

Regular Meeting - March 23, 1999

Mayor Ganz opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski read the following statement of compliance:

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, annual notice of all meetings of the Borough of Fair Lawn was published in the "News Beacon" issue of December 17, 1998. Notices were also posted on the Bulletin Board located on the First Floor of the Municipal Building and at the Maurice Pine Free Public Library, copies mailed to the Record, the North Jersey Herald and News, and the Shopper. The Annual Notices identified the meeting location and the time of the Council Meetings and Work Sessions.

PRESENT: Mayor Ganz, Deputy Mayor Ahearn, Councilmembers Dobrow, Tedeschi and Trawinski.

Also present: Borough Manager Sacks, Borough Attorney Lustgarten, Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski and Assistant Municipal Clerk Dugan.

PROCLAMATIONS: NATIONAL COIN WEEK

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski read the National Coin Week proclamation. Mayor Ganz presented the proclamation to David Silver.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Sacks stated there were copies of her report on the table.

ORDINANCES: FIRST READING

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

Ordinance No. 1753-99

"AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN, 1981, BY AMENDING CHAPTER II ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION, SECTION 2-13 ENTITLED "DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION", SUBSECTION 2-13.3 "CHARGES AND FEES"

Upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Tedeschi, Resolution No. 103-99 introducing Ordinance No. 1753-99 was unanimously adopted.

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

Ordinance No. 1754-99

"AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN, 1981, BY AMENDING CHAPTER XXVI, ENTITLED "ZONING", SPECIFICALLY SECTION 26-10, ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT"

Upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Deputy Mayor Ahearn, Resolution No. 104-99 introducing Ordinance No. 1754-99 was unanimously adopted.

ORDINANCES: SECOND READING

Upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Deputy Mayor Ahearn, it was unanimously agreed to read the following ordinance by title and open the time for public hearing.

Ordinance No. 1752-99

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN, 1981, BY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTERS 2-13 "DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION", SUBSECTION 2-13.3 "CHARGES AND FEES" TO ADD A FEE FOR THE USE OF THE FAIR LAWN ARTS CENTER

Ed Reilly, 18 Godwin Avenue, said he was glad to see the use of the building changing. He asked if the building would be open to Fair Lawn residents only.

Manager Sacks stated she did not know if the Recreation Department limits its use to just Fair Lawn residents. She does not see any restrictions.

Councilmember Tedeschi stated that four years ago a study was done that found that 60% of the people using it were Fair Lawn residents.

George Frey, Superintendent of the Parks and Recreation Department stated that a survey was done finding mostly in town groups using the facility echoing Councilmember Tedeschi's comment that 60% of the users are Fair Lawn residents.

Charles Coviello, 5-07 5th Street, a member of the Fair Lawn Homeowners Association said he wondered about the fee structure; about who would be liable and if a performance bond were needed. He also asked who would be liable if there were a fire.

Attorney Lustgarten replied that the users would be liable and that the Borough has asked for Certificates of Insurance.

Deputy Mayor Ahearn stated he was concerned about the intention of the Ordinance. He felt additional language was needed to be sure that the fee was charged for occasional users not for the groups who always use the facility.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Trawinski to table Ordinance No. 1752-99 and a second by Deputy Mayor Ahearn, the ordinance was unanimously tabled.

WALSH POOL

Mayor Ganz opened the time for public discussion on Walsh Pool.

John DeVries, 69 Pomona Avenue, remembered when Walsh Pool was donated by Mrs. Walsh and built with no cost to the town. They have a close neighborhood and would not want to see the pool be taken away for a parking lot for All Sports. He feels the number of children is increasing and would not like to see Walsh Pool closed.

Ray Goetz, 61 Pomona Avenue, came to this area in 1946. He stated that a sports complex is wonderful since there are no places for pick up games. He feels the pool area should be closed, filled with soil and seeded. He requested the Council not to put parking there.

Jane Young, 38 Pomona Avenue, stated that as a kid she skated on the pond. While she would love to see the pool stay, if it is not economically feasible she would like to see a park there. She felt that property values are at stake. She thanked the Council for listening to the residents.

