

**MINUTES**  
**Council Meeting**  
**Monday, February 8, 2010**  
**8:00pm**

**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

Council President Jasionowski called the meeting to order at 8:00pm in the Council Chambers located at 406 Rivervale Road, River Vale, New Jersey 07675.

**SALUTE TO FLAG**

Council President Jasionowski asked all in attendance to rise and join him in a Salute to the Flag.

**SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT**

Council President Jasionowski read the Sunshine Statement into the record, as follows:

*“In accordance with the provisions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Law, notification of this meeting has been sent to all officially appointed Township newspapers and notice is posted at the Municipal Office.”*

**ROLL CALL**

Councilman de Stefan, Councilman Matos, Councilwoman Sieg, Councilman Bromberg and Council President Jasionowski were present.

**Also present:** Mayor Joseph Blundo, Robert Gallione, Business Administrator, Holly Schepisi, Township Attorney, Christopher Statile, Township Engineer, Gennaro Rotella, CFO and Karen Padva, Township Clerk.

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**TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION**

1. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Blundo reported that the Budget meetings have wrapped up; he added that this was the most efficient budget season he's participated in. They were able to make a lean budget even leaner. The Mayor continued that there was great cooperation between the Council and Administration; the mayor also complimented Gennaro, Bob, the Auditors, and department heads. He announced that increase is \$98.00 per home. Mayor Blundo explained that we started in a hole of \$300,000 to \$400,000 in uncontrollable expenses (health insurance, pensions) and he is very proud to keep the increase so low.

The Mayor announced that the Town is getting ready for the next storm. He also encouraged residents to return the post card mailed out recently as a show of support to reopen the hospital.

Mayor Blundo concluded his comments by reading the following Proclamation into the record:

**PROCLAMATION**

***The Boy Scouts of America 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary***

***February 8, 2010***

**WHEREAS,** The Boy Scouts of America was established on February 8, 1910 and for one hundred years has created a strong foundation of leadership, service and community for millions of American youth; and

**WHEREAS,** The Boy Scouts of America provides programs that build character, and train Scouts in the responsibilities of citizenship and personal fitness; and

**WHEREAS**, with every rank advancement comes new challenges, new adventures and new friends for Scouts and those who accompany them along the way; and

**WHEREAS**, The Boy Scouts of America has nurtured and honored over two million Eagle Scouts; and

**WHEREAS**, The Boy Scouts of America alumni share memories that last a lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, Scouting celebrates its legacy and reaffirms its commitment to inspire and prepare future generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, Joseph Blundo, Mayor of the Township of River Vale and all the Council members acknowledge February 8th 2010 as the *100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Boy Scouts of America*. I hereby commend and honor all scouts, their leaders and sponsoring organizations for making a difference in River Vale by their dedication to Scouting's core values—leadership, character, community service, achievement and stewardship of the environment.

The Mayor added that he was a Boy Scout and he strongly believes that the memories and lessons learned last a lifetime. The Boy Scouts are a great organization that is thriving in River Vale and hopes it is maintained for another 100 years.

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## 2. Council Comments

Councilman de Stefan commented on the budget process; he stated that it was the teamwork of Joe, Dieter, Gennaro and Bob that set the stage and made their work much easier. The departments made the deductions before it was received by the Council making the overall process very good.

Councilman Matos echoed Councilman de Stefan's remarks regarding the budget process. He added that under the Mayor's leadership and direction the Council was able to achieve their goal of keeping the increase under \$100 and it was a great experience.

Councilwoman Sieg also echoed Councilman de Stefan's comments regarding the budget process. Councilwoman Sieg also reported that the *Resident's for a Better River Vale* had their Casino Night and it was a huge success. She is a proud member of this organization which gives back so much to the community. Councilwoman Sieg was also very impressed by the show of support at the event.

Councilman Bromberg stated that it was a pleasure to be a part of this budget process. He added that because of the preparation of the department heads and the administration they were able to discuss and determine where to make cuts, and at the same time be responsible and not affect Township services. Councilman Bromberg continued that it was an honor and privilege to be a part of a process that not only came up with such a fine product; it was completed so far ahead of schedule.

Councilman Bromberg concluded that the *Resident's for a Better River Vale* Casino Night was a very enjoyable and successful evening.

