

Following each meeting, the Clerk's Office will post a short synopsis of the highlights for the convenience of residents who may be interested. This should not, in any way, shape or form be used as the official minutes of the meeting.

Meeting in Review

11/10/11

This meeting began with a Special Presentation to Cindy Van Houtte, Charlene Reilly, and Kathleen Goodling, by the Watchung Police Department for their "good samaritan" efforts. These three citizens observed a gentleman who collapsed while walking around Watchung Lake, and all performed CPR and other life saving measures that undoubtedly resulted in saving his life. Looking very healthy, Mr. Riccardi was present and personally thanked the ladies. In addition to a gift from the Watchung PBA, the Governing Body presented certificates of appreciation.

Mayor Mobus read Resolution R2: Commending the Borough's Emergency Service Teams for their outstanding service during and after the Hurricane Irene and the October snow events. On hand to receive a framed resolution on behalf of their respective departments were Chief Wenzel, Police Department; Robert Burns, Public Works Department; Tom Carlucci, Fire Department; Robert Winston, Rescue Squad; and Gary Greves, for the Emergency Management Team.

**Councilwoman Joren noted the receipt of a Body Armor Grant on the agenda and deferred to Chief Wenzel for his report. Chief Wenzel praised the efforts of Lt. Joe Cina who was at the helm during Hurricane Irene, and instrumental during the October snow event. Chief Wenzel thanked the Mayor and Council for their support.

**Councilman Nehls noted two bond ordinances on the agenda, explaining one is for the purchase of a new dump truck for Public Works, and the other will fund the engineering and design services for the sanitary sewer project for a section of Johnston Drive. Councilman Nehls reported the stormwater improvements for the Mountain Drive area are moving forward. He said the Borough has been "slammed" by the two unexpected weather events, and thanked the residents for their patience while the Department gets around to picking up their branches. He read a letter from resident Sue Forton, commending Andy Baldassarre for his assistance during the storm. He announced there is a lot of nice mulch on Ridge Road and said interested residents can help themselves. Councilman Nehls said there will be an informal meeting on November 30th, beginning at 7:00 pm, for anyone who is interested in reviewing the County's plans for Mountain Boulevard. He said another resident meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 29th, to discuss the sanitary sewer projects for portions of Johnston Drive and Valley Drive. In regard to Public Affairs, Councilman Nehls announced the Board of Health will be meeting on November 16th, and the Environmental Commission on November 28th and said they are trying to organize a "shredding" event in Watchung.

**Councilwoman Cassidy thanked the residents for their support on Election Day. She reported the aerators will be removed from the lakes for the winter months. She thanked the staff for their efforts during the past two storms, and explained that due to the on-going storm clean-up, Buildings and Grounds who were going to paint the interior of the Texier House will no longer have the time to do so, therefore, Bob Burns will be getting some quotes. Councilwoman Cassidy announced that a student from the High School has volunteered to video-interview some of the older residents who have memories of Watchung's history for the Historical Committee. She said this will be a terrific project.

**Councilman Black reiterated that enough can not be expressed about our volunteer's efforts throughout both storms. He congratulated Councilwoman Cassidy on her successful election to the Council.

**Councilman Pote said the Laws and Ordinance Committee is reviewing the dog ordinance regulations, and will be meeting on November 15th. He said the public hearing and adoption of the revised tree ordinance is on tonight's agenda, and that he will be scheduling a meeting of the Library Study Advisory Committee. He announced the Veteran's Day Ceremony will be held Friday, November 11th, beginning at 9:30 am, and that he will be filling in for Councilman Franklin.

**Administrator Atkins said there is a resolution on the agenda authorizing the transfer of monies in the budget, which is allowed by statute after November 1st. He noted the transfer of \$105,633. into the sewer account raises some issues that he will discuss with CFO Bill Hance prior to its release. He said he attended a FEMA meeting today with Bob Burns, Bruce Egnasko, Gary Greves, and Maria Fittapaldi, and reimbursement procedures for Hurricane Irene were discussed. Mr. Atkins also noted two personnel appointments on tonight's agenda, Joe Marretta as Electrical Sub-Code Official, and Ray Murray as Tax Collector.

**Mayor Mobus said he plans to do a resolution in support of Governor Christie's denouncement of JCP&L's response to the State's need for assistance during the October snow event. He said their restoration efforts were ridiculous during Hurricane Irene and worse during this snow event. He asked Administrator Atkins if the Governing Body would have a copy of the preliminary budget in January, because he does not want to wait until March to find out that we may be short. Mr. Atkins assured him the budget process will be underway shortly. Mayor Mobus announced he met with Mayor Giordano to discuss stormwater improvements to Mountain Drive and reported Mayor Giordano is in support of what the engineers in both towns have recommended - the installation of 350' of stormwater pipe connecting to North Plainfield's system. Mayor Mobus said Mayor Giordano needs to have his governing body approve it and then we will get moving on it quickly. He said this is best for both towns. Mayor Mobus commended Deputy Adam Wexler for the wonderful job he did coordinating Emergency Management efforts while Gary Greves was out of town during the October snow event. He said it speaks volumes of the training program when the second in command can come in and take over. He commended Fire Chief Skip Bell who took off several days from his paying job to assist residents. Mayor Mobus commended all paid and unpaid personnel for their efforts and said he never once had to tell residents "I don't know" as he was always informed with up-to-date information. He also commended and thanked Administrative Assistants Linda Monetti and Maria Fittipaldi, who for almost the whole week, patiently answered desperate phone calls from residents who were without power. They did an outstanding job. Mayor Mobus noted the flyers that were handed out earlier, announcing that Somerset County is collecting donations for Thanksgiving and that \$40.00 can feed a needy family.

