

140. Executive Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth held on June 9, 2015 at the Municipal Center

Present: Hon. John W. Smart, Mayor

Councilmembers: Glenn Poosikian
Mary Anne Groh
Andrew Rosenberg
Michael Bain
Lawrence Weiss

Borough Attorney: Robert T. Regan

Mayor Smart called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM and upon roll call members of the Council were present with the exception of Mr. Volpe. Mayor Smart then read the following notice: "This is an Executive Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth. I am informed by the Clerk that adequate public notice has been provided by mailing notice to The Record, by posting a notice on the bulletin board in the Municipal Center, by filing a copy of the notice in the office of the Municipal Clerk and by mailing notice to all persons who requested same and prepaid the same."

Passing of Borough Resident

Mayor Smart noted the importance of preserving family in Haworth and how the loss of a young man this past week-end in town affects the family. He called for a moment of silence for the young man.

Ordinance No. 15-08 – 2015 Multi-Purpose Ordinance – 2nd Reading, Public Hearing

A motion was offered by Mrs. Groh, seconded by Mr. Poosikian and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. 15-08 be offered for second reading.

Ordinance No. 15-08, which is as follows was then read by title only as copies had been provided for those present:

Ordinance No. 15-08 – 2015 Multi-Purpose Ordinance – 2nd Reading, Public Hearing – cont'd.

The meeting was opened to the public on Ordinance No. 15-08. As there were no comments the meeting was closed to the public on this ordinance.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Groh and seconded by Mr. Poosikian that Ordinance No. 15-08 be passed on second and final reading.

On roll call the vote was as follows: Ayes; Messrs. Poosikian, Groh, Rosenberg, Bain, Weiss. Nays – none. Declared carried.

A motion was offered by Mrs. Groh, seconded by Mr. Weiss and unanimously carried that the passage of Ordinance No. 15-08 be advertised as required by law.

Stream Cleaning Presentation

Mr. James Zagelmeyer, chairman of the Environmental Commission explained that the Commission has been looking at the condition of streams in the Borough, particularly with downed trees in the streams as a result of various storms. He said they plan to remove obstructions in streams in various areas, some DEP permits may have to be obtained and they will be clearing out the streams so as to centralize the stream flow.

Mr. Weiss commented that this is a good project involving the school, United Water, White Beeches and the Haworth Country Club.

Stream Cleaning Presentation – cont’d.

Mr. Zagelmeyer noted some assistance may be needed from the DPW.

Mr. Poosikian asked if any grants had been looked at for the projects and if a professional will be needed for plans regarding dredging.

Mr. Zagelmeyer responded heavy dredging would not be involved, various groups will be involved to remove the trees, there would be a zero budget impact and they could look at grants.

Mr. Poosikian commented if grants are available they should be used and the Shade Tree Commission should be involved.

Mr. Weiss responded that the trees are already down.

Mayor Smart commented that some of the DEP regulations have been eased and it is now acceptable to remove debris from streams.

Mr. Poosikian commented this is a great idea however he had some concern how much time the DPW would have to be involved.

Mr. Zagelmeyer said he will keep him advised.

It was then concurred that this project has the support of the Mayor and Council.

Correspondence

<u>Letter From</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Referred to</u>
NJ DEP	Proposed Revisions to Flood Hazard Area Control Act Regulations	All Council Planning Bd. Environmental Comm.

Resolution to Amend 2015 Municipal Budget

The following resolution was offered by Mrs. Groh and seconded by Mr. Weiss:

143. Executive Meeting of June 9, 2015

Resolution to Amend 2015 Municipal Budget – cont'd.

Resolution to Amend 2015 Municipal Budget – cont'd.

On discussion Mr. Poosikian asked if the increased funding for the Library was without restrictions.

Mrs. Groh responded it will be set aside for utilities and will not be released outright.

On roll call the vote was as follows: Ayes; Messrs. Poosikian, Groh, Rosenberg, Bain, Weiss. Nays – none. Declared carried.

Award Riverside Cooperative 2015 Road Improvement Contract

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Poosikian and seconded by Mrs. Groh:

WHEREAS, the Borough of Northvale acting as ‘Lead Agency’ for the Riverside Cooperative received bids for the 2015 Road Resurfacing Program on April 21, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the bid of JA Alexander, 130-158 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, N of Bloomfield, NJ 07003 in the total amount of \$2,923,392.97 has been determined to be the lowest responsible bid; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the Borough of Haworth’s portion of this contract is \$192,380.00 for the re-surfacing of Whitman Street (Madison Avenue to Hoover Way), Pleasant Lane (Pine Lane to Prospect Avenue), Myrtle Street (Harland Avenue to 600’ North), Contant Avenue (Myrtle Street West to Terminus), Franklin Street (Madison Avenue South to Terminus), Park Street (Sunset Avenue to Jefferson Avenue), Haworth Drive (Haworth Avenue to Harland Avenue, Haworth Drive (Sylvan Place West to Terminus). If approved by the Mayor and Council the paving of Herkimer Avenue (Hennessy Street West to Terminus) and Whitman Street (Hoover Way to Prospect Avenue) can be substituted for any of the aforementioned streets. Hendrickson Street – 20’ of 18” RCP Replacement and Catch Basin Rebuilds at various locations; and

