

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OPEN PUBLIC WORK SESSION
SECOND FLOOR MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.**

Mayor Kevin J. Rooney opened the Work Session Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor municipal court room.

Deputy Municipal Clerk Shannon read the Open Public Work Session statement: "This Open Public Work Session Meeting of the Wyckoff Township Committee is now in session. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting appears on our Annual Schedule of meetings. A copy of said Annual Schedule has been posted on the Bulletin Board in Memorial Town Hall; a copy has been filed with the Municipal Clerk, The Record, The Ridgewood News and the North Jersey Herald and News – all newspapers having general circulation throughout the Township of Wyckoff. At least 48 hours prior to this meeting the Agenda thereof was similarly posted, filed and mailed to said newspapers."

Present: Mayor Kevin J. Rooney, Committeemen Brian D. Scanlan, Rudolf E. Boonstra and John A. Carolan

Also Present: Township Administrator Robert J. Shannon, Jr. and Attorney Joseph Kalosieh for Robert Landel.

Absent: Committeeman Haakon C. Jepsen and Municipal Clerk Joyce C. Santimauro

At this evening's meeting, Mayor Rooney will attempt to entertain a discussion concerning the vegetative waste collection. Prior to this year, vegetative waste was incorporated with household trash. However, the Township was notified by Gaeta Recycling Company that the landfills will no longer accept vegetative waste (weeds, twigs, branches less than 2" in diameter and garden waste) mixed in with household garbage and trash. In the past, residents have placed branches and twigs, tied and/or taped, at the curb for collection or residents transported same to the Recycling Center. Due to this notification, the Township was able to enact eight (8) weeks of curbside vegetative waste in the Spring, the primary time residents perform gardening. After listening to the concerns of many residents, the Township Committee is reviewing an interim solution for 2015 as well as 2016. The Chief Financial Officer indicates that all funds are budgeted and accounted for in the 2015 Municipal Budget.

In speaking with Gaeta Recycling Company, the cost is \$1,800 for a Thursday and Friday curbside collection of vegetative waste. The cost for the remainder of the year is estimated at \$27,000. The Township Committee desires to listen to residents comments and concerns and if we are to consider a vegetative waste collection, an open discussion should also be conducted with regard to curbside grass collection as well.

As way of background, in 2011 the Township Committee determined to discontinue curbside grass collection and perform an every week collection of single stream recyclables. At this point, to bring back vegetative waste and grass collection it would cost approximately \$70,000. Vegetative waste can be collected by a carter, deposited at the Township's Recycling Center and then transported by the DPW from the recycling center to the Township's compost facility. Grass collection is distinguished from vegetative waste in that grass would have to be transported to a grass recycling market at the cost of \$450 per truckload. The question becomes what interim measure can be implemented in 2015 with a firm decision for implementation for 2016.

The governing body provided the following commentaries:

1. Committeeman Boonstra advised that in accordance with guidance from the Township's Chief Financial Officer, there are no unaccountable funds. In 2011, when once a week recycling collection was instituted in calendar 2012, this was part of a five (5) year garbage collection contract of which there are 2 ½ years remaining.
2. Committeeman Scanlan mentioned that the Township saves expenses by recycling. The more recyclables removed from the household trash/garbage stream, the more recyclables that the Township is not charged \$67.00 per ton at the landfill disposal facility. Our costs for garbage disposal have lessened due to

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our recycling efforts. When the Township Committee considered abolishing curbside grass collection, it was based on the fact that only 10%-15% of residents utilized this curbside service. For years, Mr. Scanlan has utilized the “cut it & leave it” lawn approach at his house and encouraged others to do the same. The problem we are now confronting is the carting company is not collecting vegetative waste due to the DEP regulations. Therefore, something must be done to rectify this issue.

3. Committeeman Carolan stated that although it is clear that this would be an unplanned expense on our budget, the funds are not available. With regard to the curbside grass collection, some of the most prestigious golf courses take the “cut it & leave it” approach for grass clippings.

4. Mayor Rooney commented that 15% of residential homes results in a total of 750 households of the 5,800 households in Wyckoff that had previously utilized the curbside grass collection service. Over twenty (20) e-mails were received objecting to the discontinuance of the vegetative waste collections. Each year, budgets become tougher and tougher but we look to the needs of our residents and grass and vegetative waste collection should be an issue for concern in 2016. Possibly, a hybrid approach could be considered whereby a nominal permit fee is charged.

Mayor Rooney opened the meeting for the ten (10) minute total public comment period for any item on or off the Agenda, two (2) minutes per speaker, with a motion from Committeeman Scanlan, seconded by Committeeman Carolan.

