

**TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OPEN WORK SESSION MEETING  
SECOND FLOOR MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM  
TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Brian D. Scanlan 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 Brian D. Scanlan, Committeemen Thomas J. Madigan, Rudolf E. Boonstra, Timothy E. Shanley and Melissa D. Rubenstein

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

Mayor Scanlan 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 Shanley, seconded by Committeeman Madigan.

Bob Yerger, 308 Martom Road stated that he supports the resolution expressing a "no confidence" vote in Orange & Rockland Utilities. He emphasized how disgraceful that Orange & Rockland did not respond to Martom Road until three (3) days into the power outage. Three (3) utility poles were knocked down on Van Houten Avenue. But what was most frustrating was Orange & Rockland's estimated completion days which were unmet and extended. It would have been more beneficial if Orange & Rockland had stated in the beginning, power will not be restored for five (5) days thereby allowing residents to make other arrangements for this extended outage period. The Township Committee thanked Mr. Yerger for his positive comments.

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

Mayor Scanlan advised that the Finance Committee has reviewed and signed vouchers.

**Township Committee Reports:**

**Rudy Boonstra:**

1. The Special One-Time Storm Damage Curbside Branch Collection commenced on Monday, March 9, 2018 in District 1. Due to the time required for preparations for the upcoming third snow storm in March, the DPW experienced a delay in completing the branch collection in District 1. At present, the DPW has collected 59 – 40 yard roll-off containers of branch debris amounting to 240 cubic yards. The DPW Chipper Crew has completed twenty-four (24) trucks of chipped wood and transported that volume to the Recycling Center. A special thank you is extended to the Township residents who have been visiting the Wyckoff Recycling Center depositing their branch debris thereby making this enormous task a bit lighter.

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2. Mr. Boonstra reported that the DPW is prepared for tomorrow's snow storm and explained a problem with the plowing of the county roads that resulted in the last storm. Mr. Boonstra expressed his disappointment with the decision made by the Bergen County Administration that delayed the snow response in Wyckoff (presumably a financial decision) that resulted in the reassignment of inexperienced plow drivers to plow county roads. Mr. Boonstra reminded all that the county roads are plowed by the Bergen County Department of Public Works or their contracted snow plowers.
3. Mr. Boonstra advised that the police accreditation process is moving forward positively. There will be an assessment on Sunday, March 25, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. at police headquarters and on Monday as well.
4. Today, a drunk driving enforcement grant of \$3,022.66 was received.
5. During Winter Storm Riley on March 7<sup>th</sup>, the police department responded to 520 calls for assistance in a span twenty-four (24) hours.

**Melissa Rubenstein:**

1. Ms. Rubenstein thanked the police department, the fire department, the DPW and the Town Hall Staff for the outstanding job they performed during the last storm.
2. The Wyckoff Board of Health Meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2018 was cancelled due to storm response.
3. The Ramapo/Indian Hills Regional High School Board of Education will meet on Thursday, March 22, 2018. The board has changed the public comment period for a total of sixty (60) minutes – two (2) minutes per speaker.
4. The Wyckoff K-8 Board of Education met last evening where it was decided that the Thursday and Friday of Spring Break will be in school days to compensate for the number of "no school" snow days utilized this year.
5. Ms. Rubenstein and Committeeman Shanley have been contacted for a second meeting with the football boosters group regarding their citizen effort to raise funds to construct an artificial turf field on Memorial Field.
6. Last week, Ms. Rubenstein attended the Township's Safety Committee Meeting where a number of safety precautions were reported and discussed specifically, information concerning the cyber security threat and the steps the Township is taking to protect itself.
7. Ms. Rubenstein proposed inviting the Ramapo High School Cheerleaders to a future Township Committee Meeting and a proclamation drafted to recognize their achievement of earning the National Championship in Florida. The governing body agreed.
8. Ms. Rubenstein has been in receipt of complaints regarding the off-site directional real estate signs that are found on intersections. A discussion with the governing body members resulted. A consensus existed that the enforcement of this sign prohibition should be enforced uniformly. The Administrator explained the current procedure where the police department makes observations on weekends and then advises the zoning officer of violations on Monday. A letter will be sent to both the

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police department and zoning officer to remind them of this enforcement effort which is a quality of life effort. The Zoning Enforcement Officer will send a communication to the Bergen County Board of Realtors to advise them again of this off-site sign prohibition for dissemination to their members.

