

BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE
Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2007

A meeting of the Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Lee Honecker at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 11, 2007. Present were Denis J. Dooley II, Charlotte J. Foster, Michael Landau, John McCrossan and Joseph Rossi. Also present were Borough Attorney John R. Pidgeon, Esquire, Ralph Maresca, Administrator/C.M.F.O. and Sandra G. Jones, Clerk and Assistant Administrator. Mikael Salovaara was absent.

STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER

Mayor Honecker announced that notice of this meeting was provided to the Bernardsville News, Courier News, Star Ledger, filed with the Municipal Clerk and posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board on December 12, 2006.

OPEN SESSION

David Neill of M.J. Neill Company, a business located next to the commuter parking lot, spoke about Ordinance #07-1462, CONCERNING PARKING REGULATIONS AT THE RAILROAD PLAZA PARKING LOT AND AMENDING CHAPTER VIII OF THE BOROUGH CODE ENTITLED "PARKING LOTS AND OFF-STREET TRAFFIC REGULATIONS," scheduled for public hearing on June 25. Mr. Neill said sections of the ordinance reference "Depot Place", and he stated that in practice, the driveway has been called "Depot Square". Mr. Pidgeon said that the name Depot Place was carried from an old ordinance, but it is not an official street and the name can be changed administratively to Depot Square in this amendment. Mr. Neill asked if the changes in the lot should be reflected in leases and he agreed to provide copies of certain documents to the borough attorney for review.

Mayor Honecker read a proclamation honoring the Bernards High School Fencing teams for successful seasons:

WHEREAS, the Bernards High School Fencing teams celebrated an outstanding 2007 season with 2007 Girls Team Overall and 2007 Boys Sabre titles, and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Girls Team First Place in New Jersey Record of 22 wins, 0 losses is the first undefeated season for any Bernards High School Fencing team; and

WHEREAS, the 2007 Boys 5th Place in New Jersey Record of 19 wins, 1 loss is an outstanding accomplishment.

WHEREAS, the following students and coaches are recognized:

2007 Girls Overall Team Champions

*Melissa Litschi - Captain, Diane Zielinski, Jan Heddens, Laura Paragano,
Alanna Dunn, Monica Lim, Olivia Benedek, Mary Flood, Tanya Dainoski,
and Alternates Lauren Chilton, Brittan Binder and Amanda Jones.*

2007 Girls District 1 Champions

Mary Flood (Saber), Laura Paragano (Foil) and Diane Zielinski (Epee)

2007 Boys Team Champions in Saber

Scott Rand, Phil Efthimion and Josh Hammond

2007 Boys District 1 Champions

Coaches

Glen Blekicki - Head Coach, Tom Losonczy and Leslie O'Connor - Assistant Coaches

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lee C. Honecker, Mayor of the Borough of Bernardsville, by the authority vested in me, and representing the Borough Council of the Borough of Bernardsville, do hereby congratulate the Bernards High School Fencing Teams and proudly enter this proclamation into the public record of the Borough of Bernardsville on June 11, 2007.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Ordinance Public Hearing

Mayor Honecker continued the public hearing on **#07-1460, AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF TYSLEY STREET**. There were no questions or comments from members of the public. Mayor Honecker closed the public hearing. Mr. Pidgeon stated for the record that the ordinance was amended at an earlier meeting, to incorporate the Planning Board resolution granting subdivision and setting forth certain conditions. Mr. Landau moved to pass this ordinance on final reading and adopt as published. Mrs. Foster seconded and the motion was approved upon a roll call vote:

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|---------------|--------|
| Mr. Dooley | Yes | Mr. McCrossan | Yes |
| Mrs. Foster | Yes | Mr. Rossi | Yes |
| Mr. Landau | Yes | Mr. Salovaara | Absent |

Resolutions

Mr. Pidgeon presented a resolution on this date, prepared at the request of Police Chief Valentine relative to the Route 202 bridge construction project. It is the Chief's intention to close Twin Lakes

roads to all but residents, who will be provided with hang tags for identification purposes. Two detours around the Route 202 construction site will be marked; one for cars and another for trucks.

Mrs. Foster moved adoption of Resolutions #07-104, 105, 107 and 108, listed herein by title:

- #07-104 AUTHORIZING ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT OF AFFORDABLE UNITS TO COAH**
- #07-105 AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF A.B.C. LICENSES**
- #07-107 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**
- #07-108 CLOSING LOCAL ROADS IN TWIN LAKES DURING 202 CONSTRUCTION**

Mr. Rossi seconded, and the motion was approved upon a call of the roll:

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|---------------|--------|
| Mr. Dooley | Yes | Mr. McCrossan | Yes |
| Mrs. Foster | Yes | Mr. Rossi | Yes |
| Mr. Landau | Yes | Mr. Salovaara | Absent |

Mr. Landau requested that Resolution **#07-106, APPOINTING HUGH MAC LACHLAN PART-TIME, SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD**, be held for discussion in executive session.

