

173. Executive Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth held on September 11, 2013 at the Municipal Center

Present: Hon. John Dean DeRienzo, Mayor

Councilmembers: Stephen Chval
Vincent Iacobino
Glenn Poosikian
Mary Anne Groh
Arthur Rosenberg
Anthony Volpe

Borough Attorney: Peter J. Scandariato

Mayor DeRienzo called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and upon roll call all members of the Council were present. The Mayor then read the following statement: "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 cost fixed by the Council.

Moment of Silence and Salute to Flag

This being the 12th Anniversary of 9-11, Mayor DeRienzo offered a moment of silence and led those present in the pledge of allegiance.

Ordinance No. 13-06 – 2013 Multi-Purpose Ordinance – continuation

Mr. Poosikian reported there has been no concrete agreement as yet on this ordinance and the proposal stands as originally. He explained the Ambulance Corps has requested a need for additional storage with a new bay estimated at a cost of \$80,000 which they have explained a number of times to members of the Council, however, there has been some resistance to that proposal.

Mr. Poosikian noted the Ambulance Corps then indicated they would take \$20,000. of their funds leaving \$60,000. for the project, however, his understanding is there is still opposition by some councilmembers to that proposal. He said he felt this was more than generous of them to use their own funds which are reserved for the purchase of a new ambulance.

Mayor DeRienzo said that prior to next week's meeting there needs to be a resolution and to come up with a solution, particularly since there are other items in this ordinance that need to be purchased.

Correspondence

| <u>Letter From</u> | <u>Subject</u> | <u>Referred to</u> |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|
| Green Sky Industries | Forwarding June & July Recycling Checks - \$2,027. and \$1,969. | All Council |
| County Planning Dept. | Forwarding 2012 Signed Open Space Contract – Basketball Court Improvements | All Council |

Mrs. Groh referred to a memo received from Ms. Fay indicating Green Sky had been underpaying and have forwarded the balance due to the Borough for four months.

Certification of Costs – Block 707, Lot 7, Sylvan Place

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Poosikian, seconded by Mr. Chval and unanimously carried:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Council hereby approve the certification of costs submitted by the Department of Public Works Superintendent for July 2013 in the amount of \$510.00 and for August 2013 in the amount of \$165.00 for East Hill Landscaping, LLC for property maintenance and tree work on Block 707, Lot 7, 566 Sylvan Place.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to add the amount of \$675.00 to the 2013 4th quarter tax bill for Block 707, Lot 7.

Approval of Raffle Licenses

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Haworth that the On Premise 50/50 Raffle Application #RA-411 and On Premise Merchandise Raffle Application #RA-413 of the Woman’s Club of Haworth to be held at the Parish Center of Sacred Heart Church on November 16, 2013 and the On Premise Merchandise Raffle Application #RA-404 of the Jr. Womans Club Saddle River Valley to be held at White Beeches Golf & Country Club on September 28, 2013 be approved as submitted providing all rules and regulations of Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission are adhered to.

Refund of Driveway Permit Deposit

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

Refund of Driveway Permit Deposit – cont'd.

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of the Department of Public Works has inspected and found that work has been satisfactorily completed on the following Driveway Permit,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council that the following refunds be made:

| <u>NAME AND ADDRESS</u> | <u>PERMIT #</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> |
|--|-----------------|---------------|
| Sherwood Rudin 56 Adams Avenue Haworth, New Jersey 07641 | 1316 | \$100.00 |

Appointments to Fire Department

A motion was offered by Mr. Volpe, seconded by Mrs. Groh and unanimously carried that Matthew Mayer be appointed a junior member and Dirk Sorgerson a regular member of the Haworth Fire Department.

Appointment to Board of Health

A motion was offered by Mrs. Groh, seconded by Mr. Chval and unanimously carried that Dr. Karen Eigen be appointed to the unexpired term of Ilise Posen.

