

SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 28, 2014

Mayor Cosgrove called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 20, 2013 in addition notice of the rescheduled meeting for this evening appeared in "The Record" issue of January 24, 2014. Notices were also posted on the bulletin board located on the first floor of the Municipal Building and posted on the Borough of Fair Lawn website. The notice identified the meeting location and the time of this Special Meeting.

PRESENT: Mayor Cosgrove, Deputy Mayors Dunay (late) and Lefkowitz, Councilmembers Peluso and Swain.

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

Mayor Cosgrove stated this Special Meeting was in regard to parking at the Radburn Train Station. He explained that there will be a Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. so they will try to let everyone speak but will have to end this meeting at 7:25 p.m. If anyone who does not get to speak at this meeting was welcome to attend the regular meeting and speak at the public portion.

PARKING ISSUES - COMMUTER PARKING LOT PERMITS:

Traffic Safety Officer Franco was present. Manager Van Kruijning stated he made new recommendations that he emailed to the Council earlier today. He suggested that they go with \$1 a day for residents which would include the .35 cent transaction fee. He received notification today from the vendor that the Borough will be billed on a monthly basis.

On a monthly charge for a permit it will be \$1.00 transaction fee only but if the Borough does not have 500 transactions each month, the Borough would have to pay the difference of those transaction fees. He gave an example of 200 monthly passes purchased in March would mean there would be a \$300 convenience charge to the Borough because they did not meet the minimum quota of 500.

He met with Traffic Safety Officer Franco. Their recommendation was to go with \$1.00 per day, \$10.00 per month for the residents, \$3.00 per day for non-residents and \$30.00 per month for non-residents. These fees would mean that if they pay daily they will pay approximately \$20.00 to \$22.00 but if they pay for the month it would cost \$10.00. The fee would increase from \$54.00 to \$120.00. For the non-

residents it would be \$3.00 a day or \$30.00 a month or \$360.00 a year. The fee schedule for the bus lots will be the same. The bus lot is \$160.00 for an annual permit whether it is for a resident or non-resident. With this schedule it will cost less for a resident. He reminded them that everything is transaction driven regardless of what lot they park in. The monthly system is an e-permit system so when the resident or non-resident registers, they will have a choice of paying monthly or have the system do a recurring charge. At the end of every month their credit card would be charged.

Deputy Mayor Lefkowitz wondered if the monthly quota of 500 transactions was for only the monthly passes. Manager Van Kruijning stated it was only for the monthly passes. Deputy Mayor Lefkowitz asked if they had any idea of how many passes would be purchased. Manager Van Kruijning stated that they know how many spaces are there and they know that it is usually full every day. Most people that travel everyday would take advantage of the monthly permit. The daily permit is for the occasional use of the parking.

Councilmember Peluso asked how many spots were there. Traffic Safety Officer Franco stated the cumulative total for the train station is 354 of which there are 211 residents, 123 non restricted and 20 spaces for non residents. In the bus lot, there are 151 spaces which are all non restricted. There are over 500 parking spots. Councilmember Swain wondered if the bus lot would be included in the monthly transaction. Manager Van Kruijning said it would. The bus lot is never full and there are always spaces available. Traffic Safety Officer Franco stated they included all the lots into one so there was one central payment system. The demand at the train station is high as it is always filled and the bus lot is not. By reducing the fee for the bus lot for residents, there may be more incentive to use that lot.

Manager Van Kruijning said the Borough would incur a \$200 - \$250 monthly convenience fee which would come out of the revenue for the parking lots. With the e-permit system there is a onetime cost of \$1,500.00 for the start up. Manager Van Kruijning stated that this new fee schedule will reduce the rate by half for the residents.

Mayor Cosgrove thought they did a good job on this matter. He was sure that residents would be happy with the monthly fee.

Joan Goldstein, 12 Bedford Place, thanked them for listening to the residents and revisiting this matter. She asked for clarifications of the current costs were compared to the costs of the system.

Deputy Mayor Dunay arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Traffic Safety Officer Franco explained that they did quantify everything into a commuter parking area so there is no difference where they park as a commuter. It is easier for a resident to register their license plate or multiple license plates through the system which would guarantee that the permit would be recognized. Procedurally it will make it easier for the resident. The Police Department's workload will be reduced. Overtime for the Records Department would be greatly reduced. Traffic Safety Officer Franco added that they will constantly monitor this and if it is not cost effective, they will make changes. At this point they believe this will be cost effective and in fact, the monetary difference will be increased. Traffic Safety Officer Franco said they cannot give every possible scenario because the original proposal was approved is now being changed. Ms. Goldstein said that she was a bus person and the lot is never filled so if they depend on the 350 permits for the train station, they will be incurring an expensive. She suggested emailing everyone that has a bus pass asking if they would do that. Traffic Safety Officer Franco said the bus permit fee would be going down. Ms. Goldstein felt it could end up costing the Borough money.

