TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OPEN PUBLIC WORK SESSION
SECOND FLOOR MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM
TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2014 – 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Douglas J. Christie opened the Work Session Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor municipal conference room.

Municipal Clerk Santimauro read the Open Public Work Session statement: "This Open Public 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 Douglas J. Christie, Committeemen Kevin J. Rooney, Haakon C. Jepsen, Brian D. Scanlan and Rudolf E. Boonstra
Also Present: Township Administrator Robert J. Shannon, Jr., Township Attorney Robert Landel and Municipal Clerk Joyce C. Santimauro

Mayor Christie opened the meeting for the ten (10) minute total public comment period for any item on or off the Agenda, two (2) minutes per speaker, with a motion from Committeeman Scanlan, seconded by Committeeman Boonstra.

There was no public comment.

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

Mayor Christie advised that the Finance Committee was reviewing and signing vouchers.

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

The Administrator reported the following:

1. The Agenda was not completely complete by Friday, August 1, 2014 due to additional items that resulted on Monday and Tuesday.

2. A resolution stating the beginning of the hurricane season and encouraging residents and families to prepare a "home emergency kit." The resolution also references the 2014 Municipal Calendar, a wealth of information tailored for Wyckoff concerning emergency preparedness.

3. The second resolution was requested by Lt. Van Dyk and a requirement of the State Police to allow the police department to participate in the August 1, 2014 to September 1, 2014 campaign, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over." A public service announcement has been prepared and issued to the press this evening.

4. Ordinance #1748 will not be further considered. Concerns were brought about from the last meeting regarding grant conditions therefore, the ordinance will not be adopted.

5. Two (2) ordinances are proposed for this evening's meeting, completed today and reviewed by the Township Attorney. The first ordinance authorizes the non-exclusive lease of a portion of the Pulis Soccer Field track to the Wyckoff Family YMCA. The second ordinance authorizes a non-exclusive lease to the Wyckoff Torpedoes Soccer Club for their use of the Pulis Soccer facility in exchange for a financial contribution towards the cost of construction of the artificial turf field.

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6. The Township Committee approved adding these items to the Agenda.

Policy Action Items:

1. On Friday, July 25, 2014, New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) crews were on Route 208 cleaning catch basins along the highway. These crews were the result of a letter Police Chief Fox sent to the Acting Commissioner of the NJDOT and a meeting that was conducted days prior on Route 208 where Chief Fox explained to the NJDOT the areas where the water backs up during heavy rain events.

2. The target date for unveiling the online Wyckoff Recreation Registration Program is Monday, September 1, 2014. A notice was e-blasted two (2) weeks ago to residents who have registered their e-mail address to begin program registration online. The idea was generated from a previous Public Policy Meeting.

3. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities has approved a rate increase for Orange & Rockland Utilities customers of 5.05%. This will increase costs to Town Hall, the Police Station, dispatch and the Library.

4. The Administrator, Chief Fox and Lt. Van Dyk will meet with representatives from Cablevision of Oakland on Wednesday, August 6, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss work to be performed on certain utility poles in Wyckoff. Committeeman Scanlan advised that a number of residents have asked him about the poor quality of the recent internet service provided by Cablevision. The Administrator responded that Cablevision, as well as Verizon Fios operate under a State issued franchise. As such, the Office of Cablevision in the Board of Public Utilities is the official complaint officer for service issues. When Cablevision operated under a municipal franchise the Township had a complaint form that would be sent to the Board of Public Utilities. The Administrator recommended that anyone receiving complaints regarding service issues should advise the resident to contact the service provider first and then the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

5. On Wednesday, September 10, 2014, the Administrator will attend the JIF Third Quarter Training Session in Fair Lawn regarding workers compensation.

6. The Building Inspector submitted copies of two (2) fines that were levied against two (2) property owners who performed construction work in their homes without permits. The location of the property owners are 118 Sheldon Street and 541 Richard Place. The Tax Assessor advises that work performed without the required permits is the primary reason that municipalities are mandated to perform costly revaluations.

