

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OPEN WORK SESSION MEETING  
SECOND FLOOR MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Timothy E. Shanley opened the Open Work Session Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the second-floor municipal court 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 Timothy E. Shanley, Committeemen Rudolf E. Boonstra, Thomas J. Madigan and Committeewomen Melissa D. Rubenstein and Elizabeth J. Fischer

**Also Present:** Township Administrator Robert J. Shannon, Jr., Township Attorney Robert Landel, Municipal Clerk Joyce C. Santimauro and Thomas Garlick, Esq.

Mayor Shanley confirmed that the Finance Committee has reviewed and signed vouchers

Mayor Shanley stated that as the privilege of the Chair, he will be moving line items on this evening's Agenda specifically, Item #6 and Item #7 prior to the ten (10) minute comment period.

Item #6: To approve the employment status of Kyle Sherm as a Probationary Police Officer. Mayor Shanley read a brief bio regarding Officer Sherm. Officer Sherm is a graduate of the Essex County Police Academy, has obtained a college degree and previously worked for The Village of Ridgewood in parking enforcement. Committeemen Boonstra and Madigan both explained that this position is a vacancy in the ranks created by the retirement of Sgt. Dan Kellogg. This process was lengthy and arduous however, the Township has realized an exceptionally qualified candidate. A motion by Committeeman Boonstra, seconded by Committeewoman Rubenstein, all governing body members voting in favor of appointing Kyle Sherm as a Probationary Police Officer.

Item #7: Mayor Shanley administered the Oath of Office to Probationary Police Officer Kyle Sherm and photos were taken with his family and Township Committee.

Mayor Shanley opened the meeting for the ten (10) minute public comment period, two (2) minutes per speaker for public comment on any governmental issue that a member of the public feels may be of concern to the residents of the Township of Wyckoff, with a motion from Committeeman Boonstra, seconded by Committeewoman Rubenstein.

1. Lisa Eidel, 408 Buckingham Circle inquired as to material used in the artificial turf field. She expressed concern about the material as it relates to health factors. Committeeman Madigan replied that he has been involved with the construction of artificial turf fields at Ramapo High School, Indian Hills High School and recently at the Pulis Field Soccer Complex in 2015. These are the same materials that are incorporated in those fields. Mr. Madigan stated, the process is a cryogenic process where the rubber is frozen and shattered with a smooth edge to ensure it is dust free and metal free. This is field turf's proprietary process and it is not the standard chopped rubber. Mayor Shanley stated that the New Jersey DEP found no link to cancer – it is the same material

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that is being utilized at the Pulis Soccer Complex. Mayor Shanley's son is a goalie at Pulis Field and has spent the last 4 ½ years on that artificial turf field. Committeewoman Rubenstein stated she was comfortable with the turf product after reviewing the research. Mayor Shanley also commented that the Village of Ridgewood recently, as well as Franklin Lakes constructed the same material-based field and the Ridgewood Environmental Commission has assembled a report regarding the available literature on this artificial turf product.

2. Sara Derico, 190 Wyckoff Avenue expressed the same concerns as voiced by Ms. Eidel. She has reviewed the New Jersey DEP study however there is also a Mount Sinai Hospital study that suggests a moratorium on the use of these artificial turf fields. Also, studies show the same concerns as reflected in the Mount Sinai study report. Committeeman Madigan indicated that this is the same turf field that the Wyckoff Family YMCA uses for the Summer camps and the municipality utilizes for its sports programs. It was also stated that no one has come forward to express an issue since that field was constructed. Ms. Derico disagreed with the governing body's assessment of this issue.

3. Jennifer Feliciano, 453 Glendale Road, declared that we live in a toxic environment and she is not concerned with what has happened in the last 4 ½ years but what will happen in the next twenty (20) to forty (40) years and what will be the future experiences from the artificial turf field. Ms. Feliciano suggested the Township Committee follow the Mount Sinai study report from a conservative perspective and not adopt the ordinance this evening.

