

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OPEN PUBLIC WORK SESSION
SECOND FLOOR MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 – 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.

Municipal Clerk Santimauro 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 Thomas J. Madigan, Brian D. Scanlan, Rudolf E. Boonstra and John A. Carolan

Also Present: Township Administrator Robert J. Shannon, Jr., Township Attorney Robert Landel and Municipal Clerk Joyce C. Santimauro

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 Boonstra.

1. Joseph Fiorenzo, 345 Canterbury Lane stated that he and approximately thirty (30) of his neighbors in the audience this evening are present to speak to the governing body regarding the application made by the owner of Maple Lake property for a wetlands delineation determination before the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Mr. Fiorenzo provided a description of the past history of Maple Lake and the residents of the Canterbury Lane formed a neighborhood group a number of years ago to object to the development of the Maple Lake property. The Maple Lake property previously included a lake and a dam of which the owner destroyed and his plan is to take this existing environmentally sensitive land and overdevelop this property. Mr. Fiorenzo requested the Township Committee participate with the neighbors to ensure the NJDEP review process is implemented correctly.

Mr. Fiorenzo explained that the property includes wetlands, a body of water and steep slopes. The first step for any property owner to develop property with wetlands is to apply to the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection for wetlands delineation.

Mr. Fiorenzo further explained that the developer created a scenario a number of years ago where the developer failed to perform its responsibilities to maintain the dam and then was able to persuade the NJDEP to provide approval to breach the dam which destroyed the lake. The residents then objected to the application for a wetlands delineation and requested the maximum possible buffers. Now, the developer has waited approximately ten (10) years and is attempting to gain a second application at reducing the limits of the wetlands for over development of the site.

Mr. Fiorenzo emphasized that property that is environmentally sensitive and is steep sloped is not appropriate for a Mount Laurel zoning site due to those environmental constraints.

Mr. Fiorenzo pointed out that the developer has filed tax appeals and has obtained significant tax reductions resulting in the taxpayers incurring the cost of bonding the repayment of these reductions. Now, for the owner to suggest the property is appropriate for affordable housing zoning is absurd. The Township should consider acquiring the property with its municipal Open Space funds.

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2. Jeff Zenn, 332 Canterbury Lane advised that the NJDEP only ordered the property owner to breach the dam after the property owner continually failed to perform his obligations under the Dams Safety Act. A Township Committee consensus existed to ensure the proper information was submitted to the NJDEP and the proper review process is followed. Mayor Rooney stated the governing body will discuss an appropriation amount to fund the verification of the developer’s submission to the NJDEP.

3. Robert Decker, 174 Cottage Road came forward and stated that he moved to Cottage Road three (3) years ago. Mr. Decker realized that he is in very close proximity to the firehouse where a fire siren is located. Mt. Decker requested the Township Committee explore alternatives that could reduce and/or alleviate the time the fire siren is sounded to alert volunteer firefighters of a fire alarm call. Ideally, Mr. Decker would request the elimination of all sirens and described the sirens as operational from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. He suggested with current technology, it should be feasible to eliminate the fire alarm alert sirens. Mayor Rooney discussed the fact that the firefighters utilize e-dispatch on their cell phones and plectrons have been installed in their homes as means of notification.

Mayor Rooney asked Fire Commissioner Boonstra to review this request with the Wyckoff Volunteer Fire Department. Robert Decker indicated that Waldwick and Saddle River, two (2) municipalities in Northwest Bergen County have abolished their fire sirens.

4. Avirim and Michele Joffe, 813 Charnwwod Drive discussed their request for the governing body to vacate Beekman Place which would provide the two (2) adjacent property owners (the Joffe’s are one of the property owners) to receive half of the street (at no cost). A discussion ensued with the Township Committee that in order to maintain good neighbors and to have a demarcation of the property line, a planted strip down the center of the two (2) properties (the existing road) would be required or some sort of Belgium block curbing. After a significant period of conversation, the Joffe’s indicated they would speak with their builder Joe Russo to provide a Belgium block demarcation.

At 8:10 p.m. the Township Committee recesses the Open Work Session Meeting to conduct the public business meeting.

At 8:20 p.m. the Township Committee reconvenes the Open Work Session Meeting voting as follows:

MOTION: SCANLAN SECOND BOONSTRA
BOONSTRA YES CAROLAN YES MADIGAN YES SCANLAN YES
ROONEY YES

At 8:20 p.m. the Township Committee recesses the Open Work Session meeting to enter into Closed Session discussion via Resolution #16-C11.

