

**Borough of Garwood Workshop Meeting of
The Mayor and Council
WORKSHOP
MINUTES
September 12, 2019**

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided to the Westfield Leader, advertised on January 3, 2019, 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).

Mayor Todisco	P	Councilman Ince	P
Councilman Benoit	P	Councilman McCormack	P
Councilwoman Blumenstock	P	Council President Lazarow	EXCUSED

Also present Borough Administrator/Municipal Clerk Christina M. Ariemma and Borough Attorney Thomas C. Jardim, Esq. and Borough Engineer Michael Disko

Councilwoman Blumenstock arrived at 7:36 p.m.

Borough Engineer Michael Disko –

AGENDA SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 TOPICS TO DISCUSS

NJDOT MA 2018 BIDS: BIDS RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 12, 2019. SEVEN (7) CONTRACTORS OBTAINED BID DOCUMENTS. FOUR (4) CONTRACTORS SUBMITTED BIDS. APPARENT LOW BID CONTRACTOR IS DENBAR CONSTRUCTION FROM KENILWORTH, NJ.

BASE BID - \$260,304.00 (ANCHOR PL., OAK ST. [NORTH-2ND] & SPRUCE [MAPLE WEST])

ALT. #1 - \$7,700 (ECHELON PAVING)

ALT. #2 - \$4,200 (REPLACE REGULATORY/WARNING SIGNS)

ALT. #3 - \$9,590 (CLEAN AND TV INSPECT SAN. SEWERS)

NEW STREET: PROJECT ADVERTISED FOR BIDS ON SEPTEMBER 26TH. SOUTH TO MYRTLE SECTION IMPACTED BY WATER COMPANY MAIN REPLACEMENT. NJ AMERICAN WATER WILL CONTRIBUTE FUNDS TO PROJECT.

NJDOT MA 2017: SPRUCE AVENUE MILLED & PAVED ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2019. (EAST OF OAK STREET)

RVSA: RVSA MEETING ON 9/12/2019 TO DISCUSS NEW FUNDING PROPOSAL. RVSA PROPOSING TO NOT SAMPLE FOR BOD AND TSS RANDOMLY, BUT SAMPLE AT PLANT ENTRANCE AND DISTRIBUTE COSTS BASED UPON FLOW. NJ AMERICAN WATER: PROPOSING TO ADD POTENTIALLY FOUR STREETS TO MAIN PROGRAM (WEST OF CENTER STREET)

PINE AVENUE, BEECH AVENUE, SPRUCE AVENUE, WILLOW AVENUE

MEETING HELD ON 9/6/2019 W/ ADMINISTRATOR, DPW, ENGINEER & NJ AMERICAN

CURRENTLY WORKING ON NORTH SIDE.

UNION CO. GRANT: PROJECT ARCHITECT TO PERFORM MEASUREMENTS NEXT TWO WEEKS

SPRUCE AVENUE: ELIZABETHTOWN GAS SCHEDULED TO MILL & PAVE ON OR ABOUT 9/17/2019. AWAITING CONFIRMATION FROM GAS CO. SUBCONTRACTOR. (OAK TO EAST)

All agreed to Denbar and to include Alternate 1 only.

Borough Attorney Thomas C. Jardim – **No Report**

Administrator/Clerk Christina M Ariemma – Ms. Ariemma commented on the proposed Ordinance concerning electronic submissions for planning board applications and other related correspondence. She stated she does not agree with the board's recommendation to have applicants fulfill the obligation of electronic submission after an application is deemed complete. Ms. Ariemma explained that the purpose of the electronic filing is to satisfy OPRA requests which are generally written for any and all documents. Regardless if an application is modified or additional information is required, the records created could still be OPRA'd. Also it is not the custodian's responsibility beyond redacting records to determine if the contents of the document are what the requestor seeks. It is the custodian's responsibility to provide the record as long as it is permitted in the law. Most records are disclosable. Therefore, under this new requirement I would respond to the ORPA request with all documents that are permitted under the law and are in the file. Adding this requirement as suggested by the board defeats the purpose as I would still have to search paper records to determine if other records exist. Brief discussion followed. All agreed to introduce the ordinance as recommended by Ms. Ariemma and as prepared by Mr. Jardim.

