

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Virtual Council Meeting**  
**Monday, January 11, 2021**  
**7:30pm**

**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

Council President Bromberg called the Virtual meeting to order at 7:30pm.

**SALUTE TO FLAG**

Council President Bromberg asked all in attendance to join him in a Salute to the Flag.

**SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT**

Council President Bromberg 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 Ben-Yishay, Councilman Criscuolo, Councilwoman Sieg and Council President Bromberg were present. Councilman Donovan was absent.

**Also present:** Mayor Glen Jasionowski, Township Attorney Silvana Raso, Business Administrator/CFO Gennaro Rotella, Township Engineer Chris Statile and Township Clerk Karen Campanelli.

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**Mayor's Comments**

Mayor Jasionowski offered his congratulations to their new Assistant Business Administrator, Karen Campanelli. The Mayor added that they are truly blessed to have someone like Karen on our staff, rising to the occasion and taking on this new role.

The Mayor commented on the recent storms; and the tremendous job by our DPW, Police and Fire departments. The Mayor received many compliments about how quickly the Town was cleaned up after both storms.

He next announced that two Police Officers are being promoted and officially taking their oath tomorrow. The Mayor further commented that our new Captain is Chris Bulger.

The Mayor reported that there has been an increase in Covid cases which was expected after the holidays. He added that Gennaro has been very quick to make adjustments at Town Hall and putting everyone in a position to be safe.

**Council Comments**

Councilman Ben-Yishay reiterated the Mayor's comments regarding Karen's promotion; they are all very happy and it's well deserved.

Councilwoman Sieg also offered her congratulations to Karen and that they're very fortunate. Councilwoman Sieg added that she always puts the Township first.

Councilman Criscuolo had no comments this evening.

Council President Bromberg also offered his congratulations to Karen.

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**Business Administrator's Report**

Mr. Rotella reported that the Township applied for Cares Act funding in 2020 and received approximately \$72,000 in reimbursement for expenditures incurred during Covid. He next commented on the Resolution from the Reorganization meeting regarding the Interlocal Agreement with Hillsdale for a Tax Collector. He explained that this will save the Township \$15,000 a year.

He next reported that he is looking at different organizations for Grant Writing services. Mr. Rotella explained that there are about 3 to 4 organizations that offer professional grant writing services. The Grant Writers look at Federal grants and beyond the scope the Town usually looks at. He feels there's opportunity particularly with the Police and Fire Departments regarding grants for equipment. Mr. Rotella further reported that there are a lot of projects going on in Town. The architect for the Police Department is refining the design; he will keep everyone informed as the project progresses.

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**Engineer's Report**

Mr. Statile offered his congratulations to Karen and she's wonderful to work with.

Mr. Statile reported that the group home on Cedar Lane has the foundation work complete and hopefully we will see a building up in the next month or so. He is also working with Rich on the selection of streets for the 2021 Road Program.

The work at the Golf Course is near completion; and the contractor has supplied the club with sod for placement. Mr. Statile reported that the contractor for the Poplar Road project is waiting until the spring to start work. He reported that the Fairways project is moving very quickly; the intersection is almost cleared of the utility wires and there is a lot of work going on the inside of the COAH building and new maintenance buildings.

Mr. Statile gave a brief update on the grants. They are waiting for the County to give them final approval on the EMS Park grant. The Township also received a grant for barrier-free improvement at the Country Club. Mr. Statile also is submitting a 2022 CDBG application for the bathrooms at Ranges Field.

He reported that Caroline Reiter is working on the Master Plan Update Reexamination Report with a subcommittee of the Planning Board. They will then submit the plan to the entire Board; the due date is July.

Councilman Criscuolo asked how many people are in the group home on Cedar Lane? Mr. Rotella responded there will be five (5); it's a five bedroom ranch style home.

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**1st Hearing of the Public**

Motion by Councilman Criscuolo; second by Councilman Ben-Yishay to open the meeting to the public.