4. Gail Scanlan, 51 Ravine Avenue stated that although the turf field has been discussed by the Township Committee on several occasions, she is concerned with the cost of the artificial turf field. Wyckoff has a reputation of having lower taxes and the Township previously has been very thorough with researching the cost factors. The Township has nothing in place at this time to replace the field carpet once it is required to be replaced.

5. Steve Joern, 363 Butternut Avenue, quoted national statistics indicating that the popularity of youth football is decreasing in Texas at a significant percentage and therefore, from a fiscal perspective, why is the Township Committee considering an artificial turf field when the overall national statistics for participation in youth football are decreasing. Mr. Joern recommended the Township Committee not vote in favor of the ordinance this evening.

6. Christopher Della Pietro, 534 Clinton Avenue indicated he is the parent of three (3) girls who play soccer. He has been an elected member of the Board of Education and is active in the junior football program. Mr. Della Pietro explained that the Pulis Soccer Complex was improved by the artificial turf field because after every rain storm, the previous field would become water soaked and muddy. The majority of the parents complained due to the decrease in playing time on the field. The Pulis Field now allows 24/7 field play with very low maintenance. Mr. Della Pietro suggested the Township Committee vote for the adoption of this ordinance and continue the legacy of safe field play. In his opinion, the Township is being very fiscally responsible by applying a \$400,000 public/private partnership donation from the Wyckoff Football Boosters and a \$100,000 Bergen County Grant that the Township is paying less than 40% for this facility. The recreation programs, especially football, visit many towns (Franklin Lakes, Paramus, Ridgewood & Glen Rock) who all have installed artificial turf fields. Mr. Della Pietro has also read the safety reports and feels these fields are safe for sports programs.

7. Brett Traficant, 46 Van Blarcom Lane, advised that he has similar concerns as Ms. Scanlan and inquired if there was a cost analysis performed for the replacement of the artificial carpet. Committeeman Madigan replied that he has completed research and presented the Township with various memos that

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examined the advantages of the field which includes enhanced drainage, conserving water and the avoidance of the need for fertilizer. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has approved an artificial turf user fee of \$15 per recreation program participant. And with almost 2,000 participants each year who use that field, the Township is expecting to raise just under \$29,000 per year for the field carpet replacement. Mr. Traficant asked what is the replacement expectancy of the turf carpet. The reply was ten (10) or eleven (11) years possibly more or less. Mr. Traficant then responded that the Township would be short by \$100,000 to replace the turf carpet in ten (10) years. Mr. Madigan also advised that the Township rents Pulis Field and is expecting to realize additional rentals at Memorial Field to groups over the next ten (10) years. \$12,000 is anticipated to be realized annually, or, \$410,000 over ten (10) years with carpet replacement with a carpet replacement cost of \$400,000.

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

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

1. This evening's Agenda is as was posted on Friday, January 31, 2020 on the Township website and are no proposed changes other than to delete from the agenda Resolution #20-C1 at this time.

**Policy Action Items:**

1. The Administrator thanked the Township Committee for attending the JIF Annual Elected Officials Training. Each member of the governing body earned a \$250 deduction from the Township's insurance cost. With the Administrator's attendance, the cost reduction will be \$1,250.00.
2. The Chief Financial Officer has prepared the Annual Debt Statement and it is posted on the Township website.
3. The Finance Committee continues to work on the 2020 Municipal Budget. Four (4) meetings have been conducted and the fifth meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2020. Since funds are not unlimited, difficult decisions will again be required among multiple, valid competing projects and expenses.
4. A project team conducted its first meeting last evening at Fire Co. #1. This project team was an outgrowth of the review of the fire department budget specifically, the fire department is in need of additional firefighters. Fire Co.'s # 2 & #3 are especially in need of new volunteers to respond to alarms of fire. The purpose of the committee will be to update the public as to the volunteer firefighters diligent work and training which is all designed to protect the public and to solicit interested individuals who would wish to serve their community as a volunteer firefighter.
5. The weekly packet provided to the governing body includes a number of upcoming events. On Thursday, February 27, 2020 the Wyckoff Board of Health is presenting a program entitled "The Vaping Epidemic – Let's Clear the Air." On Wednesday, March 4, 2020 there will be a presentation entitled "Screenagers – Uncovering Skills for Stress Resilience." On Saturday, April 25, 2020 the Township will conduct their "Super Recycling Saturday." The Administrator asked the governing body to review these events and advise him if any others exist that he can add to the list.

