

REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2013

Mayor Cosgrove called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, annual notice of all meetings of the Borough of Fair Lawn was published in "The Record" issue of December 14, 2012. Notices were also posted on the bulletin board located on the first floor of the Municipal Building; copies were mailed to The Community News and posted on the Borough of Fair Lawn website. The annual notice identified the meeting location and the time of Council Meetings and Work Sessions.

PRESENT: Mayor Cosgrove, Deputy Mayors Baratta and Trawinski, Councilmembers Peluso and Swain.

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Manager Van Kruijning, Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski and Attorney Mondello.

PRESENTATION OF POLICE ACCREDITATION CERTIFICATE

Acting Chief Cauwels introduced Harry Delgado of the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police, who presented him with a Certificate of Accreditation. Mr. Delgado stated this proves that the Fair Lawn Police Department is truly one of the best departments in the State. He explained that Police agencies seek accreditation as a way of assuring the public that the agency meets the highest standards for professionalism, training and discipline.

Accreditation is a certification by an independent review and authority, the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police, that the law enforcement agency has met specific requirements of prescribed standards. It is not a one-time event, but rather a process that requires file maintenance with proof of compliance and re-accreditation every three years. A Police officer has to prove that they have followed the directives that guide them.

Research shows that accredited agencies have eleven fewer Police professional liabilities claims, 18% fewer Workers Compensation claims and 31% fewer auto liabilities claims. Municipalities participating in the MEL Insurance Fund receive substantial reductions in insurance premiums. Accredited agencies are better able to defend themselves against lawsuits and citizen complaints, as accreditation provides objective evidence of an agency's commitment to excellence in leadership, resource management and service delivery. It makes the agency more effective, efficient and able to meet community needs.

He continued that accreditation standards provide the Chief with a system of written directives, sound training, clearly defined lines of authority and routine reports that support decision making and resource allocation. Officers take pride that they have been objectively recognized for their professionalism and adherence to the 112 of the highest standards in the State and Nation.

On behalf of the State Association of Chiefs of Police and the New Jersey Law Enforcement Commission he congratulated Acting Chief Glen Cauwels, Accreditation Manager Ronald Patterson, Lt. Brian LaRosa, the staff of the Fair Lawn Police Department, the Mayor and Council and the Fair Lawn community for achieving accreditation. Out of 470 agencies in New Jersey eligible for this honor, less than one third are accredited. Fair Lawn should be very proud.

Acting Chief Cauwels stated that the process required a lot of hard work by the Department, especially Acting Captain Patterson, but it was well worth the effort.

Mayor Cosgrove thanked the Police Department for their hard work. He had the honor of being present when they sat before the panel of former Police Chiefs. They did an excellent job. He reiterated his thanks to Acting Chief Cauwels, Acting Captain Paterson, Captain Kneer, the new Accreditation officer Lt. LaRosa and all the men and women in uniform in the Police Department.

Councilmember Peluso stated that he toured the Police Department with Lt. Patterson. The Police officers worked on many things themselves instead of using outside help. Their scores were outstanding. He was very proud of the Department.

Councilmember Swain congratulated everyone involved in this long process. She was glad they stuck with it because it is very worthwhile. She was very proud of the Police Department's accomplishment.

Deputy Mayor Baratta thanked everyone who was involved in this long, hard process. She was proud to say that she was a resident of Fair Lawn.

Deputy Mayor Trawinski echoed previous comments. He gave his heartfelt thanks on behalf of all Fair Lawn residents for a job well done.

PROCLAMATION: BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski read the proclamation for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Peluso reported that All Sports was holding registration for wrestling and basketball and the Boy Scouts are looking for new members. He encouraged parents to keep their children active.

He attended the American Legion barbecue and thanked the members for their great service to the community. He attended the dedication ceremony for the fire truck donated by the Davis family in memory of their son. He advised residents to be careful of downed trees and branches and asked seniors to not try to move

heavy branches themselves. Residents needing assistance can email him or contact DPW or Borough Manager.

Councilmember Swain thanked the Fire Department for sponsoring the dedication ceremony for the Davis Family. It was a very moving ceremony. She knows that the truck will bring happiness to the Department as they use it to teach children about fire awareness.

She thanked the DPW workers who quickly sprung into action after the storm and helped clear up the damage. She thanked Acting Manager Van Kruijning for making sure no one got hurt.

There will be a Council Candidates Forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters on Thursday, October 17th at 8:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. Questions will be accepted by a screening committee until 8:30 p.m. that evening. If someone is unable to attend they can email questions to the League at Lwvfl@verizon.net no later than 5:00 p.m. the same day.