Mayor Todisco's Report:

Back to School - I wanted to start tonight's meeting by wishing all the children a great back to school as well as educators and parents. For drivers, please remember to drive safely and keep an eye out for pedestrians. I wanted to say a special thank you to our crossing guards who keep our kids safe as they walk to school. Since tonight is Back to School Night in some districts, including ours, Council President Marc Lazarow is excused from tonight's meeting and Councilwoman Jen Blumenstock will be arriving later on. I will not be able to attend our next Council meeting because it will be my district's Back to School Night.

FoodStock Challenge - We officially kicked off the Foodstock Challenge this past Labor Day where we are competing with Fanwood to see who can collect the most non-perishable food items and other goods, like

paper and hygiene products. Right now, nearly 10% of Union County residents are food insecure, so it's an important cause for us locally. Our motto is "small town with a big heart" and I encourage Garwood residents to donate whatever they can to this important cause to make sure our neighbors in our town and in communities across this county do not have to go without food this fall and winter. This food drive will be ongoing from now until Halloween and you may drop off food here at Borough Hall or at the Garwood Library. For more information, you can visit foodstocknj.org for the complete list of acceptable goods and more.

Ladder Truck - At the end of August, Councilman Rich McCormack and I spent the day with our Fire Chief Allan Tweedle, Assistant Fire Chief John Scalzadonna, and Lieutenant Jim Gregory to go out to Pennsylvania to see the rescue platform ladder truck, which will be arriving in Garwood in November. The purpose was to discuss some of the features of the truck and minor additions desired by our Fire Department officers as well as well as the lettering. An example of a minor addition discussed is emergency lights on the top of the cab to enhance the lighting when it is driving to the scene. Any additions and equipment to the truck are covered within the bond ordinance adopted by the Council. I know Councilman McCormack will likely add more about our trip since he is the Fire Commissioner, but I just wanted to report on this to show our hands-on approach when it comes to this major purchase for Garwood. But, more importantly, I wanted to speak about it because all three of our GFD officers took off from their regular day job to make this trip out to Pennsylvania, which ended up taking 10 hours from beginning to end. It speaks volumes about their commitment to our Fire Department.

Paperboard - I spoke with the owner of the Paperboard site yesterday and he informed me that the rest of the demolition work on the property is expected to be done by the end of this month. It was originally projected to be done by the end of August, but with the amount of water on the property from all the rain we've been having this summer, it is taking additional time.

Bingo Night - I wanted to remind everyone that the "September Sloppy Joe Bingo Night" is coming up next week on Wednesday, September 18th. It will be held from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Garwood Firehouse. We have had many sign up so far and we look forward to it being another big hit. Tickets are \$10 per person and includes 2 boards, sloppy joe sandwiches, chips, soda, and water. Extra boards will be sold for \$5 each. Pre-registration is recommended and you may do so by contacting me by email or phone. All proceeds raised will go to the Garwood Senior Citizens Club.

Mayor's Wellness Campaign - The Mayor's Wellness Campaign has a couple of exciting events coming up in the next couple of weeks. Dr. Anthony Carusone of the Healing Arts Center in Clark, formerly of Garwood, will present an informative program on the benefits of chiropractic care and as it relates to wellness on Thursday, September 19th at 7pm in the Council Chambers Room of Garwood Borough Hall. All are welcome to attend. Also, the 3K walks in Unami Park are picking back up after a break for the summer and the next one will be held on Saturday, September 21st at 10am.

Planning Board - The Planning Board had its last meeting on August 28th. The one application on the agenda seeking a certificate of non-conformity for a home on Cedar Street, but the applicant requested to be rescheduled and will need to re-notice when a new date is scheduled. The other item from the meeting was a discussion on an ordinance review per the Council's request regarding revision of regulations to require electronic submission of applications. The Board voted to recommend the ordinance be adopted with a recommendation to change the language to specify the electronic submission be required when the application is deemed complete. However, after a discussion between our Borough Administrator, Attorney, the Planning Board Secretary, and myself, we would like to discuss this further tonight since any and all documents related to an application would likely be requested through OPRA, so it would be most advantageous for all documents to be submitted electronically.

