

This Regular Meeting of the Borough of Raritan Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Charles McMullin in the Meeting Room of the Raritan Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869 at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12, 2017.

The Mayor announced this Regular Meeting was called pursuant to applicable portions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate Notice was communicated to *The Courier News* and *The Star Ledger* on January 5, 2017, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, on the Borough website and made available in the Office of the Borough Clerk.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor McMullin, Council President Carra, Councilman Bray, Councilman Carra, Councilman Foohey, Councilman Giraldi

Absent: Councilman McGinley

Also Present: Borough Administrator Jaxel, Borough Attorney Wenner, Borough Engineer Schrek, Borough Clerk Colvin

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Councilman Carra led the Invocation and Flag Salute.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2017-09-137

Executive Session:

1. Personnel
2. Contract Negotiations
3. Attorney Client Privilege

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Bray, Council moved to Approve Resolution No. 2017-09-137.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Council convened in Executive Session at 6:03 p.m.

On a motion by Councilman Carra, seconded by Councilman Bray, Council moved to Reconvene in Regular Session.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

Council exited Executive Session and resumed Regular Session at 7:01 p.m.

OATH OF OFFICE

Oath of Office – Promotion to Sergeant – Everett Holt

Oath of Office – Police Patrol Officer – Joseph P. Nepomuceno Jr.

Oath of Office – Police Patrol Officer – Christopher Gross

Mayor McMullin read a brief biography of each of the officers:

Sgt. Everett Holt Biography

-Sgt. Holt joined the Raritan Borough Police Department in 2009 after receiving his Police Training Certificate from the Somerset County Police Academy.

-From 2009 to 2012, Sgt. Holt was assigned to the patrol division, where he received several awards from Mothers Against Drunk Driving for drunk driving enforcement.

-From 2012 to 2013 Sgt. Holt was assigned to the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force where he performed numerous tasks to include undercover narcotics purchases, surveillance operations, and the seizure of drugs, weapons, and currency.

-From 2014 to 2017 Sgt. Holt was assigned to Raritan Borough Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division where he conducted extensive investigations into various crimes, to include Burglary, Theft, Fraud, Assault, and Homicide. Sgt. Holt also serves as the department's public information officer.

-Prior to becoming a police officer, Sgt. Holt served in the United States Marine Corps where he obtained the

Rank of E-4 (Corporal). Sgt. Holt was deployed to Iraq from 2006 to 2007 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

-Sgt. Holt has been married for 12 years to his wife Denise and they have two children, Gabe who is 8, and Evan who is 5.

Biography for
Probationary Officer Joseph Nepomuceno Jr.

Joseph Nepomuceno Jr. is a 2009 graduate of Toms River High School North, Joseph received an Associates in Liberal Arts from Ocean County College in 2012.

After graduating the Ocean County Police Academy in 2014 with a PTC Class II certificate, Joseph worked as a Special Law Enforcement Officer for the Point Pleasant Beach Police Department until 2016.

From 2016 until present, Joseph was employed as a part time patrolman with the Pemberton Borough Police Department. While employed by Pemberton Borough, Joseph attended the Ocean County Police Academy as a waiver trainee and obtained his Basic Course for Police Officers Certification.

Upon being appointed Probationary Police Officer, Joseph will be assigned to a field training officer during which time he will go through Raritan Police Department Field Training Program. Upon completing field training, Joseph will be assigned to a patrol squad.

Biography for
Probationary Officer Christopher Gross

Christopher Gross is a 2012 graduate of Roselle Catholic High School, Christopher received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Rowan University in 2016. While attending Rowan, Christopher was a member of the Rowan University Men's Basketball team.

In June of 2017, Christopher graduated from the Essex County College Public Safety Academy with a Basic Course for Police Officers Certification.

Upon being appointed Probationary Police Officer, Christopher will be assigned to a field training officer during which time he will go through Raritan Police Department Field Training Program. Upon completing field training, Christopher will be assigned to a patrol squad.