Lightning Detection System

Mr. Volpe reported an updated invoice in the amount of \$10,257.40 has been received from Commercial Recreation Specialists for the Borough's portion of the sensor equipment for this system; the recommendation is for one horn/strobe at Memorial Field as a starting point and then to evaluate the system. He said the school has approved their part and the Borough will be looking at other locations.

Mayor DeRienzo noted the funding for this system is included in this year's Multi-Purpose Ordinance.

A motion was offered by Mr. Volpe, seconded by Mrs. Groh and unanimously carried to accept the quotation of Commercial Recreation Specialists in the amount of \$10,257.40 as outlined in their proposal dated September 11, 2013.

Recycling Containers

Mrs. Groh reported the vendor involved in the purchase of these containers has agreed to honor the price for the previous bulk order, noting there is \$7400. available in grant funds which she said she will confirm. She further reported a quotation is being sought for a revised sign for recycling information at the railroad tracks.

Memorial Field Basketball Court Improvement

Mayor DeRienzo suggested authorizing the Borough Engineer to meet with the Sports Committee in order to go to bid on this project.

2014 Capital Requests

Mayor DeRienzo noted forms for these requests are being prepared.

Refurbishing of Bathrooms at Memorial Field

Mayor DeRienzo noted applications for Community Development funding are due in November.

Agreements Expiring December 31, 2013

Mayor DeRienzo noted DPW, Police Dispatcher and School Guard Agreements will be expiring at the end of the year and the Negotiating Committee will send out a letter to these groups and also the Contracts Committee will be looking at them.

Mrs. Groh said the Negotiating Committee and Contracts Committee are composed of different people. She noted the statute regarding crossing guards indicates they are only a one year appointment.

Mayor DeRienzo responded both committees will work closely together on these agreements.

Open Meeting to Public

The meeting was opened to the period of public discussion.

Mr. A. Berman, 510 Haworth Av., commented on the number of years of service the members of the Ambulance Corps have given, noting they are all taxpayers and that he felt some councilmembers do not have a clue about what these volunteers do and now they have all become experts. He said funds are spent on many other things with no problem, however, somehow the Ambulance Corps request stands out, it has become a personal matter which has gone to unbelievable extremes.

Mr. T. Duffy, member of the Ambulance Corps said he has seen growth in all the emergency services who are all very responsible. He said senior citizen residents, many without generators and air conditioning during storm emergencies need a place to go and are accommodated at the Ambulance Corps building. Mr. Duffy went on to say there are certain

Open Meeting to Public – cont'd.

inadequacies in terms of storage at the building, some residents have gone a week long with no heat, they are cold and lonely and this building is a communal point and we owe it to them as taxpayers to provide these services. He said this would be an improvement to a town asset – a permanent asset and that people have articulated why they think this is necessary, however, he said he has not heard why certain individuals oppose the project.

Mrs. D. Berman, president of the Ambulance Corps has said this project was thought of two years ago, they looked at many alternatives and this addition became the solution, noting the cost would be \$5.38 per year for the average assessed home and if that is an issue she said there is a major problem. She said the members of the Ambulance Corps know what they need and they would like to continue the emergency service they give, noting they lend out lots of equipment, the building is used as a shelter especially in the winter when many residents slept over, they bought ten more cots and air mattresses for which they need the storage space. She said they can't use the attic for storage due to the extreme heat which damages equipment. Mrs. Berman said they have cut out several items in the project which the Ambulance Corps will absorb so they are only looking for a shell. She asked if there is something they are missing in this dialogue.

Mrs. Groh said she is aware of the storage concerns, is resistance to the dollar amount and would like more discussion. She said the members should move out equipment which is not theirs as there is space at other facilities, if police vehicles were moved out they would have sufficient space and questioned the storage of the crawler.

Mrs. Berman responded the requested space is not for the crawler, one of the ambulances will not fit in one of the bays, new ambulances are getting bigger, they are in a two year process for obtaining a new ambulance and there is no reason for the crawler to go in the bays.

Mrs. Groh questioned space in the rear of the building.

Mr. Cusanelli, member of the Ambulance Corps said some council members are not getting the point, this is not a whim, they need more storage.

