

**BOROUGH OF RARITAN  
SPECIAL MEETING**

A Special Meeting of the Borough of Raritan Mayor and Borough Council was held on February 5, 2013 in the Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, New Jersey 08869 at 6:00 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

Mayor Jo-Ann Liptak presided and stated: This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notices of this meeting were sent to The Courier News and the Star Ledger on January 24, 2013. In addition, copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, on the Raritan Borough website and filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted. Proper notice having been given, the Borough Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Denise Carra, Stefanie Gara, Paul Giraldi, Gregory Lobell, Anthony Soriano, and Donald Tozzi

Absent: None

Also Present: Mayor Jo-Ann Liptak, Daniel Jaxel, Borough Administrator; Mark Anderson, Borough Attorney; and Rayna E. Harris, Borough Clerk

**FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Jo-Ann Liptak led the flag salute.

**BUDGET PRESENTATIONS and DISCUSSION**

The Mayor and Borough Council heard the following budget presentations:

**Department of Public Works**

Robert Fulminante, Department of Public Works Foreman referenced the cover page of Department of Public Works 2013 Budget.

Daniel Jaxel noted you have to factor in gas to get to the transfer station and also the tonnage calculations. He added the dumping fees are generous for 2013.

Mayor Liptak asked why the cost of recycling increased so much.

Mr. Jaxel replied assessed no matter how little or how much they recycle per household.

Council Member Gara added we will get the recycling credits for Stonebridge.

Mr. Fulminante advised the increase in black top was due to only filling pot holes last year.

Council Member Gara asked if the crack sealing could be used.

Mr. Fulminante replied no, that is a different material.

Council Member Lobell asked if DPW had a project in mind that will use black top.

Council Member Lobell expressed his thoughts were to reduce this by \$2,500-\$3,000. He added can we also reduce the garbage line by \$20,000 due to the decrease in previous years.

Council Member Soriano asked if these are the actual numbers. He also asked for the 2012 Budget.

Mr. Jaxel replied there are plans and this should be left in the budget. Jaxel responded this could be a gamble if the cost of dumping increases. He added if it were up to me I would leave the budget frozen. Mr. Jaxel replied will get the 2012 itemized budget.

Council President Gara noted the electronic recycling was going well.

Mr. Fulminante offered the March bulk will start up again soon.

Mayor Liptak asked if he felt we did the right thing by suspending bulk during December, January and February. She asked should we do a quarterly bulk pick-up.

Mr. Fulminante replied we are saving on the budget and it seems to be working well. He responded he did not think so. He advised suspending bulk for the three months in winter is working well.

Council Member Lobell asked why a \$13,000 decrease in the 2012 actual budget for recycle.

Mr. Fulminante offered he disagrees with the \$70,000 and added this came from the County.

Council Member Soriano suggested increasing the recycling and decreasing the dumping.

Council Member Lobell asked why there is an increase in garbage truck repairs.

Mr. Fulminante responded the transmission on the Volvo had to be repaired.

Council Member Lobell asked if this was a onetime cost or will it remain as an annual cost. He asked if the pumping station costs always come out of sanitation.

Mr. Fulminante replied it is hard to say if more repairs will be needed.

Council Member Gara remarked that there was a maintenance agreement in place.

Mr. Jaxel added the maintenance agreement is only for monthly inspections and small repairs. He added an estimate would be given for any major repairs.

Mayor Liptak asked when the County goes to single stream, what are the rates.

Mr. Fulminante replied they would need a pick-up person and also a walk behind in the Capital budget. He offered the 1969 red truck is so old parts are impossible to get now.

Mr. Fulminante left meeting at 6:35pm.

Mr. Jaxel suggested leaving the budget the same as 2012, freezing it.

### **Office of Emergency Management**

Robert Lisa, OEM Coordinator; distributed the proposed 2013 Budget for OEM. Mr. Lisa noted the OEM has been moved from the Police Department to the main building. He offered the first budget was for office needs, and the second is for establishing a warming center in the all-purpose room at the Municipal Building.

Council Member Lobell asked if the budget was for a laptop or computer. Lobell suggested going with a laptop instead of a computer. He added a discussion will be need for the \$700.00 router that was requested.