Mayor Cosgrove stated that they would be raising revenue on the other side by charging the non residents more money. One of the reasons they held this Special Meeting was because the cars in the lot are not getting ticketed so people are going in there without permits. They wanted to come to a decision to get the lots under control.

Joe Mele, 15-25 11th Street, asked for an explanation on the tags and how they work. Manager Van Kruijning stated that up to five vehicles can be registered to that permit. If they have a rental unit, they go on line and put that vehicles information in. He further explained that if they are an existing customer they will receive a letter from the Borough explaining everything and it will tell them how to register. Non residents will have to go online and register because they will be paying the nonresident fee. The Police Department will verify residency of all new applicants but all of the existing applicants are known.

Councilmember Swain asked if a family of five could park at the same time with the same one fee. Traffic Safety Officer Franco said they can register up to five vehicles. The Police Department will go through the lot with a license plate reader. Technology has progressed.

Mr. Mele spoke about Politt Drive parking. Manager Van Kruijning said nothing has changed with the layout and nothing has changed in regard to the number of resident spaces.

Mr. Mele mentioned that the walkway across Politt Drive has insufficient lighting and expressed concern about the cars driving too fast. Also the snow removal

has not been good. Traffic Safety Officer Franco said he had spoken to him about the lighting and the Manager has been in contact with PSE&G because they maintain the lights. Mr. Mele said the plowing is fine it's just where the snow meets up with the curb its all ice and people have to walk in the street. Mayor Cosgrove said that the Manager was taking note of this. Joe Mele said he did not have a problem with the fees and he thinks the system will work well. They are trying to get people to take mass transit, but this may be going backwards.

Emily Angrisani, 12-28 Saddle River Road, said she just moved from Long Island where they paid \$20.00 for two year parking permit. She chose Fair Lawn because of the annual parking rate. She was happy that there would be a monthly cost but it would be even better if the annual cost was less. Mayor Cosgrove explained that the Borough would not be able to do an annual fee because of there would not be enough transactions. Ms. Angrisani wanted to know when these new fees would become effective. Manager Van Kruiningen said not until April 1. Mayor Cosgrove explained that there were steps the Borough had to take before they could implement this system. Manager Van Kruiningen stated that he would have to sign the agreement after the Borough Attorney reviews it. Ms. Angrisani wondered if a bike rack could be installed at the train station. Traffic Safety Officer Franco said there is already a bike rack there.

Mayor Cosgrove asked the Manager to review the proposed fees for anyone that did not hear it at the beginning of this meeting. Manager Van Kruiningen reiterated the fees.

Arnold Spier, 40-04 Terhune Place, thanked the Council and the Police Department for reconsidering the fees. He felt the rates presented tonight are much better than originally proposed. He understood the transaction fee because the company would want to make money. He also wanted to thank Councilmember Swain for reading the e-mails etc. At the train station it is a free for all with no fees. At 6:50 a.m. he was able to get the last spot and that never happens now. He hoped that this system could be implemented as soon as possible. Mayor Cosgrove informed him if they have a consensus tonight, it will be expedited as quickly as possible.

Deputy Mayor Dunay thanked the Borough Manager and the Police Department for working together to get them to a point where everyone was a lot more comfortable with. He thought it is very difficult to predict precisely what is going to happen. He surmises that all the spaces will be taken. On the bus side, he was not as sure; he thought that they should review this in six to ten months to make sure the end result is what they were trying to achieve by filling the lots. Mayor Cosgrove informed him that the price of the bus lot dropped dramatically from \$160 to \$120 for residents. Traffic Safety Officer Franco stated

that residents would be paying the same no matter what commuter lot they park in. He has already received calls from non residents saying they would use the bus lot for a fee of \$3.00 a day. Deputy Mayor Dunay said that sounded good and asked that they review this in six months.

Manager Van Kruijning felt he could give a progress report every three months.

Councilmember Swain apologized to the residents because the Council should have done this first. They should have gotten their input and they should have gone through this whole process and then they would have had a lot more information. Councilmember Swain thought the annual permit was the big issue for the residents.

Councilmember Swain thought they were getting a lot of good ideas that should be considered. They should look into Politt Drive to see if more spots can be made available. They have not really seen the full analysis. She was not comfortable with having to possibly pay \$150 per month. She thought they should have a dual system by having the annual permit for residents like they have been used to and then have the \$3.00 per day for the non residents and that way they could experiment with the new system to see how that works. Then if they look at it in three months and can see about moving the residents on to this new system.

Deputy Mayor Dunay stated that they have confirmed that this would be an automatic recurring fee so in fact a person could register once and have the peace of mind that they are registered for the entire year.

