

WORK SESSION OF MARCH 13, 2012

Mayor Baratta called the meeting to order at 6:35 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 (late).

OVERVIEW OF THE BOROUGH'S EOP PLAN

OEM Coordinator Ira Marks was present. OEM Coordinator Marks stated that they find that they have not had residents taking advantage of the extended hours at the heating/cooling centers. During the regular business hours the Library was used the most although not during the extended hours. Everything went smoothly with no problems.

During the hurricane they were prepared to open a shelter but there was no one to use it. The County shelter had five or six residents. The residents stayed with family or friends.

The biggest problem during the storm was when there was no power for six or seven days. There were some problems with those who have special needs but they were resolved.

Attorney Mondello arrived at 6:40 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Cosgrove felt there should be a place designated as a cooling/heating center because people may go there before they go to a shelter. OEM Coordinator stated that in the past they have used Borough Hall. The schools, the Community Center and Fire Company #2 are designated Red Cross Shelters.

Councilmember Swain felt that since neither personnel nor equipment has to be set up in a central location, they could have a team to check on the special needs people regularly. OEM Coordinator stated that CERT members call people on the list. If residents make them aware of a problem they do their best to help them.

Acting Manager Metzler advised that there has been a major shift on the use of sheltering. OEM is getting a way from individual shelters and is going more toward the mega shelters because it is a better use of resources. On the large scale disasters, the County takes precedent. OEM Coordinator Marks added that they send CERT volunteers to the County to help them operate the shelter.

OEM Director Marks concluded that he is putting together a table top exercise for Fair Lawn CERT.

SAFE BICYCLE RIDING FOR KIDS

Acting Manager Metzler stated that at a previous meeting the Council discussed the Fair Lawn Rotary's Hooray for Helmets Program and had indicated that they wanted to discuss it further. Councilmember Swain thought the Council should get involved. The police during their normal course of duties would observe those bike riders wearing helmets and give them a coupon for an ice cream. If they are not wearing a helmet, they could give them literature on the importance of wearing the helmet.

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski explained the Rotary's program which included getting donations from the ice cream establishments and the police distributing them as they drove around. Mayor Baratta wondered if Rotary would be willing to come to a Council meeting and explain the program. She also mentioned the Bicycle Rodeo.

Councilmember Swain stated that the missing component was the parents. Often the children are wearing helmets and the parents are not. She wondered if that component can be added to the Rotary program.

It was agreed that Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski would ask someone from Rotary to make a presentation.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2012

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated that she had advertised the meetings through the end of March but she needed guidance for the rest of the year. Mayor Baratta asked for comments from the Council. Councilmember Peluso noted that it is a little challenging getting to the meetings at 6:30 p.m. Deputy Mayor Cosgrove added that it is probably hard on a number of people. Deputy Mayor Trawinski suggested since this is all that Councilmember Peluso and Deputy Mayor Cosgrove know, they should go back to the regular schedule for the second quarter, and then revisit it before the third quarter to see how it works out.

Councilmember Swain wondered about the new law. Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski explained that it was not effective yet. The bad part of the legislation is paying to advertise the agenda in a newspaper. They would have to expand the agenda to explain what the resolutions were. Deputy Mayor Trawinski stated this would take a process that functions slowly in comparison to the public sector, and make even slower. They should have provided a

mechanism if there was a municipality that the Court finds is deliberately avoiding transparency all the time. The 48 hour notice will not even allow them to count weekends. Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski said it would be an onerous bill. Deputy Mayor Trawinski said it will cost the Borough more money for the taxpayers. Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski said it would also make things take longer. It seems to be against public policy. Deputy Mayor Trawinski said the purpose and intent is good but the fix is a massive overkill.

Mayor Baratta asked if the Manager or Municipal Clerk had any input on this. Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski stated there will be additional work because there will be extra agendas but it is nice having the one Tuesday off.

There was a consensus to go back to the four meetings a month starting at 7:30 p.m. for the next quarter.