1. Kathy Oliver, 316 Paul Court thanked Mayor Rooney for answering her question and her e-mails and requested vegetative waste’s pickup for the balance of the year. Ms. Oliver suggested a possible hybrid approach for recycling with a once every two (2) week recycling collection.

2. Ellane Klie, 474 Franklin Avenue indicated her mother is 84 years old and is present this evening residing at 472 Cedar Hill Avenue. Ms. Klie explained that her mother cannot lift the vegetative waste barrels into her vehicle but can drag them to the curb. Both residents perform their own yard work and it is very difficult to place the many barrels of weeds into a small car. Ms. Klie asked the question, what is considered a nominal fee for vegetative waste collection and suggested conducting a survey to gauge resident interest in the program. She also stated that once a week curbside recycling collection is not necessary with possibly the exception of Thanksgiving or Christmas weeks. Ms. Klie suggested the town may save on its garbage tonnage by recycling the vegetative waste instead of depositing same at a landfill.

Mayor Rooney reported that since the Township established the once a week recycling collection, the recycling percentage jumped from 29% to 33%. The real challenge is how to afford the collections for the remainder of 2015 and year 2016. Mayor Rooney suggested the nominal fee as an option and/or search to a solution.

Ms. Klie mentioned that the garbage company continuously misses collecting her weekly trash at 474 Franklin Avenue.

The Township Committee thanked Ms. Klie for her comments.

Committeeman Boonstra motioned to close the public comment period, since it was time for the 8:00 p.m. business meeting, seconded by Committeeman Scanlan with an affirmative voice vote.

At 8:04 p.m. the Township Committee recessed the Open Work Session Meeting to conduct the Public Business Meeting.

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At 8:50 p.m. the Township Committee reconvenes the Open Work Session Meeting voting as follows:

MOTION: BOONSTRA SECOND SCANLAN
BOONSTRA YES CAROLAN YES JEPSEN ABSENT SCANLAN YES
ROONEY YES

Policy Action Items:

1. The Administrator asked for any other suggestions for a Bergen County Open Space Park Improvement Grant other than the resurfacing of the basketball courts. A consensus existed by the governing body for the Administrator to move forward with satisfying the grant requirements to submit a grant application for that purpose.
2. The Township has received notification from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) that the NJDOT plans to pave sections of Route 208 thru Wyckoff and on/off ramps in 2015. The Police Department has reached out to the NJDOT for additional specific information. The paving is tentatively planned for September or October. The Township will be invited to a pre-construction meeting where more information will be available. Once this information is obtained, it will be posted on the municipal website and social media sites for resident and motorist awareness.
3. One of the Joint Insurance Fund's safety objectives has been completed; a thorough verification of employees and volunteers valid driver's licenses who drive municipal vehicles was conducted and completed.
4. The Administrator reported that Robert Landel, Township Attorney has completed a herculean effort by drafting and filing the Declaratory Judgement Motion which provides the Township with immunity from builders remedy lawsuits and provide four (4) months to complete the work on a revised Fair Share Plan.
5. Listed on this evening's 8:00 p.m. Agenda were two (2) resolutions to invoke plan and design immunities available for the taxpayers. These actions are positive fiscal operations to provide risk management.
6. The PTO's of Sicomac and Lincoln Schools have been awarded 2015 Bergen County Utilities Authority Environmental Awareness Challenge Grants of \$950.00 each. The purpose of the grant is to benefit the environment while instructing students on the importance of environmental stewardship.
7. The annual audit, as required by statute, has been completed on time and provided for governing body review.
8. The DPW is managing the annual paving of municipal roads and as of this day, the following roads have been paved: Meer Avenue, James Way New York Avenue, Fox Hollow Road, from Manchester to Grandview Avenue, William Way, Weisch Lane, Cottage Road, from Glendale to Manchester, Carmel Court and Terhune Terrace. Paving will continue tomorrow on Eder Avenue.

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9. Mayor Rooney commented on Ordinance #1776 which strengthened the property maintenance code. A subcommittee of the Township Committee met on Monday, June 22, 2015 to discuss property maintenance efforts. Fred Depken, Zoning Enforcement Officer was present and the discussion focused on properties that are in foreclosure and abandoned and/or vacated. These types of properties are not properly maintained. The Township Committee considers these quality of life issues and the staff is working to resolve them.
10. Several weeks ago, Mayor Rooney attended a WOLF Shared Service Meeting with Administrator Shannon where a variety of shared services and cost saving measures were discussed.
11. The Township Committee will appoint two (2) probationary police officers at the Tuesday, July 21, 2015 public business meeting to fill the ranks where two (2) police officers have retired.

The Work Session Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Kevin J. Rooney
Mayor

Joyce C. Santimauro
Municipal Clerk