

**BOROUGH OF BERNARDSVILLE**  
Mayor & Borough Council Meeting Minutes  
December 8, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Lee C. Honecker called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Council Members Jeffrey J. DeLeo, Michael dePoortere, John F. Farrell, Joseph Rossi, Chris Schmidt and Janet Waite. Also present were John R. Pidgeon, Borough Attorney, Ralph A. Maresca, Jr., Administrator & CMFO, and Sandra G. Jones, Borough Clerk & Assistant Administrator.

**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 19, 2013.

**OPEN SESSION**

**At this point in the meeting, the Mayor & Council welcome comments from any member of the public. To help facilitate an orderly meeting and to permit the opportunity for anyone who wishes to be heard, speakers shall limit their comments to 5 minutes. If reading from a prepared statement, please provide a copy and email a copy to the Clerk's Office after making your comments so it may be properly reflected in the minutes.**

Mayor Honecker read the statement listed above, then opened the meeting to the public. Hearing no comments or questions, the Mayor closed the open session.

**PRESENTATION (none)**

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**Ordinances (none)**

**Resolutions**

- #14-225      AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX LIEN CERTIFICATE #14-00022, 17 ORCHARD STREET**
- #14-226      APPROVING MEMBERSHIP IN THE FIRE COMPANY**
- #14-227      AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER #1 TO CONTRACT FOR SBR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT-TIME EXTENSION**
- #14-228      AUTHORIZING DESTRUCTION OF EQUIPMENT NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE**
- #14-229      APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS**
- #14-230      AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**

Mr. Rossi moved adoption of Resolutions #14-225 through 230. Mrs. Waite seconded the motion and a call of the roll followed. Members DeLeo, dePoortere, Farrell, Rossi, Schmidt and Waite voted yes.

### **Childsworth Avenue Extension**

An email from Edward Dolan, Childsworth Avenue Extension (a private road), dated November 19, stated that a "significant cause to the deteriorating conditions and erosion are attributable to development and borough drainage engineering on real properties and borough roads that are uphill from Childsworth Avenue Extension," and asked for help from the borough. Childsworth residents Jerry Fischer and Mmes. Gaus, Harold and Oestreicher were present to discuss the matter further. Mr. Fischer said the road will be paved in the spring and he asked the borough to contribute to the project by cleaning off debris to reduce their preparation costs, repairing culverts, providing milling, and clearing ditches on either side of the road. Mr. Pidgeon said the borough can contribute to work on a private road under certain conditions. Mr. Macdowall, Public Works Manager, was directed to review the matter.

### **Mt. Airy Road Retaining Wall Improvement Project**

In a letter received by the borough, the General Contractor Project Manager for Ritacco Construction, Inc., requested an extension of Saturday noise ordinance hours from 7:00 a.m. (instead of 9:00 a.m.) to 4:00 p.m., and use of half of the Ammerman Parking Lot for both Ritacco and Somerset County trailer field offices and storage of equipment and/or materials. Borough Council agreed to the noise ordinance relief, directed that residents be notified of the change, and that the Public Works Manager get clarification on the contractor's needs relative to the lot. All agreed that one quarter of the lot would be compatible with merchant parking use.

### **Correspondence**

The Board of Health provided copies of the VNA Contract for 2015 (\$6,830/year; no increase over 2014) and the Health Services Contract (\$87,585.36; .02% increase over 2014). Mayor Honecker suggested that the borough invite Lucy Forgione to attend a meeting early in 2015 to talk about their services to the borough.

At this point in the meeting Mrs. Waite discussed two items, not listed on the agenda. She requested that complaints received by the Public Works Manager be included in the monthly reports provided by the department, and she asked about the possibility of sidewalks for the county controlled lower portion of Mullens and/or Childs Road. Mr. Macdowall said Somerset County could be approached with the idea, but he noted that they generally install sidewalks only as part of a larger project.

**Council Reorganization**

The organization of the Borough Council for 2015 was discussed, in preparation of Resolution #15-2, which shall include Council Standing Committees and other responsibilities, and will be considered for adoption at the Reorganization meeting on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**CLOSED SESSION/REOPEN/ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. dePoortere moved to adjourn to an executive session to consider Personnel Matters, and that the time when and circumstances under which the matters can be disclosed to the public is when they are finally resolved. Mr. Farrell seconded the motion, which was adopted with six yes votes. Following executive session, it was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

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keywords: tax-lien-fire-sewer-finance-mount-airy-wall-childsworth-vna-board-health-reorganization