At this time, Mr. Boonstra advised that he and Mayor Scanlan attended the fire department evolution portion of the fire inspection contest. It was conducted at the Bergen County Fire Academy in Mahwah on Monday, March 19, 2018 where they had the opportunity to wear the fire gear and breathing apparatus upon entering a smoke filled environment where the testing of firefighter skills was being conducted.

**Thomas Madigan:**

1. Mr. Madigan discussed his disappointment with the decision by the Bergen County Administration which delayed the Bergen County Public Works effort in plowing Bergen County roads in Wyckoff during Winter Storms Quinn and Riley early in March. Clarification was requested as to why this delay resulted and is it accurate that the Bergen County Government delayed plowing to decrease its snow plowing costs?
2. The Township Committee achieved significant strides to prod Orange & Rockland Utilities to restore power after Winter Storm Riley. Many residents were frustrated as well as the governing body and police department with the responses received from Orange & Rockland Management specifically, mutual aid response was not dispatched in a timely manner. Mr. Madigan disclosed that the inaccurate information from Orange & Rockland and the lack of specifics during the conference call heightened the Township's frustrations. However, on a positive note, Mr. Madigan has received numerous complimentary comments regarding the diligent work the DPW Staff performed.
3. Mr. Madigan attended a Memorial Day Parade Committee Meeting.
4. The Environmental Commission met last evening where the Environmental Resource Inventory was discussed at length and progress continues.
5. Mr. Madigan announced he is pleased with the police accreditation process is moving forward.

**Timothy Shanley:**

1. Mr. Shanley extends his thanks to Police Chief Murphy and Sgt./OEM Coordinator Brian Zivkovich for their fine work during Winter Storm Riley. Mr. Shanley also recognized the Township Staff for their efforts managing resident inquiries. Many thanks to the governing body members for working through the weekend prodding Orange & Rockland to dispatch additional trucks into Wyckoff.  
As an observation, Mr. Shanley surmised that PSE&G was more efficient – mutual aid trucks were dispatched to the area prior to the storm. He supports the adoption of Resolution #18-146 – no confidence in Orange & Rockland and thanked for Bob Shannon for drafting the resolution with him.  
Mr. Shanley commented that the problems experienced by Orange & Rockland are the same problems endured with Hurricane Sandy. Twenty-four (24) hours had lapsed before the first Orange & Rockland

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officials arrived in Wyckoff – and they were assessors only to evaluate the storm damage nit line repair crews.

Mr. Shanley also expressed his frustration concerning the Orange & Rockland process for conference calls – misinformation and restoration projection inaccuracies. However, the hardworking crews of Orange & Rockland who came to Wyckoff did an outstanding job. The management at Orange & Rockland were the culprits in this storm related debacle.

2. Mr. Shanley attended the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting on Monday, March 12, 2018 and reported that the third and fourth grade girls have won the league basketball championship. Other business conducted at the meeting included a discussion regarding a single's tennis league for eight (8) weeks to be implemented. The upcoming dates for "Movies at Memorial" will be Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup>.
3. Mr. Shanley requested a closed session discussion this evening regarding the Ridgewood Water Litigation.
4. Mr. Shanley attended the Village of Ridgewood Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 and attempted to provide comment and ask questions regarding an ordinance to re-establish water rates that would be charged to all water rate payers in the four (4) communities. Mr. Shanley was denied his request for a copy of the ordinance. Ridgewood Water does not post its ordinances and resolutions on their website in advance of each meeting as Wyckoff does. There was a total lack of discussion from the Village elected officials and in fact not one (1) of Mr. Shanley's many questions were answered. Committeeman Boonstra added that Ridgewood Water paid \$80,000 for an expert to prepare the revised water rates which were paid for from the ten (10) million dollar surplus Ridgewood water is "harboring", excess revenue paid by the water rate payers in the four (4) municipalities.