The Mayor then called each of the three officers, along with members of their families, to the front of the meeting room, individually, and swore them into office.

PRESENTATION

Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority Annual Update – Edward Machala

Mr. Machala provided Mayor and Council with an update of the happenings at the Sewerage Authority:

SRVSA Bullet-Point Summary Update 9/17

Add to minutes

- The Authority is preparing its FY2018 budget. No rate increase is anticipated for 2018.
- The Authority continues to work on a project to address the sanitary sewer overflows (SSO's) that occur in the Somerville Borough sewer collection system, due to surcharging in the Authority system (which comes from Inflow & Infiltration (or "I/I") from all communities). The project will involve the construction of an auxiliary treatment plant, called the Storm Control Treatment Facility (SCTF), that will eliminate the SSO's and treat the Somerville flow during wet weather periods. As required by NJDEP, this project is to be combined with meaningful I/I reduction by the communities. This project is estimated to cost approximately \$16.5 million. The construction of this project is anticipated to begin mid-2018. The facility site is located along Southside Avenue in Bridgewater Township, near the municipal border with Somerville.
- The Authority is also working on upgrading its sewage sludge incinerator to meet the new USEPA emission requirements. The construction contract for this project has been awarded and is now underway. The cost of this upgrade is approximately \$7.5 million. The upgrade involves a system to remove mercury from the incinerator emissions.
- Project Financing: The SCTF and the incinerator projects will be financed through the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust (NJIEIT). The Trust offers very attractive interest rates, and the SRVSA has a history of borrowing from the Trust for the last 20 years. Currently, the annual interest rate for the short-term construction loan is approximately 0.15%, and the long-term interest rate is currently around 1%.
- In order to not violate new EPA air regulations, in March of 2016 the Authority had ceased sludge incineration and proceeded to haul sludge to offsite locations for disposal, at a monthly cost in excess of \$250,000. During this time, SRVSA had been petitioning the USEPA and NJDEP for authorization to restart its incineration operations while the upgrades are underway. The SRVSA had received this authorization and restarted onsite sludge incineration operations on July 13th and has ceased hauling sludge offsite for disposal.
- In addition, the Authority has planned a number of upgrades within the plant. Much of the plant is in excess of 30 years old and equipment and systems replacements are necessary. One of these projects is the Plant-Wide Electrical Systems Replacement Project, which is planned to be in the design phase in 2018 and begin construction in 2019.

- In the FY 2018 budget that is being prepared now, the Authority has approximately \$50 million in capital projects and improvements planned for the next 5 years, which include the SSO treatment plant and the incinerator upgrades mentioned above.
- Over the last three years, the Authority has reduced its staff by approximately 10% through attrition, which include one secretarial, one laboratory and two janitorial positions. The janitorial positions were outsourced to the statewide contractor Access NJ Inc./CNA Services, which provide employment opportunities to NJ citizens with disabilities. Responsibilities of the other two positions were re-allocated among the current staff members.
- Current Raritan Sewage Flow Status: Raritan's flows to SRVSA are in excess of the estimated flow for 2017. As of 8/31, the total actual billing flow to date is 283.55 million gallons (MG) (equating to \$725,139.36) whereas the estimated flow for this same time period is 243.76 MG (equating to \$629,869.46), with the difference being 39.77 MG (equating to \$95,269.90). This is attributed to the fact that there were higher rainfall amounts in 2017 versus the same time period in 2016. To date, there has been 36.29 inches of rainfall compared with a total of 27.48 inches through August 2016. Higher rainfall results in higher sewage flows due to defects in the sanitary sewer collection system that allows the entry of groundwater and rainfall water, which is called Inflow and Infiltration (I/I). In 2016, the Raritan's actual flows were below estimate, which generated a credit of \$130,077.04. This credit was applied to the monthly bills for March and April of 2017. For 2017, the estimated monthly charge is \$78,520.10.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor McMullin opened the first Public Comment portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak.