Council President Jasionowski thanked the Council for attending the recent budget meetings, and that everyone was always prepared and ready to work. Council President Jasionowski explained that with the \$98.00 increase on the average home there are no tricks in this budget; such as taking from surplus to lower taxes. There will be no cuts in services provided to residents, no furloughs or staff reductions. He continued that we will continue as a healthy Township providing the same level of services with the lowest increase.

Council President Jasionowski concluded by thanking everyone for their support on a job well done.

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## **Business Administrator's Report**

Mr. Gallione announced that the tax office will be open late on February 10<sup>th</sup> until 7:00pm, and the Tax Assessor will be keeping hours on Tuesday evenings from 5:00 to 8:00pm every week. The County will be offering Free Rabies Clinics on both February 18<sup>th</sup> and the 25<sup>th</sup>. He also reported that the Census will start on April 1<sup>st</sup> and the new Building Department fees will take effect on

February 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Gallione concluded by announcing the BCUA's 2010 schedule of hazardous waste collection dates and locations is now available.

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### **Township Engineer's Report**

Chris Statile reported on the 2010 Road program and that Rich Campanelli has completed the road conditions survey which will be made available to the Council shortly. There was also discussion on the sidewalks at Woodside; particularly the Mayor wants to ensure notification of the residents and input from Lt. Ryan is received.

The Engineer reported that bids for the Bernita Headwall project will be rejected this evening; he is continuing to look for more access options and will be requesting more funds from FEMA for the project. Mr. Statile announced that the public hearing for residents to discuss and provide input on the proposed Bike Path Improvements is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> in the evening.

Mr. Statile gave an update on Phase II of the EMS Park which includes plans for a water feature. The Mayor has heard a lot of good feedback regarding the EMS Park; he thanked all those involved. The Mayor was also questioned recently regarding what happened to the rebuilding of the Holdrum House. The Mayor explained that this was conceptually a good plan however; it was just too expensive to restore the structure and maintain ADA compliance. Councilwoman Sieg added that the EMS Park is being completed in phases; at the same time we are being fiscally responsible.

Mayor Blundo also stated that he would like to use Chris as a common theme between the Governing Body and the Planning Board. The Mayor reported that he has heard feedback concerning the applications that come before the Planning Board as being generic as they appear on the agenda. He asked the Engineer if the agenda could be more descriptive without taking a position. He requested the Engineer and Attorney get back to him on whether this is possible and can be accomplished.

Councilman de Stefan asked the Engineer if the County stabilization project of Rivervale Road could be linked to the Town hall building. Mr. Statile is not certain of the County's plans; but did mention that the County would have to apply for permits from the State. He suggested that this would be the time the Town should get involved and be included in the permit process.

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### **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman Matos to open the meeting to the public.

Council President Jasionowski read the following statement into the record.

*"Each person wishing to address the Council shall step up to the microphone, shall give his or her name in an audible tone for the record. All member of the public are expected to conduct themselves in a proper manner. Any derogatory, abusive or threatening statements will not be permitted. The Chair will immediately rule such conduct out of order and terminate any further comments."*

Joe Massin – 68 Holiday Court— commented on the Holdrum House. He recalled visiting the trailer that holds the Holdrum House with the previous Mayor and Rob Adamo. Mr. Massin continued that the condition of the trailer is very poor and deteriorating badly. He added that the contents of the trailer are in danger of being destroyed. He suggested going back to the Historical Society to try to acquire the remaining pieces and store properly in order to preserve.

Mr. Massin also suggested an email blast in order to get message out about meetings at no cost. He also offered his congratulations on the budget process and how refreshing it is that River Vale gets past partisanship and ego battles.

There being no further questions or comments from the public; motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman Matos to close the meeting to the public.

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**RESOLUTIONS**

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to approve Resolutions #2010-73 through #2010-87 on Consent Agenda, as follows:

**Resolution #2010-73**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 1, 2010 COUNCIL SINE DIE MEETING**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the January 1, 2010 Council Sine Die meeting are hereby approved.

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**Resolution #2010-74**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 1, 2010 COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the January 1, 2010 Council Reorganization meeting are hereby approved.

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**Resolution #2010-75**

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF ZONING BOARD ENGINEER**

**WHEREAS**, on January 21, 2010 the Zoning Board appointed Elliot Sachs of Boswell Engineering as the Zoning Board Engineer;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of River Vale confirms the appointment of Elliot Sachs as the Zoning Board Engineer for a term of one (1) year expiring on December 31, 2010.