Deputy Mayor Dunay said if they were to do a full analysis or accounting of this system that would probably take time and delay this ordinance. He thought if they have the dual system that would mean that basically every day the Police Department would have to go out and scan the license plates and do a manual walk through. In essence this would end up costing the Borough more money to do this both ways as opposed to saving money. Traffic Safety Officer Franco explained that it would take time. The officer that is assigned to the lots have several duties in his tour and it would take the officer one hour to do the train station, if they split it the time would double leaving them only six hours to do their other duties. Also they would have to check the bus lot every day. They have to remember that there are spaces that are non restricted which means a non resident or resident could park there. It will create a bigger burden by having two systems. If you register once and tell it to recur it is the same as annually because the machine will just take the payment every month.

Councilmember Swain said she personally does not like using a recurring charge because if someone changed jobs and did not need it any longer, they may forget to notify them. Traffic Safety Officer Franco stated that right now if they pay for an annual permit they would not get reimbursed.

Councilmember Swain wondered how it would be different if they went back to the original way for the residents. Traffic Safety Officer Franco explained that the vendor will not accept that and it would not be in line with anything electronic. He commented that monthly bills get sent for credit cards, utility payments, etc. and if a person switches jobs in June their monthly cost would be over however if they paid for an annual permit they would have paid for the entire year.

Deputy Mayor Lefkowitz questioned how the current system works with the annual permit. Traffic Safety Officer Franco said they walk through the parking lot and look at every permit that's hanging to make sure it is resident or nonresident. If the tag is not hanging because it is broken they look in the car and it takes time.

Mayor Cosgrove stated based on Traffic Safety Officer Franco's recommendation, they should move forward with the Borough Manager's proposal for now and revisit it in three months when he will advise them how the system is working and exactly what it is costing. He thought it would be best to move forward with getting the lot back in order.

Deputy Mayor Dunay suggested he would like to go back to an annual pass, but he knows it would be difficult with the vendor. He did not think it made sense to have the Police force essentially doing two things instead of one. He wondered if they could use the electronic method so that the license plated scanned could pick up not only the license plate but also whether it was an annual permit. If they could find such a way they should implement it but until then he was in agreement with the Mayor to move forward with the current proposal.

Councilmember Peluso wanted to make sure that everyone present was heard. There were no further comments.

There was a consensus to move forward with Manager Van Kruijning's proposal with Councilmember Swain dissenting.

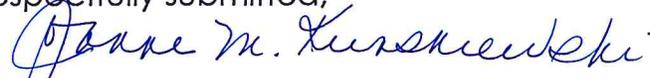
Councilmember Swain said she would like a financial analysis. She would like the costs from the Borough in terms of the Police Department manpower, then the income based on the number of spots that they have. Manager Van Kruijning said on the non restricted space they would not be able to figure

whether it was a resident or nonresident parking there. There are 123 non restricted spaces. Traffic Safety Officer Franco said there is no finite area for residents and non residents. Councilmember Swain thought since they may be paying a transaction fee she would like those figures. Manager Van Kruijning said it was based on the transaction fees but he estimated that it would be between \$100 to \$200 per month.

ADJOURNMENT

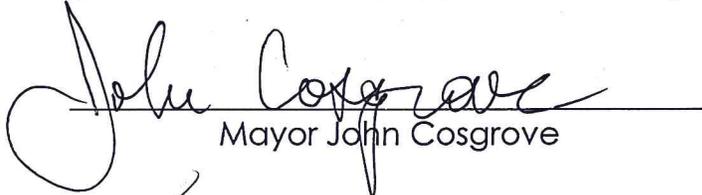
Upon motion by Councilmember Peluso and a second by Deputy Mayor Lefkowitz, the Special Meeting was adjourned to the Regular Meeting at 7:15 p.m.

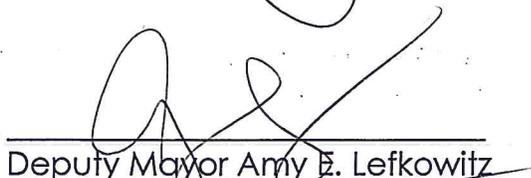
Respectfully submitted,

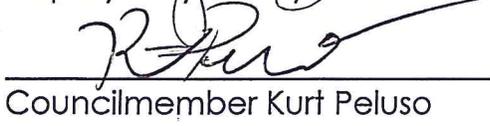


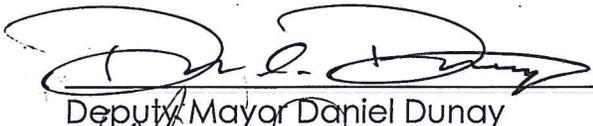
Joanne M. Kwasniewski, RMC/CMC/MMC
Municipal Clerk / Deputy Manager

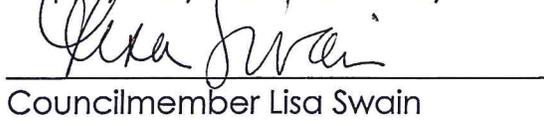
The undersigned have read and approve the foregoing minutes.



Mayor John Cosgrove

Deputy Mayor Amy E. Lefkowitz

Councilmember Kurt Peluso

Deputy Mayor Daniel Dunay

Councilmember Lisa Swain

