

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
WORK SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 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.

Municipal Clerk Santimauro 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, Joseph B. Fiorenzo, David N. Connolly and Rudolf E. Boonstra

Also Present: Township Administrator Robert J. Shannon, Jr., Township Attorney Robert Landel 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 Galenkamp reported that last week he attended the Bergen County Joint Insurance Fund Annual Safety Award Ceremony. The Township of Wyckoff won two (2) awards; **BEST OVERALL IN THE JOINT INSURANCE FUND** and the **SILVER AWARD FOR EXCELLENT SAFETY PERFORMANCE**. This is the sixteenth year in a row that the Township of Wyckoff has been commended since joining the Joint Insurance Fund Consortium for its' compliance with the safety incentive program. The impetus of the regionalization effort is to avoid costly insurance premiums through risk management and safety programs. The Bergen County Joint Insurance Fund is regulated by the State's Department of Banking and Insurance and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs. It is the oldest municipal joint insurance fund in the State of New Jersey.

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2. Committeeman Fiorenzo reported that a continuation of the PBA Negotiation Session was conducted last week and requested a closed session discussion to provide an update to the governing body on the status and to discuss further strategy.
3. Committeeman Boonstra reported that the Board of Adjustment Members are incurring the expenses for an advertisement in the local newspaper regarding the Christian Healthcare Center application. The Board of Adjustment determined not to spend taxpayers money and pursue a legal action regarding the "Friends of Wyckoff" comment about the Board of Adjustment. Therefore, in order to set the record straight, the members have personally paid for the advertisement.
4. Committeeman Connolly advised that the Annual Team Up to Tidy Up Wyckoff Environmental Awareness Day, sponsored by the Wyckoff Environmental Commission is scheduled for Saturday, April 5, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Connolly complimented Brian Bigler, Environmental Commission Chair for his ten (10) years of service as a volunteer on the Environmental Commission.
5. Mayor Alnor reported that the Joint Insurance Fund Award presented to the Township of Wyckoff is a recognition of the efforts the Township Administrator and the Township Staff perform each day to control costs. Since 1995, the Township of Wyckoff has received dividends amounting to \$572,751.00 from the Bergen County Joint Insurance Fund to be used to offset subsequent insurance costs. Mr. Alnor further stated that this Township accomplishment is evidence by the statistics that according to the New Jersey Department of Labor, a lost time accident frequency rate for New Jersey Municipal Government Employees was 4.8 accidents per 100 employees per year. All New Jersey Joint Insurance Funds have an average loss time accident frequency rate of 2.71. The Bergen County Joint Insurance Fund's loss time accident frequency rate was 2.05. The loss time accident frequency rate for the Township of Wyckoff employees is 1.12. Mayor Alnor described this effort as remarkable and thanked all Township Employees for this achievement. Committeeman Fiorenzo described this accomplishment as extraordinary and congratulated Mr. Shannon and his staff. The reality is that the Wyckoff rate is one-fourth (1/4) of the State average. The folks who work for Wyckoff are committed to providing service. This is why the Township Committee can govern cost effectively and we have not had to hire more personnel despite the many new State mandated requirements. Our staff does more with less.
6. Mayor Alnor attended the Wyckoff Volunteer Ambulance Corp. monthly meeting and advised that the Township was awarded a \$95,000 Bergen County Community Development Grant to construct ADA improvements at the ambulance building.
7. Mayor Alnor informed the governing body that last week the Wyckoff Volunteer Fire Department sadly lost a sixty-seven (67) year member of the department, Ed Kirksey.

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8. Mayor Alnor reported that effective today, the new State tax established by Governor Corzine called the Land Fill Tax, takes effect for municipal government. This new State tax impacts all generated municipal curbside solid waste garbage collection and is paid through property taxes. It is now even more important that residents separate their household recyclables from their household solid waste and place recyclables at the curb for the every other week recyclable collections to prevent the recyclables from ending up in landfills. Recycling, in addition to being environmentally sound, reduces that amount the Township must pay to landfill its trash.

