

BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE
Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes
June 8, 2009

This meeting of the Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Lee Honecker at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 8. Present were Joseph DeMarco, Charlotte J. Foster, John McCrossan, Edward McDowell, Joseph Rossi and Kevin Sooy. Also present were Borough Attorney John R. Pidgeon, Esquire, Sandra G. Jones, Borough Clerk/Assistant Administrator, and Ralph Maresca, Administrator/CMFO.

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 May 27, 2009.

Executive Session

Mrs. Foster moved to adjourn to executive session to consider **contract matters related to the downtown project**, and that the time when and circumstances under which the matters can be disclosed to the public is when they are finally resolved. Mr. Rossi seconded the motion which was approved with six yes votes. Following executive session, Mr. Sooy moved to reopen to the public and then adjourn until 7:00 p.m. Mrs. Foster seconded the motion which was approved with six yes votes.

Regular meeting

This meeting was called to order by Mayor Lee Honecker at 7:00 p.m. with six Council Members present, as shown above.

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 6, 2009.

OPEN SESSION

Mayor Honecker opened the public session for discussion of items not on the printed agenda. Terry Thompson, Mine Mount Road resident, Member of the Planning Board and representative to Ten Towns, delivered news that the Borough will receive approximately \$54,000 for additional studies of Penns Brook. The original grant offer was approximately \$11,000, but following a site visit by NJ Division of Fish and Wildlife, the amount was increased based upon need. The grant will be administered by Ten Towns, work to be done by Princeton Hydro, to include water quality monitoring and preliminary design work for remediation. Hearing no further comments or questions, Mayor Honecker closed the public session.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS**Street Fair presentation**

Darryl Walker of Street Fairs LLC spoke about his organization and showed a video of fairs held in other towns. If approved for Bernardsville, the proposed date is Sunday, May 23, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The recommended site, Claremont Road to Mt. Airy, would accommodate 120 artists, crafters and vendors, including rides, live music, food and dancers. The Borough would be responsible to obtain a road closing permit from the DOT, provide police coverage, and clean up afterward. Street Fairs LLC would charge \$125 for crafters, \$175 for retailers, \$50 for non-profits, and \$400 for food vendors; the Borough receives no profit. Vendors would be staged in the train station parking lot. A sample contract was given to the Borough Attorney for review and Mr. Walker was advised that council will discuss this proposal on June 22. Paula Marasco, Round Top Road resident, said the Bernards Inn has offered their parking lot for use and will hold the proposed date until a decision is made. Regarding the detour route, Terry Thompson, Mine Mount Road, recommended consulting with Robert Graham on the Planning Board as he has measured turning radius at many intersections.

2009 Municipal Budget Public Hearing

Mayor Honecker opened the public hearing on the 2009 Municipal Budget. Mr. McCrossan, Chair of the Finance Committee provided an analysis, said revenues are down 11.88%, salaries are frozen, surplus is only \$13,000, and that the committee worked many hours to hold the increase to 6%. Mr. DeMarco countered that options for additional savings were not pursued, e.g. consolidation and outsourcing. Examples, he said, include switching to county provided dispatching which would save \$300,000 and court consolidation. Mr. Rossi and Mrs. Foster disagreed on the dispatch subject based upon a belief that the county radios cannot serve all of Bernardsville. Mr. McCrossan said consolidation and shared services opportunities must be explored for the future, wherever they exist.

Simona Balzer, 151 Mountain Top, complained about the 6% increase when properties, investments and businesses have lost value. She said she does not receive much value for her tax dollars, and is not well served by this council. Paula Marasco, Round Top Road, also complained about a 6% increase, but said if we have no choice we "bite the bullet". She asked if a contingency amount had been provided in the budget for tax appeals and suggested shared services for joint purchasing, searching for grants to explore shared services and better accountability for expenses. The answer to her first question was there is no contingency provided for tax appeals. Shawn Laverty, 60 Ambar Place, asked what parts of the borough would not be covered if we had county dispatch services and why elimination of in house dispatching was not done in the past?

Mr. DeMarco said the Borough pays county taxes. The Borough should receive the same services (dispatch) provided to other towns or get money back. Mayor Honecker discussed past, unsuccessful

efforts to consolidate services with neighbors. Mr. McCrossan repeated his recommendation to develop a long range plan for sharing/consolidation of services, prepared by an independent, objective party.

Tom Falzarano, Ballantine Road, asked about our regionalized schools and if it is possible to get out? That subject, though out of the Borough Council’s control, was briefly discussed. Mayor Honecker closed the public session.

McCrossan moved adoption of **#09-108, RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2009 BUDGET**, as shown on Sheets 43 and 44 of the Budget document. Mr. Rossi seconded and the motion was approved upon a roll call vote:

Mr. DeMarco	No	Mr. McDowell	Yes
Mrs. Foster	Yes	Mr. Rossi	Yes
Mr. McCrossan	Yes	Mr. Sooy	Yes

RESOLUTIONS

- #09-109 AUTHORIZING REFUND OF POLICE OFF-DUTY ESCROW FUND BALANCES**
- #09-110 PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEMS OF REVENUE IN THE 2009 BUDGET (Chapter 159, P.L. 1948)**
- #09-111 AUTHORIZING DESTRUCTION OR RECYCLING OF EQUIPMENT**
- #09-112 SETTING RECREATION FEES**
- #09-113 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Mr. McCrossan moved to approved Resolutions #09-109 through #09-113. Mr. Sooy seconded and the motion was approved upon a call of the roll:

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

Ordinances (There were none)

Charity car wash

Mayor Honecker reported that he had been approached regarding a sign at the old quarry road to advertise a charity car wash, but that the individual had not followed up with a written request.

Shared municipal services

Mr. McCrossan asked for support for a study to be done before November so that savings can be built into the 2010 budget. He said a grant is available for exploration into shared services and implementation. While this new initiative is being explored, Mrs. Foster reminded council members that the consultant study is done and their findings are relative. Mr. Maresca reminded the group that he is currently looking into consolidation or sharing of tax assessing and the court.

Sustainable Jersey

Mrs. Foster said she will host a steering committee meeting on this subject in the high school community room on June 23, at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Health appointment

Mayor Honecker appointed Shawn Laverty to the Board of Health. Mr. DeMarco moved to consent to the appointment. Mr. Rossi seconded and the motion was approved by six yes votes.

Kiwanis Field Lights

Mr. Rossi recommended street lights at the Pine Street field, cleaning shrubs away from the side of the road using volunteer labor and installation of vending machines. Mr. McCrossan agreed to discuss the vending machine recommendation at the next Recreation meeting and report back to council.

CLOSED SESSION (done at 5:00 p.m.)

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.