FARMERS' MARKET

Acting Manager Metzler advised that one of the issues that was brought up was signage and cars pulling in the wrong way. He had spoken to Traffic Safety Officer Franco who has made a couple of attempts to have the church put up permanent signs. Mayor Baratta stated they also put the barricades up to make it look like it is one-way. Acting Manager Metzler felt they had taken it as far they can. Deputy Mayor Cosgrove will talk to the Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday to see if they are interested in helping.

WELLNESS SIGN

Acting Manager Metzler said they have to decide where to put the Mayor's Wellness Sign. He recommended on Saddle River Road at the entrance to Glen Rock because the sign there was involved in an accident. Councilmember Swain wondered who that property belonged to. Acting Manager Metzler said it was Fair Lawn's property.

Deputy Mayor Trawinski suggested somewhere on the Municipal front lawn. Acting Manager Metzler recommended putting it by Fire Co. #2 on Route 208. He said they could put one sign on Saddle River Road and the other on Route 208 South by Co. No. 2. Councilmember Swain thought one should be put in front of the Municipal Building. Deputy Mayor Cosgrove stated he would rather have it in front of the Municipal Building than Route 208.

Acting Manager Metzler said they also have a site plan for holiday displays. He wondered about placing it by George Street and Fair Lawn Avenue. They all agreed that would be a good place to put the sign.

Mayor Baratta mentioned the canoe regatta suggesting a meeting with Superintendent Graff to discuss that. Acting Manager Metzler thought they just need a date. Mayor Baratta explained to Councilmember Peluso that the Alliance for Substance Abuse usually partners with them. They also provide breakfast.

SPEED TABLE – BELLAIR AVENUE

Deputy Mayor Cosgrove wondered if the speed table had been looked into on Bellaire Avenue. Acting Manager Metzler advised that he passed it on to Engineering and Traffic Safety Officer Franco to look at. Engineering has a number of significant projects going on at the same time. When they make a determination, one way or another, he will place it on an agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sylvia Zasloff, 9 Maltese Drive, stated that during the storms they had a line off the telephone pole, she tried calling a number in PSE&G to report it and it was busy for hours. It occurred to her that the line was supposed to be for the worst condition but was also the same number to call on her service plan. She wondered if the Borough was aware of that. Mayor Baratta suggested that next time she should call the Fair Lawn Police. Acting Manager Metzler stated that Fair Lawn Police are utilizing the same contact number that she was trying. He explained that whether it is government or corporate world, they establish a guide line that they believe is a reasonable anticipation of the worst case scenario and as they saw in Katrina and Irene, there will always be events that exceed the capability and overwhelm the system. PSE&G will go back and look at what worked and what didn't work and make corrections. Anyone after an event goes back to critique it and enhance what didn't work.

Deputy Mayor Cosgrove recommended that she call the Fair Lawn Police Department or Fire Department so they can give her piece of mind that it was not a live wire. In the Fire Department they have called for hours and hours before getting through to the utility. They cannot physically handle it all. Again, he told her to call the Police or Fire Departments so they could be evacuated if need be.

Councilmember Swain stated that after the storm she met with the President of PSE&G who wanted to meet with local officials to find out what worked and did work. The number one complaint was communication. So PSE&G has heard the concerns and they will have to see if they have made changes.

Deputy Mayor Trawinski said the concerns County wide have been voiced to the utility companies. Under similar circumstances about 10 years ago, JCPL ran

alternate phone numbers. PSE&G is looking at electronic technology where a signal would be sent to tell whether your power is out. The trouble is the cost of it.

Howard Mark, 12-23 Ferry Heights, spoke about bicycle safety and helmets. He took extra steps, so he bought a solar radio. Deputy Mayor Trawinski said the most users in the County were young people coming in to charge their cell phones.

ADJOURNMENT TO COUNCIL MEETING

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Swain, the Work Session was adjourned to the Council Meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

The undersigned have read and approve the foregoing minutes.

Mayor Jeanne Baratta

Deputy Mayor John Cosgrove

Councilman Kurt Peluso

Councilwoman Lisa Swain

Deputy Mayor Ed Trawinski