David Rive -539 Bernita Drive—Mr. Rice asked if the Town could send out information with an update on the new Police Department and whether the Town is moving forward with the project. Mayor Jasionowski responded that they can put something out; however, there hasn't been much progress because they've been waiting for funding. The Mayor added that the architectural drawings have to be approved, the site work has not begun but the soil testing has been completed.

Mr. Rice asked how much the building will cost. The Mayor responded that they don't have a firm number yet which will then be used for bonding the project. He added that they have received some funding to offset the cost of the project. Mr. Rice questioned if the public will be able to give their opinion on whether the project should be done. Mayor Jasionowski responded that absolutely the public will have the opportunity; he explained that this will be a bond that the Council will have to vote on and have a full hearing. Mr. Rice asked that an email be sent out with this information. The Mayor responded that we don't use the email blasts for agenda items but rather for public safety matters. He added that it will be posted on the website.

Mr. Rice asked if there was any consideration given to sharing the jail because there is so little use. The Mayor responded that it's more than a little use and the Town is very busy with regard to the Police Department. He explained that they have not been able to use the jail for years and have had to use other facilities. Mr. Rice feels we should be sharing more. Councilman Criscuolo added that the Administration is

always looking for ways to safe and reduce costs; however, they are hesitant to do that when it comes to public safety. The Mayor added that only 20% of your tax bill goes to the municipality and of that 20% only a small portion is for the Police Department. Mr. Rice added that he is aware most of the taxes goes to the schools.

Council President Bromberg gave another example of where the Township has saved with regard to Dispatch. He explained that when it became advantageous for the Township moved their Dispatch to the County.

Mr. Rice asked what the Bond for the Police Department will cost the homeowners. Councilman Criscuolo explained that he doesn't anticipate that it will be cheap; he stated that if you've been in the current Police Department there are significant issues with the building. Mr. Rice agreed 100%. Councilman Criscuolo continued that the time has come to make that investment.

There being no further questions or comments from the public. Motion by Councilman Criscuolo; second by Councilwoman Sieg to close the meeting to the public.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Motion by Councilman Ben-Yishay; second by Councilman Criscuolo to approve Resolutions #2021-54 through Resolution #2021-60 as a Consent Agenda as follows:

**Resolution #2021-54**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES DECEMBER 7, 2020 REGULAR MEETING**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the December 7, 2020 Regular meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

**Resolution #2021-55**

**RESOLUTION**

**TAX LIEN REDEMPTION**

**WHEREAS**, the property located at 517 Wittich Terrace (Block 804, Lot 2) has been redeemed. The Tax Collector has received (1) one check in the amount of \$ 39,021.40 for payment of the lien (Certificate No. 20-00012); and

**WHEREAS**, the Township is holding a \$ 128,000.00 premium in a Trust Account for the above mentioned lien.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Treasurer is hereby by authorized to issue two (2) municipal checks in the amounts of \$ 39,021.40 and \$ 128,000.00 respectively as follows:

Payable to:  
"US Bank as Custodian for Actlien Holding Inc."

Mail to:  
50 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St.  
Suite 2050  
Philadelphia, PA 19102

**Resolution #2021-56**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING 2021 TOWING LICENSES FOR THE RIVER VALE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the following companies have applied for a 2021 License to provide Towing services for the River Vale Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the Clerk has certified that all of the documents and fees required have been received pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 223 of the Township Code.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the following companies are hereby the designated Towers for the River Vale Police Department:

**Emerson Towing, LLC**  
23 Chestnut Street  
Emerson, NJ 07630

**Bergen Brookside Towing**  
One Emerson Plaza E.  
Emerson, NJ 07630

**Rich's Automotive Specialist LLC**  
50 Chestnut Street  
Emerson, NJ 07630

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief of Police.

**Resolution #2021-57**

**MUNICIPAL ENDORSEMENT OF NEW CONCEPTS FOR LIVING 2021  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, a Bergen County Community Development Grant of \$65,000.00 has been proposed by New Concepts for Living for the replacement of a retaining wall in the municipality of River Vale; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the State Interlocal Services Act, Community Development Funds may not be spent in a municipality without authorization by the Mayor and Council; and,

**WHEREAS**, the aforesaid project is in the best interest of the people of the Township of River Vale and the residents of 687 Rivervale Road; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of River Vale hereby confirm endorsement of the aforesaid project.

