola at the Saddle River Post Office. New baseline readings will be conducted shortly and the prior reading locations will be matched to the prior tests.

Mrs. Rogers also asked if the Council could review the language in the land use regulations to modify how future communication structures could be built in the remaining dead zones in town. She presented a map highlighting the dead zones throughout the Borough and stated that she wanted to insure that cell towers were not installed in residential areas. Attorney Huntington stated that the Borough is considering revising the ordinance governing cell towers in order to prevent this.

Paul Marcus, 6 Bayberry Drive stated that he has been a resident for 27 years and does not feel that the County roads are being cleaned effectively. He further stated that he is willing to help but feels that this situation is dire and encouraged the Mayor and Council to act on this issue. Council Member Kurpis stated that the Saddle River Environmental Commission is equally as concerned with this issue. Mayor Raia suggested that a town wide clean-up program be implemented.

Marilyn Goldfisher, 124 West Saddle River Road stated that the "No Littering" signs are not consistent and many can no longer be read. She encouraged the Mayor and Council to address signage throughout the Borough. She also stated that the businesses in the Borough are generating a significant amount of garbage and this must be addressed as well as changing all storm drains in the Borough to prevent large debris from washing into the sewer system. Police Chief Tim McWilliams stated that the police force actively issues summonses for littering when witnessed.

Ms. Goldfisher stated that she would like to see the pond, owned by the Borough, to be designated as a "No Fishing" zone. The wildlife living in the pond area are getting injured by fishing lines and hooks left by fisherman. She also encouraged the Mayor and Council to re-address the boom as she does not feel it is effective.

Liz Salazer, 6 West Gate Road inquired about why the town debt has increased and if there are any plans to pay this debt off. Mayor Raia stated that debt is both authorized and funded and explained this in detail. In 2007, during the previous administration, \$12,000,000 of debt was authorized. The actual funding occurred in 2008 when he became Mayor and the majority of this was for the installation of water lines, which has significantly enhanced fire fighting efforts throughout the Borough. He further stated that this debt has been properly managed while taxes have only been very minimally increased. Administrator Cuccia explained bond anticipation notes and their effect on the town debt in detail at this time. The total debt at this time is \$14,000,000 and Mayor Raia stated that this debt is very conservatively managed.

Tom Fox, 16 Woodfield Lane asked about the debt and cautioned the Mayor and Council not to be cavalier about this issue. He also inquired about the Marker property on East Saddle River, directly behind the Municipal building which is currently owned by the Borough. The purchase of this property was almost completely funded with grant monies. Mayor Raia stated that the plan with this property is to use the land to make a more safe and effective ingress and egress to Rindlaub Park. There is not enough parking and emergency vehicles currently do not have appropriate access to the park. Mr. Fox Stated that he has serious concerns about monies spent by the Borough and Mayor Raia stated that it is very important for a municipality to continue to invest in itself in order to keep home values strong.

Corrine Kerner, 229 West Saddle River Rd. stated that she supports Mr. Fox's view on the Marker property; she feels that the park should remain private. She further asked if the grants received to date were matching grants and she was advised that they were not. She also inquired about the police accounting for 40% of the municipal budget, when in the past it was 30% and she asked for clarification. Administrator Cuccia will review the numbers with Ms. Kerner at a later date.

Ron Gray, 3 Country Squire commended the Mayor and Council for looking to hire three new police officers. He further inquired as to whether or not a school resource officer will remain in place at Wandell School and Mayor Raia stated that he is committed to maintaining a school resource officer. Mr. Gray asked about the security cameras at Wandell School and when they would be connected to the police desk. Mayor Raia stated that he is completely in favor of this and is waiting for the Board of Education at Wandell School to authorize this; they have not wanted this connection in the past. Mr. Gray asked Mayor Raia about shared services with Police and Fire Department services. Mayor Raia stated that he is not in favor of this with either the Police or Fire department. Mayor Raia addressed the police force and the prospect of hiring three new officers. He further stated that Saddle River has the lowest number of resident to officer ratio within any of the area municipalities.

Mayor Raia suggested that any residents interested in reviewing any budget items, contact Administrator Cuccia to set up a meeting with the finance committee. He further stated that there are many inaccurate figures being circulated and he would like to have this issue clarified.

Council Member Kurpis asked if there are any safety issues in the Borough that the Mayor and Council are not aware of. Mr. Gray stated that the number of burglaries have increased and there is a perception that this is in part due to a reduced number of police officers. Mayor Raia stated that these burglaries come in cycles and Saddle River has seen times of both increased and decreased incidents. He further stated that license plate readers, more security cameras and advance technology have also greatly enhanced the ability to keep crime minimized.

Patty Nazzaro, 3 Westwind Court stated that she is very upset that the Saddle River Police Department business is being published in newspapers and is on the website. She further stated that, as a 31 year resident of Saddle River, she has witnessed first-hand the problems with the ingress and egress to Rindlaub Park. She further stated that she is in favor of utilizing the Marker property for a better alternative.

Paul Schulstad, 20 Eckert Farm Road asked why the existing road into Rindlaub Park could not be widened rather than utilizing the Marker property and Borough Engineer Spence stated that there is limited space there, with a cemetery on one side and a brook on the other. Additionally, more parking was needed for Rindlaub. Mr. Schulstad further stated that he feels that the grant program should be shut down in New Jersey. He further asked about the United Water allocation for the Borough of Saddle River and the Mayor suggested that he contact Borough Engineer Spence, as this has previously been addressed. Mr. Schulstad also asked about water lines installed throughout the Borough to address contaminated water and Borough Engineer Spence addressed this issue in detail at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was none.

### **RESOLUTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

At this time, a resolution was read to go into Closed Session.

**Resolution # 67-13** Offered by Council President Mastriano  
Second by Council Member Kurpis  
Roll Call Vote: AYES: Unanimous

**ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn the Closed Session was made and seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Elena Macari  
Borough Clerk

F/Nwwp/f/min/M&C05-2013