

**MINUTES**  
**Council Meeting**  
**Monday, July 14, 2008**

**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

Council President Jasionowski called the meeting to order at 7:30 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 Bromberg, Councilwoman Sieg, and Council President Jasionowski were present. Councilman Matos was absent.

**Also present:** Mayor Joseph Blundo, Holly Schepisi, Township Attorney, Dennis Harrington, Township Engineer, and Karen Padva, Acting Township Clerk.

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

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

**TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATION**

1. Mayor's Comments

Mayor Blundo reported on the budget and the state aid budget cuts. Initially, the Mayor had stated a \$39.00 proposed increase per household. Due too increased spending and the revaluation process the proposed increase will be \$50.00.

The Mayor reported that last Thursday was the kick-off of Movie & Music Night. He also stated that he supports the League of Municipalities challenging the new COAH regulations; and the Township's contribution of \$500.00 toward this suit. In conclusion, the Mayor announced the start of the Road Program and that the town saved approximately \$30,000 by participating in the Cooperative Agreement.

2. Council Comments

Councilman de Stefan complimented the performance of our professionals and expressed his appreciation of their hard work and honest answers.

Councilwoman Sieg reported on a tour she had of the new DPW building and how impressed she is with the results. Councilwoman Sieg also thanked everyone involved with the improvements to the Basketball Courts.

Councilman Bromberg also toured the DPW Facility and expressed how impressed he was with the efficiency of the building. Councilman Bromberg also commented on a FEMA meeting he attended and gave out contact numbers for assistance.

Council President Jasionowski commented on the parking issues at the DPW Building and South Fire House parking lot. Council President Jasionowski suggested that the parking lot

be temporarily re-stripped. Council President Jasionowski announced that the North Fire House is officially complete and the *Wet Down* is scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 5:00pm.

In conclusion, the Council President stated that the status reports on the Mark Lane field improvements and the Hills Valley Coalition will be discussed during the *Topics for Discussion* portion of the meeting.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Harrington reported that an update on the Mark Lane Complex will be presented later in the meeting. The Road Program will commence by the end of this week and that the residents need to be noticed. In addition, the North Fire House Parking and Community Center parking lot will be paved during the Road Program. Mr. Harrington gave brief updates on the DPW Building, MUSCO completed lighting levels at the Lower Grove field and the status of some escrow accounts. Holly Schepisi requested she should review all developers agreements as well.

Mayor Blundo requested removing Resolution #2008-160 from the agenda. He also requested a two (2) week delay to allow the current Health Services vendor the opportunity to address the Township's concerns.

## **HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman de Stefan 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 trees on Piermont Avenue and questioned the County's position regarding the trees. Mr. Massin also suggested the Town participate in an Adopt-a-Tree Program to help with preservation. The Mayor and Council unanimously support this project.

Mayor Blundo added that he is looking into a pilot project to become a *Green Community*.

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

## **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **1. Mark Lane Complex**

Council President Jasionowski asked the Township Engineer to present his report on the Mark Lane Complex. He also added that there have been state-wide findings on turf fields being unsafe. Council President Jasionowski added that he would like to see the Athletic Field Committee meet and start moving forward with this project.

Mr. Harrington gave a detailed report on the history of the Mark Lane Field Complex, reporting on the sub-surface investigation and that there are still unsettled areas. Because of these problems Mr. Harrington does not believe the present field can maintain the playability of a turf field. In order to make the field appropriate for a turf field the process would be very time-consuming and costly. Mr. Harrington added that there would also be DEP permitting involved as well.

Council President Jasionowski suggested that the Athletic Field Committee regroup and discuss the possibility of using real grass. Councilman Bromberg requested information on how frequently the fields are used and by which sports teams. Council President Jasionowski thanked Mr. Harrington for performing his due diligence on this report.

2. Hills/Valley Coalition – possible part-time position

The second item for discussion was the Hills Valley Coalition. Council President Jasionowski suggested increasing River Vale’s contribution from \$500 to \$2,500; in order to equal with the other towns.

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded Councilwoman Sieg to approve Resolution #2008-169, as follows:

**Resolution #2008-169**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN INCREASE IN THE TOWNSHIP’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE HILLS/VALLEY COALITION**

**WHEREAS**, the Hills/Valley Coalition provides programs to the students and their families of the PVRHS district that help create a safe and substance-free environment in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of River Vale presently contributed \$500.00 annually to help fund this organization; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of River Vale wishes to increase their contribution to \$2,500.00 annually to be more equitable with the other participating towns;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESEOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of River Vale hereby authorizes and increase in the amount funded to Hills/Valley Coalition.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

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Council President Jasionowski requested the funds for the part-time director’s position with the Hills/Valley Coalition. Mayor Blundo explained the background of the organization and added that he supports River Vale’s participation in the program. River Vale kids attend these programs and he would like to contribute equally with the other towns. The Mayor also suggested that the program director attend meetings to provide the Council with updates.