7. This Summer, the railroad has been constructing improvements to three (3) grade crossings, all of which are in Midland Park but at the border of Wyckoff. Public information has been e-blasted and posted on the municipal website. The railroad completed the work at the crossing of Goffle Road/Lake Street/Wyckoff Avenue and Newtown Road. The remaining grade crossing is located at Sicomac Road in Midland Park to be performed on Friday, August 22, 2014.

8. The third quarter tax period began Friday, August 1, 2014 and will continue thru Monday, August 11, 2014. The Township was forced to issue estimated tax bills because the tax rate has not been struck by Bergen County or the State of New Jersey. The Township is mandated by statute to bill taxes prior to June 14th each year and the Township is

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also required to turn over taxes to the schools and the County, regardless if the County or State has struck the tax rate. The cost to issue estimated tax bills is approximately $5,000.

9. A date of Saturday, October 25, 2014 has been established for the Fall Personal Paper Shredding event (known as "Shredfest") from 9:00a.m. to 12:00 noon at the DPW Garage, 475 West Main Street. This information will posted on the Township's website and e-blasted from now until the event. This is a very popular and well attended free service for Wyckoff residents.

10. The Township received a letter from the attorney representing the owner of the Brownstone Inn concerning his client's responsibility for his liquor license. The letter from the attorney appeared to indicate that the Township was required to take action at this point. However, after review with the Township Attorney, it is clear that the holder of the liquor license must take action and once that action is taken, the governing body can review the application for a renewal.

Township Committee Reports:

Brian Scanlan:

1. Mr. Scanlan will meet with Committeeman Rooney and a Girl Scout Troop this week concerning a Silver Award Community Project at the Larkin House Park.

2. The Russell Farms historical signage is complete and the information is being mounted into the metal frames. Installation should be completed in the next two (2) weeks.

3. On Thursday, August 7, 2014 the Parks and Recreation Task Force will meet and review the twenty-four (24) page survey. More than 500 residents participated in the survey and the task force will meet to assess and review the responses and suggestions.

4. Earlier in the month, Mr. Scanlan attended the O'Hagan/Strong event at the Brownstone in Paterson. The event benefitted Pat O'Hagan's son, a former Ramapo High School Football star who was injured at college. Approximately 500 people attended the fundraiser dinner to financially support this young man's convalescent.

Rudy Boonstra:

1. Mr. Boonstra attended the Planning Board Meeting on Thursday, July 17, 2014 where the Capital One Bank application was postponed at the request of the applicant.

2. The Planning Board Attorney, Joseph Perconti is recovering from surgery and asked that everyone keep Mr. Perconti in their prayers. John Spizziri, the Board of Adjustment Attorney will preside over the next several Planning Board Meetings.

3. Mr. Boonstra attended the Ramapo/Indian Hills Regional High School Board of Education Meeting on Thursday, July 24, 2014 whereby goals were set for the upcoming school year. The new School Superintendent, Beverly McKay reported she will be reaching out to the three (3) sending

municipalities and attend several of their government council meetings. Mr. Boonstra thanked Superintendent McKay for her terrific idea.

4. Mr. Boonstra attended two (2) PBA Negotiation Meetings with Deputy Mayor Rooney, Police Chief Fox and Administrator Shannon. The Township suffered a severe vehicle accident on Route 208 where a police vehicle was totaled, fortunately, no police officers were injured.

At 8:00 p.m. the Township Committee recesses the Work Session Meeting to conduct the public business meeting.

At 8:10 p.m. the Township Committee reconvenes the Work Session meeting voting as follows:

MOTION: _____ROONEY__ _____ SECOND _____BOONSTRA_____
BOONSTRA_YES_ JEPSEN _YES_ ROONEY_YES_ SCANLAN_YES
CHRISTIE _YES_

Continuation of Township Committee Reports:

Haakon Jepsen:

1. The work on the 2015 Municipal Calendar is in full swing and the theme for the calendar is "Drug & Alcohol Abuse Education," a resource guide. Assignments have been made.