Reina Valensuela, 2 Katherine Avenue, has lived in Fair Lawn since 1978. Her kids enjoy the pool, like the park but like Memorial Pool better. She said she enjoys the park and green areas. She asked to keep the park available for kids to enjoy as a park. She hoped this matter would be considered seriously. She said she will be enjoying Memorial Pool. She asked that it not be turned into a parking lot. Councilmember Tedeschi asked Ms. Valensuela what did she mean when she said a park. Ms. Valensuela replied trees and benches, adults need a place to relax. Councilmember Tedeschi said more passive recreation.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that he has heard four speakers asking the Borough not to pave the area for parking spaces. He wanted to make it clear to the residents that if Walsh Pool closed, the Council never discussed making a parking lot there and would not support the idea.

Councilmember Dobrow stated a parking lot was never discussed by the Council.

Susan Ringressy, 49 Pomona Avenue, said a memo from Manager Sacks mentioned the issue of parking. She felt if the pool cannot remain open it should revert to a pond.

Thomas Maher, 37 Albert Avenue, stated one of the reasons he moved to Fair Lawn was the Columbia Heights area. He envied the people of Fair Lawn because they had such amenities. He asked why do away with the pool. Mayor Ganz replied because several Councils ago a study of the pool was conducted. The head count at one point last year was thirty people. The operating cost is huge. Mr. Maher responded that paying taxes the residents should get something more beside Police and Fire protection. He also said the area cannot be converted because it is a wetland and should be left as it is.

Sue Benjamin, 8 Albert Avenue, has two children and frequents both Memorial Pool and Walsh Pool. Their neighborhood has many children. The school was closed twenty years ago. She is concerned there is not a good place for the children to play having no park or school yard. She said she was happy about the grant for the bike path. She would not like to see Walsh Pool close but

would not oppose it as long as the area continued with recreation facilities. Landscaping should be done along Harristown Road to help reduce the road noise. She is excited about the basketball court that is being added. She said she would like to see a couple pieces of recreation equipment added. Improvements are needed for the parking situation and that it has to be studied. She said she would like to volunteer to help study the site.

Councilmember Trawinski asked Ms. Benjamin her opinion of the Water Technologies proposal. Ms. Benjamin said that for a playground site water does not make sense. It is very expensive and there are safety issues.

Charles Coviello, 5-07 Fifth Street said he was confused about what was going on here. He thought the town learned a lesson that closing anything hurts everyone. He never heard the actual cost to keep the pool going. He felt that there would be competition between Memorial Pool and Walsh Pool.

Maureen Terpstra, 22 Albert Avenue, stated she has lived there for twelve years. She thought the pool was great, there are many families in the area. It would break her heart if the town decided to take away the recreation area. Mayor Ganz reiterated that the Council never discussed doing away with the recreation area. Ms. Terpstra wanted something for the kids added such as a bike path and basketball court. Kids need a safe place to play and not in the streets.

John McCarren, 29 Albert Avenue, stated he does not want to lose the pool. Since 1990 there have been less and less usage of the pool due to the lack of parking. Over the years the cleanliness of the pool has changed. All of these factors add up, correct them and the usage of the pool will go up.

Bob Benjamin, 8 Albert Avenue, felt the Council already knew what they were going to be doing with Walsh Pool because of the budget. Mayor Ganz replied they wanted to hear from the homeowners. Mr. Benjamin asked if there were figures available. Manager Sacks replied that Superintendent of the Parks and Recreation Department had the figures. Superintendent Frey was present and responded that \$22,063.15 was for maintenance indicating that the water fees were not included as the water is from a well. Mr. Benjamin felt that \$22,000 was a small amount. He asked if the pool lost money and how many households were in Fair Lawn. Mayor Ganz replied 11,000 dwellings. Mr. Benjamin stated the pool was a selling point and that it helps property values. He thought it was a mistake to close it. He suggested making it a shallow pond or park.

Linda Renee Demchak, 4 Pomona Avenue, stated she moved here from Lodi and has two older children. She would appreciate having a recreation area put in. Walsh Pool was a place for kids to go to. She does not know what proposals are there, she is only going by what she has seen or heard. She does not know about the cost to taxpayers. Her big concern is that she does not want property values to go down. She said she did not know how many kids use the pool but thought they would use it as a park.

Wendy Dabney, 41 Albert Avenue, read a letter to The Editor of The Shopper News that appeared in the paper last spring.

She then spoke about the low usage of the pool and of the inaccessible parking. She stated that to attract more people to the pool, major improvements would have to be made. She spoke about the parking situation and the need for additional spaces. She would like to see a committee formed to come up with a solution. She does not know if it can be returned to its natural state.

Councilmember Trawinski said that the EPA has allowed the Borough to use Chlorine. The Borough now has a true choice. He also stated that he did not see the memo that the residents were referencing. He wondered what it said.

