

**BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS**  
Borough Council Regular Meeting  
**MINUTES**  
August 27, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vallone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Far Hills Municipal Building and read the open public meetings statement in accordance with the law.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Vallone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie, Vallone

Absent, as Excused: Carty, Hand, Surks

Absent:

Also Present: Clerk Hicks, Attorney Sordillo, Chief DeCarolis

**REPORTS**

**Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation**

Councilwoman Tweedie reported that the Borough's Environmental Consultant, Natural Systems Utilities recommended postponing the smoke testing of the sewer lines due to the high water tables as a result of the recent rain storms.

**Councilwoman Chimenti – Laws, Ordinances & Elections**

Councilwoman Chimenti reported that she would be meeting with Ms. Cameron Collins of the NJ Court Somerset County Vicinage during the annual visitation to be held on August 30, 2018. Councilwoman Chimenti noted that the annual visitation report focuses on assessing various areas of the Court's functions, including administrative procedures, office practices, facility and security conformance standards as well as in-depth analysis of financial records.

Lastly, she reported that the Far Hills Municipal Court receipts for July 2018 totaled \$3,385.94.

**Council President Karner – Police**

Council President Karner reported that the Far Hills Police Department would be continuing the high visibility DUI enforcement detail through September 4, 2018. This enforcement detail was funded through a grant from the Division of Highway Safety. He also informed the Council that PBA negotiations were ongoing and another meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 4, 2018.

Council President Karner stated that a special committee would be formed to organize events in celebration of the Borough's 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

Lastly, he commended Clerk Hicks on the Borough's website. Ms. Hicks expressed her appreciation and acknowledged the efforts of her staff on the development of the website.

### **Chief DeCarolis**

Chief DeCarolis echoed Council President Karner's comments regarding the DUI enforcement detail. He also stated that preparations were underway for the VNA Rummage Sale to be held on October 5-7, 2018 with donations commencing on September 8, 2018. Chief DeCarolis apprised the Council that meetings with law enforcement personnel were being scheduled in preparation for the Far Hills Race Meeting to be held on October 20, 2018.

### **Mayor Vallone**

Mayor Vallone stated that numerous meetings have taken place with regard to the proposed affordable housing developments within the Borough and the public presentation would be scheduled at an upcoming Council meeting.

He commented that pari-mutual wagering would take place for the first time at the Far Hills Race Meeting and emphasized that the Borough of Far Hills would have no involvement with this wagering as it was being licensed through the Monmouth Park Racetrack under the supervision of the New Jersey Racing Commission.

Lastly, Mayor Vallone stated that further discussion would be made later in the meeting regarding the proposed solid waste facility in the Borough of Bernardsville.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

8/13/18 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Council President Karner, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content and release.

8/13/18 – Executive Session Meeting Minutes

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti, was unanimously carried that these minutes be approved for content only.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **ORDINANCE – PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION**

**ORDINANCE 2018-06** – APPROPRIATING \$23,582.00 FOR PURCHASE OF POLICE EQUIPMENT

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to open the public hearing.

Scott Mayo, 6 Dumont Road, Far Hills inquired as to the functioning of the Morpho Live Scan.

Michael Joyce, 57 Liberty Corner Road, Far Hills inquired if the scan would have facial recognition capabilities.

There were no further comments from the public. Clerk Hicks advised that the notice of the public hearing was published in the newspaper of record, and that no communication, either written or verbal, was received regarding the Ordinance.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti and unanimously carried to close the public hearing.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Ordinance 2018-06 be adopted.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie, Vallone

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 18-112** – Requesting Somerset County to Impose Parking Restrictions on a Portion of Peapack Road

Mr. Sordillo informed the Borough Council that Peapack Road was under the jurisdiction of Somerset County and outlined the process to effectuate this requested change in parking restrictions.

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie that Resolution 18-112 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie, Vallone

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

**Resolution 18-113** - Payment of the Bill List

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Chimenti that Resolution 18-113 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie, Vallone

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Spring Hollow Road – Boulders in Roadway**

Mayor Vallone stated that the Borough's Zoning Officer, Ms. Kim Coward informed him of the potentially hazardous conditions regarding boulders placed along the roadway at approximately 11 properties on Spring Hollow Road, Lake Road and Pennbrook Road. Mr. Sordillo advised that municipal right of ways can extend 10 to 15 feet beyond the edge of the roadway inclusive of private property. He advised that under certain circumstances, the governing body has the authority to request any obstacles deemed hazardous to be removed. A brief discussion ensued resulting in Mr. Sordillo

being asked to review the right of ways at each property with Ms. Coward and advise as to the next steps to address the areas of concern.