Mr. Lisa replied whatever works best. He added the County will be providing all OEM coordinators with a tablet in January 2013. He noted the Borough would have to provide the service (hot spot) the price for this is \$30.00 a month.

Council Member Gara suggested it may be less expensive to tie into another line on DPW plan. She added this is just a regular cell phone. She commented the requested budget is for \$5,000 and that Mr. Lisa is a volunteer. She added we would have to reimburse for gas or Mr. Lisa would have access to a Borough vehicle. Council Member Gara asked if Council Member Lobell would meet with Mr. Lisa and Council Member Gara for further discussion. She offered an explanation on the router system.

Council Member Lobell suggested wiring the OEM and paying the one- time fee. He responded he was leaning towards the hard wired router.

Council Member Soriano expressed the need for more information.

Mr. Jaxel asked do we make the budget for OEM \$5,000. He asked do we want to hold off on getting the cell phone.

Council Member Gara suggested we schedule a meeting for further discussion. She noted we are waiting to have a camera check that line. She added there are two separate issues so we must wait.

Mr. Lisa noted the County has a contract. He added we will need the back flow preventer. He added there were problems with flooding from the last storm.

Council Member Lobell suggested making the Fire House on North Thompson Street the warming station.

Mayor Liptak replied the capacity is less and there are parking issues at that location.

Mr. Lisa left meeting at 7:03pm.

### **Rescue Squad**

DONATIONS:           2011   \$16,250.00; 2012   \$21,250.00

Council Member Lobell commented the Rescue Squad is asking for an additional \$2,500 plus \$6,000 for two AED defibrillators. He added there were 557 calls for Raritan Borough in 2012. Council Member Lobell commented the old memorabilia is in storage.

Council Member Giraldi suggested the donations be made for 2013. Daniel Jaxel suggested a \$25,000 budget and meeting with the auditors. Council Member Soriano suggested looking into restoring the old plaque.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Liptak read the following:

At this point the Borough Council welcomes 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 are asked to 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.

Thomas Brown, 18 Elmer Street, Raritan, New Jersey 08869: Commented bulk is not monitored very well. He added the amount of refuse that comes out each month is unbelievable. He suggested a program that encourages residents to be more responsible. He voiced no opposition to using stickers. Mr. Brown asked how many fines have been collected. He added the first cut in the winter month's residents had problems but everything seems quiet now. He suggested going with every other month or quarterly pickups. He added knowing the advantage of garbage pickup and other Municipalities charge \$50.00 per month. Mr. Brown noted even if you had to go into the Borough offices to pick-up a sticker it would be better.

Council Member Gara noted there is a \$2,000 for the first offence. Mayor Liptak offered Somerville Borough have a sticker program in effect.

Mr. Jaxel noted he has monitored bulk tonnage to be consistent year after year.

Council Member Giraldi suggested that monitoring the ten or fifteen houses that always seem to have issues and they should be fined.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

In public, Mayor Liptak read the following resolution to enter an Executive Session.

#### **RESOLUTION 2013-02-032**

Council President Gara motioned to approve **Resolution 2013-02-032** seconded by Council President Tozzi. Motion carried by the following roll call vote.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-7, et seq., commonly known as the “Sunshine Law”, requires that Borough Council meetings be open to the public except for the discussion of certain subjects; and

**WHEREAS**, the “Sunshine Law” requires that a closed session be authorized by resolution;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Raritan that the following portion of this meeting shall be closed to the public; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the meeting shall be resumed at the end of closed session; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the subjects to be discussed and the time of public release of the minutes of the closed session are indicated below:

SUBJECT MATTER

1. Litigation: Trustees of the Raritan Borough Library
2. Attorney-Client Privilege

TIME WHEN AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE SUBJECT MATTER CAN BE DISCLOSED:

Upon authorization by the Borough Attorney

MOTION	SECOND	NAME	YEAS	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
		Carra	X			
X		Gara	X			
		Giraldi	X			
		Lobell	X			
		Soriano	X			
	X	Tozzi	X			

Council Member Gara motioned to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the normal order of business, seconded by Council President Tozzi. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council member Gara motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Council President Tozzi. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rayna E. Harris, Borough Clerk

REH/cmd