

**BOROUGH OF RARITAN  
AGENDA-WORKSHOP MEETING  
DECEMBER 17, 2013 ~ 6:05 PM**

The Agenda-Workshop Meeting of the Borough of Raritan Council was held on December 17, 2013 in the Municipal Building, 22 First Street Raritan, New Jersey 08869 at 6:05pm.

**STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE**

Mayor Jo-Ann Liptak read the following notice: 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 6, 2013. Copies of notices were also 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: Stefanie Gara, Paul Giraldi, Greg Lobell, Andrew Sabilia, Donald Tozzi

Absent: Denise Carra

Also present: Mayor Jo-Ann Liptak; Daniel Jaxel, Borough Administrator; Stanley Schrek, Borough Engineer; Mark Anderson, Borough Attorney; Jolanta Maziarz, Alternate Borough Attorney; Lieutenant Kenneth McCormick, Officer in Charge Borough Police Department and Rayna E. Harris, Borough Clerk

**FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Jo-Ann Liptak led the flag salute

**DISCUSSION**

**ENGINEER**

Stanley Schrek gave the following report:

**Orlando Drive, Phase 2**

A preconstruction meeting was scheduled for November 7. Due to the late time of year, as well as the contractors projected schedule, I decided it would be best to delay the start of the project until early spring. Otherwise we would have to deal with a muddy mess and possible winter conditions for about six weeks. The contractor and NJDOT both agree. The bid prices will hold.

**Orlando Drive Planning Implementation**

I have attached a memo, prepared by Dave Maski that summarizes what has been accomplished along the Orlando Drive Corridor and what "next step" items are suggested.

**Sanitary Sewer Mapping**

We are consolidating all the past video inspection mapping and adding very old mapping that DPW has maintained. The Borough does not have accurate/complete sewer mapping. The end product will be a complete map of the entire Borough sanitary sewer system.

**2013 Unfinished Business**

Mayor Liptak read the list 27 items and asked Council to keep in mind for possibly addressing issues in January 2014. She added a number of items are still on going.

**Portable Basketball Hoops (DT)**

Council President Tozzi commented DPW is having trouble plowing in different areas because of basketball hoops remaining in the street.

Mark Anderson replied this is not specific in Title 39. He added Council will need to make a decision.

Council Member Gara asked if this could be added to the No Parking when Snow Falls.

Stanley Schrek suggested reflectors or different colors to prevent a safety issue.

Mark Anderson suggested can say only during daylight hours.

Stanley Schrek noted there is still right of way if on the grass between sidewalk and curb.

Council Member Lobell suggested he will speak with the owners of the basketball hoops.

Council decision is no ordinance at this time.

**Municipal Building Trees**

Council Member Gara suggested having DPW remove the existing 3-4 trees and use the remainder of the landscaping budget to replace them.

No objections

**2014 RFP - Professional Services**

Council Member Sibilgia responded, he sent out an email and has received only 2 responses. He suggested this is in the best interest of the Town to review the services. He added it is insulting only 2 people responded to the email.

Mayor Liptak explained the process and added, a RFP should be advertised for Prosecutor due to a late resignation.

**2014 Appointments**

Council Member Sibilgia asked what appointments are up and if he could receive a list.

Rayna Harris gave a list of appointments to be filled for 2014.

**2014 Capital Budget**

Daniel Jaxel gave an update.

Daniel Jaxel added the dates for budget department hearings need to be set.

**Nevius Street Bridge Event Request**

No objects for event on January 22, 2014

**Request for Proposals, Block 116.02, Lot 11 - Golf Range**

Council President Tozzi recused himself and left dais

Daniel Jaxel deferred to Mark Anderson

Mark Anderson replied the subcommittee met a few changes were made after reviewing. He suggested the terms are somewhat theoretical and they have been posted on the Borough website. The bidding is below the threshold at \$16,000 plus taxes annually as set by the subcommittee.

Council Member Giraldi expressed his understanding was for the subcommittee to bring the information back to the Council.

Council Member Lobell replied that was not his understanding. He noted the Subcommittee was to expedite this issue. He added by forming the subcommittee they were to create a viable solution.

Council Member Giraldi noted this could have been done weeks ago. He added it should be up to the Council to have some input into the lease.

Council Member Gara noted she was expecting the information should be brought back to Council and then Council would make the decision.

Council Member Sibilgia asked where Jeffrey and Nicholas Tozzi included in this meeting.

Mark Anderson replied they submitted their request.

Mark Anderson answered the Statute does not permit negotiation. He explained options going forward, 120 days of early termination with a 2 year term, which is the longest initial term permitted. He added the Borough Council is not obliged to except this lease.

Council Member Giraldi asked if we don't get the proper permits we are not able to build anything else that can go into that space.

Stanley Schrek replied there is no structure that you can build in a flood way. He added we are seeking a waiver for hardship.

Council Member Lobell motioned to accept the bid for Block 116.02, Lot 11-Golf Range the Jeffrey Tozzi proposal, assuming no other proposals are received, seconded by Council Member Giraldi. Motion carried by the following roll call vote.

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

Council President Tozzi returned to dais at 7:02pm.

**Verizon Wireless Small Cell Proposal**

Daniel Jaxel explained the proposal

Council Member Gara expressed she is against this and voiced her concerns.

Mark Anderson replied the ordinance for Cell Towers does not provide a specific location.

Council Member Sibilia replied this is the future for the telephone company and adding broadband to the town.

Council President Tozzi asked how much have they offered.

Daniel Jaxel replied \$500 a month. He added he would be happy to speak to Verizon about other location.

Mark Anderson replied \$500.00 is extremely low amount of money per month. He added Verizon has referred to this as small cellular with 40-50 feet on top of the tower and the tower would be on the building.

Daniel Jaxel added he would be happy to speak to Verizon about other locations.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None offered

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Liptak read the following:

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 written copy and email a copy to the Borough Clerk's Office after making your comments.

Thomas Brown, 18 Elmer Street, Raritan, New Jersey 08869: Commented the trash cans are always in the street to prevent railroad parking in front of their homes. He added basketball hoops in respect to his property would be to extend to the curb. He noted professional services are a concern, the money must be looked at and the amount of time on task. He noted litigation costs money and he would personally want someone who is qualified.

Michael Patente, Raritan, New Jersey 08869: Asked how long did the subcommittee meet before deciding on the contract.

Council Member Lobell answered the subcommittee met for three hours.

Michael Patente asked how much income would come from an open air flea market. He suggested \$50,000 is a lot of money to spend for an unknown amount of income. He added he has never before seen a committee to define contracts. He suggested this is very aggravating to see. He added if we are going out for a \$1,300 bid for a golf range contract, why are we not going out to bid for legal services each year. He suggested the reasons that were given don't seem very accurate.

Nicholas Tozzi Vones Lane, Raritan, New Jersey 08869: Commented the original lease for the golf range was for \$1,200 with no taxes, my father made paid \$1,500 and the \$3,000 was to go to the Raritan Recreation Department. He added he would like to know if that department every got that money. He noted then one year later another request from the Town was for my father to pay taxes, which he did even through it was not in his contract, he paid it. He suggested his brother was railroaded due to the bid increase on the last least. He asked why this Council is so vindictive against them. He noted we have been at that location for 25 years, anything you asked we did. He noted there is no courtesy here, not even a phone call to let us know the lease needed to be renewed. He added his hope is for things to be different in the future.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Gara motioned to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Lobell. Motion carried at 7:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rayna E. Harris, Borough Clerk

REH/cmd