**Mayor Scanlan:**

1. Mayor Scanlan encountered and found the Orange & Rockland work crews that were repairing the power lines to be very polite and helpful. On the Sunday after the Thursday snow storm, utility trucks from different states finally became noticeable in town to assist the Orange & Rockland crews.
2. Mayor Scanlan attended the most recent Northwest Bergen Mayors Association Meeting in Allendale where the mayors discussed with a representative from Governor's Murphy's Office the problems experienced by the towns which are serviced by Orange & Rockland Utilities for electric service. The mayors requested that the Board of Public Utilities conduct public hearings, especially in the Bergen County area, for easier access for all elected officials who wish to attend these meetings.
3. Mayor Scanlan recognized the fine work of the Town Hall Staff including Nancy Cole, Bob Shannon, Joyce Santimauro and Diana McLeod as well as their staff during the suspension of power. The Wyckoff Office of Emergency Management performed excellently by assembling lists of trees blocking roads and communicating those roads to Orange & Rockland.

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4. At the recent Library Board Meeting, the Library Consortium of Municipalities, known as BCCLS has bid the delivery service for the library loan service. The low bidder, who was unable to perform the service, did not bid and the current bidder was awarded a contract at a higher price.
5. An e-mail was received from the United Way of Bergen County regarding the Clinton Avenue special needs housing facility. Five (5) of the eight (8) UCC permits have been obtained from the State of New Jersey. The three (3) remaining permits are pending.
6. Mayor Scanlan had the pleasure of participating in the March 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> FLOW Follies at Ramapo High School.
7. Mayor Scanlan attended a Wyckoff Day Committee Meeting on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 and advised that a new schedule has been proposed. The start time for “Wyckoff Day” will be 12 noon and the vendors will be present from noon to 4:00 p.m. From 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. there will be a beer garden and barbeque and music. The Wyckoff Family YMCA is expected to reach out to the representatives of the adjacent Spring Meadow Condominium Association to advise them of this event schedule and address any concerns they may have with the event’s extended hours.
8. Mayor Scanlan was pleased to participate in the fire department firematic exercise at the Bergen County Police & Fire Academy by “suiting up” in fire turnout gear with a self-contained breathing apparatus. The Wyckoff Volunteer Fire Department did an outstanding job and the fire inspectors from other departments observing the firematic exercise were quite impressed.

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

1. There are two (2) additions to this evening’s Agenda; a Closed Session requested by Committee Shanley for a discussion on the Ridgewood water Litigation and a Closed Session requested by Committeeman Boonstra regarding the negotiation of a sewer agreement with the Northwest Bergen Sewer Utilities Authority.
2. Placed on the dais is a revised resolution concerning the Vote of No Confidence from Orange & Rockland Utility. The Administrator had received individual comments from the governing body and attempted to satisfy all comments.  
A number of changes were made for clarity and the governing body is asked to review the amendments for approval.  
Committeeman Boonstra reported that District 40 Assemblyman Christopher DePhillips is drafting a bill which would allow municipalities to petition the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to change their electric provider. For purposes of clarity, it was noted that the Township of Wyckoff is one of the few communities that is served by both PSE&G and Orange & Rockland. The delineation line of service area is invisible hence, no river, mountain range, railroad track or some other topographical feature designates the utility separation.

At 8:04 p.m. the Township Committee recesses the Open Work Session discussion of the Open Public Meeting to conduct the Public Business Meeting.