George Stafford, 16 Kitchell Avenue, Wharton, NJ: Present to represent the New Jersey Highlands Coalition and Keep it Green. Mr. Stafford asked Mayor and Council to support the following Resolution:

Resolution of Support for Sustainable Open Space, Farmland, Historic Preservation and Stewardship Funding for New Jersey

Whereas New Jersey's population demands an ample water supply provided by adequate open space to support our quality of life; and

Whereas, Open Space in the form of parkland, family farms, historic and cultural sites, recreational areas and natural watershed areas is vital to our economy, planned growth, protection of property values, water quality, and safety and urban, suburban and rural quality of life; and

Whereas, continued, plentiful and sustained funding is vital to a strategic Open Space program to bolster and enhance private, municipal, county, other state and federal Open Space funding programs; and

Whereas provisions for stewardship to properly care for parks, preserved lands, and historic sites is an important component of Open Space efforts; and

Whereas, New Jersey's Payment In Lieu of Taxes program (PILOT) should be restored to full funding because it encourages municipalities to host state and non-profit preserved open space;

Now therefore be it resolved that (municipality, board or county name here) supports sustainable, continuing funding for Open Space in New Jersey.

Please return to:

George Stafford, N.J. Highlands Coalition, george@njhighlandscoalition.org

*Send to
Environmental Commission*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. August 8, 2017 – Executive Session
2. August 8, 2017 – Regular Session

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Bray, Council moved to Approve the Executive and Regular Session Minutes of August 8, 2017.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi

Nay: x

Abstain:

Motion Carried: 5-0

WORK SESSION

1. Engineer's Report (SS)

Borough Engineer Schrek delivered the following report for the month of August:

Bell & Sherman Avenue Improvements

Project is complete with the exception of speed hump installation. We are preparing a final punch list and will prepare final paperwork. Speed humps will be installed within the next two weeks.

Ortho Drive Pump Station

A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for September 12. I should be able to report the projected construction schedule at the meeting.

2017 Road Program

Due to scheduling conflicts with the Bell/Sherman project as well as the Richard Street manhole installation, the start date was planned for the beginning of September. Subsequential water service leaks and concerns regarding trench settlement warranted additional studies. All leaks are repaired. A leak investigation was performed, by NJAWC, with negative results. There are no geotechnical concerns associated with recent trench work. The project is scheduled to begin during the last week in September.

Master Plan Update

The Planning Board has formed a subcommittee to draft the Master Plan Reexamination which is statutorily required every 10 years. Angela Knowles, PP/AICP has been working closely with the committee.

NJTPA/NJDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

We are expecting initiation paperwork in the near future. Project implementation will be discussed once the design process is defined.

Brooklyn Ave Flooding

Localized flooding is evident in the vicinity of 705 Brooklyn Avenue. Although drainage is in place, there is not an inlet at the low point of the road. We have received two quotes to install a doghouse inlet. One quote from Dulaine Construction in the amount of \$6,775.00

and a quote from Calo Contracting in the amount of \$6,400.00. We recommend that a PO be issued to Calo Contracting in the amount of \$6,400.00.

Orlando Drive, Phase 3

Somerset County is proceeding with resolution of the Green Acres diversion on Orlando Drive. With resolution of this long pending issue, we are finalizing plans and specification for Orlando Drive, Phase 3 Improvements. The project will be bid this fall. The project is substantially funded through a 2014 Transportation Trust Fund grant.

2. Road Closures – Halloween Parade, October 28 (DJ)

Administrator Jaxel asked Mayor and Council for a motion to approve road closures for the Halloween Parade scheduled for October 28. The following roadways in the Borough will be closed: Church, Second, Wall and Thompson streets.

On a motion by Councilman Bray, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Permit the Road Closures for the Halloween Parade on October 28.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

3. November Council Meeting Schedule (DJ)

Administrator Jaxel advised Mayor and Council that the Annual Meeting Schedule, passed in January, calls for two Regular Meetings in November. However, because of the election and the New Jersey League of Municipality's Annual Conference the following week, and Thanksgiving towards the end of the month, past Governing Body's have only had one meeting in November.