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

The Administrator advised the Agenda is as presented. Two (2) ordinances are scheduled for public hearing and further consideration. Ordinance #1578 establishes a \$4.00 increase for sewer service charges for 2008. Ordinance #1579 increases the municipal budget appropriation limit to establish a cap bank. Mr. Shannon further explained that the State of New Jersey has imposed a 2.5% cap limitation on certain appropriations. The Township of Wyckoff's 2008 Budget complies with this budget cap limitation. However, the State requires the Township to adopt a budget cap ordinance, raising the cap to 3.5%. By adopting this ordinance, the Township will be allowed to exceed the 2.5% budget cap if necessary, for unforeseen increases on items that are subject to cap restrictions. The adoption of this ordinance does not provide authority to increase next year's budget over the 2.5% cap. It provides flexibility for extenuating circumstances which may arise in 2009. It in no way constitutes cash, surplus or appropriation increases to the taxpayer, but rather allows the Township or any other municipality the flexibility to meet the strict cap law requirements imposed and continue to provide essential services to our residents.

Policy Action items:

1. The Administrator reported that the Wyckoff Police Department received notice that a \$2,000 grant for traffic enforcement and education has been received. The Township is still waiting for a grant award for "Click It or Ticket" enforcement.
2. 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, 439 Victor Way. 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).

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3. The Township of Wyckoff received a notice that the 2008 New Jersey Department of Transportation Trust Fund Grant Applications are available. The Administrator has forwarded this information to the project team of the Township Engineer, Public Works Manager and the Traffic Safety Officer to develop a recommendation on which road meets the State requirements for grant funding.
4. The Administrator requested authorization to go out to bid to purchase laptop computers for the police department, replacing the existing computers which no longer will be serviced by the Bergen County vendor. The computers will be purchased from the forfeiture funds, monies which the police department has obtained from prior criminal arrests and convictions and not tax dollars. The Township Committee approved.
5. The Township of Wyckoff Municipal Code will become available on the Township's website effective Wednesday, April 2, 2008.
6. The Administrator received a memo from Brian Bigler, Environmental Commission Chair, indicating he attended a Bergen County Environmental Council Meeting on Monday, March 31, 2008 in Hackensack. The meeting focused on a group entitled Geese Peace, volunteers who work to decrease the geese population on public property.
7. The Administrator reported the enhanced Spring curbside leaf collection will begin on Monday, April 7, 2008. A second leaf collection will take place the following week.
8. The Spring Resident Newsletter, Municipal Update was delivered to homes on or about March 20, 2008.
9. The Administrator received a letter from the Borough of Hawthorne Administrator requesting to meet with the Mayor and a subcommittee concerning Ridgewood Water's request to utilize Hawthorne's water tank and to address a flooding problem on Braen Avenue in Hawthorne. The Administrator was asked to schedule the meeting.
10. The Administrator received the feasibility study prepared by Jersey Professional Management Group concerning shared police services with Wyckoff and Midland Park. The focus on the study was safety first and savings second. The Township has an existing relationship with Midland Park sharing dispatch services for police, fire, ambulance and public works. The Township Committee discussed the report and determined that the Police Committee should meet with the consultant to review the report and obtain additional information.
11. The Administrator reported that the Recreation Director received a grant from U.S.Lacrosse to provide a coaching class from the Positive Coaching Alliance.

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Township Attorney Report:

- 1. Mr. Landel reported he has been working with the Administrator, the Township’s Affordable Housing Planner and Committeeman Fiorenzo to prepare a letter objecting to the third round proposed rules from the Council on Affordable Housing (COAH). Mr. Landel’s objection letter also indicated that COAH’s methodology does not work in Wyckoff. COAH has taken a snapshot of building permits in 1999 and projected that 1999 building permit activity over the period of the third round. Mr. Landel utilized the exact number of building permits and itemized available land; subtracted open space, wetlands areas, ballfields, existing affordable housing sites zoned for affordable housing and what remains in Wyckoff is one (1) parcel. The conclusion is that COAH’s rules are out of touch with reality in Wyckoff. It appears the municipality will have to spend money to object to these rules if COAH approves them on June 1, 2008. A similar objection letter was sent on Wyckoff’s behalf by the Township’s Affordable Housing Planner.

At 7:55 p.m. the Township Committee recessed the Work Session Meeting to enter into Closed Session via Resolution #08-C5.

At 8:06 p.m. the Township Committee reconvened the Work Session Meeting with the following vote:

**MOTION : GALENKAMP SECOND: FIORENZO
GALENKAMP Yes BOONSTRA Yes FIORENZO Yes CONNOLLY Yes ALNOR Yes**

The Work Session Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Richard C. Alnor
Mayor

Joyce C. Santimauro
Municipal Clerk