

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG

MINUTES

JANUARY 8, 2004

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Ellis called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM and made the following statement: Under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting was given by way of annual notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, Messenger-Gazette and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and SILENT PRAYER

ROLL CALL

Black [P] Franklin [P] Otto [P] Mobus [P] Joren [P] Harding [P]

Also present was Borough Attorney Albert Cruz, Acting Administrator/Clerk Lauren Fellin, Borough Engineer Richard Moody, and Deputy Borough Clerk Michelle DeRocco.

There were 25 members of the public present

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OFFICE

Richard M. Sasso - Municipal Court Judge

As his wife Brenda stood by his side and parents Michael and Connie Sasso held the Bible, Richard Sasso was sworn in as the Municipal Court Judge by former Municipal Court Judge and now Superior Court Judge for Somerset County, Frank Gasiorowski. The Governing Body welcomed Judge Sasso with a handshake. The Honorable Judge Gasiorowski spoke of his tenure as Municipal Judge and congratulated the Mayor and Council on their foresight on the appointment of Judge Sasso

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1 Administration & Finance

Councilman Franklin announced that the Personnel Training sessions are scheduled for January 16th and said the Finance Committee will be meeting next week to discuss personnel matters and options for the new year. He reported that the Deer Management program is progressing well, however, there are a few things that still need to be ironed out.

2. Police

Councilman Black said he had nothing to report, however, announced that they will be revisiting the issue of speed limits on Valley Road and Mountain Boulevard.

3. Public Works

Councilman Mobus announced that the Public Works Committee met this afternoon and will again be meeting on Monday.

4. Buildings and Public Affairs

Public Affairs

Councilman Harding had nothing to report.

Buildings

Councilman Otto said this committee has not yet met, however, he will be meeting with Councilman Mobus to bring him up to date which will help in making a smooth transition.

5. Fire

Councilman Harding said he attended the Fire Department's reorganization meeting on Monday. He said they did discuss the budget and personnel and will be meeting with Councilman Otto next week so he can be brought up to date.

6 Laws/Ordinances, and Recreation

Councilwoman Joren said she is still working on the schedule with Councilman Otto and announced that the Recreation Committee meeting for this month has been cancelled.

REPORTS - OTHER:

7. Engineer

Borough Engineer Richard Moody said he attended the Planning Board reorganization meeting last night. He reported that a draft of the Land Use has been given to Heyer & Gruel and then will go to the Laws and Ordinances Committee. He said Crestwood Road is paved and there is a resolution on the agenda this evening which will authorize Watchung to accept responsibility for snow and ice maintenance. Attorney Cruz mentioned that any damage done will be the responsibility of the developer

8. Attorney

Mr. Cruz had nothing to report.

9. Administrator

Mrs. Fellin reported that she attended her first JIF meeting and found it to be very interesting and educational. She said anyone who is interested in attending can do so. Mayor Ellis added that there is another meeting scheduled for January 16th and invited the Council. Mrs. Fellin also announced that there will be an insurance workshop meeting on January 22nd at 7:00 PM, prior to the scheduled Council meeting. She said the Hurley Agency will be doing a presentation on what the insurance market looks like today

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

The Consent Agenda listed below, with the exception of #2 was unanimously accepted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Franklin. Mayor Ellis asked that #2 be pulled and noted that the amount of surplus returned to the Borough was \$439. not \$19,379. as listed. He explained that the larger amount was a cumulative total that was being distributed among all of the towns involved.

Approval of the following Council minutes:

September 11, 2003
September 11, 2003 and September 25, 2003 - Executive Sessions

Approval of the following Borough Reports:

Environmental Commission Minutes - October 28, 2003
Board of Health Minutes - September 17, 2003
Police Report - November, 2003
Building Department Report - November, 2003
Planning Board Minutes - December 16, 2003