The ADA Committee was fortunate to receive a generous donation from the VFW today, but unfortunately none of the members were able to attend the presentation. She reminded residents that the Rotary Pancake breakfast is Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the American Legion. Tickets are \$7.00 and can be obtained from Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski or Marianne Pettineo.

She was excited to learn that Fair Lawn was awarded a Municipal Tonnage grant for Recycling in the amount of \$68,000. Fair Lawn was the 48th best recycler in the State and they received the second highest grant in Bergen County. She thanked the residents for continuing to recycle and doing a great job.

She concluded by reporting that there will be an Art Lovers Open Studio at the Library on Thursday, October 17th, November 21st and December 19th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Residents will have an opportunity to draw a still life.

Deputy Mayor Trawinski read an obituary published in the Star Ledger about Nicholas Oresko, who participated in the Battle of the Bulge in 1945 and was awarded the Medal of Honor, our Nations highest award for valor, for his actions. Mr. Oresko, who died on October 4th at the age of 96 was the oldest surviving Medal of Honor recipient. He read it because they should never forget what our Veterans did for us.

Deputy Mayor Baratta stated that Mr. Oresko had no living relatives. He will be laid to rest this Thursday at a special funeral held at Bergen Community College. She hoped that many people came out to pay their respects to Mr. Oresko. The funeral will also be live streamed. Anyone wishing to attend can contact her at 201-336-7317. It will be a fitting tribute to a wonderful man.

Mayor Cosgrove announced that the Sunrise Rotary will be hosting a Meet and Greet on October 30th at Fair Lawn Fire Company #4, located on Radburn Road, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There are two Rotary Clubs in Fair Lawn. One meets in the morning and the other meets in the afternoon. He encouraged residents to come and learn about Rotary. The Fair Lawn Rotary Club will be sponsoring a Sports Memorabilia Fundraising Auction on October 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the Fair Lawn Athletic Club. Former New Jersey Devil Jim Dowd, member of the 1995 Stanley Cup team will be signing autographs. Tickets are available from Rotarians or by contacting Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski.

He had the honor of attending a Garden State Grandmas meeting at the Senior Center. The women do amazing things for charities such as Eva's Kitchen and Tomorrow's Children Fund. They have given out \$6,000 in scholarships and \$7,300 to families in need, and have given out a total of \$31,900 to charities in Fair Lawn and Bergen County. The women also make crafts and dolls for children.

Reflective wristbands will be distributed to commuters on October 16th at 6:00 p.m. at the Radburn Train Station. The idea came from Alexa Nicolau, a High School senior who was very concerned about pedestrian safety. He hoped the Council and residents will join them. The wrist bands can help save lives. He is very proud of Alexa, who will help distribute the wrist bands with her friends. He thanked the County of Bergen for donating 500 wristbands and noted that a Hawthorne Company also donated 500 bands.

Councilmember Swain reminded residents that Wednesday, October 16th is also the special election. Deputy Mayor Baratta stated that the last night to register to vote for the General Election was Tuesday, October 15th. Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that her office will be open until 9:00 p.m. that evening.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING:

Deputy Mayor Trawinski stated that he was recused.

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Baratta and a second by Councilmember Swain, it was unanimously agreed to read the following ordinance by title.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2294-2013
(RESOLUTION NO. 343-2013)**

**AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A CERTAIN CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT IN
THE BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE RECEIPT,
ACCEPTANCE AND DEPOSIT OF FUNDS THEREFORE (BERDAN GROVE
INCLUSIONARY PLAYGROUND PHASE I)**

There being no discussion, upon motion by Councilmember Peluso and a second by Councilmember Swain, Resolution No. 343-2013 introducing Ordinance No. 2294-2013 was passed, with Deputy Mayor Trawinski recused.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Baratta and a second by Councilmember Swain, the time for public comments on Agenda items only was opened, with Deputy Mayor Trawinski voting present. He did not want it to be interpreted that he was voting on an item that he is going to ask to be removed from the agenda.

There being no comments from the public, upon motion by Deputy Mayor Baratta and a second by Councilmember Swain, the time for public comments was closed, with Deputy Mayor Trawinski voting present.

Deputy Mayor Trawinski asked that item b. Resolution #345-2013 be removed as he will be recusing himself. With that item removed, he asked to change his last two votes to yes.

There was Council consensus to allow Deputy Mayor Trawinski to do so.

