

MINUTES
Council Meeting
Monday, June 9, 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 de Stefan, Councilman Matos, Councilwoman Sieg, and Council President Jasionowski were present. Councilman Bromberg was absent.

Also present: Mayor Joseph Blundo, Robert J. Gallione, Jr., Business Administrator, Holly Schepisi, Township Attorney, Dennis Harrington, Township Engineer, and Karen Padva, Acting Township Clerk.

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to adjourn the meeting to closed session to discuss pending litigation.

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded Councilwoman Sieg to re-open the meeting from Closed Session.

TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION

1. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Blundo commented on the Friday June 9th closing of the local schools due a student possibly having a communicable disease. The Mayor fully supports the schools decision to close and added that the town was only consulted on the issue.

The Mayor commented on the Hills/Valley Coalition and that he supports the four (4) sending towns in the district and that River Vale is being asked to contribute an equal share to the program.

Mayor Blundo concluded his report regarding the proposed land swap between the BOE and a developer. The Mayor stated that the only official action taken by the developer was asking the Planning Board attorney if the swap was consistent with the Master Plan.

2. Council Comments

Councilman de Stefan supported the schools decision to close on Friday and thanked the residents for voting.

Councilman Matos added his support of the recent school closing.

Councilwoman Sieg added her support of the recent school closing.

Council President Jasionowski supports the school's decision to close and appreciated their consulting the administration. The Council President also commented that regarding the land swap there is nothing before the Council; it is a BOE and Planning Board issue.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

The Business Administrator commented on \$3,500 donated by Joanne Hirsh for the August 5th Nationals Nights Out event. This event is a public awareness program that will be coordinated with Movie Night.

ENGINEER’S REPORT

Mr. Harrington gave updates on the DPW Building with regard to utilities hook-ups and that the Certificate of Occupancy should be issued this week. The Engineer also gave a brief update of the Municipal Aide application due on Jun 20th.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Council 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.”

Paul Creco – 234 Collignon Way – remarked on the commercial area of town needing more support. Mr. Creco suggested a possible street fair and holding the Farmers Market in the parking lot of the shopping center.

Paul Tollin – 588 Colonial Road – thanked the Mayor and Council for their consideration. Mr. Tollin had questions whether the area near Woodside School is considered wetlands; in addition to various questions about zoning laws. Council President Jasionowski remarked that any Zoning changes must be approved and passed by the Council.

Arthur Rothman – 592 Colonial Road – Mr. Rothman (a 45 year resident) had comments about the proposed land swap with the BOE, the history of the property, certain protected plants found on the land and the importance of preserving open space.

Mr. Howard Lawrence - 607 Montview Place – asked for an update regarding his property. The Township Attorney answered that the JIF denied the Stasko claim. Presently the Township needs to evaluate their ability to improve the road within the limits of the budget.

Joe Ottamanelli – Demarest Avenue, Hillsdale – questioned the Zoning Ordinance up for adoption. Mayor Blundo answered that the amendment extended the residential zone because the Township’s Zoning map did not reflect the designation.

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

RESOLUTIONS –

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to approve Resolutions #2008-128 through #2008-137 on Consent Agenda, as follows:

Resolution #2008-128

APPROVE LIQUOR LICENSES FOR THE TERM JULY 1, 2008 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2009

WHEREAS, the following liquor license holders have paid the required fee to the Township of River Vale for renewal of their licenses for the July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 term;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Clerk be and is hereby authorized to issue liquor licenses as follows:

PLENARY RETAIL DISTRIBUTION LICENSE

#0253-44-008-004	TENA Enterprises Inc. River Vale Liquors 663 Westwood Avenue River Vale, NJ 07675	\$1,500.00
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PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE

#0253-33-004-001	Edgewood Country Club, Inc. Piermont Avenue & Rivervale Road River Vale, NJ 07675	\$2,000.00
#0253-33-006-005	River Vale Development Partners, LLC River Vale Country Club 660 Rivervale Road River Vale, NJ 07675	\$2,000.00
#0253-33-005-005	P & D Inc. Florentine Gardens 97 Rivervale Road River Vale, NJ 07675	\$2,000.00
#0253-33-007-004	ATV Management LLC 625 Rivervale Road River Vale, NJ 07675	\$2,000.00