### **Materials Recovery Facility - Old Quarry Road Associates**

Mayor Vallone stated that the Borough Council first addressed this issue in February 2018 by sending a letter opposing the truck route to both the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Somerset County Board of Freeholders. The truck route was proposed to access Route 287 and 78 via Route 202 and 206 through Far Hills and Bedminster on route to the facility to be located in the Borough of Bernardsville. He provided a brief overview of the NJDEP application submitted by a waste disposal contractor for a solid waste transfer station. Mr. Sordillo was directed to send another letter to the Somerset County Board of Freeholders and the NJDEP reaffirming the Borough's opposition to the truck route. Clerk Hicks was asked to post the contact information on the Borough website to provide residents a means to also submit letters of opposition. Mayor Vallone stated that there was a deadline of September 4, 2018 to submit objections to the NJDEP application.

Council President Karner added that there would be approximately 100 tons of solid waste brought to the transfer station on a daily basis. Councilwoman Tweedie commented that she serves on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and this proposal was initially presented as a Materials Recovery Facility; however, the NJDEP application now classifies it as a Solid Waste Facility.

Mayor Vallone commented that per the NJDEP application the facility would process 200,000 pounds of type 13 and 13c trash garbage and would be open from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm, seven days per week.

Jeffery Pike, DMD, 9 Dumont Road, Far Hills commented that the surrounding area in the vicinity of this proposed solid waste facility was a residential community.

Michael Fiore, MD, 110 Douglas Road, Far Hills inquired if the construction material could possibly contain asbestos.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills commented that from his experience a construction materials facility could quickly become a depository for household trash.

### **Bicycle Events**

Mayor Vallone commented that requests for bicycle events to utilize the roadways within the Borough of Far Hills had increased and a recent permit request sought an endorsement from the Borough. Clerk Hicks informed the Borough Council that the NJDOT was requiring the event organizer to obtain an endorsement from each municipality and police department in which the event route traverses. A general consensus of the Borough Council was not to endorse any events that take place within the Borough.

Mr. Sordillo advised against an official endorsement of the event, however, suggested that a letter recognizing only the date and location(s) of the event would be acceptable provided that the event was in compliance with applicable Borough ordinances and police off-duty requirements for traffic control.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – *The Mayor and Council welcome comments from any member of the public. To help facilitate an orderly meeting and to permit the opportunity for anyone who wishes to be heard, speakers shall limit their comments to 5 minutes.*

Michael Fiore, MD, 110 Douglas Road, Far Hills commented that property located on 180 Douglas Road was recently listed for sale.

Michael Joyce, 57 Liberty Corner Road, Far Hills inquired if any revenue would be generated for the Borough of Far Hills as a result of the pari-mutuel wagering at the race event this year.

Mr. Sordillo responded that the statute prohibits any proceeds being earned by the Borough through pari-mutuel wagering. He added that the ordinance governing large events within the Borough has been revised to increase the fees proportionately to the number of attendees at an event.

Paul DaMurjian, 181 Douglas Road, Bernards Township commented upon the potholes along Lake Road and inquired as to the process to reduce the speed limit along Douglas Road.

Michael Joyce, 57 Liberty Corner Road, Far Hills inquired as to the status of the court meetings with regard to the Borough's affordable housing obligation.

Charles Schwester, 410 Lake Road, Far Hills inquired as to the financial support for the Fair Share Housing Center, (FSHC).

There were no further comments from the public.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **Resolution 18-114**

- Attorney/Client Privilege – Litigation – Affordable Housing
- Contract Negotiations – Ludlow Avenue Road Improvements Project
- Contract Negotiations – Mine Brook Road Improvements Project

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to approve Resolution 18-114.

## **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

### **Resolution 18-115 – Authorizing Rejection of All Bids – Ludlow Avenue Road Improvements Project**

Motion by Councilwoman Tweedie, seconded by Council President Karner that Resolution 18-115 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Chimenti, Karner, Tweedie, Vallone

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

Council President Karner inquired if there were replacement pennants available for the buildings at the fairgrounds.


Councilwoman Tweedie stated that one of the benches at the fairgrounds was damaged as one of the slats needed to be reattached.

Clerk Hicks responded that additional pennants would be ordered and arrangements would be made with the Far Hills Bedminster Fire Department for installation. With regard to the bench, she would review and arrange for the necessary repairs.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Council President Karner, seconded by Councilwoman Tweedie and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy S. Hicks', is written over a horizontal line.

Dorothy S. Hicks  
Borough Clerk

APPROVED – 9/10/18