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6. The interview process to fill the vacancy in the sergeant rank that was created by the retirement of Sgt. Dan Kellogg continues. Interviews of officers who meet the criteria and have expressed an interest in serving as police sergeant, will continue on Friday, February 7, 2020.
7. The Administrator is working with the Township Attorney on the remaining affordable housing tasks required by the Fair Share Housing Center in order for the Township to obtain its Judgement of Repose.
8. For purposes of clarity, the Administrator explained the following with the current round of Sustainable Jersey Grants. The Township is the “victim” of its own success because the Township has been awarded two (2) Sustainable Jersey Grants which are ongoing (\$2,000 grant to promote the prohibition of single use plastic bags and \$10,000 grant awarded in mid-January to assist the Township to achieve cost avoidances by performing energy upgrades in three (3) specific municipal buildings). The Township is unable by Sustainable Jersey rules to apply for this round of Sustainable Jersey funding.
9. The Administrator contacted the County of Bergen regarding the status of the Township’s Community Development Block Grant grant application to replace the windows at the Larkin House with new energy efficient windows. That grant application is still pending because the U.S. Housing and Urban Development has not advised the county on the level of funding will be provided.
10. Wednesday, April 22, 2020 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day. A draft resolution has been provided for Township Committee review. The Staff and the Environmental Commission is coordination an event, “Super Recycling Saturday” slated for Saturday, April 25, 2020.
11. The Municipal Clerk advised that she has a need for qualified pollworkers to work the 2020 elections. Ms. Santimauro has begun to advertise at the request of the Bergen County Board of Elections. However, any Wyckoff resident who wishes to work the elections should specify their desire to work at one of the polling locations in Wyckoff. The recruitment of qualified pollworkers is becoming additionally complex.
12. A project team is working on energizing the Township’s recycling efforts. The Environmental Commission has been asked for suggestions.
13. A number of positive comments have been received regarding the Township’s Resident Municipal Calendar themed 2020 Vision.
14. A description of the Township’s snow plowing plan has been on the Homepage of the Township’s website for public information.
15. When the Administrator volunteered at the Free Rabies Prevention Program on Saturday, January 11, 2020, a number of individuals approached him to ask why they must purchase a dog/cat license in order to obtain a free rabies vaccination. The Administrator wanted the governing body made aware that the NJ State Department of Health has concluded that the only effective way to create a barrier from the spread of rabies between human and pet population is through animal licensing.
16. On this evening’s agenda is a resolution recognizing and celebrating the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which allowed women the right to vote. The New Jersey League of Municipalities has asked all municipalities to light their building during the week of February

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10<sup>th</sup> in purple. Therefore, the lights at the front entrance of Town Hall will be changed for that week to purple.