Resolution #2008-129

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFUND FOR BULDING PERMIT

WHEREAS, a building permit was issued and unused by a homeowner;

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 for the permit amount less a 25% plan review fee as follows:

Jason Topolosky 517 Rehill Court \$ 267.00

Resolution #2008-130

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL TO SUBMIT A NON-BINDING REFRENDUM QUESTION FOR THE NOVEMBER 4, 2008 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

Whereas, New Jersey Statutes Annotated, N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7 authorizes the governing body of any New Jersey municipality to submit to the voters of the municipality in a general election a referendum question authorizing imposition of an annual levy for an amount or at a rate deemed appropriate for the following purposes:

- a.) acquisition, development and maintenance of lands for recreation and conservation purposes;
- b.) acquisition of farmland for farmland preservation purposes;
- c.) acquisition or preservation of historic properties; or
- d.) for the payment of debt service incurred by the Township for these purposes.

Whereas, the Council of the Township of River Vale has determined that it would be in the public interest to place a non-binding referendum question on the November 2008 general election ballot for the purpose of assessing voter preference with regard to the question as to whether the Township of River Vale shall continue its municipal open space recreation and farmland preservation trust fund program for the purposes aforesaid funded by an annual levy, i.e. Tax, at an annual rate not to exceed \$.01 per \$100.00 of total municipal equalized real property valuation shall be imposed in the Township of River Vale.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Council of the Township of River Vale, Bergen County, New Jersey, that the Township cause the following referendum question to be placed on the November 4, 2008 general election ballot:

“Shall the Township of River Vale consider continuing its Municipal Open Space, Recreation and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:12-15.7, to be used for the purposes of acquiring, developing and maintaining conservation and recreational properties, acquiring farmland for farmland preservation, acquiring or preserving historic properties or for the payment of debt service incurred by the Township for these purposes to be funded at a rate not to exceed 1 (one) cent per \$100.00 (One Hundred Dollars) of total Township equalized real property valuation?”

Resolution #2008-131

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FIREWORKS PERMIT FOR THE EDGEWOOD COUNTRY CLUB – JULY 5, 2008 (RAIN DATE JULY 6, 2008)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the fireworks permit for the above mentioned is hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all permit fees to the Township of River Vale have been paid in full; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Fire Official has received all pertinent applications and approvals according to Township Ordinances and Statutes of the State of New Jersey.

Resolution #2008-132

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN FOR USE OF SKATE BOARD PARK

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the above mentioned Interlocal Agreement.

Resolution #2008-133

RESOLUTION AWARDDING PAVING CONTRACT PURSUANT TO THE PASCACK VALLEY COOPERATIVE PRICING PROGRAM

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of River Vale that it hereby awards a Contract for road resurfacing work within the Township of River Vale pursuant to the Pascack Valley Cooperative Pricing Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are authorized to execute a Contract with D & L Paving Contractors, Inc. pursuant to the Master Contract awarded on behalf of the Pascack Valley Cooperative Pricing Program.

The amount of the Contract for the Township of River Vale is \$235,783.

Resolution #2008-134

RESOLUTION APPROVING MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale has entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the County of Bergen as provided under the Interlocal Services Act N.J.S.A. 40A:8A-1 et seq. to participate in the Bergen County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, said Agreement requires that one municipal representative be appointed by the governing body of the community to be part of the Open Space Trust Municipal Park Improvement and Land Acquisition Program Regional Committee for the Term of one year coinciding with the fiscal year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the governing body hereby appoints Robert J. Gallione, Jr. as its representative to participate on the Open Space Trust Municipal Program Regional Committee.