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

**Resolution #2021-58**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MUTUAL AID PLAN AND RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE**

**WHEREAS**, the Police Departments in Bergen County have a day-to-day responsibility to provide for the security of lives and property, for the maintenance and preservation of the public peace and order; and,

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement officials also have a responsibility to provide for preparedness against natural emergencies such as floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, major storms, etc., man-made causes, civil unrest, and civil disobedience such as riot, strikes, jail or prison riots, train wrecks, aircraft crashes, major fires, riots, terrorist incidents and bombings, state and national emergencies; and,

**WHEREAS**, this plan is adopted in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:14-156, N.J.S.A. 40A:14-156.1, N.J.S.A. 40A:14-156.4 and N.J.S.A. APP. A: 9-40.6; and

**WHEREAS**, this plan will provide a uniform procedure for the coordination of the requesting, dispatching, and utilization of law enforcement personnel and equipment whenever a local law enforcement agency requires mutual aid assistance from any other jurisdiction, both contiguous and non-contiguous, in the event of an emergency, riot or disorder, in order to protect life and property; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council of the Township of River Vale to participate in mutual aid plan and rapid deployment force in accordance with the plan as submitted by the Bergen County Chief's Association.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Mayor and Council of the Township of River Vale that the Police Department of the Township of River Vale under the direction of the Chief of Police, cooperate with the Bergen County Police Chief's Association to create an Interlocal Services Agreement with all municipalities in the County of Bergen in order to put into place the mutual aid plan and rapid deployment force, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the County Prosecutor and all municipalities in Bergen County.

**Resolution #2021-59**

**ENDORSEMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR 2021  
ADA COMPLIANT ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS - RANGES FIELD PARK RESTROOMS**

**WHEREAS**, a Bergen County Community Development grant of \$45,000 has been proposed by the Township of River Vale for ADA compliant access improvements to restrooms at Ranges Field Park in the Township of River Vale; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the State 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 the 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 the aforesaid CD funds.

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

**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.

**Resolution #2021-60**

**MUNICIPAL ENDORSEMENT OF SPECTRUM FOR LIVING DEVELOPMENT 2021  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, a Bergen County Community Development Grant of \$30,000.00 has been proposed by Spectrum for Living Development for Spectrum for Living’s Pascack Valley Case Management and Community Support Program in the municipality of River Vale; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the State Interlocal Services Act, Community Development Funds may not be spent in a municipality without authorization by the Mayor and Council; and,

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

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and Council of the Township of River Vale hereby confirm endorsement of the aforesaid project.

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Criscuolo, Councilwoman Sieg and Council President Bromberg voted yes. Councilman Donovan was absent.

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**There are no Ordinances for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading or 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing of the Public**

Motion by Councilman Criscuolo; second by Councilman Ben-Yishay to open the meeting to the public.

David Rice –539 Bernita Drive—commented that every month he looks at the detail of the expenditures. He commented that there is a lot of work with SUEZ and Edgewood and it shows expenditures for overtime. Mr. Rice asked if the Town is reimbursed for this work. Mr. Rotella responded that the Township is reimbursed by the vendor that the work is being done. He added that actually there is revenue generated from the billing as an administrative fee. Mr. Rotella further added that any work you see being done is reimbursed 100% for the Police Private Duty details.

There being no further questions or comments from the public. Motion by Councilman Criscuolo; second by Councilwoman Sieg to close the meeting to the public.

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Councilman Ben-Yishay commented that they had discussed putting together a noise ordinance committee. Councilman Ben-Yishay is asking if anyone has scheduled a time to discuss further. The Mayor responded that the committee is Councilmen Ben-Yishay and Criscuolo, Gennaro and himself and that they schedule a to discuss.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilman Ben-Yishay; second by Councilman Criscuolo to adjourn the meeting at 8:07pm.

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ATTEST:  
Karen Campanelli, Township Clerk

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Council President Mark Bromberg



















