

## **WORK SESSION OF JANUARY 24, 2012**

Mayor Baratta called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Acting Manager Metzler, Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski and Attorney Mondello.

### **DEDICATION OF SOMETHING TO BE NAMED AFTER VI ETLER**

Councilmember Swain stated that Vi Etlar, who recently passed away, had a tremendous impact on Fair Lawn. She wanted to find a place to dedicate in her memory. She mentioned this idea to Mrs. Etlar's husband, former Mayor Marty Etlar, who was touched by the suggestion. She suggested adding a second sign over Elmary Place, designating it as "Etlar Way" or a pocket park. Several other suggestions were made including naming one of the new streets in the Fair Lawn Promenade development "Etlar Way". After a short discussion the Council agreed to name the pocket park on Elmary Place after Vi and Marty Etlar.

Acting Manager Metzler stated that if the Council approves, he will ask Parks and Recreation to prepare the sign. A ceremony can be held in the spring after the sign is installed. Mayor Baratta suggested finding out if Mrs. Etlar's birthday is in the spring. If so, they could use that date for the ceremony.

There was consensus that the park near the Etlars' home be named the "Vi and Martin Etlar Park".

### **FARMERS' MARKET**

Jane Spindel, Chairperson of the Garden Committee, was present.

Councilmember Swain stated that the Garden Committee volunteers need help with setting up and breaking down the tent, tables and barricades. She wondered if DPW could assist with this process when they dropped off the barricades and garbage cans. The other equipment is locked in the shipping container. Jim Vander Beck picks up and returns the equipment, which is very heavy. Mr. Vander Beck gets to the market two hours early to begin the set up process. Volunteers work from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on the 16 market dates. It is a large commitment.

Mayor Baratta asked if another group could help out, such as the Chamber of Commerce who has sponsored the market in the past. Ms. Spindel stated that if

another organization would like to pitch in, they could set up a table at the market with information on their organization. The owner of the fruit and nut shop on Broadway pays the Garden Committee a small stipend to sell his items so he does not have to supply an employee. She wanted to try to get something in place for next year.

Acting Manager Metzler stated that if Borough employees helped at 5:00 p.m. overtime expenses would be incurred. Two departments were grossly undermanned and were already incurring overtime expenses to get recycling completed. He cautioned the Council about committing to anything before they review the budget.

Ms. Spindel stated that the market was open June through October. The farmer usually leaves by 4:30 p.m. The Garden Committee could take down their tent at 4:00 p.m. to avoid overtime expenses. They only stay to 5:00 p.m. to be sure everyone has left the parking lot. Acting Manager Metzler stated that there were other issues besides overtime. He reiterated his recommendation that the Council wait until after the budget presentations. Deputy Mayor Cosgrove stated that he will ask the Chamber of Commerce to see if they could provide any assistance. Councilmember Swain will ask the Green Team if they can help. Acting Manager Metzler suggested asking the High School's Interact Club to help with the heavy lifting after school. The Borough might be able to help load the equipment and work out some sort of partnership that way using a Borough vehicle.

Mayor Baratta suggested asking the various organizations for help. Deputy Mayor Trawinski asked if the Judge issues community service for non-violent offenders. Councilmember Swain stated that this would be a great opportunity for any group looking for community service projects. Councilmember Peluso suggested that interested organizations could help out on a rotating basis.

Councilmember Swain explained that people are entering the parking lot through an exit on Fair Lawn Avenue. It is an accident waiting to happen. It would be safer if people entered from Craig Road and left Fair Lawn Avenue as an exit only. Ms. Spindel stated there is a "Do Not Enter" sign at the Fair Lawn Avenue exit, but people ignore it. They need bigger signs. The Committee spoke to Traffic Safety Officer Franco last year and he gave them additional "one way" signs. Acting Manager Metzler stated that the Rescue Squad might have an arrow and traffic signs that clamp onto a traffic cone.

Mayor Baratta suggested they revisit this issue in March after the Council has had an opportunity to reach out to other organizations.