Manager Sacks read the letter she sent out to the residents on March 1, 1999 in regard to Walsh Pool.

Councilmember Trawinski referred to Ms. Dabney and her letter to the editor where she referenced the landscape plan and the sidewalk plan. Ms. Dabney stated that Harristown Road is not relaxing because there is a lot of noise from the traffic.

Councilmember Trawinski stated if the Council decided to put a plan together, All Sports would be included. Ms. Dabney stated she understood they need to be represented. She wants the Council to look at safety issues. She has heard from different sources that All Sports intention is to take away the pool for parking. Councilmember Trawinski said it takes four or five Councilmembers approval to issue funding for that. Ms. Dabney stated the residents thought there was a good faith agreement with the town, there being a moral issue and the area should be considered.

Councilmember Dobrow stated she wanted to assure everyone that it will be a place for the residents.

Charles Coviello felt that the Borough needs to pull various groups together to see what their needs are.

Mayor Ganz asked Manager Sacks to leave a sign up sheet on the table so that the residents can be notified by mail.

Deputy Mayor Ahearn said he wanted to assure the residents that what they heard was not accurate. They have only considered how to get the best use of the area. The Council's goal is to make the area desirable. Property values are a major concern. The Borough has to pay special attention to an area that has been neglected.

Mayor Ganz stated there is no ideal solution. What the Council heard is that they want it to stay as a recreation center. The Council needs to get feedback and a better sense of direction. It is improbable that the pool would close this summer. He said it would not be decided until the budget is done.

RESOLUTIONS BY CONSENT #7-99

Upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Dobrow, Consent Agenda #7-99 containing the following items were unanimously adopted.

a. Resol. #106-99 Approval of Minutes:

Work Session 2/2/99

Closed Session 2/2/99

Regular Meeting 2/9/99

Closed Session 2/9/99

b. Resol. #107-99 Refund of Overpayment of Taxes

c. Resol. #108-99 Transfer of Funds

d. Resol. #109-99 Emergency Temporary Appropriation

e. Resol. #110-99 Approval of Raffles & Bingo:

Congregation B'nai Israel off-premise mdse.(4/18/99) Congregation B'nai Israel off-premise mdse.(4/25/99)
Congregation B'nai Israel off-premise 50/50 Fair Lawn High School PTA off-premise mdse.

Warren Point PTA on-premise 50/50

Forrest School PTA off-premise mdse.

f. Resol. #111-99 Annual Sale of Delinquent Taxes

g. Resol. #112-99 Indemnification of Board of Education for use of School Buses

h. Resol. #113-99 Interlocal Services Agreement with Ridgewood

i. Resol. #114-99 Authorizing Execution of Lease Agreement - Fair Lawn All Sports Association

j. Resol. #115-99 Central Bergen Mutual Fire Association Agreement

k. Resol. #116-99 Appointments to Cable Television Board

MOTION TO RESCIND RESOLUTION No. 87-99 AMENDING BOROUGH MANAGER'S CONTRACT

Upon motion by Councilmember Tedeschi and a second by Councilmember Trawinski, the Motion to rescind Resolution No. 87-99 was considered.

Councilmember Tedeschi stated he was not present at the February 23, 1999 Council Meeting when this resolution was adopted. He was now prepared to discuss this further. It has been misrepresented and misunderstood according to the Minutes of the February 23, 1999 meeting, the Closed Session Minutes of April 28, 1998 and May 8, 1998. He agreed with Councilmember Trawinski's recollection of the meetings and felt that it was sprung on them.

Within that discussion, Councilmember Trawinski asked to review the minutes. He said to take a look at the May 8, 1998 minutes, a portion of which states the difference between single and family coverage was \$8,500.00. The Council was prepared to offer \$90,000 plus \$8,500, plus a car and single health coverage. The Council discussed that whomever they hire the maximum salary would be \$92,500 with single health coverage. On May 8, 1998, Mr. Ganz was not present when the benefits discussion took place. He said this resolution was approved without looking at the minutes of these meetings. He said that Manager Sacks stated she was induced, there was no reference that Manager Sacks was induced. The Council paid the \$2,500 tax liability with the gross pay being \$98,000. There is no other agreement.

Deputy Mayor Ahearn said he wanted to know whether or not the attempt was to send a message to the labor units. He felt that based on the discussion, he had to acknowledge, he did not get the whole story. He found it distasteful that the Council even went down this road. The Municipal Manager should have full family benefits regardless. He said he was not changing his mind.

