

MINUTES
Council Meeting
Monday, January 28, 2008

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Council President Jasionowski called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building 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 Matos, Council Vice President Bromberg and Council President Jasionowski were present. Councilman de Stefan and Councilwoman Sieg were absent

Also present: Mayor Joseph Blundo, Robert J. Gallione, Jr., Business Administrator, Gennaro Rotella, CFO, Dennis Harrington, Township Engineer, Holly Schepisi, Township Attorney, Michael Kauker, Jr. COAH Planner and Karen Padva, Acting Township Clerk.

Mayor Blundo with troop leader Barbara Taylor presented Certificates of Recognition to the Girl Scouts of Troop #478 for their work renovating the Food Pantry.

Lindsay Angioletti, Danielle Collins, Michelle DeMaio, Stephanie Gordan, Caylin Iannotta, Kelly McIntyre, Christine Taylor, Danielle Volpe

Council President Jasionowski requested a brief recess at 8:15 pm. The meeting reconvened at 8:20 pm.

ROLL CALL

Councilman Matos, Council Bromberg and Council Present Jasionowski were present.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman Matos to approve Resolutions #2008-48 and #2008-49, as follows

Resolution #2008-48

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC DEFENDER

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Michael Garrett, Esq. be appointed as Public Defender for a term of one (1) year expiring on December 31, 2008 is hereby confirmed.

Resolution #2008-49

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Vincent L. Galasso, Esq. be appointed as Municipal Prosecutor for a one (1) year term expiring on December 31, 2008 is hereby confirmed.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Matos, Councilman Bromberg and Council President Jasionowski voted yes

Judge Greenhalgh swore in:

Vincent Galasso – Prosecutor
Michael Garrett – Public Defender

Mayor Blundo read a proclamation for School Board Recognition Month:

WHEREAS, during 2007-2008, New Jersey’s public schools will serve more than 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey’s 4,800 local boards of education members devote countless hours, at no pay, too the oversight of school district operations including finances, curriculum and staffing; and

WHEREAS, as the policymaking bodies for local school districts, New Jersey’s local boards of education endeavor to meet the challenges facing public schools and help students achieve state academic standards; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association and the New Jersey School Boards Association have declared January 2008 to be School Board Recognition Month; and

WHEREAS, by making meaningful contributions to our schools and communities, the dedicated members of local school boards have enhanced our State and Nation;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Joseph Blundo, Mayor of River Vale, along with all of our Council Members, do hereby proclaim January 2008 as School Board Recognition Month.

TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION

1. Mayor’s Comments

Mayor Blundo commented on the revaluation letters that were sent to all property owners. The Mayor remarked that in River Vale .93 per dollar of property taxes is paid by the homeowner. He added that the Township doesn’t receive any additional tax dollars from the revaluation process and that the money is just redistributed. The revaluation company is available to ask any questions; and is better suited to explain the process.

In conclusion, the Mayor spoke about the municipal budget which is about half complete. The proposed increase in spending would equal approximately a \$38.00 tax increase per home.

2. Council Comments

Councilman Matos commented on the revaluation letters and the possible tax increases for homeowners.

Councilman Bromberg thanked the River Vale Police Department for their generous donation of a refrigerator for the food pantry. Councilman Bromberg echoed the Mayor’s comments that the revaluation generates no additional tax dollars only redistributes.

Council President Jasionowski commented that residents can call the revaluation company with questions as well as set up appointments at Town Hall to discuss their assessments.

COAH PRESENTATION – Michael Kaulker, Jr.

Mike Kaulker reviewed changes and amendments to COAH regulations and how they affect the town’s COAH obligation. Some of the changes Mr. Kaulker reported where rehab obligations, new ratios, and increase in RCA agreements from \$35,000 to \$80,000, and changes to the Town’s development fee ordinance.

Councilman Matos requested a copy of the new guidelines. Mr. Kauker reported that COAH will be holding hearings in June and that River Vale would have to develop a new housing plan for Round 3 certification. The Town would need approximately 4 – 7 months to create a new plan. Mayor Blundo suggested holding a work session in order to get as much input as possible.

Mr. Kauker concluded that he will keep the Mayor and Council posted with any significant changes.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER’S REPORT

Mr. Harrington requested holding another Mark Lane field committee meeting on February 5th. He reported that the subsurface investigation has begun and is revealing mostly cinders and ashes. The foot print for the DPW building is complete and the structure will commence being built shortly. The estimated time of completion is mid-April. The Engineer reported that the bid opening for the lower grove electrical construction is set for February 6th. He also reported that Brookside Avenue is a possible candidate for DOT Funding.

Mayor Blundo requested a cost estimate on for the de-snagging of the Hackensack River.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Gallione announced that the Northern Valley Rotary Club will be donating four (4) new benches to be installed around the Township. The Business Administrator remarked that the Township will continue to improve sidewalks as part of the *Safe Routes to Schools Program*. The sidewalks near Woodside School are set for improvements next.

In conclusion, the Mr. Gallione reported that CDBG applications will be reviewed on February 13th for Barrier Free Improvements at the Library and for a room divider at the Community Center.

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.”

Jim Hanna – 381 Sunset Road - commented on the golf course ordinance in relation to the Township’s COAH compliance, the setbacks, roof heights being too high, and that the demographic studies done regarding the Poplar Road development and the number of children were not correct. Mr. Hanna recommended that high priced town houses should not be located next to a soccer field.

Ron Tucci – 58 Holiday Court - commented on taxes and the Senior Gold Program. Mr. Tucci suggesting advertising and helping educate the seniors about programs that will benefit them

Joe Massin – 68 Holiday Court – commented on the revaluation process and revising the method of funding government.

John Donovan – 63 Rivervale Road – questioned the status of the purchase of I6A.