At 9:20 p.m. the Township Committee re-enters the Open Work Session Meeting with the following vote:

MOTION: CAROLAN SECOND SCANLAN
BOONSTRA YES CAROLAN YES MADIGAN YES SCANLAN YES
ROONEY YES

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Township Committee Report:

1. Mayor Rooney discussed with the governing body the fact that the Township pays approximately \$5,500 for police overtime and DPW expenses to assist the Wyckoff Volunteer Fire Department provide their Annual Fireworks Fundraiser. This dollar amount does not incorporate the Administrator and other Staff time dealing with the contract and the various certificates of insurance matters. Mayor Rooney asked Fire Commissioner Boonstra to discuss with the fire department how to reduce these costs and the possible substitution to utilize the Fire Police and/or CERTS for these fundraisers.

2. Mayor Rooney received a request from Lee Parker, a Wyckoff Family YMCA board member requesting the Township Committee promote the “Buddy Walk” on the Township’s website, social media accounts and through its Friday e-blasts. The Administrator provided the Township’s policy which is adopted every year by the Township Committee indicating information posted on the municipal website is strictly for municipal informational purposes such as services and activities. The only exception is for activities that fund raise which otherwise would require taxation, for example, the Wyckoff Parks and Recreation Foundation which contributed significantly to the Pulis Artificial Turf Fields, the FLOW Follies which raise funds for the regional high schools, the Wyckoff Education Foundation which raises funds for the Wyckoff K-8 School District. The Township Committee believed the current policy should be maintained.

3. Mayor Rooney reviewed a request from the Administrator regarding the fact that January 1, 2017 falls on a Sunday and whether the Township Committee would agree to conduct the Reorganization Meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. in lieu of the regularly scheduled public business meeting at 8:00 p.m. After discussion, the Township Committee determined to conduct the Reorganization Meeting on Sunday, January 1, 2017 however, the Sine Die Meeting would begin at 12:30 p.m. The Reorganization Meeting would begin at 1:00 p.m. A Township Committee consensus existed.

4. Mayor Rooney asked the Township Attorney to update the governing body on the status of the ordinance amendment modifying Township regulations regarding political signs. Mr. Landel indicated that he had received a letter from the ACLU threatening to sue the Township if the Township’s ordinance regarding political signs was not modified. Mr. Landel stated he had various conversations with an attorney for the ACLU at which time the attorney stated “we do not assist in facilitating a compliant policy – that is your responsibility, we will only determine if the ordinance is compliant with the law after adoption.” Mr. Scanlan noted that the letter from the ACLU regarding the political signs was sent to Mayor Rooney on Monday, August 29, 2016 and that no other member of the Township Committee was informed about the ACLU action until the ACLU representative herself forwarded the communication on September 20, 2016, the day of the Township Committee Meeting. The letter threatened legal action if the Township Committee did not address the unconstitutionality of Wyckoff’s political sign ordinance. Mr. Scanlan strongly objected to the withholding of the letter from the rest of the Township Committee by the Mayor, stating that withholding such information was wrong because under the Wyckoff Township Committee form of government, all legislative powers are concentrated in the Committee. Mr. Landel distributed a sample ordinance, reviewed by the governing body and various changes were made to same. When a Township Committee consensus appeared to be present, a motion was authorized by Committeeman Carolan, seconded by Committeeman Scanlan to introduce Ordinance #1815. All governing body members voted affirmatively.

5. Mayor Rooney discussed an appropriation that the Township Committee would be willing to spend to authorize its Consulting Engineer to review the

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developer's application to the NJDEP for a wetlands determination regarding the Maple Lake property. The purpose of the review would be to ensure proper procedures are followed and information submitted is accurate. A consensus existed to authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$2,500 from the Engineering – Other Expense line item. Motion by Kevin Rooney, seconded by Brian Scanlan, all voting yes.

6. Mayor Rooney stated the Township Committee will further the effectiveness and efficiency of the Police Department with the appointment of Acting Police Chief to Police Chief at the next meeting, and recognizing a police officer for his fast thinking recommended by the Acting Police Chief. Motion by Kevin Rooney, seconded by Brian Scanlan, all voting yes.

7. Mr. Boonstra reported that the Wyckoff Volunteer Fire Department conducted its annual election for officers for 2017 & 2018. Tim Brock was elected Fire Chief, Joe Vander Plaat was elected Assistant Fire Chief and Tom Risseeuw was elected Secretary.

8. Mayor Rooney requested Fire Commissioner Boonstra complete his current draft vehicle usage policy and submit it at the next Public Work Session Meeting for governing body review.

9. Administrator Shannon advised that he received a call today from a resident at 157 Ralph Avenue suggesting that the homeowner at the corner of Ralph and Godwin Avenues (157 Godwin Avenue) is creating a difficulty for emergency vehicles due to the mailbox location on Ralph Avenue displaying identical house number as #157 on Ralph Avenue. Mr. Shannon will meet with residents as requested to address their concerns in an attempt to find a solution to this issue.

The Open Work Session Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Kevin J. Rooney
Mayor

Joyce C. Santimauro
Municipal Clerk