Councilmember Tedeschi asked that the Council honor what was done in the Closed Session.

Councilmember Trawinski stated they should stop tip toeing around. He said he will honor not to discuss it here as it was already laid out in the minutes. The problem goes beyond the increase. The other Borough employees received a 3.5% raise, the Borough Manager's net effect after 7 or 8 months is 9.5% without a review. He feels that is unconscionable.

Manager Sacks stated certain conditions were promised and in the new 1999 budget these conditions would be corrected. She said the others did recall the events in the same way. She stated she did not see it as an increase, just the Council keeping their word.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski's recollection was the same as his. No one else heard it or wanted to hear the minutes of April 23 or May 8 meeting accurately. In regard to the bargaining units that would have put the Manager in an unethical position. She would have directly benefitted for failing to negotiate the single health coverage into their contracts.

Manager Sacks stated that the outcome was not the issue.

Councilmember Tedeschi stated that they have a contract bound by law. He asked if there was a clause in the contract that did not appear in the Minutes. He also stated that Manager Sacks wrote that resolution to correct the inequalities that occurred. He said Manager Sack's salary, after 8 months, was more than Mr. Kendall's after four years. He said she knew before she got hired that she would be getting single coverage. This was not made up in negotiations with Mrs.Sacks.

Councilmember Trawinski stated there were other points put in her contract that she negotiated, she crossed every t and dotted every i.

Deputy Mayor Ahearn stated that they can go back and forth on this issue. He did not have the benefit of being at all of these meetings. He found this a nasty situation.

Councilmember Tedeschi stated this amazed him. The contract was negotiated, renegotiated with Attorney Lustgarten and they agreements were signed. He said Deputy Mayor Ahearn stated he was the new guy, he has the obligation to read these minutes if he did not have the history. He also stated that Manager Sacks voluntarily gave up the benefit. The issue is her salary was \$90,000 and was increased to \$98,500 which does not sound voluntary. He said the Borough is paying it twice and it should be considered a salary increase.

Manager Sacks stated that one of the items she negotiated was the cellphone. She already had one and felt it was no use to go out and get another one.

Councilmember Trawinski disagreed with her recollection. The Council was not going to give her a cellphone. She said she had a cellphone and would like to continue having one. The Council had a substantial discussion with CFO Eccleston who insisted on putting a cap in her contract of \$35 per month. Councilmember Trawinski's point was how the details were worked out and if the benefits were an issue there would have been a clause.

Hearing no further discussion, Resolution to rescind Resolution No. 87-99 was not passed. Mayor Ganz and Councilmember Dobrow voted no, Deputy Mayor Ahearn abstained; Councilmembers Tedeschi and Trawinski voted yes.

RESOLUTION #117-99- PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - BOND COUNSEL

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Ahearn and a second by Councilmember Dobrow, Resolution No. 117-99 was considered.

Deputy Mayor Ahearn stated that the Borough was currently represented by a large New York firm. He wanted to keep it in New Jersey. He feels it is an outstanding proposal. Councilmember Tedeschi asked if the rate was lower. Mayor Ganz explained that it was a high quality firm. Deputy Mayor Ahearn said the fees were very modest.

Councilmember Trawinski stated he did not support this Resolution because of the process. It was taken off the Work Session Agenda three years ago because CFO Eccleston was satisfied with their work. He was concerned about changing the firm. He knows very well that these firms can pitch low rates to get in the door. Any change should be made after thoughtful consideration to look for quality service with reduced cost.

Manager Sacks stated she spoke with CFO Eccleston, who indicated he had no problem with this change.

Deputy Mayor Ahearn asked if any bids were ever taken on this matter.

Attorney Lustgarten stated from his recollection bids were only received on Engineering and Architectural services and that under the law the Borough takes proposals.

Hearing no further discussion, Resolution No. 117-99 was adopted with Councilmember Trawinski dissenting.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Ed Reilly, 18 Godwin Avenue was appalled with how the last resolution was done. At the Work Session there was a report from the Mental Health center regarding their budget cuts. He spoke about them hiring a Russian psychologist and about them spending money on people brought into this country by a sponsor. He asked if the sponsor was responsible for their well being.

Councilmember Trawinski stated he was the prime architect of that budget cut. He felt the money should be spent on people in Fair Lawn having been assured that it will be, he supported restoring the cut.

