

**BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE**  
**Mayor & Borough Council Meeting**  
**November 13, 2006**

A regular meeting of the Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Jay Parsons at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 13. Present were Denis J. Dooley II, Charlotte J. Foster, Lee C. Honecker, Michael Landau, Joseph Rossi, and Mikael Salovaara arrived at 7:02 p.m. Also present were Borough Attorney John R. Pidgeon, Esquire, Ralph Maresca and Sandra G. Jones, Clerk and Assistant Administrator.

**STATEMENT OF PRESIDING OFFICER**

Mayor Parsons announced that 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 December 14, 2005.

Mayor Parsons offered congratulations to Mayor Elect Honecker, to Mrs. Foster and Mr. McCrossan who will both serve on the Borough Council for three year terms beginning January 1.

**OPEN SESSION**

Mayor Parsons opened the public session. Planning Board Chairman, Donald Knudsen, displayed a check for \$29,400, given to the Borough of Bernardsville by the County of Somerset to develop a Safe Routes to School Plan. Mr. Rossi reported meeting with the Town and School group on this subject and added that the RBA group, which prepared this grant application, will continue to work with us. The next phase submission date is December 29. A related sidewalk map, provided by Mr. Knudsen, was discussed. Mr. Rossi recommended that the sidewalk plan be taken a step further, tying in bike paths and transit routes, which may enable the Borough to apply for more grants over a period of several years. Mayor Parsons closed the public session.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

Mr. Landau moved that **#06-1450, BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A NEW AND ADDITIONAL FIRE TRUCK BY THE BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$500,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$476,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION**, 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., Monday November 27, 2006. Mr. Honecker seconded the motion. Mr. Dooley said he was "very disturbed" by the "less than candid approach" of the Fire Department concerning the truck to be replaced. He said the Fire Department representatives never said the truck mileage was approximately 34,000. "I had the impression it had 134,000 miles on it. They never said the Insurance Service Organization purpose of testing was to be done on the pump, not on the tank. They never said the tank could easily be replaced by a polypropylene tank at a low dollar figure and the insurance rating was more concerned with commercial properties and not residential properties." Mr. Dooley suggested the debt service be deducted from the amount of money given to them by the Borough each year and for all those reasons he said he will vote against the ordinance. Mayor Parsons said his own feeling is that they were less than candid, and that money provided in previous budgets, intended by the Borough to be earmarked for future truck purchases, was instead used for the building fund shortfall. "They do a terrific job on the whole and must be supported in terms of fire protection of the residents," the Mayor said. Mr. McCrossan, who worked with the Fire Company on this matter, responded that any facts which were requested for consideration by the Borough Council, were provided by the Fire Company. Messrs. Dooley and McCrossan argued their views on the matter of disclosure. Mr. Salovaara moved to "call the question." There was no second, and discussion continued. Mr. Landau commented that the vehicle will be a benefit to the entire community, therefore, it is appropriate for the Borough to fund it. Mr. Rossi said the vehicle is 23 years old and is no longer reliable. Mr. Salovaara stated he is concerned about the municipal budget with the addition of this burden. Mr. Landau said that during finance

meetings, future purchases of an ambulance and Chief's car were discussed and their representatives stated they will purchase those vehicles from their budget, and that they do not expect the Borough to purchase another vehicle for ten years. Mr. Honecker moved to "call the question." Mr. Landau seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Parsons closed the public hearing and said the question is, "Should the Borough Council approve Bond Ordinance #06-1450 upon introduction?"

Mr. Dooley	No	Mr. Landau	Yes
Mrs. Foster	Yes	Mr. Rossi	Yes
Mr. Honecker	Yes	Mr. Salovaara	No

Mr. Landau moved that **RESOLUTION #06-216, AMENDING THE CAPITAL BUDGET** be approved. Mr. Rossi seconded and a vote followed:

Mr. Dooley	No	Mr. Landau	Yes
Mrs. Foster	Yes	Mr. Rossi	Yes
Mr. Honecker	Yes	Mr. Salovaara	No

Mr. Salovaara moved that **#06-1451, AN ORDINANCE TO INSERT SALARY RANGES INTO THE SALARY ORDINANCE (#06-1448) FOR NON-CONTRACTUAL, PART-TIME, SUBSTITUTE DISPATCHERS OF THE BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE**, 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., Monday, November 27, 2006. Mr. Dooley seconded and the motion was approved by six yes votes.