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At 8:45 p.m. the Township Committee reconvenes the Open Work Session discussion of the Open Public Work Session Meeting voting as follows:

MOTION: SHANLEY SECOND RUBENSTEIN  
BOONSTRA YES MADIGAN YES RUBENSTEIN YES SCANLAN YES  
SHANLEY YES

**Policy Action Items:**

1. The Administrator advised that based on a previous conversation, the staff will contact the coach for the Ramapo High School National Champion Cheerleading Team to obtain information to draft a proclamation to be presented at a future Township Committee business meeting.
2. For purposes of clarity, the Administrator will communicate with the Chief of Police and the Property Maintenance Officer that the Township Committee desires the offsite realtor signs (typically, directional signs to open houses on intersections) to be enforced uniformly. A letter to the Bergen County Board of Realtors will also be drafted.
3. The resolution to express no support in the Orange & Rockland Utility Company will be sent to the President of Orange & Rockland, each individual Board of Public Utility member, District 40 Legislators and Bergen County Municipalities.
4. The Administrator reviewed the following upcoming community events; on Saturday, April 28, 2018 the “Team Up to Tidy Up” annual clean-up event meets at 9:00 a.m. in Town Hall. Also on April 28<sup>th</sup>, the Personal Paper Shredding Event, “Shredfest” will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the DPW Garage, 475 West Main Street. In addition to these events, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Wyckoff Community Park is the annual Arbor Day Celebration where trees will be planted.
5. The Administrator thanked the staff who came to work and assisted the day Town Hall was closed during Winter Storm Riley specifically, Joyce Santimauro, Peggy Keen, Diana McLeod, Mark DiGennaro and Scott Fisher. Special thanks to Nancy Cole who was able to issue resident updates through the Township’s social media accounts. Additionally, the March 7, 2018 storm was particularly damaging as twenty (20) inches of heavy, wet snow fell, ten (10) utility poles split and fifteen (15) roads were blocked by fallen trees. The Township Committee participated in five (5) daily conference calls with Orange & Rockland Management to prod line repair and construction crews to arrive in Wyckoff and replace utility poles.
6. The Administrator reviewed the impact of a current regulation, the State Pay, State Mandate Law, however the State routinely bypasses this law by promulgating rules through the New Jersey Register which has the effect of law. This new rule exempts from building permits, roofing and siding, alarm systems, irrigation systems, chimney liners, indoor sheetrock, drywall, replacement of indoor plumbing and replacement of outdoor decking. The consequence of this mandate will result in the loss of permit fee revenue to operate the building department office and a potential loss of added assessment ratables. The Wyckoff Building Department was asked to review this law to determine if there is a way to require an additional permit to ensure work that still requires permits is obtained so residents may benefit from the code compliant inspections performed by municipal inspectors.