Reina Valenzuela, 2 Katherine Avenue, welcomed the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. She wondered if there was any way of tying in the Historical marker Lackland Storage is investigating with Fair Lawn's 75th Anniversary celebration. Mayor Ganz stated he would pass it on to John Cosgrove who is the Chairperson of the Anniversary Committee.

Ms. Valenzuela stated in response to what Mr. Reilly mentioned that the sponsor is responsible for ten years. She asked Manager Sacks the size of her family. Manager Sacks replied she had a family of four. Ms. Valenzuela said to prevent what happened, in the future the minutes should be read and they should stay with contract.

Councilmember Tedeschi stated the reason it had to be done in public was there was no other place to discuss it.

Charles Coviello, 5-07 Fifth Street and a member of the Fair Lawn Homeowners Association asked why the public had to sit through this. Politics should be moved aside. He spoke about the Manager's Report and the removal of stumps. He talked about the Water Division and the new technology. He asked about the Water Department marking tree sites. Manager Sacks replied that the meters become defective, the old meters get fixed. The Engineer is looking into computer call up. She said she will check on the trees. Water Department marks out water lines. Mayor Ganz stated it was similar to gas mark outs.

Mr. Coviello talked about the Work Session where Councilmember Tedeschi reserved comment. He asked if the public was allowed to look at statement. Attorney Lustgarten stated the public is entitled to look at the statements. It is in the Borough's budget. Manager Sacks stated that in some cases she does the Purchase Orders. Mr. Coviello asked about the River Road Improvement Committee and if they were non-profit and if their budget was on display at the Library. Councilmember Trawinski stated their budget was public.

Mr. Coviello spoke about the CCO and smoke detectors. Attorney Lustgarten stated it is preempted by the State and the CCO is done with a transfer of title. Mr. Coviello also stated that he was amazed that the Borough Manager wrote her own contract. Attorney Lustgarten stated that the contract he drafted.

Councilmember Tedeschi asked who wrote the Resolution. Attorney Lustgarten stated he was sick that week when the Manager asked him about the resolution. Mr. Coviello asked him if he did this for other Managers. Attorney Lustgarten replied that it was not out of the ordinary.

Mr. Coviello spoke about the fire apparatus going to Paterson or Elmwood Park. Deputy Mayor Ahearn said it was mutual aid.

Ed Reilly, said he took a visitor to Fair Lawn Commons and was shocked to see water and gas units on the outside of the buildings. He hopes it will be covered up. Mayor Ganz passed it on to the Borough Manager. Deputy Mayor Ahearn said the Borough can deal with in terms of the ordinance that states the utilities have to be screened. Councilmember Trawinski stated screening of rooftops has always been taken into consideration.

Wendy Dabney, 41 Albert Avenue, spoke about the Shade Tree Department pruning of trees in the Columbia Heights section. She stated that the trees which have fallen in the night are the ones they are removing the stumps from. She said she was putting a plug in to get more trees. Feels that the Borough should keep up with what is lost. She suggested that the Borough should offer first time residents an ornamental tree.

Manager Sacks stated she had just signed a Purchase Order for ornamental trees that will be placed all over town. Ms. Dabney stated she was under the impression that the trees would be placed in other areas. She asked if the new tree ordinance will protect the tree at the Library since it is an unusual specimen and has value. Attorney Lustgarten stated that the Ordinance did not pertain to that tree. Councilmember Tedeschi stated that every attempt will be made to save the tree.

Councilmember Trawinski stated that the Borough needs help in locating areas where to plant new trees. He said the town is keeping pace with what has been removed or lost. Ms. Dabney stated the Borough should go door to door to inform the residents of what is available and tell people how to get it. She asked if there was any truth to the rumor about using the garden area by

Topps Cleaners for parking. Mayor Ganz replied that parking is a major concern for the Borough.

There being no additional comments from the public, upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Tedeschi, the time for public comments was unanimously closed.

Adjournment to Work Session:

Upon motion by Councilmember Trawinski and a second by Councilmember Tedeschi, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn to the Work Session at 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn B. Dugan, RMC

Assistant Municipal Clerk

Work Session - March 23, 1999

Mayor Ganz reconvened the meeting at 11:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Ganz, Deputy Mayor Ahearn, Councilmembers Dobrow, Tedeschi and Trawinski.

Also present: Manager Sacks, Municipal Clerk Kwasniewski and Attorney Lustgarten.