Motion by Councilwoman Sieg; seconded Councilman de Stefan to approve Resolution #2008-170, as follows:

**Resolution #2008-170**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NOT TO EXCEED LIMITATIONS FOR A PART-TIME DIRECTOR POSITION FOR THE HILLS/VALLEY COALITION**

**WHEREAS**, the Township of River Vale desires to contribute to the salary stipend for a Part-time Directors position with the Hills/Valley Coalition; and

**WHEREAS**, the salary for the Part-time Director’s position is \$10,000.00 annually and is proposed to be split between the four PVRHS towns; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township of River Vale’s contribution is \$2,500.00 annually; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of River Vale authorizes the Township’s contribution to the Hills/Valley Coalition Part-time Director’s position in an amount not to exceed \$2,500.00 annually.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

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**RESOLUTIONS –**

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to approve Resolutions #2008-155 through #2008-168 on Consent Agenda (excluding Resolutions #2008-156 &160), as follows:

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**Resolution #2008-155**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES–May 27, 2008**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the May 27, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

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**Resolution #2008-157**

**RESOLUTION AWARDING THE 2008 CURBSIDE RECYCLING COLLECTION CONTRACT**

**WHEREAS**, the Township received bids for the for the Curbside Recycling Collection Services; and

**WHEREAS**, one bid was received the from Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc., 77 Brookside Place, Hillsdale, New Jersey 07642 and said bid has been reviewed and approved and is hereby accepted as the lowest bidder at the price of

**Base Bid – Beginning August 1, 2008**

<b>Base Bid Curbside Collection Service</b>	\$ 1.40 Unit Price per Collection Source Per Month	\$ 4,586.40 Base Bid Price (Unit Price Multiplied by 3,276)
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**Price beginning August 1, 2010  
(ONLY if Contract extended)**

<b>Base Bid Curbside Collection Service</b>	\$ 1.44 Unit Price per Collection Source Per Month	\$ 4,717.44 Base Bid Price (Unit Price Multiplied by 3,276)
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**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in an amount not to exceed \$ 4,586.40 per month (August—December) in the Current Fund Account;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the bid of Waste Management of New Jersey, Inc. is accepted as the lowest responsible bidder. The Contract Period shall be for a period of twenty-four (24) months beginning August 1, 2008 and ending on July 29, 2010, with an option to renew for one (1) additional twenty-four (24) month period. The Mayor and Township Clerk are here by authorized and requested to execute a Contract on behalf of the Township of River Vale for the services described in the Specifications for Curbside Recycling Collection Services.

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**Resolution #2008-158**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN COUNTY SNOWS PLOWING AGREEMENT 2008-2010**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Bergen is authorized by N.J.S.A. 27:16-33, to cause snow to be plowed from the County owned or County controlled roads; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the desired plan of the County to employ the services of the Township of River Vale for snow plowing operations on County roads located within the Township of River Vale for a period of two snow seasons;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for the consideration hereinafter stated, the parties hereto agree as follows:

- (1) The Municipality agrees that it will furnish the necessary equipment and personnel required to perform snow plowing operations on County roads located within the Municipality.
- (2) The Municipality, through the Superintendent of Public Works, shall have complete supervision of snow plow operations. The Municipal Official shall keep the County Snow Control informed of the progress of the snow plowing operations.
- (3) The Municipality agrees that it shall defend and save the County of Bergen harmless from any and all claims that may be filed either in equity or law, arising from the performance of this Agreement, and that it shall secure and maintain throughout the duration of this Contract, comprehensive Automobile Liability insurance in an amount not less than \$1,000,000 CSL and general liability insurance in a amount not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and Umbrella Excess Liability Insurance in an amount not less than \$4,000,000 per occurrence. The Municipality further agrees that the County of Bergen shall be provided a Certificate of Insurance naming the County of Bergen as an additional insured with respect to services performed under this Contract, and evidencing the minimum limits of insurance coverage set forth in this agreement.
- (4) The County shall compensate the Municipality for conducting said snow plow operations on County roads located within the above mentioned Municipality in accordance with the Price Schedule on page 3. The County of Bergen Direct Vouchers must be submitted within five (5) days after termination of snow plowing of each storm for approval and prompt attention.

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**Resolution #2008-159**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING NOT TO EXCEED LIMITATIONS FOR T & M ASSOCIATES FOR THE 2008 ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that limitations in an amount not to exceed \$12,000.00 be authorized for engineering services to the Firm of T & M Associates in connection with the 2008 Road Improvement Program.

