

WORK SESSION OF MARCH 3, 2015

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

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

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Van Kruingen and Municipal Clerk/Deputy Manager Kwasniewski.

ABSENT: Attorney Mondello

BERGEN COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL PRESENTATION:

Nancy Mangieri, Director/Health Officer, Deborah Yankow, Greg Condal were present.

Ms. Mangieri explained that the name has been changed to Animal Shelter & Adoption Center. Their mission is adoption of the animals. She provided a handout that was reviewed. They have an animal adoption vehicle which goes out to the communities which is climate controlled, they can bring animals into towns, and they can also use this vehicle for emergency evacuations. This vehicle has been a very effective tool by bringing information into the various towns about responsible pet ownership. Their shelter numbers have never been lower. Ms. Mangieri indicated that they have put a lot of money into modernizing the animal control vehicles.

Ms. Mangieri invited them to visit the shelter in Teterboro which has been renovated. They have ten animal attendants, two veterinarians, two supervising animal attendants, full front end staff that does reception, six animal health technicians, management assistant, coordination evaluator, and ten animal control officers. The shelter is operated with three on site shifts. They have invested money into new x-ray equipment. Also they are doing on site blood monitoring.

Councilmember Peluso arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Deborah Yankow addressed the things that make them different from the other animal control service companies. One of the big issues they deal with at the shelter is the surrender of owned animals. The other animal control companies do not take surrender animals; they only take in stray animals. She explained that the service is extremely valuable to the residents. They take animals if someone has been evicted or lost their home, someone who has passed away, or for a hundred other reasons. All of the animals are behaviorally and

medically evaluated. They make a huge effort to bring the animals back into the public and get them adopted. They will be doing the June Street Fair and the Pet Walk. She would like to continue what the current Animal Control has been doing for the community and provide the residents with the same services. Ms. Yankow has attended Council Meetings listening to the residents' concerns and fears about the shelter and losing Animal Control. The adoption and care of the animals is their primary goal.

Ms. Yankow spoke about the use of the Borough's kennel. They had several meetings to determine its best use. They have a program where they do emergency boarding for animals at no charge which might be worth using that kennel for those animals that they take in but are not for adoption.

They are working on the large feral cat problem in Bergen County. These cats carry disease and they sometimes have tested positive for rabies. They have been working on a trap, neuter and return program. Ms. Yankow explained that they trap and take in the kittens from the colonies. It is a very effective way of eliminating kittens having kittens. They become adoptable little animals.

Ms. Yankow indicated there was a Coyote problem in Bergen County. They have set up traps but are very hard to catch. They are difficult environmentally. There are communities where the parents are concerned because the Coyotes are near schools and playgrounds. Once they are caught it has to be reported to the Fish and Wildlife Division.

Ms. Yankow indicated that if they get the contract, she would have an evening where the residents would come in to meet the Animal Control Officers and find out what they do. She felt it would be a great way to transition the change. They should also meet with the Police Department so they understand how they can reach the Animal Control Officers.

Ms. Mangieri stated that she and the full time veterinarian have worked very hard to bring together the community and bring people to the shelter to adopt an animal. They microchip the animals and they also do free rabies clinics and vaccinations.

Mr. Condal indicated he had provided the Council with a draft contract. They offer a variety of services to health offices. The prices are approved by the Freeholders. The pricing depends on the population and the number of calls they receive. The price is \$1.27 per resident. Ms. Mangieri added that the cost quoted covers everything and there will be no additional costs.

Mr. Condal stated that since 2011 when the 2% cap went into place, they have not had a year with an increase that has been in excess of the 2%.

Manager Van Kruijning questioned the fees regarding the Health Officer. Ms. Mangieri stated Fair Lawn's Health Officer will oversee the Animal Control. Manager Van Kruijning questioned enforcement being the Borough's responsibility.

Mr. Condal stated that the contract they were looking at was a draft. If they move forward with it, there may be some items that have to be adjusted.

Mayor Cosgrove asked what the criteria were for putting animals down. Ms. Yankow stated that every animal would be medically and behaviorally evaluated and then there is a committee that meets to review the evaluation. Unfortunately there are animals that are not adoptable. They do not euthanize for space and having an active adoption program helps prevent that.

Mr. Condal added that one of the line items in their contract is for a behavioral expert that evaluates all of the animals that come in to the shelter. Ms. Yankow said for cats it is a different criteria.

Councilmember Swain wondered what the options would be for the vicious dog that came in and was not adoptable because of its behavior. Ms. Yankow stated that it depends on the degree of behavior. Councilmember Swain wondered if there was a farm or a place where these dogs could be sent. Ms. Yankow stated they have placed dogs in sanctuaries which is expensive and requires a sponsor.

