

MINUTES
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, January 24, 2022
Council Chambers 7:30pm

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Council President Bromberg called the meeting to order at 7:40pm.

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 Donovan, Councilwoman Sieg, Councilman Criscuolo and Council President Bromberg were present.

Also present: Mayor Glen Jasionowski, Business Administrator/CFO Gennaro Rotella, Township Attorney Michael Caufield, Township Engineer Christopher Statile and Township Clerk Karen Campanelli.

Special Recognition

Lorraine Waldes – 20 Years of Service
River Vale Board of Education

Mayor Jasionowski commented that it is truly an honor to invite Lorraine Waldes to this evenings meeting. He explained that Lorraine has been a tremendous servant to the Township as a Board of Education member and the one word he always hears about her is respect. For the past 20 years every Mayor and Council person has respected Lorraine and everything she has done for the Town. The Mayor thanked Lorraine and wanted to recognize her many accomplishments. Mayor Jasionowski presented Lorraine with a small gift of appreciation on behalf of the Township.

Ms. Waldes thanked the Mayor and Council and was very appreciative of their kind acknowledgment. She explained that she truly believe the Towns that have a healthy collaboration between the school and the municipality are the most successful. Ms. Waldes continued that they can best serve the community when we respect each other and work as a team. She added that many Towns don't have this relationship but thankfully River Vale does. Ms. Waldes further commented that you can see how important this is relationship is especially during the times we are in now. Lorraine always know she could reach out to the Mayor; with both her personal and school related concerns, and could always rely on the Town Council for their support as well.

Ms. Waldes commented that she recently listened to the President's address at the 90th Annual Conference of Mayors. She quoted him saying "...that if you want to get the job done right, act quickly, ask a Mayor to join your team, they will get it done..." Ms. Waldes added that from someone who knows the difficult job they all do, the long hours you put in taking care of the Town; she really appreciates this acknowledgement.

Ms. Waldes added that she loved being on the School Board, loved the PTA, students, staff, administrators, superintendents and trustees. She feels that she is a better person for her years on the Board. Ms. Waldes concluded that River Vale is a special place and to please continue to take care of it, be kind and respect one another and the new Board will be happy to continue their work with you.

Council Comments

Councilmen Ben-Yishay commented that he had four kids go through the River Vale school system and they are all in a great place right now; and he's sure a lot of that is because of Lorraine's leadership and guidance.

Councilman Donovan commented that 20 years is amazing particularly in a roll where you had to be elected. He added that Lorraine will be missed.

Councilwoman Sieg commented that she and Council President Bromberg had the pleasure of attending the most recent School Board meeting and the accolades Lorraine received were amazing. Councilwoman Sieg thanked Lorraine for everything she's done and will continue to do and wished her all the best.

Councilman Criscuolo thanked Lorraine on behalf of the Town, the Council, Mayor and thanked her personally. He explained that before he was on the Council; he was on the Board of Education. Councilman Criscuolo added that Lorraine was a mentor to him; at the time he was young and inexperienced; her guidance made him better for which he thanked her. Councilman Criscuolo truly hopes that Lorraine's days of public service are not over and that she is an invaluable resource and he expects she will continue to be.

Council President Bromberg thanked Lorraine for 20 years of dedicated service to the River Vale Schools and that she will be missed.

Council President Bromberg asked for a brief recess and reconvened at 7:53pm

ROLL CALL

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

Engineer's Report

Mr. Statile reported that the contractor has begun demolition of the bridge at the Country Club and he expects the project to take two months. Council President Bromberg questioned the agenda item regarding an adjustment to this project. Mr. Statile responded that there is an old water line and electrical conduit that runs through channel and needs to be moved to on top of the bridge.

He next reported that SUEZ is still working on the water line replacement work on Bailey Road, Alpine Circle and Whitenack; and their next step will be cutting in the house service lines from the main line. He added that weather permitting the work should be done by February. Mr. Statile next reported that PSE&G is continuing their work on Collignon Way for new electrical service.

Mr. Statile concluded that the bid is out for the EMS Park for the replacement of the pavers and he hopes to award this project in February.