Mayor Blundo answered that the County is voting on the issue on January 30th.

Mr. Donovan had additional questions on the bills list regarding Planning Board attorney fees, DCA fees and fire hydrant fees charged by United Water.

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.

RESOLUTIONS –

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to approve Resolution #2008-

50 through #2008-55, as follows:

Resolution #2008-50

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES–January 14, 2008

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the January 14, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

Resolution #2008-51

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN 2008 CDL DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM CONTRACT

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayor is authorized to sign the above mention contract.

Resolution #2008-52

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN 2008 BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN PROGRAM PROFESSION SERVICES AGREEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayor is authorized to sign the above mention contract.

Resolution #2008-53

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SIGN NBCUA INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, by enactment of the Interlocal Services Act N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 et seq., the State of New Jersey has encouraged governmental units to enter into agreement for the joint provisions of public services; and

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale and NBCUA wish to enter into an Agreement whereby NBCUA will provide TV Inspection Services of the Sanitary sewer system, or other systems, to the Township of River Vale for the year 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Agreement has been duly authorized by appropriate resolutions of both the Township of River Vale and the NBCUA.

Resolution #2008-54

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AGREEMENT FOR TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES TO PARTICIPATE IN PREMIUM VISION CARE NETWORK PROGRAM

WHEREAS, employees of the Township of River Vale have requested that the Township Council allow the Township employees to participate in the Premium Vision Care Network on a voluntary basis.

WHEREAS, the Township Council believes that it is in the best interests of its employees to allow participation in this plan at the option of the employees and at the expense of the employees.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the appropriate officials are authorized to take all appropriate actions and execute all documents necessary to allow the employees to

participate in this plan set forth above at the sole cost of the employees and the appropriate officials are authorized to assist in the participation through the provision of payroll deduction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Insurance Plan Administrator, Township Clerk and the Chief Financial Officer.

Resolution #2008-55

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN POLISYS SOFTWARE APPLICATION FOR THE RIVER VALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayor is authorized to sign the above mention contract.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Matos, Councilman Bromberg, and Council President Jasionowski voted yes.

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman Matos to approve Resolution #2008-56 through Resolution #2008-58, as follows:

Resolution #2008-56

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING COUNCIL APPOINTMENT TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Melvina Fakazis be appointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a four (4) year term expiring on December 31, 2011 is hereby confirmed.

Resolution #2008-57

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING COUNCIL APPOINTMENT TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that John Donovan be appointed to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a four (4) year term expiring on December 31, 2011 is hereby confirmed.

Resolution #2008-58

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING COUNCIL APPOINTMENT TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Joseph Massin be appointed as an Alternate on the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a two (2) year term expiring on December 31, 2009 is hereby confirmed.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Matos, Councilman Bromberg, and Council President Jasionowski voted yes.

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman Matos to approve Resolution #2008-59, as follows:

Resolution #2008-59

RESOLUTION
(TRANSFERS)

WHEREAS, there exists a need to make transfers in the 2007 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 2007 Budget Appropriations Reserves.

Inside CAP:
From:

Advisory Committee OE	\$ 500.00
Township Clerk S&W	\$ 1,000.00
School Traffic Guards S&W	\$ 3,000.00
Police Patrol S&W	\$ 3,800.00
Total	\$ 8,300.00

Inside CAP:
To:

Telephone OE	\$ 900.00
General Admin OE Outside Consultants	\$ 1,800.00
General Admin OE Machine Maintenance	\$ 1,100.00
Electric, Gas OE	\$ 1,700.00
Street Lights OE	\$ 1,300.00
Engineering Services OE	\$ 1,500.00
Total	\$ 8,300.00

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Matos, Councilman Bromberg, and Council President Jasionowski voted yes.

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to approve Resolution #2008-60, as follows:

Resolution #2008-60

RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that the Business Administrator be, and hereby is authorized to pay the following claims:

RESERVE CURRENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 180,163.84
CURRENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 79,607.48
CAPITAL ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 292,338.79
PLANNING BOARD TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 1,399.75
RESERVE TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 250.00
TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 2,339.07
RECREATION TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 0.00
PRIVATE DUTY ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 2,577.99
HOUSING TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 2,435.00

TOTAL CLAIMS TO BE PAID **\$ 561,111.92**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the following claims have been paid by the Business Administrator prior to the Bill List Resolution in the following amounts:

CURRENT claims in the amount of:	\$ 2,245,873.12
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TRUST claims in the amount of:	\$ 4,427.49
CAPITAL ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 700.00
STATUTORY ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 188,196.33
OPEN SPACE TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 0.00
RECREATION TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 0.00
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$ 0.00

TOTAL CLAIMS PAID \$ 2,439,196.94
TOTAL BILL LIST RESOLUTION \$ 3,000,308.86

**MANUAL DISBURSEMENTS
BILL LIST FOR JANUARY 28, 2008**

1/15/2008 – Wire Transfer Payroll \$ 188,196.33
TOTAL STATUTORY ACCOUNT DISTRIBUTIONS \$ 188,196.33

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Matos, Councilman Bromberg, and Council President Jasionowski voted yes.

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to approve Resolution #2008-61, as follows:

Resolution #2008-61

AUTHORIZE THE TOWNSHIP CLERK TO ADVERTISE FOR REQUESTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES – UPPER GROVE RESTROOM RENOVATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to NJSA 19:44A-20.4, et seq. that the Township Clerk is hereby authorized to advertise for the above mentioned services for the following position:

ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilman Matos, Councilman Bromberg, and Council President Jasionowski voted yes.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Motion by Councilman Matos; 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to adjourn meeting at 9:15 pm

ATTEST:
Karen Padva
Acting Township Clerk

Glen Jasionowski
Council President