- #1- Elizabethtown Water Company 12/15/03 Announcing the re-scheduling of the Public Hearing of proposed rate revision to January 5, 2004 c/ Mayor and Council W. Hance, L. Fellin
- #2- NJ Intergovernmental Ins. Fund 12/16/03 Presenting the return of surplus from its workers compensation insurance fund to the Borough of Watchung, \$19,379 c/ Mayor and Council, L. Fellin
- #3- State of NJ; D.E.P. 12/16/03 Deer Management Permit #045 approval c/ Mayor and Council, A. Cruz
- #4- Borough of North Plainfield 12/17/03 Resolution supporting school districts to qualify for assistance under the NJ Shade Tree & Community Forestry Assistance Act c/ Mayor and Council, L. Fellin
- #5- Borough of North Plainfield 12/17/03 Resolution supporting the amendment of the Help America Vote Act c/ Mayor and Council, L. Fellin
- #6- Township of Hillsborough 12/19/03 Resolution supporting the prohibition of punitive
Borough of Watchung

damage awards against municipalities and their employees c: Mayor and Council,
L. Fellin

- #7- Township of Mount Holly 12/24/03 Resolution opposing the State's actions concerning the "Property Tax Reimbursement Program" c: Mayor and Council, L. Fellin
- #8- Borough of Bernardsville 12/24/03 Resolution supporting the prohibition of punitive damage awards against municipalities and their employees c: Mayor and Council, L. Fellin
- #9 - Township of Lumberton 1/2/04 Resolution supporting an amendment to the State's budget to include a property tax relief for qualifying senior citizens c: Mayor and Council

CONSENT AGENDA:

The resolutions listed below were adopted on roll call following a motion by Councilman Black and a second by Councilman Mobus, with all voting in favor

- R2:1/08/04 Awarding contract to Commerce National Risk Control Services for CDL Random Drug and Alcohol Testing
- R3: Authorizing the execution of agreement for the services of James. F. Hurley Insurance Agency Corp As professional risk management consultants
- R4: Awarding professional services contract to Heyer, Gruel & Associates for Zoning Revisions
- R5: Authorize Tax Appeal Stipulation of Settlement adjustment - 110 Acorn Road, Block 1201, Lot 2.07
- R6: Authorize Tax Appeal Stipulation of Settlement -277 Old Somerset Road, Block 7003, Lot 5.01
- R7: Authorize Tax Appeal Stipulation of Settlement - Rt. 22, Block 5703, Lot 2.06
- R8: Authorizing the Borough of Watchung to accept responsibility for snow and ice control maintenance - Block 4304, Lot 17

NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Introduction of Ordinance OR:04/01 entitled "AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING A REVISION AND CODIFICATION OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY". Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be given its first reading. So ordered. Councilwoman Joren moved the ordinance be adopted on first reading and the Clerk be directed to publish the ordinance and notice of public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Franklin and unanimously carried on roll call. Public hearing will be held on January 22nd.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions listed below were unanimously adopted on roll call with offering and seconding as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| R1:1/8/04 | Introduction of OR:04/01 Revision and codification of the ordinances of the Borough of Watchung | <u>Offered</u>
Joren | <u>Second</u>
Franklin |
|-----------|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|

Attorney Albert Cruz noted the appointment of Judge Sasso must be done by resolution.

It was moved by Otto, seconded by Mobus and carried, that the Mayor's appointment of Richard M Sasso as Municipal Court Judge, be and is hereby approved.

PUBLIC PORTION

Marilyn Goldstein, Hill Hollow Road, asked if the Borough will do anything to warn non-residents about the gunshots as there are many visitors to the Borough at the shopping centers. Mayor Ellis said he would need a suggestion on a good way to advertise that. Councilman Franklin explained that the sites are not located near shopping areas.

Ilse Belcher, Valley Road, said she was concerned about the deer hunt and said that the deer do not ruin the environment, people do. She said 5 signs were stolen, all of them being red (anti-hunt) signs and feels it is funny that the green (pro-hunt) ones are still up. She said she does not want her tax money paying for this. Mrs. Belcher also voiced her concerns regarding the speed limit on Valley Road and feels the whole town should be changed to 30 miles per hour

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair.

The next scheduled meeting will be held at 7:30 P.M. on January 22, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle DeRocco
Deputy Borough Clerk