Business Administrator Report

Mr. Rotella reported that there are a tremendous amount of projects going on in Town. The Township has grant money for the EMS Park and he will keep everyone posted as the project progresses. Councilwoman Sieg questioned when work will start on the EMS Park project. Mr. Rotella responded that the EMS Park project is out to bid and work should start this spring weather permitting.

1st Hearing of the Public

Motion by Councilwoman Sieg; second by Councilman Criscuolo to open the meeting to the public.

There being no questions or comments from the public. Motion by Councilman Criscuolo; second by Councilman Donovan to close the hearing of the public.

RESOLUTIONS

Motion by Councilman Criscuolo; second by Councilwoman Sieg to approve Resolution #2022-49 as follows:

Resolution #2022-49

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES DECEMBER 13, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the December 13, 2021 Regular meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Motion by Councilman Criscuolo; second by Councilman Donovan to approve Resolution #2022-50 as follows:

Resolution #2022-50

RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES JANUARY 4, 2022 REORGANIZATION MEETING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the January 4, 2022 Reorganization meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Councilwoman Sieg had questions regarding Res. 2022-53; the agreement with Closter for the Firing Range. She explained that she knows we also have an agreement with Hillsdale for the pistol range and how is this one different. Council President Bromberg responded that certain ranges can only handle certain firearms and the agreement with Closter is a rifle range.

Motion by Councilman Criscuolo; second by Councilman Ben-Yishay to approve Resolutions #2022-51 through #2022-64 as a Consent Agenda as follows:

Resolution #2022-51

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE

WHEREAS, the Business Administrator obtained estimates to remove debris at the following property which had been deemed a hazardous condition:

- **628 Long Hill Road (Block 105, Lot 2)**
-

WHEREAS, the following contractor submitted an estimate for said work as follows:

Buldo Brothers Sanitation, Inc.
87 Nicholas Drive
Paramus, NJ 07652

Cost: \$ 175.00

NOW THEREFOE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that upon the completion of the work the costs be forwarded to the Tax Collector in order for a lien for said work to be attached to the above mentioned property.

Resolution #2022-52

**RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 RIVER VALE COUNTRY CLUB
EMERGENCY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (INCREASE)**

WHEREAS, on November 22, 2021 the Township of River Vale awarded the awarded the River Vale Country Club Emergency Bridge Replacement project to Colonnelli Brothers, Inc., and

WHEREAS, there was a change during this project which is detailed in a statement prepared by the Township Engineer and on file in the Clerk's Office; and

WHEREAS, this change order results in an increase to the contract sum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Change Order No. 1 for the above mentioned project be approved as follows:

Original Contract Sum	\$ 284,000.00
<u>Change Order #1 Increase</u>	<u>+ 16,250.00</u>
<u>New Contract Sum</u>	<u>\$ 300,250.00</u>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer has certified the availability of funds in the Golf Course Capital Account

Resolution #2022-53

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE
BOROUGH OF CLOSTER FOR POLICE FIREARMS TRAINING FACILITY (2022)**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1, et seq., known as the "Interlocal Services Act," authorizes Interlocal Services Agreements between public entities to share services; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes renew the Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Closter for the continued use of the Closter Firing Range for members of the River Vale Police Department; and

WHEREAS, said Shared Services Agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Township Attorney and is on file in the Township Clerk's office.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Closter for the use of the Police Firing Range for a period commencing January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

Resolution #2022-54

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE INTERLOCAL SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH THE BOROUGH OF ORADELL FOR BUILDING DEPARTMENT SERVICES**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1, et seq., known as the "Interlocal Services Act," authorizes Interlocal Services Agreements between public entities to share services; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Oradell has a need for the provision of Building Department services due to a conflict of interest; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to enter into a shared services agreement whereby the Township of River Vale Building Department shall provide Building Department Services for the Borough of Oradell when there is a conflict of interest; and

WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of this agreement have been reviewed and approved by the Township Attorney.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the Interlocal Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Oradell.

Resolution #2022-55

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MUTUAL AID PLAN AND RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE

INTERLOCAL SERVICE AGREEMENT

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, the Bergen County Police Chief's Association has proposed a Mutual Aid Plan and Rapid Deployment Force to deal with these 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 Commissioners, the County Prosecutor and all municipalities in Bergen County.