**Township Committee Reports:**

**Rudy Boonstra:**

1. Mr. Boonstra attended the January Planning Board Meeting where Robert Fortunato was elected Chair, Kevin Purvin, Vice-Chair and Kevin Hanly, Planning Board Attorney. Two (2) public hearings will be carried to the February meeting.
2. Mr. Boonstra attended the Environmental Commission Meeting and Peter Melchione was elected Chair and Celeste Homyachak elected Vice Chair. This Spring, the Environmental Commission will begin preparations for the schedule of events; Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Arbor Day, April 24<sup>th</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>, Super Recycling Saturday. Committeewoman Fischer is working with the Wyckoff Board of Education to have an Earth Day Celebration including the planting of trees at one of the schools.
3. The DPW performed its eighth emergency winter snow event last week. The warmer weather has allowed the DPW to make progress with the pothole repairs, an annual event this time of year.
4. Mr. Boonstra attended the JIF Elected Officials Training and the Wyckoff Volunteer Fire Department's "Taste of Wyckoff" Fundraiser.

**Melissa Rubenstein:**

1. Ms. Rubenstein attended the "Taste of Wyckoff" Fundraiser on Friday, January 31, 2020 and stated she and Committeeman Madigan had the honor of co-mc'ing the event. 400 people attended the fundraiser and it was wonderful to see the support for the volunteer firefighters of Wyckoff.
2. Last evening, Ms. Rubenstein attended a meeting assembled by the Administrator concerning the efforts to recruit additional volunteer firefighters. The meeting was very successful and the team is looking to kick-off a great program to attract volunteer firefighters.
3. Ms. Rubenstein participated on a Personnel Committee performing interviews to find a successor to the announced retirement of the Municipal Clerk. Joyce, you will be deeply missed.
4. The Finance Committee continues to work diligently on the 2020 Municipal Budget. Ms. Rubenstein thanked Scott Fisher, Police Chief Murphy, Fire Chief Brock and Assistant Fire Chief Vander Plaat for their time and dedication answering the Finance Committee questions relating to their proposed budget and capital requests.
5. Ms. Rubenstein completed the JIF Elected Officials Training Seminar.

**Thomas Madigan:**

1. Mr. Madigan indicated he does not have a report this evening other than the information he has prepared and his remarks concerning the artificial turf field research.

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**Elizabeth Fischer:**

1. Ms. Fischer also completed the JIF Elected Official Training and attended the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) Reorganization Meeting with the Administrator. She had the opportunity to see how the JIF Consortium of thirty-eight (38) municipalities functions.
2. Ms. Fischer attended the Wyckoff Chamber of Commerce Meeting and was pleased to see the number of members who participate in the meetings.
3. Ms. Fischer attended the Wyckoff Family YMCA Reorganization Meeting and received comments from the presenters that the YMCA is viewing 2020 as the “Year of the Volunteer.”
4. Ms. Fischer has been working with Committeeman Boonstra on a celebration of Earth Day. She has met with the school superintendent and business administrator regarding the planting of a tree on school property to help celebrate Arbor Day.
5. After meeting with the Franklin Lakes Wellness Coordinator, Bergen County and Mayor Shanley, Ms. Fischer has announced that Wyckoff will participate with Franklin Lakes in rejuvenating the Mayor’s Wellness Campaign. Ms. Fischer has secured volunteers to assist with the program.
6. Ms. Fischer thanked Bob Shannon for his work with the energy grant. She also spoke with the schools regarding the Green Teams assistance to provide the schools with energy efficient studies.
7. Ms. Fischer has completed a New Jersey League of Municipalities class for newly elected officials.

**Mayor Shanley:**

1. Mayor Shanley participated in the police interviews as a member of the Police Committee. A second interview is scheduled for Friday, February 14, 2020.
2. Mayor Shanley attended the Wyckoff Family YMCA Reorganization Meeting and administered the Oaths of Office to the new Board of Directors.
3. Mayor Shanley attended the Chamber of Commerce Meeting where he was the guest speaker.
4. Mayor Shanley also attended the Wyckoff Library Board Meeting.

**Township Attorney Report:**

1. Mr. Landel is optimistic to close on the property at 240 Demarest Avenue soon. Committeewoman Rubenstein indicated that the due diligence reports were performed and completed.

The Open Work Session Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Timothy E. Shanley  
Mayor

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Joyce C. Santimauro  
Municipal Clerk

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