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7. As a follow-up to a report from Mayor Scanlan, the United Way of Bergen County has three (3) additional building permits pending prior to the construction to commence on the residential facility for individuals with developmental disabilities at 370 Clinton Avenue.
8. The budget advertisement will be published in this week's edition of the Ridgewood News. A public hearing and further consideration is slated for Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 8:00 p.m. The Administrator thanked the Finance Committee for their diligent work where difficult decisions among many competing projects were determined as resources are limited. The budget represents more than a list of programs and a column of numbers. The budget will be amended at the public hearing to fund the Special Storm Debris Branch Collection to respond to the many resident calls to Town Hall for help with their tree and branch damage.
9. With regard to the report that the police department accreditation assessment will be conducted on Sunday, March 25, 2018 by a committee of evaluators, the process will begin at 8:00 a.m.
10. The percentage of recyclables recycled in the month of February has been posted on the website on the "Recyclometer" at 39.34%. It is down from the rate in January of 37.97%.
11. Mr. Shannon thanked all employees, Department Managers and Committeewoman Rubenstein who participated in the Safety Committee Meeting on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. The Township's efforts for safety benefits both employees and visitors to our municipal facilities. Safety is a positive, fiscal indicator.
12. Mayor Scanlan proposed that the Township Committee appoint a subcommittee to investigate the suggestion from last meeting to study the videotaping of meetings. The governing body discussed a very broad charge to the committee which would include researching the cost, procedure, logistics and technology to video Township Committee Meetings. A discussion ensued as to which boards would be studied for videotaping and the majority consensus existed that the focus would center on governing body meetings. Committeeman Boonstra suggested that the subcommittee consist of himself and Committeewoman Rubenstein as they are not running for a political office this Fall. A motion by Committeeman Shanley, seconded by Committeewoman Rubenstein, all voting in favor with the exception of Committeeman Madigan who abstained to form a subcommittee to study videotaping of business meetings.
13. Mayor Scanlan asked the Administrator to provide any suggestions in addition to the resolution adopted by the governing body this evening expressing no confidence in Orange & Rockland Utilities. The Administrator suggested the members of the Township Committee attend one of the next Board of Public Utility Meetings in Trenton and express these concerns. Also, the comments generated at the 8:00 p.m. meeting could be typed verbatim, sent to the Board and presented at the meeting. The Township should then obtain the e-mails and personal phone numbers of the members of the Board of Public Utilities to continue to press their complete dissatisfaction with the performance of Orange & Rockland. If such a discussion is not pursued, Wyckoff will incur a third and fourth repetition of their same poor performance. The Township Committee requested more information in this regard to consider.

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14. PSE&G will soon pave Vassar Street, Woodland Avenue (from Monroe to Voorhis) and MaryAnn Lane where they replaced a gas transmission line last Spring.
15. The Spring Newsletter has been completed and is expected to be delivered to homes the week of March 26, 2018. As per Township Committee instruction, the newsletter includes an article to remind residents why they should care what they flush down the toilet to prevent damage to homes from sewerage blockages and a new graphic to encourage residents to access Wyckoff's many communication tools, such as E-News.

**Township Attorney Report:**

1. Mr. Landel has been working with Township Engineer DiGennaro on a number of privately funded sewer extensions including the Faith Community Church Campus on Sicomac Avenue.
2. Mr. Landel has spoken to Assemblyman DePhillips concerning his legislation which would allow municipalities to switch their electric service and modify Board of Public Utilities franchises.
3. Mr. Landel has received a judgement of repose extension until the end of April from Judge Toskos in the litigation regarding the Township's Housing Element and Fair Share Plan.

At 9:20 p.m. the Township Committee recesses the Open Work Session Meeting discussion to enter into Closed Session Discussion via Resolution #18-C8.

At 9:55 p.m. the Township Committee reconvenes the Open Work Session Meeting Discussion voting as follows:

MOTION: SHANLEY SECOND RUBENSTEIN  
BOONSTRA YES MADIGAN YES RUBENSTEIN YES SHANLEY YES  
SCANLAN YES

Committeeman Boonstra made a motion to authorize the Township Attorney to begin the process of entering into a shared service agreement with the Northwest Bergen Sewer Utilities Authority for the extension of a sewer trunk main from the sewer line in the Wyckoff Community Park onto Wyckoff Avenue to open a potential for sewerage in the Knolls neighborhood. A motion by Committeeman Shanley, seconded by Committeewoman Rubenstein, all governing body members voting affirmatively.

Committeeman Boonstra then motioned to authorize Mr. Landel to begin preparing documents and developers agreement with Brooks Construction (Block 346/Lot 15) regarding their contribution towards the sewer main trunk extension. A motion by Committeewoman Rubenstein, seconded by Committeeman Shanley, all governing body members voting yes.

The Open Work Session Meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

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Brian D. Scanlan  
Mayor

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Joyce C. Santimauro  
Municipal Clerk



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