Resolution #2022-56

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2022 TOWING LICENSES

FOR THE RIVER VALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the following companies have applied for a 2022 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 Towing for the River Vale Police Department:

Emerson Towing, LLC

Bergen Brookside Towing

Rich's Automotive Specialist LLC

23 Chestnut Street
Emerson, NJ 07630

One Emerson Plaza E.
Emerson, NJ 07630

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 #2022-57

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2021 the Township received proposals for Professional Services Contract Positions through a "Fair and Open Process" as defined by N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20 for awarding 2022 contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to award a Professional Services Contract for the position of Municipal Prosecutor; and

WHEREAS, one proposal received from Michael Candelmo, Esq., 1073 Palisade Avenue, Fort Lee, New Jersey has been reviewed and determined to be in the best interest of the Township of River Vale to award a contract to Michael Candelmo, Esq.

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Michael Candelmo, Esq., is hereby appointed as the Municipal Prosecutor for a one (1) year term expiring December 31, 2022.

Resolution #2022-58

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENT FOR
GRANT WRITING SERVICES**

WHEREAS, on December 16, 2021 the Township received proposals for Professional Services Contract Positions through a "Fair and Open Process" as defined by N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20 for awarding 2022 contracts; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to award a Professional Services Contract for the provision of Grant Writing Services; and

WHEREAS, the one proposal received from the firm of Millennium Strategies, 60 Columbia Road, Suite 230, Morristown, New Jersey has been reviewed and determined to be in the best interest of the Township of River Vale to award a contract to Millennium Strategies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the firm of Millennium Strategies is hereby appointed to provide Grant Writing Services for a one (1) year term expiring December 31, 2022.

Resolution #2022-59

**RESOLUTION
STATE TAX APPEAL
REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS**

WHEREAS, the property owner of 544 Buckley Court (Block 1513, Lot 3) was rendered a State Tax Appeal decision for a reduced assessment for the following years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Refund Amount</u>
2019	\$2,443.22
2020	\$2,500.64
2021	\$2,471.93

WHEREAS, the property owner is requesting a refund for overpayment of their taxes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale, that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue a municipal check payable as follows:

Check Payable to:

Valerie Hofer, Esq. Trust Account
P.O Box 787
Montville, NJ 07045

Total Refund/Check Amount: \$ 7,415.79

Resolution #2022-60

RESOLUTION

STATE TAX APPEAL

REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS

WHEREAS, the former property owner of 601 Piermont Avenue (Block 1301, Lot18) was rendered a State Tax Appeal decision for a reduced assessment for the following years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Refund Amount</u>
2017	\$353.30
2018	\$358.55
2019	\$362.53

WHEREAS, the former property owner is requesting a refund for overpayment of their taxes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale, that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue a municipal check payable as follows:

Check Payable to:

Dana Catanese & Gennaro Cassero
69 Rochester Drive
Brick, NJ 08723

Total Refund/Check Amount: \$ 1,074.38

Resolution #2022-61

RESOLUTION GRANTING TAX EXEMPT STATUS

DISABLED VETERAN AND AUTHORIZING REFUNDING PROPERTY TAXES PAID

WHEREAS, John F. Peterson, who resides at and is the owner of 39 Leona Court (Block 2002, Lot 20) in the Township of River Vale has been deemed a 100% permanently disabled veteran in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30; and,

WHEREAS, John F. Peterson made the appropriate claim for tax exemption through the River Vale Tax Assessor's Office as a 100% permanently disabled veteran and was approved effective September 21, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Peterson submitted an official letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs with the River Vale Tax Assessor confirming this information; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Peterson is seeking a refund for property taxes paid.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the property known as 39 Leona Court is hereby designated as a tax exempt property as the property owner, John F. Peterson, is a 100% permanently disabled veteran effective September 21, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all property taxes on said property are hereby cancelled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that a refund of property taxes paid is hereby granted and the Treasurer is authorized to issue a municipal check payable as follows:

Payable to:

