

BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE
Mayor & Borough Council Meeting
November 13, 2007

A regular meeting of the Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Lee Honecker at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13, 2007. Present were Denis J. Dooley II, Charlotte J. Foster, Michael Landau, John McCrossan, Joseph Rossi, and Mikael Salovaara. Also present were Borough Attorney John R. Pidgeon, Esquire, Sandra G. Jones, Clerk/Assistant Administrator and Ralph Maresca, Administrator/C.M.F.O.

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 December 12, 2006.

OPEN SESSION

No members of the public were present.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Resolutions

#07-172 ACCEPTING DONATIONS

#07-173 GRANTING TAX DEDUCTIONS TO QUALIFIED VETERANS

#07-174 AWARDING RAILROAD STATION SUBLEASE

**#07-175 AMENDING 2007 RECREATION FEE RESOLUTIONS BY ADDING FEES FOR ALL ACCESS
SKI**

#07-176 AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS

#07-177 AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

Council Member Rossi moved to accept Resolutions #07-172 through #07-177. Mrs. Foster 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	Yes

Mr. Salovaara moved to approve the addition of \$15,785 to the list of bills before the group. Said amount is for a wheelchair lift for the new senior van and it brings the total to \$4,213,047.49. Mr. Landau seconded, and the motion was approved by six yes votes.

FASTCOM Consulting Services, LLC, representing Verizon Wireless, via a letter dated October 25, inquired into the possibility of citing a facility at 277 Claremont Road in Bernardsville. It was agreed that Mr. Pidgeon would advise FASTCOM that the Borough is willing to consider the matter further but will need site maps and details about the facility proposed.

Signs at the Bernardsville Library building

Donald Knudsen, Planning Board Chair, passed along comments from a resident regarding signs at the library which many believe do not provide adequate direction to those seeking businesses in the lower level of the building, and he suggested possible solutions. It was agreed to research past approvals given by the Planning Board and to discuss the matter with the Library Board of Trustees.

Requests for holiday displays

The Chabad Jewish Center in Basking Ridge requested permission to display a menorah on “the near side of the pond, between the road and the pond, from November 14 to December 20.” The Bernardsville Lions Club requested permission to display “three Christmas trees, a Nativity Scene and a menorah.” The Borough Clerk advised that both organizations will provide certificates of insurance and hold harmless agreements. It was agreed to allow the displays (one menorah only) on Borough property, in accordance with Chapter IX of local ordinance.

Televised Council meetings

Mayor Honecker informed members that taping Council meetings was discussed at the most recent Town and School meeting and that students will tape the December 10 meeting as a test run.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Landau moved that the meeting be adjourned to executive session to consider potential acquisition of property (Belcher property and easement from Rochat), pending and potential litigation (Joseph Fell and Clark Road), and that the time when and circumstances under which the above can be disclosed to the public is when the matters are finally resolved. Mrs. Foster seconded and the motion was approved with six yes votes.

REOPEN

Mayor Honecker mentioned correspondence he received since the last meeting, including (1) a letter from PODS, Inc. of Clearwater, Florida, and he passed said letter to the Borough Attorney, (2) a letter from Somerset County regarding GIS information; and (3) a letter from the Ten Towns group encouraging 2008 membership at a cost of \$4150.00. It was agreed to consider said membership at the next work meeting.

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Mr. Salovaara moved that the following ordinances 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 26, 2007: **#07-1479, AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,000,000 FROM THE BOROUGH OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND (OF WHICH \$500,000 IS TO BE REIMBURSED FROM A GREEN ACRES GRANT) FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE BELCHER PROPERTY** and **#07-1480, AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING CONSERVATION EASEMENT DEED FROM GEORGE AND ALICE ROCHAT**. Mr. Landau seconded the motion and it was approved with five yes votes. Mr. McCrossan abstained.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Salovaara moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Landau seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Borough Clerk

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keywords:
donations-tax-railroad-sublease-recreation-fees-transfer-funds-telecommunications-fastcom-library-signs-holiday-displays-televised-meetings-pods-gis-ten-towns-open-space-trust-fund-conservation-easement-deed