Resolution #2008-135

RESOLUTION ENDORSING BERGEN COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND MUNICIPAL PARK IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – MEMORIAL PARK

WHEREAS, a Bergen County Open Space Committee Trust Fund application in the amount of \$58,000 has been proposed by the Township of River Vale for the Rivervale Road Memorial Park in the municipality of River Vale; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Interlocal Services Act, such funds may not be spent in a municipality without authorization by the Governing Body; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Township of River Vale hereby confirm endorsement of the aforesaid project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governing Body is committed to providing a dollar for dollar cash match for the project; and

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

Resolution #2008-136

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING T & M ASSOCIATES TO SUBMIT 2009 GRANT APPLICATION TO THE DOT MUNICIPAL AIDE PROGRAM—ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Engineering Firm of T & M Associates is hereby authorized to submit the above mentioned grant application in the amount of \$250,000 for Roadway Improvements for Brookside Avenue.

Resolution #2008-137

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF BERGEN FOR PARIS GRANTS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey has launched its pioneering Public Archives and Records Infrastructure Support (PARIS) grant program to meet the strategic records management, preservation, and storage needs of county and municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, a top priority of the PARIS grants program is to achieve efficiencies of cost and operation through shared services and to create a service structure for municipalities that do not have the resources to create one for themselves; and

WHEREAS, in the 2008-09 grant cycle, priority funding will be given to county projects to perform municipal inventories for all of their municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale desires to collaborate with the County of Bergen in the performance of an archives and records management inventory, needs assessment, and strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale urges the county to develop a proposal to perform county-wide municipal inventories, needs assessments, and strategic plans; and

WHEREAS, the Township of River Vale is acknowledging that the County of Bergen would be both the lead agency and the applicant for such a proposal; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Township of River Vale, that the Township of River Vale does support and commit to cooperation and participation in the PARIS grant for the purposes set forth above, and to execute and deliver all documents required incident thereto.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

ORDINANCE 2ND READING

Motion be Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilman Matos to open the public hearing on Ordinance #199-2008.

The being no commented from the public motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to close the public hearing on Ordinance #199-2008

Motion by Councilman Matos; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to adopt Ordinance #199-2008, as follows:

Ordinance #199-2008

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 142-221 “ZONING DISTRICT MAP”

Article L “Division into Districts,” Chapter 142-221 “Zoning Districts and Map”

Paragraph B:

The official Zoning Map of the Township of River Vale dated April 11, 1991 is herewith changed to include Block 1602 in its entirety as part of the “B” Residential District for one-family dwellings. The Map is also amended to change the “PO” Professional Office Zone for Lot 1 in Block 1301 to the “A” Residential District in compliance with the May 23, 2002 Resolution of the Mayor and Council. The Map is revised to May 12, 2008.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Mayor Blundo discussed the Hills/Valley Coalition as being a group comprised of the four (4) towns in our school district. The purpose of this group is to educate High School age kids about drug awareness. The coalition is funded through County Grants and contributions from all four towns. Montvale, Hillsdale, and Woodcliff Lake contribute \$2,500; River Vale contributes \$500. The Mayor had two (2) requests for the Council to consider. The first is that River Vale pays an equal share. The second would be contributing with the other towns to pay

for a part-time employee to run the program. Presently the cost is \$10,000; Montvale and the County split the cost. Mayor Blundo supports River Vale paying an equal share however uncertain about the part-time employee. He also suggested the possibility of this person attending a meeting and providing the Council with a presentation.

Joanne Hirsh added that River Vale doesn't contribute equally because we fund our other programs (D.A.R.E and Safety Town). The Council unanimously agreed to pay the equal share for the program

The next topic for discussion was the pocket park (Memorial Park) near the Jewish Home. Council President Jasionowski suggested that the park could be dedicated to the Fire, Police and Ambulance Corps. He suggested that Chiefs Back, Marsh and the Ambulance Corp. meet to discuss design and funding.

HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

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

Mr. Howard Lawrence- 607 Montview Place - suggested Park Place as a possible alternate road for resurfacing.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST:
Karen Padva
Acting Township Clerk

Glen Jasionowski
Council President