**Representing the Rescue Squad, Vice President Don Monetti thanked the Fire Department for the invitation to the pig roast, announced the 2012 officers, and reported the statistics for the month that included 9 calls for EMS, in addition to the Squad being integrally involved in keeping the residents and commuters of Watchung safe during the deadly weekend storm on October 29th and 30th. Mr. Monetti outlined many of the situations the Squad tended to, including the fatal motor vehicle accident. Throughout this storm, the Squad kept both vehicles manned, and collaborated with the Fire Department to conduct welfare checks on residents. He said the Squad's increasing collaborative relationship with the Fire Department was paramount as both volunteer agencies provided the highest level

of regard and care to the Borough; and that they are extremely proud and honored to serve with all the members of the Borough's emergency service organizations.

- A Resolution authorizing the transfer of a Performance Guarantee from Carneiro to Patel for property located at 976 Valley Road, was approved
- A Resolution supporting S-3062 - "Telecommunications - Cable Deregulation Ensuring Consumer Protection Act," was approved
- A Resolution authorizing the appointment of Joe Marretta as Electrical Sub-code Official, was approved
- A Resolution authorizing an agreement with NJ DOT for the Rt. 22 ITS Closed Loop Extension, was approved
- A Resolution authorizing the insertion of a special item of revenue into the budget - Body Armor Grant / \$2,971.02, was approved
- A Resolution to authorize 2011 Budget transfers, was approved
- A Resolution authorizing an amendment to the 2011 Capital Budget, was approved
- A Resolution authorizing the appointment of Raymond S. Murray as Tax Collector, was approved

A Public Hearing on Proposed Ordinance OR:11/14 entitled "AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER XXIV OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, NEW JERSEY, TITLED "TREE PRESERVATION." was held. Councilman Pote noted the revisions to this Ordinance include the simplification of the application process. No one from the public desired to be heard, and this Ordinance was unanimously adopted.

Proposed Assessment Bond Ordinance OR:11/15 entitled "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$70,000 FOR ENGINEERING AND DESIGN PHASE IN CONNECTION WITH SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS TO A PORTION OF JOHNSTON DRIVE FOR AND BY THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY, DIRECTING A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST THEREOF IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$66,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF." was introduced. Councilman Nehls explained that the Borough applied for and has been awarded a 1% loan rate from the State for this project, which will be assessed to the property owners listed on this project. Public Hearing to be held on December 8, 2011.

Proposed Bond Ordinance OR:11/16 entitled "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$73,000 FOR ACQUISITION OF A MASON DUMP TRUCK WITH ATTACHMENTS FOR AND BY THE BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG, IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$69,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION." was introduced. Public Hearing to be held on December 8, 2011.

Discussion - Wildlife Management Advisory Committee / Community Based Deer Management Recommendation 2011 - 2012.

Mayor Mobus recommended the discussion of this recommendation be tabled until Councilman Franklin is present, as he would prefer to have the full Council involved in this discussion. Councilman Pote asked Administrator Atkins if the Borough has a time-line to follow and Mr. Atkins said the Borough no longer has to apply to the State, and he has begun gathering information. Mr. Cruz reminded all that the current Code prohibits bow hunting and if the recommendation is to amend that, an ordinance would have to be introduced soon, as Statute says an ordinance must be adopted in the same year it is introduced.

Mayor Mobus called forward Raymond S. Murray to administer the Oath of Office as Tax Collector, effective November 16, 2011 for a four year term, beginning January 1, 2011 and expiring December 31, 2015. Administrator Atkins held the Bible.

The meeting was opened to the public and Planning Board Chair Don Speeney, Stanie Glen, spoke of the Somerset County Business Partnership's intention to prepare a comprehensive economic development strategy for Somerset County, and of their proposed initiatives, and encouraged the Borough's participation. Marylou DiRosa, Washington Rock Road, was present this evening to represent the Board of Education. She congratulated Steve Black and Karen Cassidy on their successful elections, and said she knows Ray Murray will be a great asset to the Borough as Tax Collector. Mrs. DiRosa commended the Borough's Public Works Department and said they do a spectacular job. She advised the Board is in the early stages of a superintendent search, as Dr. Malyska intends to retire on June 30th. Mrs. DiRosa said the Board of Education should be in attendance at the special meeting to discuss the Mountain Boulevard improvements.