RESOLUTIONS BY CONSENT #22-2013

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Trawinski and a second by Deputy Mayor Trawinski, Consent Agenda 22-2013 containing the following items was unanimously passed.

- a. Resol. #344-2013 – Appointment of Flexible Spending Plan Administrator
- b. Resol. #345-2013 – Removed
- c. Resol. #346-2013 – Cancel Year 2013 Property Taxes 4-05 2nd Street
- d. Resol. #347-2013 – Approval of Minutes:
Work Session 9/3/13
Closed Session 9/3/13
- e. Resol. #348-2013 – Appointment to Property Maintenance Committee/Facelift Committee
- f. Resol. #349-2013 - Authorizing Issuance of Request for Proposals for Auditor
- g. Resol. #350-2013 – Authorizing an Agreement with The Rodgers Group, LLC for On-line In-Service Training

RESOLUTION #345-2013 – CANCELLING COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND GRANT RECEIVABLE – WARREN POINT SKATE PARK

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Baratta and a second by Councilmember Swain, Resolution No. 345-2013 was passed with Deputy Mayor Trawinski recused.

RESOLUTION NO. 351-2013 - CONFIRMATION OF FIRE BOARD ACTIONS

Mayor Cosgrove stated that he will be recusing himself because he is a member of the Fire Department.

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Baratta and a second by Deputy Mayor Trawinski, Resolution No. 351-2013 was passed with Mayor Cosgrove recused.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Swain, it was unanimously agreed to open the time for public comments.

Pam Coles, 13-34 George Street thanked Acting Manager Van Kruiningen for calling the State and having the graffiti under the Route 208 overpass painted over. It looks great. The Historic Preservation Commission is hosting a historic education program on October 16th at the Community Center. The guest speaker will be a historic architect, who will discuss the restoration of the Naugle House. On October 20th Garretson Forge will be open to show how life was on a working farm. Since the Fair Lawn Athletic Club will also be celebrating its 90th anniversary, she asked the Council if they would proclaim October as Fair Lawn Historic Preservation month. The Police Department accreditation is a golden star for the community. There was a lot of work and anguish over the past several years to make this happen.

She noted that Deputy Mayor Baratta and Deputy Mayor Trawinski have only two more months left on the Council. She has been attending Council meetings since 2003, and Deputy Mayor Baratta and Deputy Mayor Trawinski have always fought for Fair Lawn. They brought in the Historic Preservation Commission, started the Open Space Committee and saved the Naugle House. She knows that many people will be thanking them in the next two months. The budget was balanced and Fair Lawn is fiscally strong. She personally thanked them for their service.

There being no further comments, upon motion by Deputy Mayor Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Swain, the time for public comments was unanimously closed.

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

Deputy Mayor Trawinski stated that he will be recusing himself because of the topic, but this should not be interpreted as having any disagreement with the Council's decision to do this. He believes handling this matter in Closed Session is the appropriate way to go, but since there may be a conflict of interest he was recusing himself. Deputy Mayor Trawinski left the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Baratta and a second by Councilmember Swain, the following closed session resolution was adopted at 8:20 p.m. with Deputy Mayor Trawinski recused.

WHEREAS; the Open Public Meeting act of the State of New Jersey permits the public to be excluded from certain matters to be discussed by the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS; the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fair Lawn desire to discuss Attorney/Client Privilege – Lackland Storage Saddle Brook; and

WHEREAS; these matters are ones which permit the exclusion of the public from such discussions; and

WHEREAS; minutes will be taken during this closed session and once the need for confidentiality no longer exists the minutes will be available to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fair Lawn that the public be excluded since these matters as set forth above are ones which permit the exclusion of the public from such discussions.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Baratta and second by Councilmember Peluso, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

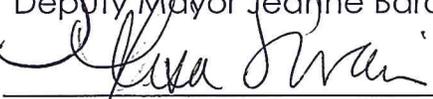

Joanne M. Kwasniewski, RMC,CMC,MMC
Municipal Clerk

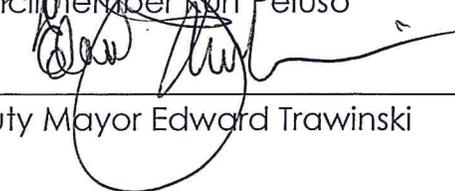
The undersigned have read and approve the foregoing minutes.


Mayor John Cosgrove


Deputy Mayor Jeanne Baratta


Councilmember Kurt Peluso


Councilmember Lisa Swain


Deputy Mayor Edward Trawinski