## RESOLUTIONS

- #06-209     AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS**
- #06-210     AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**
- #06-211     AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CLERK TO SIGN AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF BERNARDS FOR AFTER HOURS USE OF THE BERNARDSVILLE BOROUGH KENNEL FACILITY**
- #06-212     Void**
- #06-213     APPOINTING PART-TIME/SUBSTITUTE DISPATCHER TO WORK IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**
- #06-214     AMENDING RESOLUTION #06-8 ENTITLED DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORIES AND SIGNATORIES**
- #06-215     AMENDING RESOLUTION #06-201 ENTITLED "AUTHORIZING 2006 TAX REFUNDS"**

Mr. Salovaara moved that **RESOLUTIONS #06-209 through #06-215**, excluding #212, be approved. Mrs. Foster seconded and the motion passed with six yes votes.

## Parking Decals

Mr. Honecker reported that the Public Safety Committee is working on this issue, and it is anticipated that increases in decal charges will be recommended. It was agreed to table this subject until November 27th.

### **Lions Club request to display trees on Olcott Square**

The Bernards Lions Club requested approval to place "Christmas Trees" on Olcott Square. The tentative date for placement is November 25. Mr. Rossi discussed the possibility of the Lions Club also hosting additional displays, including a creche, at the pond. With no firm, additional, proposal on the table, Mr. Salovaara suggested the group address only the proposal for trees on the Square, and moved to allow the Lions Club to proceed. Mr. Honecker seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes. Mr. Pidgeon commented that as long as other requests are within the provision of the Borough ordinance, they can be handled administratively.

### **Long-term care insurance**

It was agreed to consider a resolution at the next meeting which would allow active and retired employees participation, at their own expense, in the state program for long term care insurance offered by Prudential Insurance. Such services are not currently covered by most medical plans or Medicare, and even if covered by a medical plan, the coverage is very limited. The requisite legislation permitting such participation was enacted in 2005 - Chapter 198, P.L. 2005 (Chapter 198). The Plan is not a bargainable benefit and if offered, must be available to any active or retired employee.

### **Draft Ordinance regarding library financial responsibilities**

A draft ordinance was distributed to outline the financial responsibilities of the library and the Borough for maintenance expenses at the library. Mr. Landau asked members to review the document for discussion at a future meeting.

Mayor Parsons passed correspondence to Mr. Salovaara, liaison to the Shade Tree Advisory Committee. The Mayor referenced a letter dated November 7<sup>th</sup> from the League of Municipalities regarding Civil Rights Lawsuits filed in the City of Hackensack, and he directed the Municipal Clerk to place the matter on the next agenda for discussion.

### **2006 JIF Dividend**

Mr. Landau advised that the 2006 Dividend could be paid to the Borough now or the amount could be applied to the first installment due in 2007, and he asked how the group would like to proceed? It was decided to ask the Suburban Municipal JIF to issue a check for \$21,098.63, the 2006 dividend due the Borough.

### **Use of Open Space Taxes**

Mr. Rossi, who favors a referendum to ask voters for a change of use of the Open Space Tax, said he wishes to discuss and form a question, and be done with it well in advance of the November 2007 election. It was agreed the issue will be discussed at the January work meeting.

### **RR Station**

Mr. Rossi asked if work to measure the train station could proceed by Gerald Kelly at a cost of \$1900, in order to proceed with grant applications? Mr. Salovaara moved that this topic be tabled until the November 27 meeting, and that more information be provided for consideration at that time. Mr. Landau seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Council Member Salovaara moved that the meeting be adjourned to an Executive Session to consider insurance notice of claims, cell tower lease negotiations, 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. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Foster and approved with six yes votes.

## **REOPEN AND ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Landau moved that the meeting be reopened to the public and adjourned. Mrs. Foster seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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Sandra G. Jones, Borough Clerk

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keywords:

school-safe-routes-bond-fire-truck-budget-salary-finance-kennel-police-tax-refund-parking-decal-holiday-display-insurance-library-dividend-open-space-train-station