

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of  
The Mayor and Council  
WORKSHOP  
MINUTES  
March 13, 2018**

Start Time: 7:00 p.m.

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Westfield Leader, advertised on January 4, 2018, notification was sent to the Star Ledger and prominently posted on the municipal public bulletin board and filed in the office of the municipal clerk informing the Public of the time and place according to the Provisions of the Open Public Meeting Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975).

<b>Mayor Lombardo</b>	<b>P</b>		
<b>Councilwoman Blumenstock</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Councilman McCormack</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Councilwoman Cuccaro</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Councilman Sarno</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Councilman Lazarow</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Council President Todisco</b>	<b>P</b>

Also, present: Borough Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma and Borough Attorney Robert Renaud, and Borough Engineer Michael Disko.

Shop Rite Dietician, Victoria Coglianese - Presentation

Borough Engineer Michael Disko reported on the handicapped repairs and that the work will be done in the spring. He commented on a complaint from a resident on Fourth Avenue.

Borough Attorney Robert Renaud reported on RVSA and prepared an ordinance to increase rate. He provided an explanation. All agreed and directed the Clerk to process the ordinance.

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma – ***NO REPORT***

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS - NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Lombardo: I would like to personally thank our DPW, police, fire, and all emergency personnel, during the past difficult snow storm of March 7th, for another job well done. At one point, 80% of the north side of town was out of power. An organizational meeting of the 4th annual Garwood Rocks event was held this morning, with thanks to Carol Kearney, our business liaison. Just as a reminder, Garwood Rocks will be held Sunday, June 3rd, from 10 am to 5 pm. A rain date of September 9th has been planned. Currently, there are 47 vendors signed up, with anticipation of about 150. The Kids Zone is planned to be held at the YMCA/Washington School site. The car display is anticipated to have more than 200 cars. Live music will be available throughout the day, as will the beer garden. The next organizational meeting will be in May to review the final details. An RVSA representative visiting Garwood has been rescheduled to April 10. Also, an update of the tour of the RSVA facility is being planned. They are requesting a few dates as options to schedule the tour, and we can discuss the details and dates at the next council meeting. This Saturday, March 17th is Mayor's Saturday. It will be held at the Home Depot located on South Avenue. I have invited Councilwoman Sara Todisco to join me. Please stop by and express your concerns, or just to chat with us. As noted before, the Mayor's Wellness Campaign 3K Walk With the Mayor, has been rescheduled to Saturday, March 24th at noon, starting at Borough Hall. Please come out and support this activity. Great for all ages. Bring a friend or neighbor.

**Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:**

Council President Blumenstock. I'd first just like to thank all of our first responders, the Police, Fire and First Aid Squad, as well as our DPW for all the their hard work during and after last week's snowstorm. They were all just phenomenal and my hat's off to them. And a thank you as well to our Office of Emergency Management which kept our residents up to date about the storm on social media. The office played an important job for us last week, as it always does.

I have an update about the street sweeping that we discussed at the last Council meeting. Everything has been worked out in the contract and Fanwood will be providing us with street sweeping as a part of the agreement. This will be at no cost to us in dollars or labor and we will be getting the same service that Fanwood receives.

Also, I would like to ask the Council to give permission to our administrator to begin the process of renewing our Public Works shared service agreement with Fanwood, which as you know is up shortly. The majority of the Streets and Roads Committee recommends 2-1 that we authorize that process to begin. We have seen that this shared service has saved us money in salary as well as equipment costs. The newly agreed upon street sweeping is an even bigger added bonus.

Discussion followed regarding the agreement. Councilwoman Cuccaro suggested council seek proposals from other municipalities. Councilman McCormack and Councilman Sarno agreed. Councilman Lazarow commented. Discussion followed. Councilwoman Todisco commented. Discussion followed. Ms. Ariemma was directed to reach out to Fanwood to inquire about the agreement.

Councilwoman Cuccaro I just have a few observations. I would like to know who is in charge of making sure that when people are approved at the planning board for non-conforming use variances or any other type of variance that the applicant is being monitored for any permits and adhering to what they were approved for? How can this be policed? I was notified by a resident of a particular applicant that was approved previously, doing work on the home and there were no noticeable permits displayed. What was further very upsetting to me was once I called Lenny and notified Tina that one of the issues was the removal of a very old tree on town property. Tina did tell us that they were approved to take down the tree, but 3 had to replace the one. Who will monitor to make sure this was done. Also it turns out they were doing demolition inside the home without any permits. Once the Cranford building dept came out they got a big red stickers slapped on their house. Thank you Lenny for following, up that red sticker was issued within a day. I am thinking that possibly the new property maintenance officer might be able to handle that. So maybe someone could advise. We cannot have people just doing whatever they feel like it without the proper documents. They must be observed before they start so they can be monitored, beginning to end. Another observation made was after the last council meeting before the storm councilman McCormack and I noticed that when the meeting started the casale parking lot was empty. When the meeting was over that lot was packed. What is going to happen once the building starts where are those residents going to park? Is there any town owned property that can be used, what is going to happen?

Councilman Sarno commented. Ms. Ariemma asked about the property maintenance and fence ordinances. Council will review and provide direction.

Councilman Lazarow **NO REPORT**

Councilman McCormack commented on discussions between council members.

Councilman Sarno **NO REPORT**

Councilwoman Todisco thanked emergency services for their efforts regarding recent storms. She commented on Councilman McCormack's statement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Is there anyone in the audience that wishes to address the mayor and council please step to the microphone, state your full name and address. Please limit your comments to three minutes.

Jim Mathieu, 335 Hazel Avenue asked about the RFP for revaluation. Mayor Lombardo answered. Ms. Ariemma commented on the revaluation. Mr. Mathieu commented on the shared service agreements with Fanwood. Mr. Mathieu asked about resolutions proposed by Councilwoman Cuccaro.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue commented on issues mentioned by Councilman McCormack. He commented on many other matters.

Al DelConte, 545 Locust Avenue thanked Council President Blumenstock for getting the street sweeping matter resolved. He commented on getting a bucket truck. He commented on shared service matter. He also commented on the staffing at the DPW and other related matters.

Bruce Paterson, 325 Willow Avenue mentioned the DPW picking up bulk.

Ms. Ariemma apologized for interrupting Mr. Mathieu when he was speaking but his comments reminded her that council has the information they asked for regarding the funding for the reval. She reviewed that information and asked council to authorize her to prepare a resolution for funding for the revaluation process. She provided real estimates that will not exceed \$128,445.00. Council directed Ms. Ariemma to prepare the resolution.

Councilwoman Todisco commented on the matters mentioned by the public.

Councilman McCormack commented on the matters mentioned by Al DelConte

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Councilwoman Cuccaro, Second by Councilwoman Todisco to adjourn  
Time: 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



**CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk**  
Borough of Garwood