

**BOROUGH OF FAR HILLS**  
Borough Council Regular Meeting  
**MINUTES**  
December 10, 2018

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Vallone called the meeting to order at 7:03 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: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie, Vallone

Absent, as Excused:

Absent:

Also Present: Clerk Hicks, Attorney Sordillo, Chief DeCarolis

**REPORTS**

**Councilman Hand – Fire, Water, Light, Buildings & Grounds**

No report.

**Councilwoman Tweedie – Health/Sanitation**

No report.

**Councilman Surks – Roads**

Councilman Surks commended Bedminster DPW Director John Mantz and the DPW staff for maintaining the Borough's tertiary roadways during the recent snow storm. Councilman Surks commented that he also confirmed with Mr. Mantz that adequate supplies were accessible for any future inclement weather. Councilman Carty commented that Bernards Township recently made repairs to a section of Minebrook Road in the vicinity of Whitenack Road. It was noted that Minebrook Road is a jurisdictionally shared roadway between Bernards Township and the Borough of Far Hills.

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

No report.

**Councilman Carty – Finance/Insurance**

Councilman Carty reported that budget preparations were underway, encouraging Council members to review their respective budgets.

**Council President Karner – Police**

Council President Karner stated that the Police Report for November 2018 had been submitted. He informed the Council that he received a letter from Mr. Turpin commending Detective Kaminiecki for his professionalism during a recent emergency call. Council President Karner yielded to Chief DeCarolis at this time for the remainder of the police report.

**Chief DeCarolis**

Chief DeCarolis stated the year end high visibility DUI enforcement detail, funded by a grant from the Division of Highway Safety, commenced on December 7, 2018.

## **Mayor Vallone**

Mayor Vallone advised the Council that he recently met with the newly appointed Superintendent for the Somerset Hills Regional School District, Ms. Gretchen Dempsey. He also met with Ms. Jaime Leiss, Borough of Far Hills representative on the Somerset Hills School Board. Ms. Leiss currently serves as Board President and he noted this was the first time a resident from the Borough of Far Hills has been nominated to that position. Mayor Vallone indicated he invited both Ms. Dempsey and Leiss to attend an upcoming Borough Council meeting to provide a status update as well as an overview of the long term plans for the school district.

Mayor Vallone informed the Council that he also met with the mayor-elects of three surrounding municipalities: Ms. Mary Jane Canose from Bernardsville, Ms. Greg Skinner from Peapack & Gladstone and Ms. Larry Jacobs of Bedminster and emphasized that working collaboratively was essential for the betterment of all of our residents.

He also advised the Council that due to the expanding needs for IT computer services it was necessary to contract with the consulting firm ATON Computing of Somerville, as the shared services agreement with Bedminster could no longer meet the Borough's needs.

Mayor Vallone indicated that Far Hills Fairness Hearing for Affordable Housing before Judge Miller was scheduled for December 20, 2018. Attorney Sordillo commented that meetings were recently held with Borough Planner, David Banisch and Special Counsel, Michael Jedziniak in preparation of the hearing.

Mayor Vallone noted that the holiday party at the Borough Hall was scheduled for Friday, December 21, 2018 at noon and encouraged Council members to attend.

Lastly, he stated that the Borough Council's Reorganizational meeting would begin at 6:00 pm on Monday, January 7, 2019.

## **REGULAR AGENDA APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

11/26/18 – Regular Meeting Minutes

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

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The items listed within the consent agenda portion of the meeting have been referred to the Borough Council for reading and study and are considered routine and will be enacted with one motion of the Borough Council with no separate discussion. If separate discussion is required, the item may be removed from the agenda by Borough Council action and placed on the regular agenda under new business.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution 18-156 - Authorizing the Cancellation of General Capital Improvement Ordinances
2. Resolution 18-157 - Authorizing Redemption Tax Liens; B6.26 L4 and B10 L11
3. Resolution 18-158 - Payment of Bill List

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Councilman Surks that Resolutions 18-156 through 18-158 be approved.

Roll Call:

Aye: Carty, Chimenti, Hand, Karner, Surks, Tweedie

Nay:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

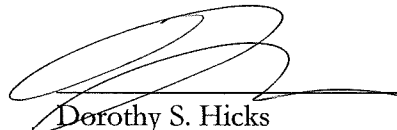
**PUBLIC COMMENT** – *The Mayor and Council welcome comments from any member of the public. To help facilitate an orderly meeting and to permit the opportunity for anyone who wishes to be heard, speakers shall limit their comments to 5 minutes.*

Council President Karner commented upon the number of special school elections throughout the state seeking voter approval for significant bond referendums. A brief discussion ensued regarding the allocation of school funding and the importance of maintaining open communications between the municipality and the school board.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilman Hand, seconded by Council President Karner and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy S. Hicks  
Borough Clerk

APPROVED - 12/21/18