2. Mr. Jepsen is pleased that the online recreation registration program is proceeding and suggested the municipality provide additional services online for the convenience of residents. Mr. Jepsen purchased his fireworks tickets today online. The Library is also providing a number of online registration activities.
Mayor Christie asked how the online tax and sewer payments are proceeding. The Administrator responded that the convenience for paying taxes and sewer online has been well received by Wyckoff residents. That program was unveiled on May 1, 2014 and approximately fifty (50) transactions were completed online. The Township continues to promote this resident convenience in weekly e-blasts.

Kevin Rooney:

1. Mr. Rooney has attended several meetings with the Parks and Recreation Foundation, the Wyckoff Family YMCA and the Torpedoes Soccer Club regarding the effort to construct an artificial turf field at the Pulis Recreation Facility. Mr. Rooney met privately with representatives of the Spring Meadow Condominium Association to provide an update on the project progress.

2. The Township Negotiation Committee has met twice with the PBA and a third meeting is scheduled for the third week in August.

3. Mr. Rooney reported that the police car that was struck last week on Route 208 is totaled. This will represent challenges for the police department in terms of time delay needed to order a replacement vehicle. However, on a positive note, no police officers were injured.

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4. At today's Public Policy Committee Meeting, Mr. Rooney advised that the walking path that was washed out by the recent rains at the Russell Farms Community Park is presenting a problem. The DPW is looking into solving the problem however, the solution may include asphalting the path.

5. Mr. Rooney will be meeting this week with Committeeman Scanlan at the Larkin House Park with Girl Scout Troop 28 to discuss an improvement project for their Silver Award Project.

6. A discussion concerning how to make additional permits available at the Cornerstone Christian Church Commuter Park & Ride Facility was conducted at the recent Public Policy Committee Meeting. A recommendation to increase fees and a new permit for the three (3) Summer months will be presented for governing body consideration.

7. The Public Policy Committee discussed in great detail an ordinance regarding shade tree preservation on private property specifically, heritage trees and requiring permits for the removal of trees. However, the unresolved issue is the educational requirement needed by the staff to make those decisions as well as an individual to issue and enforce permits.

8. The Township Committee was provided with a memo and a police report regarding an individual who continues to conduct his private tennis lesson business on the Township's public tennis courts. This person has been informed numerous times by the Recreation Department that this is not permitted on Township property. Based on a memo and the police report, the Township Committee concluded that the resident (18 yrs. old) does not seem to comprehend that public property may not be utilized for personal gain. Mr. Rooney requested that the Township Attorney send a letter to this individual in this regard.

Mayor Christie:

1. The Township had a thorough discussion of approximately ten (10) items from today's Public Policy Committee Meeting. One of those items was a follow-up to the discussion regarding a zoning ordinance change to address multiple uses on one (1) lot. A consensus existed that the Township Attorney was instructed to prepare an ordinance amendment which would address and clarify what is precisely permitted. Mr. Landel suggested that once the ordinance amendment is drafted, it should be forwarded to the Township's Planner for her opinion as well.

2. The discussion at the Public Policy Committee Meeting concerning tree preservation will continue with a collection of ordinances from surrounding municipalities.

3. As a follow-up to the report from Mr. Rooney regarding the discussion on commuter perking, an increase in fees is needed to ensure the Township is collecting the appropriate funds for the services that the Township provides to the Church, a trade-off for the use of their facilities for a commuter park and ride specifically, snow removal, salting and line striping as well as a future resurfacing of the church parking lot. This Winter, the Township suffered 72 inches of snow which greatly increased the amount of expenses. Additionally, a Summer permit (June, July & August) could be issued and parking accommodated at the overflow parking lot at Wyckoff Community Park. Committeeman Scanlan asked if the section of the commuter parking lot by the concession building was

considered for paving. Mayor Christie replied yes however, parking lot lighting would have to be installed to ensure safety. A cost estimate is being obtained at this point.
The Subcommittee also discussed utilizing other sites however, that becomes difficult coordinating bus schedules from alternate locations.