Comments or matters for discussion from members of Council:

Councilman Benoit: No Report

Councilwoman Blumenstock: READ BY: Mayor Todisco - I'd just like to announce that the Green Team has met the TREX recycling challenge in less than two months with the help of the whole Garwood community. WE have raised over 500 lbs. of plastic as of this week – 512 lbs. to be exact. A big thank you to everyone who participated and to Janine and Mark Koch who weigh and deliver the plastic each week! We can't wait to see our new bench which will arrive after the New Year. But keep that plastic coming! We are continuing to collect until the end of our six-month challenge in February because we want to keep making a difference in our environment. So the bins will stay at their locations in the library, Borough Hall and Kings and the Green Team will keep collecting each week.

Councilman Graham: William Yarzab, Senior Planner from the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) made a presentation on the above program which provides pedestrian safety assistance to municipalities, Police Departments, Boards of Education and similar bodies to create and maintain programs geared towards making people DRIVE SMART. WALK SMART. BE STREET SMART. This program is geared toward reducing New Jersey's rate of pedestrian fatalities that are twice the national average. Their web site is Beststreetsmartnj.org. Cranford participated in this program in 2017; Linden is kicking off a program on September 23.

Liza Betts advised that Together New Jersey can provide in-kind technical assistance – not dollars – for small projects that can be completed within six months.

Phil Kandl from the Union County Division of Strategic Planning & Intergovernmental relations, who leads the Census effort to get everyone counted, made a short presentation on the ongoing efforts, advising everyone to do everything we can to get everyone counted as so much of our federal assistance is based on population. March 15, 2020 is mailing day, April 1, 2020 is Census Day.

Westfield's representatives advised that the township is in the midst of its master plan reexamination and the final community workshop/presentation for its 'Westfield Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan' (BIKE/WALK WESTFIELD) is scheduled for September 19.

The Raritan Valley Rail Line Coalition is sponsoring a presentation of the Regional Plan Association (RPA) report 'A Preventable Crisis, The Economic and Human Costs of a Hudson River Rail Tunnel Shutdown' at a September 16 forum which will be held at the Cranford Community Center, 20 Walnut Avenue, Cranford on September 16 at 6:30pm. I will try to attend.

Councilman Ince: *No Report*

Councilman McCormack: Hi everyone I would like to begin by saying how Honor I am as one of Garwood's councilman and my position as Fire Commissioner for my 2nd year! This position of Fire Commissioner is without any doubt my Favorite part of being a Councilman I get to see firsthand how our Volunteers give so much of their time to helping others no matter the Date or the time of Day! These men & women are always there "stepping up again" to help others. Now back to August 26th we the Mayor and I along with our Fire chief & assistant Chief & our Lieutenant were invited to tour the facility of Spartan Manufacturing of Fire rescue equipment along with our host Campbell supply. We started our day at 6am at our Firehouse and then drove approximately 2 hours to Pennsylvania on that drive I found even more Respect for these Men listening to each ones stories on how they take their Firefighting so seriously. So as we were Welcomed on arrival we took a tour of the outside Facility looking at many pieces of equipment and then we spotted ours Garwood in Bold lettering it was a Wow factor!!! after walking around our Truck we talked about how is the best way to store our equipment In this new Truck and how to Best outfit within the Bond ordinance Campbell along with Spartan took our Firefighters up & down this Truck showing and suggesting what they have learned from other departments on what's Best. So because we did purchase a Demo our Chief did want to add extra safety lights to the Truck along with other minor adjustments all covered under the Bonding. To close my statement I couldn't be more proud as Fire Commissioner to give our Town along with our Department the correct equipment to benefit all our lives here in Garwood. I sit here as an Elected councilman proud of what my colleagues & I voted Yes to this Large investment to better protect our community & our Fire fighters.

Council President Lazarow: *EXCUSED*

Board of Chosen Freeholders Liaison Report: NONE

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 five minutes.

NONE

A motion was made by Councilwoman Blumenstock, second by Councilman Graham to close public comment. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:42 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Benoit, second by Councilman Graham to adjourn the workshop session. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted:



CHRISTINA M. ARIEMMA, Municipal Clerk
Borough of Garwood