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**Resolution #2008-161**

**RESOLUTION RESCINDING THE AWARD OF THE UPPER GROVE FIELD HOUSE RENOVATION CONTRACT**

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council awarded a contract for the Upper Gove Field House Renovation project at their June 23, 2008 Council meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the quote from Pakis Construction Inc., 86 James Street, Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003 was accepted as the lowest quote at the price of

**\$34,400.00**

**WHEREAS**, the Business Administrator has determined that a change in the Scope of Work for the Upper Grove Field House Renovation project was deemed necessary;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the award for the Upper Grove Field House Renovations be rescinded.

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**Resolution #2008-162**

**RESOLUTION AWARDING THE UPPER GROVE FIELD HOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the Township requested quotes for the for the Upper Grove Field House Renovations project; and

**WHEREAS**, one quote was received the from Pakis Construction Inc. 86 James Street, Bloomfield, New Jersey 07003 and said quote has been reviewed and approved and is hereby accepted as the lowest quote at the price of

**\$ 28,800.00**

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in an amount not to exceed \$ 28,800.00 from the County Grants/Open Space Account;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the quote of Pakis Construction Inc., is accepted as the lowest quote.

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**Resolution #2008-163**

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF GENNARO ROTELLA AS CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**BE IT REOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Gennaro Rotella is appointed to the position of Chief Financial Officer for a term of four (4) years expiring on December 31, 2011.

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**Resolution #2008-164**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP’S PARTICIPATION IN THE LEAQUE OF MUNICIPALITY’S COAH LAWSUIT**

**WHEREAS**, the Township wishes to participate in the League of Municipality’s COAH lawsuit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in an amount not to exceed \$500.00 from the Legal Account;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that that Township Council of the Township of River Vale hereby authorizes the Township’s participation in the League of Municipality’s COAH lawsuit.

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**Resolution #2008-165**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE COUNTY ROAD RESURFACING AGREEMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the is Township of River Vale desires to enter into a agreement with the County of Bergen for the County Road Resurfacing Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the terms and conditions of this agreement are on file and available for inspection in the Township Clerk’s office;

**WHEREAS**, the Township of River Vale agrees to meet all requirements and specifications for County roadway restoration,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the County Road Resurfacing Agreement.

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**Resolution #2008-166**

**APPROVING THE 2007 AUDIT**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2007 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Township Clerk as per the requirements of N.J.S. 40A:5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey is authorized to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs, as per R. S. 52:27BB-34; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall by resolution certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled:

General Comments  
Recommendations

and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed as a minimum the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled:

General Comments  
Recommendations

as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the governing body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, as per the regulations of the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the promulgations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52 - to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52 - "A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of the Township of River Vale hereby states that it has complied with the promulgation of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey dated July 30, 1968 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

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**Resolution #2008-167**

**SEE ATTACHED**

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**Resolution #2008-168**

**SEE ATTACHED**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

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**ORDINANCE 2<sup>nd</sup> READING**

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to open the public hearing on Ordinance #200-2008.

There being no questions or comments motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to close the public hearing on Ordinance #200-2008.

Motion by Councilman Bromberg; seconded by Councilman de Stefan to adopt Ordinance #200-2008; as follows:

**Ordinance #200-2008**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, COUNTY OF BERGEN AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 112 “FIRE PREVENTION” SPECIFICALLY SECTION 8 PART C ENTITLED “FEES”**

C. Fees [Amended 6-28-1990 by Ord. No. 0-11-90] [Amended 12-22-03 by Ord. No. 0-22-03]

C. Inspections of commercial establishments not falling under the state-mandated fees shall be made at lease once annually; fees are as follows:

Type	Square Footage	Registration Fee
A	less than or equal to 2,000	\$ 95.00
B	2,001 to 5,000	\$145.00
C	5,001 to 10,000	\$220.00
D	Equal to or more than 10,001	\$275.00
E	apartment/multi family	\$45.00 per apartment \$850.00 Maximum \$135.00 Minimum

D. Late registration payment penalty shall be assessed on any registration form which is returned to the Fire Official after sixty (60) days from date of official mailing, as follows:

Type	A	B	C	D	E
Penalty:	\$95.00	\$145.00	\$220.00	\$275.00	\$45.00 per unit \$850.00Max/\$135.00Min.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

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**HEARING OF THE PUBLIC**

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; 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 de Stefan to close the meeting to the public.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilman de Stefan; seconded by Councilman Bromberg to adjourn meeting at 9:30 pm

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Glen Jasionowski  
Council President

ATTEST:  
Karen Padva  
Acting Township Clerk