Councilmember Swain wondered what their response time is. Ms. Yankow stated the average time is between 15 and 20 minutes. If there is an emergency situation, they can divert someone to Fair Lawn. Mr. Condal said that everything they do is dispatched through the County Police in Mahwah. The calls would go to the Fair Lawn Police and they will contact them.

Mayor Cosgrove wondered if they were to use Fair Lawn's pound and if a dog were found in Fair Lawn would it be taken there for a few days to see if someone can claim him. He explained that some of Fair Lawn's residents expressed concern that the County would take it away. Ms. Mangieri stated they would promote the program to microchip the dog. The Police Department would be able to swipe it and determine who the dog belongs to. Ms. Mangieri wondered if they would prefer for the animal to stay in Fair Lawn or have it processed through the medical staff. Mayor Cosgrove thought they would probably go through their process. Ms. Mangieri stated there would be someone at the pound to be watching the animals. Ms. Yankow explained they were open seven days a week for people to reclaim their animals.

Councilmember Peluso inquired about wild life and pest control on private property. Ms. Yankow stated they do that all the time.

REVIEW OF TENTATIVE AGENDA:

Municipal Clerk/Deputy Manager Kwasniewski stated that CFO Palermo had asked if they could reorder the agenda so the Budget items could be first. Manager Van Kruiningen stated they could move the items to the beginning of agenda and then continue.

There was a unanimous consensus to move the budget items to the beginning on the agenda.

Municipal Clerk / Deputy Manager Kwasniewski stated that the Mayor wanted to have a vocal performance by the FLHS Vocal Chorus.

There was a unanimous consensus to allow the FLHS Vocal Chorus to perform at a Council meeting.

Municipal Clerk / Deputy Manager Kwasniewski said she would be adding resolutions approving two Massage Establishment licenses and rejecting the bid on the Library Restroom Renovations. The Borough Engineer will be looking at the whole project. Manager Van Kruiningen explained that the bid came in at \$29,000 over what was estimated. The highest bidder was \$125,000 over the Borough Engineer's estimate.

Municipal Clerk / Deputy Manager Kwasniewski informed them they would be getting the February 3rd meeting minutes which will be added to the Agenda.

Municipal Clerk / Deputy Manager Kwasniewski explained that the delivery of packages will now be on Wednesdays and Fridays. If there was something that had to be delivered, they would do it. Mayor Cosgrove suggested if it was an emergency, it could be scanned and e-mailed.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilmember Swain stated that it was Read across America Day today. She had the first grade and they were such a good audience. She chose to read "Oil Spill" which was an environmental type book.

The Weight Loss Challenge had a meeting and everything was coming together. It will just be Fair Lawn and Ridgewood.

The Green Fair will be held the next night and will be a great event.

The ADA Committee will be holding a dance on Friday. The Arts Council is looking for a different date for the mural project.

Councilmember Peluso stated he was reading to third graders and was in his old classroom. He mentioned the questions that the students asked him.

The Pool Committee has been communicating back and forth and it seems that many cannot commit to a date for the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Dunay stated that Property Maintenance meets next week. They are going to have an Open Space Meeting on Monday. They had a Financial Planning meeting last week and had hoped to report back to the Council soon.

Deputy Mayor Lefkowitz spoke about the grant that Health Officer Wagner was submitting. They are going to do a formal ceremony for the medicine drop box. They have been talking about the Street Fair. Manager Van Kruijning stated they have already collected 60 pounds of medication.

Mayor Cosgrove read a book to the fifth grade students about bullying. The kids were very well behaved. One kid asked him why he would give up being the Fire Chief to be the Mayor.

The Shade Tree Committee has worked hard to put together a five year plan. He received an e-mail from Cornell Christensen regarding his tree program going to the Girl Scouts. Manager Van Kruijning stated that the topic is going on the March 17th agenda.

Mayor Cosgrove commented they are trying to get the Recreation Field Committee together for a meeting. Tomorrow night he will be attending the CDBG meeting in the County. He asked that Engineer Garrison send him the items for which the Borough is seeking funding.

CHANGE ORDER - POLICE COMMUNICATION CENTER:

Manager Van Kruijning stated that the Communications Center for the Police Department is a total renovation. Once they started the demo process they found additional expenses that they needed to take on. The ceiling tiles and door have to be fire rated. The additional costs are \$10,000 but not over the capital project's overall budget.

Councilmember Swain wondered if the door was one that had already been purchased. Manager Van Kruijning advised her it was not and explained the other items that needed to be done. Councilmember Swain wondered if there was a way to determine these costs beforehand. Manager Van Kruijning said

absolutely not because they do not know what they will encounter once they open up the walls. Councilmember Swain thought the fire safety items should have been known.

There was a unanimous consensus to approve the change order for the Police Department Communication Center.

CADMUS HOUSE ELECTRIC AND GAS BILLS:

Manager Van Kruijning stated in his review of the budget for the Cadmus House electric, has shown on multiple occasions that the Borough reimbursed the Cadmus House for the gas and electric bill. He would like to add them to the Borough's account.