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**Resolution #2010-76**

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF ZONING BOARD ATTORNEY**

**WHEREAS**, on January 21, 2010 the Zoning Board appointed Brian Giblin as the Zoning Board Attorney;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of River Vale confirms the appointment of Brian Giblin as the Zoning Board Attorney for a term of one (1) year expiring on December 31, 2010.

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**Resolution #2010-77**

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING MAYORAL REAPPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER – Dineen DiBari**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Dineen DiBari be appointed to the Advisory Board of Health for a term of four (4) year term is hereby confirmed.

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**Resolution #2010-78**

**RESOLUTION**  
**(Release of Escrow)**

**WHEREAS**, Pascack Hills Properties had posted Escrow as requested by the Planning Board for 599 Colonial Road; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Board Engineer has deemed the project has been completed satisfactorily;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Escrow Deposit be released;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Chief Financial Officer be directed to release the escrow deposit and issue a check in the amount of \$196.50 payable to Pascack Hills Properties, 123 Broadway, Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey 07677.

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**Resolution #2010-79**

**RESOLUTION**

**TAX APPEAL JUDGEMENT  
REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Paul Dobson, 554 Rivervale Road (Block 1104, Lot 8), River Vale was rendered a Tax Court Judgment decision for a reduced assessment for 2009;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Dobson is requesting a refund for overpayment of his taxes be issued to his attorney Venino & Venino, Esq.;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale, that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to issue a municipal check in the amount of \$1,412.07 as follows:

**Venino & Venino, Esq,  
Counselors at Law  
8000 Kennedy Blvd.  
North Bergen, NJ 07047**

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**Resolution #2010-80**

**RESOLUTION**

**Approve the LOSAP Qualifiers for the Year 2009 for the Fire Department and Ambulance Corps**

**WHEREAS**, the Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps have notified the Chief Financial Officer of the LOSAP Qualifiers for the year 2009 in writing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council must approve the certified list of qualifiers after review and backup information has been provided; and

**WHEREAS**, the Plan Administrator is satisfied that the substantiated information has been provided;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council hereby approve the following as qualifiers for LOSAP for the year 2009:

**River Vale Volunteer Fire Department:**

Albourn, Wayne	Celentano, Wayne	Goodell, Greg	Goodell, Kellie
Hanna, James	Herburger, Rick	Kneeshaw, Tom	
Lentino, Frank	Luther, Richard	Marsh, Gerard	Martin, Erik
Miles, James	Searson, Robert	Pavone, Richard	Plescia, Glenn
Rinaldi, John	Shine, Tom	Tobin, John	Velthaus, Steve
Wayne, Peter	Whelan, John	VanSaders, Ray	

**River Vale Volunteer Ambulance Corps:**

Barattia, Sandi	Blundo, Maria	Davis, Michael	Gibson, Linda
Leighton, Marjess	Miles, Anne T.	Solimando, Janine	
O'Donnell, Ilene	Schleier, Curt	Skiba, Victor	Vasconcellos, Lynne
Velthaus, Andrea	Velthaus, Steve	Wilkins, Ken	Wise, Joan

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the list as certified has been posted by both departments and that there have not been any appeals;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$41,925.40 Lincoln Financial for Investment on behalf of the individuals listed above.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township Clerk forwards a copy of this resolution to the River Vale Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Corps, the Chief Financial Officer and Lincoln Financial.

**\*Note:** 36 members @1,233.10 = 44,391.60  
Steve Velthaus eligible under both Volunteer Organizations

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**Resolution #2010-81**

**RESOLUTION TO REJECT AND RE-ADVERTISE BIDS FOR THE BERNITA DRIVE HEADWALL REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Township received bids for the Bernita Drive Headwall Replacement Project on January 21, 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, it has been determined that the bids received were over the budgeted amount for this project;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the bids for the Bernita Drive Headwall Replacement project are hereby rejected.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to re-advertise for the receipt of bids for the above mentioned project.

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**Resolution #2010-82**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING RAFFLE LICENSE FOR THE JEWISH HOME FOUNDATION OF NORTH JERSEY, INC.**

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the following license to conduct an off Premises 50/50 Raffle be issued to:

NAME: Jewish Home Foundation of North Jersey, Inc.  
10 Link Drive  
Rockleigh, New Jersey 07647

LOCATION OF RAFFLE: Edgewood Country Club  
Rivervale Road  
River Vale, NJ 07675

DATE OF RAFFLE: May 17, 2010 7:00pm

I.D. #: 430-4-36720

RAFFLE LICENSE: RL 325

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that said license shall be issued subject to all rules and regulations of the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission of the State of New Jersey.