WHEREAS, funds are available and have been certified to by the Finance Officer.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth that the Borough’s share of the 2015 Riverside Cooperative Road Resurfacing Program in the amount of \$192,380.00 be and is hereby awarded to JA Alexander, 130-158 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, N, Bloomfield, NJ 07003;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk be and are hereby authorized to execute the contract in the form prepared by the Borough Attorney.

Award Riverside Cooperative 2015 Road Improvement Contract – cont'd.

On discussion Mr. Poosikian explained the selection process as to what roads need to be resurfaced which involves relying on the DPW who are on the roads all the time, residents who call in and members of the Council for their input.

On roll call the vote was as follows: Ayes; Messrs. Poosikian, Groh, Rosenberg, Bain, Weiss. Nays – none. Declared carried.

Approval of Submission of Recreational Trails Grant Application

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Rosenberg, seconded by Mrs. Groh and unanimously carried:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby approve the submission of a 2015 Recreational Trails Program Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program.

Eagle Scout Project

Mr. Brian Holden, member of Haworth Boy Scout Troop 73 was present seeking approval for his Eagle Scout Project which consists of relocating and rebuilding the footbridge next to the Swim Club, noting the bridge will be relocated to where the stream is narrower. He said the present bridge is unsafe, noted the materials and tools he will use with a preliminary cost of \$2,000. He said there will be a donation of lumber, a fund raiser at the Swim Club through a towel sale, five to six work sessions over a period of two months with five to seven people at each work session and Mr. Lamond, an engineer will assist and he will confer with an architect.

Mr. Poosikian commented that some of the nicest bridges in town have been built by scouts.

A motion was offered by Mr. Poosikian, seconded by Mrs. Groh and unanimously carried to endorse and approve Mr. Holden's Eagle Scout Project.

Appointment of Seasonal Employees and Payroll Administrator

Mr. Bain reported perspective counselors for the Summer Program were interviewed last week and hiring will take place June 12. The matter will be placed on the June 23rd agenda.

Open Capital Balances

Mrs. Groh noted she has heard from Mr. Poosikian, Mr. Volpe and Mr. Rosenberg on balances in their portfolios and she will review past multi-purpose ordinances.

Open Capital Balances – cont'd.

As to funds remaining in connection with the Tree Farm Mr. Poosikian explained it is necessary to keep re-filling the area, maintaining fencing, replacing pots therefore funds would be utilized for these items. This matter will be further looked at and placed on the agenda for June 23.

Appointment to Environmental Commission

A motion was offered by Mr. Weiss, seconded by Mr. Rosenberg and unanimously carried that Cynthia Soroka- Dunn be appointed a member of the Environmental Commission to a three year unexpired term to December 31, 2017.

Appointment to Board of Health

A motion was offered by Mr. Rosenberg, seconded by Mrs. Groh and unanimously carried that Nancy Polifroni be appointed an alternate member of the Board of Health to a one year term to December 31, 2015.

Appointments to Fire Department

A motion was offered by Mr. Poosikian, seconded by Mrs. Groh and unanimously carried that Sanasar Sarkissian and Joshua Lamond be appointed as regular members of the Haworth Fire Department.

Replacement of Retiring Fire Inspector

This item will be placed on the June 23rd agenda.

Ordinance No. 15-09 – Capital Surplus Ordinance

A motion was offered by Mrs. Groh, seconded by Mr. Poosikian and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. 15-09 be offered for first reading.

Ordinance No. 15-09 was then read by title only as follows:

A CAPITAL ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$12,500 FOR THE MAKING OF VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS AND THE ACQUISITION OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT BY THE BOROUGH OF HAWORTH AND TO APPROPRIATE \$12,500 FROM GENERAL CAPITAL SURPLUS

A motion was offered by Mr. Bain and seconded by Mr. Weiss that Ordinance No. 15-09 be passed on first reading.

Ordinance No. 15-09 – Capital Surplus Ordinance – cont'd.

On roll call the vote was as follows: Ayes; Messrs. Poosikian, Groh, Rosenberg, Bain, Weiss. Nays – none. Declared carried.