4. Mayor Christie made comment that the railroad has performed a good job with the grade crossing restorations at Newtown Road and Goffle Road/Lake Street/Wyckoff Avenue.

5. Mayor Christie requested that everyone keep Joseph Perconti, Planning Board Attorney in their prayers.

6. Mayor Christie reported that the Township has been notified by the Mayor of Midland Park that their municipality has chosen not to enter into a new five (5) year contract for dispatch shared services effective January 1, 2015. As way of explanation, back in March the Township was contacted by Midland Park Bud Mayor O'Hagan and he requested a proposal from the Township for dispatch services. The Township has been providing dispatch service for Midland Park as a shared service for fifteen (15) years. The Township responded and decreased its current cost by $20,012 in an effort to maintain the dispatch service. Midland Park never engaged in negotiation. Midland Park chose to "shop" the service with other municipalities. Mayor O'Hagan was supposed to inform Wyckoff of a decision by June 30, 2014 if a new contract was requested or engage in negotiations. Mayor Christie contacted Mayor O'Hagan on July 11, 2014 and advised him that although he understands and respects Midland Park's decision to obtain the service at a lower cost, the Township needs to be notified as staffing arrangements must be announced and modified. A letter was received from Midland Park indicating they plan on utilizing another shared service operation. The choice was made by cost and not by service. All wished Midland Park well. The Township will now begin to explore other opportunities and/or options for dispatch.

7. Last Friday, August 1, 2014 from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. the Township experienced four (4) to five (5) inches of rain in one (1) hour. The fire department responded to seventeen (17) calls for assistance.

8. Mayor Christie reminded all that the Wyckoff Volunteer Fire Department Fireworks Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, August 30, 2014. Please attend this event and support the fire department.

Committeeman Scanlan inquired on the status of the request from the resident at 408 Buckingham Circle for reimbursement of $860.00 for the removal of a shade tree that fell during a wind storm. The resident was unaware the tree was located in the municipal right-of-way and therefore paid to have the tree removed. Mayor Christie advised that he spoke with the resident for approximately one half hour and although she was displeased with the decision, she understood that the Township could not issue a reimbursement for the tree removal expense. Committeeman Rooney will speak with the DPW Manager to obtain his opinion whether this tree is in the right-of-way.

Township Attorney Report:

1. Mr. Landel reported he is drafting leases to allow for the improvements on the Pulis Soccer Facility. Those leases are being fine-tuned however, the exact amounts of the leases may not be disclosed at this time.

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2. Committeeman Scanlan inquired as to the appointment of Richard Lynch to the Zabriskie House Trust. Mr. Landel advised that he will have the resolution completed for the next public business meeting on August 19, 2014.

3. Committeeman Jepsen inquired about the letter from Bergen County indicating that an opportunity exists to apply for grants relative to historic homes and whether the Township plans on applying for a grant. The Administrator responded that a grant opportunity was immediately provided to Mayor Christie and the Township Committeeman Scanlan, Liaison to the Zabriskie House and copies were provided to the governing body. The decision to apply for a grant must be made by the Zabriskie House Trustees. However, the Administrator indicated he was available to assist the Trustees. Committeeman Scanlan commented that the Zabriskie House Trustees are evaluating grant opportunities and may in fact apply in 2015.

Committeeman Scanlan commented that if anyone has the opportunity to visit the Gardens of Wyckoff on Brookside Avenue, the rose garden is in full bloom and looks beautiful.

The Administrator commented that he observed many more homes flying the American Flag and suggested it may coincide with the success of the American Team achieving the “Sweet 16” bracket in the World Soccer Cup. For the thirty-two (32) days in June and July of the World Cup competitions, the support for the American Team was visibly evident.

The Work Session Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Douglas J. Christie
Mayor

Joyce C. Santimauro
Municipal Clerk