

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF  
WORK SESSION MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 7, 2007**

Mayor David N. Connolly opened the Work Session Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor west wing conference room.

Township Administrator Robert J. Shannon, Jr. 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 David N. Connolly, Committeemen Joseph B. Fiorenzo and Richard C. Alnor

**Also Present:** Township Administrator Robert J. Shannon, Jr. and Township Attorney Robert Landel

**Absent:** Committeemen Harold Galenkamp, Henry J. McNamara and Municipal Clerk Joyce C. Santimauro

Mayor Connolly opened the meeting for the ten (10) minute public comment period. There was no public comment at this time.

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

Mayor Connolly advised that the Finance Committee was reviewing and signing vouchers. The Administrator was asked two (2) questions concerning vouchers which he answered satisfactorily.

**Township Committee Reports:**

1. Committeeman Fiorenzo reported that the Township is attempting to schedule a negotiation meeting with the PBA for August 14 or 15, 2007.
2. Committeeman Fiorenzo reported that the Township received a notice of the pension bill increase for 2008. The increase for the Township is \$312,687.00, a 77% increase for the PERS pension bill is \$156,486 or a 66.2% increase. For the police retirement system (PFRS) a 66% increase. Mr. Fiorenzo noted that each year the governing body struggles to limit the growth of the budget and these extraordinary increases are excessive and defy logic. Again, Trenton, passing along costs to municipal governments is the source of property tax increases. Later this year when the Township Committee begins the budget review process, due to this State action, the Township will start with a \$312,687 increase in the municipal budget without even looking at any other expense item.

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**Township Attorney Report:**

1. Mr. Landel contacted the attorneys for a delinquent condominium maintenance fee action at an affordable housing unit in Barrister Farms. It appears that a divorce proceeding will result in the affordable housing condominium unit being sold. All parties were advised that this unit is income restricted and all sales must be administered through the municipality's affordable housing project team.

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

The Administrator reported the following additions to this evening's Agenda:

1. The Agenda includes a resolution to authorize an interlocal services agreement commonly known as regionalization which would allow the Township of Wyckoff and the Borough of Midland Park to apply jointly and cooperatively for a New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) Trust Fund Grant to improve and repave Park Avenue. Park Avenue experiences heavy traffic and meets the eligibility requirements for a NJDOT Trust Fund Grant. Park Avenue is in Wyckoff and Midland Park and the municipal boundary dividing line is the center yellow line.
2. A resolution is presented to award a contract after public bidding for radio maintenance and repair to the Township's emergency radio system. This is the second time this contract was competitively bid and this award represents \$3,000 less on a yearly basis than the originally bid contract.
3. A resolution is presented to accept a \$212,500 grant from the Bergen County Open Space Program for enhancement of recreational facilities. These grant funds will be utilized to reconstruct the Wyckoff tennis court facility.
4. A resolution is presented to authorize an application for a \$13,500 grant to the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse prevention to fund the Township's Municipal Alliance Program.
5. A resolution is presented to award a contract after public bidding for a high pressure breathing air system which allows the Wyckoff Volunteer Firefighters to fill their self contained breathing apparatus bottles which firefighters are mandated by OSHA rules to wear when they enter a fire/smoke/chemical or confined space environment.
6. The Township Committee approved adding all to tonight's agenda.

**Policy Action Items:**

1. The Township Committee approved the request from residents on Kelly Court to extend the Township's sanitary sewer system to service three (3) houses.

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2. The Administrator reported that last evening a cow wandered off Abma's Farm on Lawlins Road. Jim Abma Jr. chased it on his horse along the railroad tracks through the center of town and the cow was eventually collected by Jim Abma Jr. near the Wildlife and Nature Sanctuary between Crescent Avenue and Midland Avenue.
3. A number of reports from the Township Construction Code Official regarding four (4) monetary fines for residents who performed building projects without construction permits were provided for information. The projects ranged from adding a deck without a permit to expanding a home without a permit. The fines totaled approximately \$3,000 and the property owners were required to obtain the required permits. It was indicated that property owners performing home improvements without construction permits is one 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, the entire town is forced to incur the cost of the resultant revaluation (In 2005 it was \$483,950.00).
4. A letter was received from a resident requesting permission to train her dog in search and rescue tracking on Township park property. The Township Committee determined that this approval could not be provided because the fields are used for recreational sports activities and dogs are prohibited on recreation facilities for sanitary reasons and multiple signs are posted at all municipal fields prohibiting dogs.
5. The Township Committee approved applications to be sent to the 2008 Bergen County Open Space Park Improvement Grant Program for parking and field improvements.
6. The Township Committee approved the recommendation from Peter TenKate of Boswell Engineering to study a section of Wyckoff in a section of the Knolls neighborhood for potential assistance from the Northwest Bergen Sewer Utilities Authority to help residents fund sewer extensions. This study would be paid for by the Northwest Bergen County Utilities Authority.
7. A request was received from Bergen County for the Township to adopt a resolution concerning first responder identification cards. Committeeman Alnor indicated this program was an outgrowth of emergency management planning after the 9/11/01 terrorist attack in the World Trade Center in New York and it is Mr. Alnor's recommendation that the Township should participate in the program. Whenever an emergency arises, and Federal, State or County Officials manage the emergency, these identification cards will allow only authorized individuals to access a specific area based on the barcoded clearance on their identification card. The Township Committee approved participation.

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8. The Administrator reported he is attempting to participate in a regionalized interlocal service agreement with other municipalities in Bergen County to obtain at no cost to the Township a records manager paid for by the County of Bergen through a state grant for one (1) day per week for a two (2) year period.
  
9. The Administrator requested authority to participate again in a regionalized auction of municipal vehicles (police cars which have reached their useful life) no longer needed for public use with the Borough of Waldwick. The Administrator reported this cooperative arrangement has resulted in very competitive prices over the past years for old police cars. The Township Committee approved.

The Work Session Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

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David N. Connolly  
Mayor

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Robert J. Shannon, Jr.  
Township Administrator