

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
WORK SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008**

Mayor Richard C. Alnor opened the Work Session Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor west wing conference room.

Mayor Alnor led the Salute to the Flag.

Township Administrator Robert Shannon read the Open Public Work Session statement: "This regular Work Session Meeting of the Wyckoff Township Committee is now in session. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting appears on our Annual Schedule of meetings. A copy of said Annual Schedule has been posted on the Bulletin Board in Memorial Town Hall; a copy has been filed with the Municipal Clerk, The Record, The Ridgewood News and the North Jersey Herald and News – all newspapers having general circulation throughout the Township of Wyckoff. At least 48 hours prior to this meeting the Agenda thereof was similarly posted, filed and mailed to said newspapers."

Present: Mayor Richard C. Alnor, Committeemen Harold Galenkamp, David N. Connolly and Rudolf E. Boonstra

Also Present: Township Administrator Robert J. Shannon, Jr., Township, Attorney Robert Landel and Chief Financial Officer Diana McLeod.

Absent: Committeeman Joseph B. Fiorenzo and Municipal Clerk Joyce C. Santimauro

Mayor Alnor opened the meeting for the ten (10) minute public comment period with a motion from Committeeman Connolly, seconded by Committeeman Galenkamp.

There was no public comment.

Committeeman Connolly motioned to close the public comment period, seconded by Committeeman Galenkamp with an affirmative voice vote.

The Finance Committee was reviewing and signing vouchers.

Township Committee Reports:

1. Committeeman Boonstra expressed sympathy to the entire school community for the tragedy they suffered this week.
2. Committeeman Connolly attended the fire department inspection process on Friday evening, March 14, 2008. Mr. Connolly was very impressed with the level of firematic knowledge of the Township's volunteer firefighters and the condition of the fire trucks and equipment that are maintained by the volunteer firefighters. Mr. Connolly extended congratulations to Fire Company #2 for winning the fire inspection contest. It was noted that this was the first time that Fire Company #2 won the inspection contest since 1994.

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3. Mayor Alnor advised that the Township Committee will introduce the 2008 Municipal Budget. The development of the budget is far more complex now than ever before due to State actions specifically, cuts in municipal aid which increased taxes due to the loss of that revenue and to the State transferring mandated costs to municipalities.
4. Mayor Alnor attended the Fire Department Inspection process and advised that this was the 49th year in a row the Wyckoff Volunteer Fire Department has opened its' firematic processes, knowledge and equipment to experts outside of the Wyckoff Fire Department to review the fire department entity. Mayor Alnor congratulated Fire Company #2 on winning the inspection contest. Bruce Scott was awarded service stripes for seventy (70) years of service as a Wyckoff Volunteer Firefighter. Robert J. Shannon, Jr., our Township Administrator and volunteer firefighter, received service stripes for fifteen (15) years of service as a volunteer firefighter. Charles Cole was awarded the Dana Hannon Distinguished Service Award.
5. Mayor Alnor reported he has been invited to the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Founding of the Wyckoff P.T.O. Economy Shop. P.T.O. volunteers operate a consignment shop on the Township owned former railroad station at 399 Main Street. Since approximately 1966, the Township Committee has leased the old railroad station to the P.T.O. Economy Shop for a nominal rent. This past year, the volunteers of the P.T.O. Economy Shop were able to award \$48,000 in donations to both the Wyckoff and Ramapo/Indian Hills School Districts. Committeeman Connolly indicated this amount had increased from \$23,000 the previous year.

Township Attorney Report:

1. The Township Attorney has reviewed the Julie Court subdivision specifically, the documents related to the maintenance of the water detension system specifically, the homeowner's association responsibility for that maintenance.
2. Mr. Landel conducted two (2) closings for two (2) Wyckoff low and moderate income housing units this week. One unit was the subject of a pending foreclosure (which was avoided) however, the sale allowed that affordable housing unit to remain in the Township's inventory of low and moderate income housing.
3. The Township Attorney met with the Township Administrator and the Construction Code Official this week to review data to base an objection letter to the Council on Affordable Housing published regulations in the New Jersey Register concerning COAH's new third round rules.

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4. The Township Attorney will meet with the Administrator and the Recreation Director on Thursday, March 20, 2008 to review the recreation by-laws to begin the process to allow the Recreation Director to conduct verification of background checks of volunteer coaches in the recreation program.

Review of the 8:00 p.m. Agenda:

The Administrator reported that the Agenda is as submitted with no changes.

1. The Administrator will perform Clerk Santimauro's role at this evening's Work Session and Business Meeting.

Policy Action Items:

1. The Annual Team Up to Tidy Up Day, sponsored by the Wyckoff Environmental Commission is scheduled for Saturday, April 5, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.
2. On Saturday, April 19, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in front of Fire Company #1, the Environmental Commission and the Shade Tree Commission will conduct their Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony.
3. The Administrator reported that the Building Inspector has issued a fine to a residential property owner for failure to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy specifically, 334 Crescent Avenue. It was also indicated that property owners performing home improvements without construction permits or occupying homes without final inspections and/or Certificates of Occupancy are some of the primary reasons municipalities are ordered by the County to perform revaluations because, over time, the value of the home increases greater than the market appreciation causing a greater disparity among assessments. If there is a large disparity between assessments and true value, the tax burden is unfairly shifted onto the other taxpayers forcing them to pay higher tax bills and effectively subsidize those illegal improvements. Additionally, all the taxpayers are forced to incur the cost of the mandated revaluation (in 2005 the cost of the revaluation was \$483,950.00).
4. The Administrator met with Police Chief Ydo and provided authority to the Labor Counsel to file a motion to dismiss an appeal filed by the PBA. The Township Committee approved.
5. The next negotiation session with the PBA is scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in Town Hall.

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6. The Ramapo/Indian Hills Regional High School District has completed the drainage improvement project on their property and on the Wyckoff municipal roads, Miller Road and Vance Avenue.
7. The Administrator reported that the Township is updating its' personnel and employment practice policies required by the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) every few years. The process was reviewed along with the need to be in compliance with Joint Insurance Fund regulations to continue lower deductibles. The effective date of policies, procedures, and positions were reviewed and approved by labor counsel and the Township Attorney. The Township Committee approved.
8. The consultant report regarding the police department study has been received and distributed for review.
9. The public hearing and further consideration on the 2008 Municipal Budget is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2008.
10. The sewer rate ordinance is scheduled for public hearing and further consideration on Tuesday, April 1, 2008.
11. The Spring Municipal Resident Newsletter, which includes information on the Spring Leaf Collection Program which begins April 7, 2008 and Team Up to Tidy Up Day on April 5, 2008, has been delivered to the Post Office in Wyckoff. Delivery to Wyckoff homes is expected this week.
12. The Administrator reported that a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2008 concerning the Municipal Court Security Project Team.

The Work Session Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Richard C. Alnor
Mayor

Joyce C. Santimauro
Municipal Clerk