A brief discussion by Mayor and Council ensued, with all parties agreeing it would be best to cancel the Regular Meetings scheduled for November 14 and 28 and instead meet once in November on Tuesday, November 21.

On a motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Foohey, Council moved to Cancel the Regular Meetings of November 14 and 28, 2017 and instead hold a meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2017.

Recorded Vote

Yea: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Carried: 5-0

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution No. 2017-09-138

Resolution No. 2017-09-139

Resolution No. 2017-09-140

Resolution No. 2017-09-141

Requesting Chapter 159 Approval – Click It or Ticket
Appointing Tax Assessor
Appointing Tax Collector
Disposing of Surplus Equipment

<u>Resolution No. 2017-09-142</u>	Requesting Chapter 159 Approval – Pedestrian Improvements
<u>Resolution No. 2017-09-143</u>	Hiring Probationary Patrol Officer – Joseph P. Nepomuceno Jr.
<u>Resolution No. 2017-09-144</u>	Hiring Probationary Patrol Officer – Christopher Gross
<u>Resolution No. 2017-09-145</u>	Professional Services Appointment – Architectural
<u>Resolution No. 2017-09-146</u>	Hiring Department of Public Works Employee
<u>Resolution No. 2017-09-147</u>	Releasing Performance Bond – Raritan Valley Professional Center, LLC.
<u>Resolution No. 2017-09-148</u>	Refunding Tax Overpayment

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Carra, Council moved to Approve the Consent Agenda.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Passed: 5-0

BILL LIST

Resolution No. 2017-09-149 Approving Bill List

On motion by Councilman Giraldi, seconded by Councilman Carra, Council moved to Approve the Bill List.

Recorded Vote:

Yea: Bray, D. Carra, N. Carra, Foohey, Giraldi

Nay: x

Abstain: x

Motion Passed: 5-0

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Councilman Giraldi – Basilone Committee meets this week. Police activity report is on file. The Police Department would like a camera system in town, as an extra set of eyes.

Councilman Bray – Read the statistics from the Board of Health and Municipal Court for the month of August. The Police Department had a successful fundraiser for the victims of Hurricane Harvey. The Board of Health meets tomorrow at 7 p.m.

Council President Carra – The Borough received a \$1 million grant for pedestrian improvements. The improvements are aimed to link the Raritan Train Station with the Nevius Bridge and onto the northern gateway of Duke Farms. The Council President thanked the Somerset County Freeholders, as well as State officials, such as Senator Doherty, and others who assisted in Raritan being awarded the grant. The work is being scheduled to begin in 2019.

Engineer Schrek added that this grant is a culmination of years of planning and efforts. This was a highly competitive grant and will greatly help to improve Raritan.

Council President Carra said the Events Committee had a Flea Market recently and was a success for the first time such an event was held.

Earlier today, the new Veterans Park was opened in Raritan, next to the John Basilone Monument. Council President Carra said state, county and local officials were present, as well as a host of community members, to open the park.

Councilman Carra– The Regional Center Partnership will meet this Thursday.

Councilman Foohey – The Councilman said the new Veterans Park far exceeded his expectations and encouraged all residents to visit.

Mayor McMullin said the park is a sight to see at night as well, when the lights are on.

Also, a Daisy Troop would like to use the basement one night each month. Council agreed.

Mayor McMullin – Congratulated Raritan restaurant, Acapulco, on Thompson Street, for being named one of the best Mexican restaurants in New Jersey Magazine. Also, Veterans Park turned out great, and thanks to the County for making it a reality.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor McMullin opened the second Public Comment portion of the meeting for members of the public wishing to speak.

Seeing and hearing no one, the Mayor closed this Public Comment portion.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilman Bray, seconded by Council President Carra, Council moved to Adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Recorded Vote

All in Favor

Regular Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Eric M. Colvin, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk

Approved: _____