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**Resolution #2010-83**

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF JUNIOR FIREMEN’S AUXILLARY MEMBERS FOR 2010**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the appointment to the Junior Firemen’s Auxilliary members are hereby confirmed for the year 2010:

**CADETS**

**JUNIORS**

Jenna Celentano	Nick Vicchio
Kendall Marsh	Brian Martin
Kathleen Miles	Mike Koons
Tommy Shine, Jr.	Matt Lind
Brett Willard	
Matthew Velthaus	

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**Resolution #2010-84**

**RESOLUTION CANCELING CURENT FUND GRANT RECEIVABLE AND UNEXPENDED APPROPRIATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, a certain grant receivable balance remains on the Current Fund Balance Sheet;

**WHEREAS**, an unexpended budget appropriation balance associated with this receivable remains in the Current Fund; and,

**WEHERAS**, it is necessary to formally cancel said grant receivable and unexpended budget appropriation balances from the Current Fund Balance Sheet;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Governing Body of the Township of River Vale that the following grant receivable and unexpended budget appropriation balances be cancelled as of December 31, 2009:

<u>Grant Description</u>	<u>Receivable Balance</u>	<u>Unexpended Appropriation</u>
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New Jersey Department of Transportation

Road Improvement Grant	\$200,000	\$200,000
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**Resolution #2010-85**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INCREASE IN DEFERRED SCHOOL TAXES FOR REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TAXES**

**WHEREAS**, the Division of Local Government Services requires that the Governing Body of any municipality which has Deferred School Taxes must authorize any increase in the deferral of any amounts; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township wishes to increase Deferred School Taxes to an amount permitted under State statutes and to be effective at December 31, 2009;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Governing Body that the following Deferred School Taxes are hereby increased for the year ended December 31, 2009 as follows.

	Deferred Local District School Taxes
Amount Deferred December 31, 2008	\$ 2,987.136
Amount Deferred December 31, 2009	<u>\$ 2,587.136</u>
Amount of Increase	<u>\$ 400,000</u>

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**Resolution #2010-86**

**RESOLUTION**  
(TRANSFERS)

**WHEREAS**, there exists a need to make transfers in the 2009 Budget Appropriations Reserves, and there exists balances from which to make said transfers,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Chief Financial Officer hereby be authorized to make the following transfers to the 2009 Budget Appropriations Reserves.

**Inside CAP:**

**From:**

General Admin S&W	\$ 2,500.00
Township Clerk OE	\$ 2,000.00
Finance S&W	\$ 2,000.00
Special Consultants OE	\$ 3,750.00
Police Patrol S&W	\$10,000.00
Solid Waste & Recycling OE	\$ 6,250.00

**Total           \$ 26,500.00**

**Inside CAP:**

**To:**

Engineering Services OE	\$ 8,750.00
Telephone OE	\$ 6,000.00
Snow & Ice Removal OE	\$ 9,000.00
Buildings & Grounds OE	\$ 2,750.00

**Total           \$ 26,500.00**

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**Resolution #2010-87**

**ENDORSEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT GRANT**

**APPLICATION FOR 2010-2011 SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES**

**WHEREAS**, as Bergen County Community Development grant of \$3,000 has been proposed by Township of River Vale for Senior Citizen Activities in the municipality of the Township of River Vale, and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the State of Interlocal Services Act, Community Development funds may not be spent in a municipality without authorization by the Governing Body, and

**WHEREAS**, the aforesaid project is in best interest of the people of the Township of River Vale, and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution does not obligate the financial resources of the municipality and is intended solely to expedite expenditure of aforesaid CD funds.

**NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Governing Body of the Township of River Vale hereby confirms endorsement of the aforesaid project, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Director of the Bergen County Community Development Program so that implementation of the aforesaid project may be expedited.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilman de Stefan, Councilman Matos, Councilman Bromberg, Councilwoman Sieg and Council President Jasionowski voted yes.

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**ORDINANCES 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

There were no Ordinances for 1<sup>st</sup> reading this evening.

**ORDINANCES 2<sup>ND</sup> READING**

There were no Ordinances for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading this evening.

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**HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to open the meeting to the public.

There being no questions or comments from the public; motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman Matos to close the meeting to the public.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm.

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Council President  
Glen Jasionowski

ATTEST:  
Karen Padva  
Township Clerk