“John Peterson”
39 Leona Court
River Vale, New Jersey 07675
Refund Amount \$ 3,936.61

Resolution #2022-62

RESOLUTION GRANTING TAX EXEMPT STATUS FOR DISABLED VETERAN

WHEREAS, Donald V. Scholtes, who resides at and is the owner of 611 Antrim Road (Block 107, Lot 12) in the Township of River Vale has been deemed a 100% permanently disabled veteran in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30; and,

WHEREAS, Donald V. Scholtes made the appropriate claim for tax exemption through the River Vale Tax Assessor’s Office as a 100% permanently disabled veteran and was approved effective October 22, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Scholtes submitted an official letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs with the River Vale Tax Assessor confirming this information.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the property known as 611 Antrim Road is hereby designated as a tax exempt property as the property owner, Donald V. Scholtes, is a 100% permanently disabled veteran effective October 22, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all property taxes on said property are hereby cancelled.

Resolution #2022-63

RESOLUTION

(TRANSFERS)

WHEREAS, there exists a need to make transfers in the 2021 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 2021 Budget Appropriations Reserves.

**Inside CAP:
From:**

<u>Group Health OE</u>	\$ 16,200.00
	Total \$ 16,200.00

**Inside CAP:
To:**

Engineering OE	\$ 5,000.00
Law OE	\$ 7,000.00
Insurance Dental OE	\$ 700.00
Telephone OE	\$ 2,000.00
<u>Gas & Oil OE</u>	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>
	Total \$ 16,200.00

Resolution #2022-64

PAYMENT OF BILLS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale

that the Business Administrator is hereby authorized to pay the following claims:

CURRENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	118,080.46
RESERVE CURRENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	370,276.35
GOLF COURSE UTILITY OPERATING ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	17,667.52
RESERVE GOLF COURSE UTILITY OPERATING ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$	34,659.94
FEDERAL/STATE GRANT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:		
ANIMAL TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	1,148.00
SNOW REMOVAL TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	9,432.11
RECREATION TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	280.00
PRIVATE DUTY TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	47,704.21
UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:		
HOUSING TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	1,555.00
JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:		
GOLF COURSE UTILITY CAPITAL ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	5,250.00
OPEN SPACE TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:		
CAPITAL ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	194,052.49
PLANNING BOARD TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	2,899.50
SPECIAL TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	17,630.00
ZONING BOARD TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	35.00
TOTAL CLAIMS TO BE PAID	\$	820,670.58

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 ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	3,324,677.43
RESERVE CURRENT ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	4,116,717.24
GOLF COURSE UTILITY OPERATING ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	149,746.40
RESERVE GOLF COURSE UTILITY OPERATING ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$	129,029.94
TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	100,344.64
ANIMAL TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:		
P.A.T.F. TRUST claims in the amount of:	\$	525.00
RECREATION TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	368.47
PAYROLL AGENCY TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	12,800.28
PRIVATE DUTY TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	108,714.39
TAX SALE REDEMPTION TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	31,026.37
TAX SALE PREMIUM TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:	\$	21,200.00
JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:		

GREEN ACRES TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:

UTILITY CAPITAL ACCOUNT claims in the amount of: \$ 3,798.83

CAPITAL ACCOUNT claims in the amount of: \$ 300,494.07

BUILDERS ESCROW ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:

PLANNING BOARD TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:

ZONING BOARD TRUST ACCOUNT claims in the amount of:

TOTAL CLAIMS PAID \$ 8,299,443.06

TOTAL BILL LIST RESOLUTION \$ 9,120,113.64

MANUAL DISBURSEMENTS

BILL LIST FOR January 24, 2022

12/15/2021 Transfer Payroll \$ 375,132.69

12/30/2021 Transfer Payroll \$ 296,910.08

1/14/2022 Transfer Payroll \$ 312,693.01

TOTAL STATUTORY ACCOUNT DISTRIBUTIONS \$ 984,735.78

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

There were no Ordinances for 1st or 2nd Reading

2nd Hearing of the Public

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Donovan; second by Councilman Criscuolo to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm.

Council President Mark Bromberg

ATTEST:
Karen Campanelli, Township Clerk