**DISCUSSION OF BIAS INCIDENTS - SUGGESTION TO REESTABLISH INTERFAITH COMMITTEE**

Councilmember Swain stated due to recent bias incidents in nearby towns, she wanted to be sure they were on top on things in Fair Lawn, especially since a letter had been sent to the Fair Lawn Jewish Center. She thought it was time to re-start the Interfaith Committee, since these incidents were not just an affront to Jewish people but to everyone. They must show no tolerance.

Mayor Baratta stated that the County Prosecutor was giving funds to both the Sheriff and County Police to patrol all houses of worship throughout the County, which will be in addition to their own Police presence.

Deputy Mayor Trawinski stated that Steve Kobrin, from Fair Lawn Commons Block Watch was the last active member of the Interfaith Committee. The Committee had a series of meetings with the Police the last time there were significant incidents, but then the Committee lapsed. Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that the County started an Interfaith Committee and everyone moved to that. Acting Manager Metzler stated that Sgt. Schultz was active in that Committee. Deputy Mayor Trawinski suggested the Council sponsor something with the various houses of worship as a community show that there is zero tolerance level for bias crimes and incidents. Deputy Mayor Cosgrove suggested reaching out to Steve Kobrin to see if they could get the Committee back together, including Sgt. Schultz in the process.

Councilmember Swain received an email from her rabbi stressing the importance of "if you see something, say something". People need to be reminded to immediately call the Police if they see something suspicious. Deputy Mayor Trawinski agreed. Mayor Baratta recalled being at an LEPC meeting where OEM Director Marks discussed security evacuation plans for houses of worship that would show how to get the congregation out in case of a fire or emergency. Acting Manager Metzler stated that some of the plan was implemented. He personally did the presentation at the synagogue on Morlot Avenue and Temple Beth Shalom.

Councilmember Swain suggested this be discussed at the next Shared Services meeting so they could learn what the schools are doing to address this issue.

**VOLUNTEER AWARDS NOMINATION**

Councilmember Swain suggested nominating Scott Osback, who was a member of the Planning Board and former Chief of Fire Company #3. Deputy Mayor Cosgrove stated that Mr. Osback and his wife, Laurie, are both involved in many

school and sports organizations. Councilmember Swain wondered if more than one person could be nominated. Deputy Mayor Trawinski believed they could.

There was consensus that Scott and Laurie Osback be nominated for the Bergen County Volunteer Awards Nomination.

### **CHANGING THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT WITH REVENUE GUARD (THIRD PARTY AMBULANCE BILLING)**

Acting Manager Metzler reported that the contract with Revenue Guard has been signed and the program is scheduled to begin on March 1, 2012. The Ambulance Corps members are being trained to fill out the applications electronically. The contract is for a two year period with an option to extend for one year. The vendor is asking that the two year period begin with the start of the program.

Deputy Mayor Trawinski asked for confirmation that the contract clearly specifies they are only looking for reimbursement from people who have insurance. They are not looking for any co-pays or deductibles. Acting Manager Metzler stated that was his understanding. Every issue raised by the Council was reviewed and signed off by the prior Borough Attorney. Deputy Mayor Trawinski confirmed that they would still provide free service for people who do not have insurance. Acting Manager Metzler stated that was correct.

There was consensus that the two year contract with Revenue Guard begin on March 1, 2012 and include the option of a one year extension.

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that she would prepare a resolution amending the term of the contract.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the public.

Deputy Mayor Trawinski asked to add an item in Closed Session under Personnel to discuss the pass practice issue regarding an employee.

### **CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION:**

Upon motion by Councilmember Swain and a second by Deputy Mayor Trawinski, the following closed session resolution was unanimously adopted at 7:30 p.m.

**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 Personnel – Recreational Facility Review Committee, Amending Historical Preservation Commission Appointment, Alternate Public Defender, Clerk/Typist Position, Frank Ryan and Past Practice of a Borough Employee; Pending Litigation – Hiram Taylor and Messina II; and Contract Negotiation – Dube; 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 the 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.

Mayor Baratta reconvened the Work Session at 7:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Swain, the Work Session was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

The undersigned have read and approve the foregoing minutes.

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Mayor Jeanne Baratta

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Deputy Mayor John Cosgrove

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Councilman Kurt Peluso

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Councilwoman Lisa Swain

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Deputy Mayor Ed Trawinski