

**BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE**  
**Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 8, 2010**

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Lee C. Honecker at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2010. Present were Council Members Joseph DeMarco, Charlotte J. Foster, John McCrossan, Edward McDowell, Joseph Rossi and Kevin Sooy. Also present were John R. Pidgeon, Borough Attorney, Ralph Maresca, Administrator and C.M.F.O. and Anthony Suriano, Deputy Borough Clerk.

**STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER**

Notice of this meeting was provided to the Bernardsville News, Courier News and the Star Ledger, filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board on January 5, 2010.

**OPEN SESSION**

Scott Ritchie, Housing Committee member and resident of Hill Street, inquired about the borough's Citizen Complaint form and asked if there was a way to spread the word about it. Mayor Honecker asked that the forms be sent to the library and made available in the information stand at borough hall. Mr. Rossi asked about viewing the submitted forms. Mr. Maresca said a log is created when the forms are submitted and it could be sent to council.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**Bond Ordinance**

Mr. McCrossan moved that **ORDINANCE #10-1537, BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$900,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$855,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH, FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY**, be introduced by title, passed on first reading, published according to law, and that a public hearing be scheduled for a meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m., March 22, 2010. Mrs. Foster seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

**Resolutions**

- #10-49      **AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF THE YEAR 2010 MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT UPDATE**
  
- #10-50      **AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**
  
- #10-51      **AMENDING THE TEMPORARY BUDGET**

#10-52      **AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

Mr. Rossi moved approval of Resolutions #10-49 through #10-52. Mr. Sooy seconded the motion, which was approved as follows:

Mr. DeMarco	yes	Mr. McDowell	yes
Mrs. Foster	yes	Mr. Rossi	yes
Mr. McCrossan	yes	Mr. Sooy	yes

**Mayor’s Proclamations**

Mayor Honecker read a proclamation honoring the 2009-2010 Bernards High School Girls Winter Track Team for winning the New Jersey Group 1 State Sectional Championship for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year. Mayor Honecker read proclamations congratulating Karen Brodsky, Dr. Lisa Jordan Scalia, Paulenne Kirschenbaum, and Terry Thompson, who are being honored as Outstanding Women in Somerset County for 2010.

**Optimum Lightpath**

No new information was received since last meeting, so this topic was tabled to March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Chili Cook Off banner**

Council consent was given to Somerset Hills Education Foundation’s request to display a banner on the brick exterior at 1-3 Olcott Square. The banner will say thank you to all the sponsors of the Chili Cook Off, and be displayed between April 3 and April 24. Mayor Honecker said that this request can be approved by the Borough Clerk in the future.

**Shared Services update**

One matter regarding shared services will be held to executive session. Mr. McCrossan said that Somerset County will need a certificate of insurance for an antenna to be placed on the water tower for testing dispatch services.

**Abandoned news deliveries**

Mayor Honecker asked if there’s anything the borough can do if residents do not want newspapers delivered in their driveway. Mr. Pidgeon said it is freedom of speech, and it is difficult for the borough to prevent. Mrs. Foster said it is also a security issue and shows residents are not home if multiple newspapers pile up in their driveway. Mayor Honecker said residents should be told to contact the newspapers directly if they wish to have deliveries stopped.

### Fire Prevention/Appointment of Fire Official

Mr. Rossi said data is still being collected and this will be carried to March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. McCrossan asked if the candidate recommended by the Fire Prevention Bureau was interviewed by the borough. Mr. Rossi said Mr. Maresca will interview him next week. Mr. McCrossan asked if the candidate has filled out an application, listed his salary history, and provided reference checks. Mr. Rossi responded yes. Mr. Pidgeon said we could ask for his salary history. Mr. DeMarco asked if we advertised for this position. Mr. Rossi said no, the Fire Prevention Bureau made a recommendation. Mayor Honecker asked if we can request that Fire Prevention seek out more candidates. Mr. Pidgeon answered yes. Mr. Rossi said they did seek out more candidates. Mayor Honecker asked to find out if Fire Prevention interviewed more than one person and the process to come up with one name and report back on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### Grant application – Penn’s Brook

Mrs. Foster said a grant application was filled out for Penn’s Brook. The Environmental Commission will submit an application to ANJEC for a grant. Mr. Rossi said the school paid \$15,000 to Ferriero for a study. Mrs. Foster said the study is being referred to in the grant application. Mayor Honecker asked for a motion to authorize filing of a grant application under the American Water Environmental Grant Program for monies to conduct an engineering study using existing available information to assist the borough in pursuing the restoration of Penn’s Brook. Mrs. Foster moved, **Resolution #10-53, FILING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE RESTORATION OF PENN’S BROOK.** Mr. Rossi seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

### Grant opportunity – polling place accessibility

Mayor Honecker asked Mr. Maresca to follow up with Mrs. Jones, determining which locations need and want an upgrade and then apply. Council consent was given to apply after looking at the needs of the polling places. A report can be made at the next work meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Craig Lawrence asked if the Fire Company was asked if the Firehouse can once again be used as a polling place. Mayor Honecker said yes, but they do not want it to be used for safety issues. Paula Marasco asked if it has been considered to move District 4 to the High School and District 3 to the church. Mayor Honecker said we will ask Mrs. Jones.

### The Highlands Plan

Mr. DeMarco said based on the Governor’s actions, there is nothing to do at this time. Mayor Honecker asked if David Zimmerman, Planner, is moving forward. Craig Lawrence, Planning Board Chairman, said there is nothing for him to do. Mr. Pidgeon asked if the Planning Board is prepared for the June 8<sup>th</sup> deadline. Mr. Lawrence said they are.

**Crosswalks**

Mr. McCrossan spoke of some complaints he received from residents who feel crosswalks are unsafe. He said the signs are not visible when trucks are parked loading and unloading near crosswalks on Route 202. Residents would like a blinking yellow light at crosswalks. Mayor Honecker said he would like Chief Valentine to look into lime green crosswalk signs. Mr. Rossi said that has been talked about and they will discuss it more at the next Public Safety meeting and report back to council on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Items Not On The Agenda**

Mr. DeMarco asked if council would consent to giving Mr. Maresca permission to start the replacement process for Jane Leyhan, Clerical Assistant to Tax Collector and Court Administrator, who will be leaving in April. Council consent was given.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Sooy moved to adjourn to an executive session to consider pending or anticipated litigation. The time when and circumstances under which the matters can be disclosed to the public is when they are finally resolved. Mr. McCrossan seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

**REOPEN AND ADJOURNMENT**

Mrs. Foster moved to reopen, and adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Mr. McCrossan seconded, and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

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keywords: bond-citizen-complaint-grant-alliance-finance-track-proclamation-women-lightpath-banner-shared-services-newspaper-deliveries-fire-prevention-penns-brook-polling-place-election-highlands-crosswalks-employment

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