A motion was offered by Mr. Poosikian, seconded by Mr. Bain and unanimously carried that Ordinance No. 15-09 be advertised as required by law and a date set for public hearing on June 23, 2015 at 8:00 PM at the Municipal Center.

Approval of Payment of Bills

The following resolution was offered by Mrs. Groh and seconded by Mr. Rosenberg:

FOR COPY OF RESOLUTION AND BILL LIST
SEE PERMANENT MINUTES
PAGES 149A – 149K

On roll call the vote was follows: Ayes; Messrs. Poosikian, Groh, Rosenberg, Bain, Weiss. Nays – none. Declared carried.

Open Meeting to Public

The meeting was opened to the period of public discussion.

Chief of Police Christopher Campbell noted he has been a member of the Haworth Police Department since 1989 and said this Borough has the finest Police Department in the area. He said the members are highly dedicated and professional and noted in the past the loss of officers to other departments due to the disparity in pay.

Donald Galgano, former Haworth Police Chief, said this has always been a great department and noted the dedication of the officers. He referred to officers leaving in the past, noted the diversity of these officers and the Borough should not lose this group.

Mr. R. Geller, Wheeler Pl., asked the status of the police negotiations and what is holding up the process.

Mayor Smart responded offers are still being made back and forth and a negotiation meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening.

Mr. Geller asked what this issue is.

Mayor Smart said the primary issue is the same benefits for new hires.

Open Meeting to Public – cont'd.

Mrs. Groh commented it was thought the two groups were close, however there seems to be a problem with the language.

Mr. Geller said he is in the process of selling his home and prospective buyers ask about the schools and police and urged the town to keep experienced officers.

Mr. J. Zagelmeyer, Herkimer Av., said the town is the safest it has ever been, Haworth police salaries are below other towns and he was concerned the two sides in the matter are very far apart.

Mr. P. Martin president of PBA Local 206 of which the Haworth Police Department is a member referred to the negotiations and some items that were not discussed with the Department. He said in the smaller towns like Haworth the police have the best relationship, all parties involved need to work together. Mr. Martin said the Haworth department is the finest in the Local, they are highly trained officers and requested the negotiation committees work in good faith.

Dr. J. Coleman, Maple St. said he felt comfortable in this town because of this police department and it is a great police force.

Mr. N. Nakashian, Brook St. noted he works with the Police Department in his roles as a member of the Ambulance Corps and Police Reserves. He said the Borough can find money for other things but not pay the officers more and these negotiations have created an environment of hostility.

Mayor Smart referred to his campaign last year where pay, benefits, etc. were looked at to save money. As to the negotiations he said it is assumed benefits will be honored during the officer's career while they are here and every officer is getting an increase.

Mr. A. Dickstein, Pine St. suggested changing the make-up of the committee and start with new people.

Mr. T. Cusanelli, Schraalenburgh Rd. questioned what are the Mayor and Council doing for him as a multiple taxpayer in town.

Mayor Smart responded that there will be a tax increase this year and said he will have done everything to keep it as minimal as possible.

Mr. Cusanelli questioned if it is a minimal amount of dollars why give less to the police for doing more.

Open Meeting to Public – cont'd.

Mr. Poosikian commented that in business a valuable asset is the employees and he hoped it would be possible to back off from the negativity with this issue. He said the residents have been heard loud and clear regarding the value of the police service in town.

Ms. Dina Siciliano, Houston Place said she supports the Police Department and they perform at an extraordinary level every day.

Mr. D. Luzon, Sunset Avenue suggested finding other revenue in town, particularly in reference to the new church in town where homes should have been built on the site instead.

Mr. T. Duffy, Lake Shore Drive commented it should be kept in mind to relieve the adversarial tone in these negotiations.

Ms. C. Soroka-Dunn, Whitman St. noted that many residents in town are struggling and everyone should come together.

Mr. Martin referred to new contracts for new hires inasmuch as when there are separate pay scales it becomes a problem particularly with a morale problem regarding significantly different salaries.

Mr. Rosenberg said he has gotten to know the force and the quality and caliber of the force. He noted that at the last meeting significant movement had been made on both sides, there was a significant issue on the table which they thought they had a solution and hoped that at the meeting tomorrow evening all items will be resolved.

Sgt. M. Saudino thanked all for their support this evening.

Mr. Cusanelli said the comments by Mr. Rosenberg were nicely said.

Ms. B. Colonna, West View Terrace discussed property tax increases in past years, now there is the 2% CAP and she supports the Police Department.

Mayor Smart said all views were well heard tonight.

The meeting was then closed to the public and as there was no further business to come before the Council adjourned at 9:45 PM on motion duly offered, seconded and carried.

Ann E. Fay, RMC, CMC
Clerk-Administrator