Mrs. Groh commented that she is now learning different reasons for the project.

Mr. Rosenberg said new issues are coming up, noting this is the first time there has been mention the addition would be to house a new ambulance.

Mrs. Berman explained it is not possible to interchange space for vehicles, particularly with new ambulances being bigger. She also noted that the new bathroom recently installed in the building was in connection with OSHA regulations.

Open Meeting to Public – cont'd.

Mr. N. Nakashian, member of the Ambulance Corps questioned Mrs. Groh on other expenses, i.e., what is the need for the skating rink, new basketball courts and improvements at the Swim Club which is only used by a few residents. He said it is insulting these conversations have taken place since the members have explained the project and suggested just saying the members of the Council do not want to spend the money, noting the attic is brutal to pull equipment out of and it is hard to get around in the bays with various equipment stored there.

Mr. J. Ferber, Owatonna Street, said the Ambulance Corps gives to the town, they are the experts on what they need, they need it, all have spoken to what they need and the Council should support what they need.

Mrs. Groh commented that the information has changed every time the topic has been discussed.

Mr. Volpe said he was not ready to vote this evening and re-iterated that all appreciate what the Ambulance Corps does, there is no vendetta – it is insulting. He said he has to evaluate every spending issue, the Ambulance Corps has not articulated the need, they have to convince him and he is not convinced they have presented a case.

Mr. Rosenberg said he needed time to process the situation and probably the most compelling reason for the project is the additional ambulance space.

Mr. N. Fazio, member of the Ambulance Corps questioned how many people use the skating rink and the basketball courts.

Mr. Volpe responded the present basketball court is not regulation for play by the youth groups.

Mr. C. Martin, member of the Ambulance Corps questioned what it would cost if the town lost the Ambulance Corps, noting Cresskill is now going to paid members.

Mr. Chval said Haworth's is the finest Ambulance Corps in the area, particularly due to its leadership.

Mr. Martin commented that he is honored to serve and the proposed cost of the project of \$80,000. is pennies.

Mrs. Groh said the Borough has gotten into such a hole in debt that every dollar has to be scrutinized.

Mr. Chval responded the Borough's debt is in very good shape, he has done a study and the debt has decreased every year.

Open Meeting to Public – cont'd.

Mr. Cusanelli commented that it is insulting to the Ambulance Corps that people still don't see the big picture.

As there were no further comments, the meeting was closed to the period of public discussion.

Ambulance Building Project

Mayor DeRienzo explained there is now a proposal for a \$60,000. project and between now and next Monday a new ordinance would have to be introduced and the matter has to be settled; the proposal is for two separate ordinances – one for the building and one for the multi-purpose ordinance, noting the concern with many items in that ordinance that have to move forward.

The Council took a short recess and reconvened at 8:25 PM.

Finance Office

Mr. Chval noted a part time assistant has been proposed for this office, interviews have been conducted and a candidate has been considered.

Mrs. Groh responded that she wanted more discussion on this matter.

Mayor DeRienzo said the Finance Committee should meet on this issue.

Mrs. Groh then asked when the issuance of debt will be addressed.

Mr. Chval responded in February.

Mrs. Groh asked what different scenarios are being considered and what was the basis for Mr. Chval's recommendation.

Mayor DeRienzo commented that the Bond Counsel comes up with the recommendation.

Mrs. Groh then asked again what was the basis of Mr. Chval's recommendation.

Mr. Chval responded there would be less of a tax impact.

Mrs. Groh then referred to interest rates.

Mayor DeRienzo suggested the Finance Committee meet on this issue.

Finance Office – cont'd.

Mrs. Groh said she had a concern with issuing in November.

Mr. Rosenberg commented on the November date vs. February, noting this is a very volatile market and there could be a difference in the cost.

Mrs. Groh discussed the difference in a November or February issue.

Mayor DeRienzo asked that all members of the Council look at the scenarios.

As there was no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM on motion duly offered, seconded and unanimously carried.

Ann E. Fay, RMC, CMC
Clerk-Administrator