There was a unanimous consensus to add the Cadmus House to the Borough's account.

SIDEWALKS SADDLE RIVER ROAD:

Manager Van Kruijning stated that he has received e-mails from a resident with concerns about homes along Saddle River Road that do not have sidewalks. The resident informed him that in 2008 as part of the road resurfacing project, he and three of his neighbors had sidewalks installed. There is one house that does not have a sidewalk just north of TD Bank. There are seven houses along Saddle River Road north of Oceanos that also do not have sidewalks. The resident believes this is a hazard and wants the sidewalks installed. Manager Van Kruijning stated that he reviewed this with the Construction Code Official who informed him that it was a requirement for homes that were constructed after 1981. All of these homes were constructed before 1981 so they are not in violation of the Borough ordinance. The cost to put sidewalks in front of all these homes would be approximately \$90,000. That would be an additional assessment to all of these homes because this was considered an improvement to the property. He wanted to know if the Council wanted to move forward to look into this further or leave it the way it is. Manager Van Kruijning said that he had spoken to Traffic Safety Officer Franco who wants to do a pedestrian safety analysis to monitor the area.

Manager Van Kruijning said the other option would be applying for grants.

There was a consensus to have Traffic Safety Officer Franco report back with a pedestrian safety study.

Deputy Mayor Dunay wondered if there were sidewalks on the other side of the street. Manager Van Kruijning said the entire length has sidewalks.

RESOLUTION REGARDING REAUTHORIZING OF TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND:

Manager Van Kruijning said his e-mail and the resolution are self explanatory. Mayor Cosgrove explained that the Transportation Trust Fund will have no funds left by July if it continues its current path. It is a resolution urging the State Government to fund it.

There was a unanimous consensus to pass the resolution reauthorizing the Transportation Trust Fund.

REVISIONS TO BOROUGH CODE RELATING TO DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Manager Van Kruijning stated he was expanding the code to make the Department Heads more accountable. It would be breaking down what their responsibilities should be. Mayor Cosgrove asked him for details. Manager Van Kruijning stated there are many additions. There is a five year plan, performance reports, and eliminating the Chief Administrative Officer title because that is not what a Department Head is.

There was a unanimous consensus to introduce the Ordinance that would relate to the Department Heads.

Municipal Clerk / Deputy Manager Kwasniewski said the ordinance would be introduced at the next meeting.

BARRISTER:

Manager Van Kruijning reported that the Zoning Board had a Special Meeting last week which was devoted to public comment with an unlimited timeframe in regard to the Barrister application. There were twenty two people in audience. Everyone got up to speak and some even multiple times. It went on for four hours. The Board did not render a decision and it has been rescheduled to another Special Meeting in March specifically for Barrister. Mayor Cosgrove said that the Chairman did a very good job running the meeting allowing the residents to speak as much as they wanted. Deputy Mayor Dunay wondered if they had a plan with the latest changes. Manager Van Kruijning informed him there have been no changes since the beginning of the process.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No one wished to be heard.

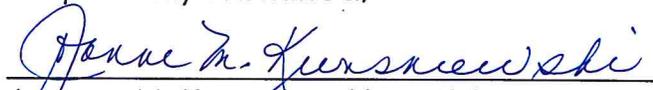
CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION:

The Closed Session was not held because Attorney Mondello was absent due to inclement weather. The Closed Session will be held on March 10, 2015 after the Regular Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

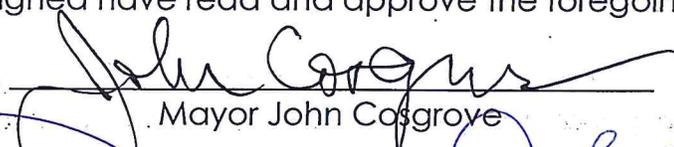
Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Dunay and a second by Councilmember Swain, the Work Session was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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

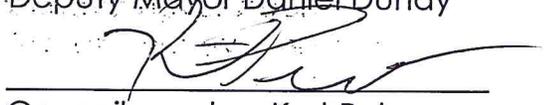
The undersigned have read and approve the foregoing minutes.



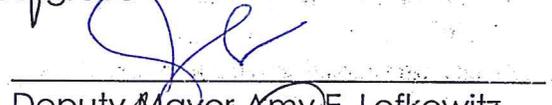
Mayor John Cosgrove



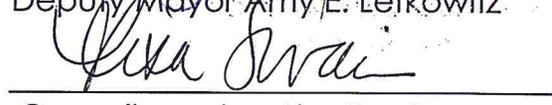
Deputy Mayor Daniel Dunay



Councilmember Kurt Peluso



Deputy Mayor Amy E. Lefkowitz



Councilmember Lisa Swain