Library maintenance

Mayor Honecker opened the discussion about expenses for the library building and library parking lot. A list of items currently paid by the Borough was reviewed, and Mr. Maresca was directed to sort same, in order to consider how the total might be shared among other parties, including the library (from their third of a mil provided via the Borough budget), the landlord of the lower level (Mr. Sattler), and the owner of the old library building (Hampshire Management), since they also use the new parking lot. Library representatives present included Karen Yannetta, Director, Library Board Members Stephanie Wallace, Terry Thompson, Jim Kellett and Donald Buset. Statutes covering contributions to libraries were discussed, along with the possibility of an ordinance to define financial responsibilities of the library. Library representatives agreed to discuss these funding issues at their Board of Trustees meeting. Mr. Maresca asked for direction with preparing an itemized, shared list of expenses, and it was agreed that the Finance Committee would be prepared to discuss same on June 25.

Capital projects

Mr. Landau discussed a draft resolution regarding capital projects. It was agreed to add \$11,805, the amount already approved for the library air compressor, and to remove \$17,090 for Peter's Park Fencing, bringing the total to \$435,000. Mrs. Foster suggested that Mrs. Canose be consulted to ask if the Thanksgiving Foundation would cover the fence. Mr. Landau moved to approve **RESOLUTION #07-109, APPROVING THE CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST FOR 2007**, as amended. Mr. Rossi seconded the motion, which was approved upon a call of the roll:

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|---------------|--------|
| Mr. Dooley | Yes | Mr. McCrossan | Yes |
| Mrs. Foster | Yes | Mr. Rossi | Yes |
| Mr. Landau | Yes | Mr. Salovaara | Absent |

Downtown project status

Mr. Dooley provided minutes of a Public Works Committee meeting held June 7, 2007. Regarding the Downtown project in particular, Mr. Dooley reported that a meeting is anticipated with many of the principals in this project in an attempt to secure the permit from the state and move on with the project. Various timing concerns were discussed, and it was suggested that merchants be consulted to ask opinions as to timing. While some Council Members would prefer to get the project moving as soon as possible, others were concerned about the impact on the merchants in their busy season.

Historic Property Reinvestment Act

The New Jersey State League of Municipalities supports legislation "that would provide homeowners or businesses with an economic incentive to revitalize older neighborhoods and reuse historic structures by providing a state tax credit for their rehabilitation." The Borough Council discussed the possibility of adopting a resolution to support said legislation, and directed the Borough Clerk to prepare a resolution, using the sample provided by the League, for consideration at the June 25 meeting.

Personnel matters (new hire for sewer department)

A memo from Mr. Raymond, WWTP Superintendent, requesting the hiring of a fourth full-time employee for the sewer department, was discussed and it was the consensus to authorize the Borough Administrator to proceed.

CLOSED SESSION

Council Member Landau moved to adjourn to executive session to consider pending litigation and a personnel matter, and that the time when and circumstances under which the matters can be disclosed to the public is when they are finally resolved. Mrs. Foster seconded and the motion was approved with five yes votes. It was moved by Mr. Landau to reopen the meeting to the

public. The motion was duly seconded and approved with five yes votes.

Mr. McCrossan referenced a letter and sample resolution received from the Township of Monroe, Williamstown, NJ, urging adoption of a local resolution in support of Abbott-Burke reform. The letter states that Abbott-Burke (a court ruling), “provides state funding to meet the educational needs of the poorest urban school districts...but has evolved into an inefficient state funding mechanism that yields poor academic results at a grossly undue expense to property tax payers.” Mr. McCrossan asked if the Borough of Bernardsville should participate in the effort for reform? Mr. Pidgeon spoke about the issue. Mr. Landau was opposed to a resolution. Mayor Honecker commented that it has generally been the practice of this council, not to respond to the many requests received like the one from the Township of Monroe.

Mr. Maresca referenced a letter received May 31, 2007 from the D.E.P. stating that the Borough Open Space Acquisition, #1803-03-059 (Regan-Timchula), is in jeopardy of being canceled for lack of progress, and advised that Mr. Mondok is looking into the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Landau moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. Mr. McCrossan seconded the motion and it was approved with five yes votes.

BOROUGH CLERK

keywords: railroad-tysley-vacating-construction-route-202-library-capital-projects-coah-liquor-license-downtown-historic-property-sewer-abbott-burke

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