Ambulance Corps. - John Steffanie, Ira Marks, Gail Cebular, Alex Tunnard, Dave Epstein were present. Mr. Steffanie advised that the Ambulance Corps. faces major renovation of the building and replacing three ambulances in the next five years. They have received a proposal from US Sprint of \$1,000 a month. They will meet with the Corps. in April to discuss the proposal. Deputy Mayor Ahearn said that Sprint's proposal was too low.

Two of the ambulances are old. Down time and maintenance have started to be a problem. Mr. Epstein advised they purchased two ambulances in 1985 and donated them to the Borough. In 1992 and 1993 they put a new chassis on ambulances. In 1997 they purchased a new ambulance. They are one of the busiest towns in north Jersey. The 1992 and 1993 ambulances are due for replacement. They cannot do the renovation and purchase two ambulances. They are asking the Borough for help.

Ms. Cebular noted that they advised the Council in 1996 that they were going to need help from the Borough. She submitted letters previously sent to the Mayor and Council. Mr. Epstein advised that there has always been a conflict among members on whether to ask for more from the Borough. The members want the Ambulance Corps. to be independent. Unfortunately at this point they need the renovations and the ambulance.

Mr. Marks noted that as LEPC president the Manager asked him to see how they could improve daytime ambulance service in the Borough. He appointed a subcommittee that Bill Davidson heads. The subcommittee will be making recommendations on what the Ambulance Corps. can do to better itself, what the Borough can do to help and what industry can do to help. Merk-Medco is now supplying two employees for daytime service. Over the past several months daytime service has improved so much that the Ambulance Corps. is serving other towns. The subcommittee has investigated third-party billing, but their findings are negative. He asked that the Council wait for their report before making any decision.

Mayor Ganz felt third-party billing is a critical component that the Council wants explored. Mr. Marks pointed out that third-party billing will cut donations drastically. Mayor Ganz asked Ms. Cebular to provide their donations for the past five years. Mr. Epstein advised that the donations are used to purchase first aid supplies and equipment, building maintenance, training and uniforms. Mr. Steffanie noted that once the Borough goes to third-party billing, the Ambulance Corps. would no longer be a volunteer corps. Once they are non volunteer, they cannot go back to being a volunteer corps. In addition, two EMT's would be required for every call. Now they run without two.

Mr. Marks indicated that there are several legal questions that is why he recommended waiting for the report. The Borough has to supply medical emergency services to its residents and the people in town. The Ambulance Corps. has been doing a very good job for fifty years. They now need help.

Deputy Mayor Ahearn expressed concern that the building needs renovations because the Borough is doing things for other towns. The ambulance Corps. has made decisions without consulting the Council. Councilmember Trawinski felt the building needed upgrading but maybe not right now. Mayor Ganz noted that the Council is concerned about the money going in and going out. He suggested that the Ambulance Corps. consult with some people who are knowledgeable on towers and how much a reasonable income should be. They have made representations about things that can or cannot be done legally but he wanted an opinion from

Attorney Lustgarten before making a decision. He was prepared to wait for the information on third-party billing before making a decision.

Councilmember Tedeschi noted that last year there was a report that they contemplated a small renovation for storage. Now there are estimates of over \$200,000. He suggested that they speak to either himself or Councilmember Dobrow about Community Development grants to make ADA modifications. The cost of the building would be spread over twenty years while the ambulance would have to be paid for in one year.

Mayor Ganz felt they should stagger the purchase of the ambulances. Deputy Mayor Ahearn felt they should negotiate the building renovation with Sprint. He was willing to help the Ambulance Corps. in the negotiations. Attorney Lustgarten will work with Deputy Mayor Ahearn and the Ambulance Corps.

Mr. Marks noted that the agreement with Hawthorne was negotiated with the former Manager. The discussions with the other towns are based on that agreement but before anything is finalized it will come back to the Council. Mayor Ganz noted the major issue is whether they can ask the residents to support other towns without those towns contributing to the Borough. Mr. Marks noted that this is a regional problem and the subcommittee is looking at things to recommend that the County can do to resolve the problem. It takes six months for the ambulance to be built and delivered. The least expensive way to acquire the ambulance is through the Borough.

George Street Parking Lot - Manager Sacks advised that change order will be \$1100 for the taller bushes at the George Street parking lot. The consensus was to approve the taller bushes.

ADJOURNMENT - Upon motion of Deputy Mayor Ahearn and a second by Councilmember Trawinski, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne M. Kwasniewski, RMC/CMC/AEE

Municipal Clerk