

**BOROUGH OF MIDLAND PARK
280 GODWIN AVENUE
MIDLAND PARK, NJ 07432
8:00 P.M. Open Public Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2009**

Mayor Monahan called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M.

The Mayor called upon **Councilman Pruiksmas** to give this evening's Invocation, and then led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT: This meeting is being held in accordance with the Sunshine Law, notice having been published according to law with a copy on file in the Borough Clerk's Office and a copy posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building.

Roll Call:	Mayor Monahan	Present
	Councilman Papapietro	Present
	Councilman Junta	Absent
	Councilman Pruiksmas	Present
	Councilman Holst	Present
	Councilman O'Hagan	Present
	Council President Peet	Present

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Regan, Borough Administrator Dugan and Borough Clerk Hanna

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Nancy Bardman, 183 Franklin Ave. – reiterated her concerns with the traffic and speeding issues along Franklin and Godwin Avenues. **Mayor Monahan** stated he has touched base with Chief Casson, and the Chief needs a little more time to address the issues and is contacting the County on the Godwin Avenue problems. **Council President Peet** mentioned the Chief talked of placing a strove light just above the traffic light on the corner of Franklin and Vreeland Avenues.

OLD BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION:

Discussion Items From Work Session:

1. Designation of a Municipal Housing Official

Administrator Dugan spoke of her correspondence from C.O.A.H., and also noted she was informed by C.O.A.H that a public employee must hold the position or a governing body member, or you can have a shared service agreement. The stipend for this position can be paid through the 20% of the C.O.A.H. Developer's Fee Trust Fund which is allowed for administrative duties. **Attorney Regan** noted this work is performed on line thought data entry. The **Mayor** and **Councilman Holst** stated they feel this is an additional responsibility that should be handled through the Building/Planning/Zoning Departments, as this is the focal point of the information, and there will be an absorbable amount of work involved. **Attorney Regan** noted there are 2 courses that must be taken by the person to this C.O.A.H. required position. **Administrator Dugan** stated there will be more activity involved when the Greenwood Avenue project is completed, and the units are purchasable. **Attorney Regan** recommended this type of work not be done in-house, but consider having the Bergen County Housing Authority do the work involved in qualifying prospective purchasers or renters of low/moderate income housing units, and are very helpful to the municipalities. **Council President Peet** requested we obtain the fee of the B.C.H.A. for such work.

2. Sidewalk Article for Fall Review – Newsletter - Waiver Request

Administrator Dugan spoke of the draft newsletter articles distributed to the governing body and asked council for comments/changes. She then spoke of a meeting she had with Rudy Gnehm and Councilman Holst regarding a sidewalk safety article for the Fall newsletter, and being more pro-active in this matter. The **Administrator** requested Council consider the possibility of waiving the fee for sidewalk permits during the period of now through June 1st, 2010, as an incentive for residents/business owners to address the unsafe conditions of their sidewalk. The responsibilities of the property owners were discussed and the consensus of Council was to waive the permit fees. **Councilman Holst** stated Rudy Gnehm will be contacting Waldwick to inquire about their sidewalk program, and also begin developing a program of examining the town for unsafe sidewalk conditions by voting districts. It was noted by **Councilman O’Hagan** that the property owners whose pictures show unsafe sidewalk conditions should be notified.

At this time the **Mayor** took a moment to speak of comments he received from a new resident who owns a landscaping business and holds several municipal contracts throughout Bergen County. He said she stated Midland Park has the cleanest streets, storm drains, catch basins, etc. She also said it is the cleanest and best maintained D.P.W. work that she has seen throughout Bergen County.

3. P.S.E.&G. – Audit Access Agreement

Administrator Dugan explained she was approached by Mark Lish, P.S.E&G representative, regarding a new program they started where they come to the municipality and, free of charge, perform an energy audit on our facilities, including a look at the heating and cooling systems. She said with the results of the audit, we can decide what improvements to make and P.S.E.&G. pays 80% of the cost of the improvements, we pay the remaining 20%. The **Mayor** noted this is being funded by the Federal stimulus money. **Councilman Papapietro** questioned the inclusion of the Board of Education. The **Administrator** said she will talk with Mr. Lish about speaking with the B.O.E. because our agreement is only for the municipal properties. **Council President Peet** noted the B.O.E. has been very pro-active on this issue, and has had energy audits performed many times over the years, and she applauds them for their due-diligence. The **Administrator** also said she spoke with Mr. Lish regarding the new construction project of the building department renovation lending itself to the 80%-20% payment, and he said it may and this door was left open. This issue will be addressed during the Open Public Meeting by a Motion giving approval for the Administrator’s signature on the agreement document.

4. B.C.U.A. –Mandatory Riparian Zone Ordinance-Schedule on Planning Board for Open Discussion

Administrator Dugan explained, as directed, she reached out to LAN Association and had a discussion with Rich Wostbrock, Planning/Zoning Board engineer, on the pros and cons of this mandatory ordinance and decided it should be put on the Planning Board agenda for discussion. The **Mayor** reminded her that the Council wanted to know if the Borough already complies with this ordinance, and she said Mr. Wostbrock said the Borough makes that decision itself.

5. Building Department Renovations Update

The **Clerk** stated she spoke with Wayne Johnson from BlueLine Architect, who informed her they have identified, through research, two grants that may apply to our renovation and he will be

checking further on these. He has completed the physical plans and is now working on the cost estimate to be presented to Council in October. **Clerk Hanna** also updated the governing Body on the P.A.R.I.S. grants funding, stating she was informed by Melissa Backes, of the P.A.R.I.S. Group, the additional funding they were promised from the State may not come through, and they have no idea if it ever will.

NEW BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION:

There was no New Business to discuss this evening.

LIAISON REPORTS:

Mayor Monahan

Mayor Monahan noted tomorrow September 11th, is a day of remembrance for those who lost their lives and their families, and in addition he announced Bergen County will be holding a POW/MIA ceremony on September 18th at 12 noon at the Bergen County Court House Circle of Honor. The **Mayor** spoke of the appointments that are made in January, stating if any resident has an interest in being on a Board, please let himself or a Council member know. He than reported he and **Administrator Dugan** and **Councilman Papapietro** met this week to create a simplified condensed budget document to inform the public as to where and how their tax dollars are spent, and the challenges the governing body is facing. He mentioned the ever dwindling revenue, cut backs in state aid, the PBA contract, sewer expense, interest expense, just to mention some. **Mayor Monahan** noted issues that are still being addressed are the sidewalk repair article for the newsletter, the farmer's market and the splash park, and reminded everyone of Community Day this week end.

Councilman Papapietro Finance/Personnel

Councilman Papapietro reported under **Finance**, the bills continue to get paid and the Borough is in the process of converting our finance accounts to Valley National Bank, which should be completed by October 1st.

Council President Peet Public Safety - Fire & Ambulance/Board of Education

Council President Peet reported Progress in all Departments

Councilman Junta Buildings & Grounds/Board of Health

As **Councilman Junta** was absent, **Councilman Holst** reported the land behind the DePhillips has been filled in by the D.P.W. and the plantings are done. A discussion took place relative to the proposed ADA grant application for handicap bathrooms on the upper level of the DePhillips Center.

Councilman O'Hagan Public Safety - Police/JIF/Alliance

Councilman O'Hagan reported he will be attending the **Joint Insurance Fund** meeting next Thursday, and the **Midland Park Alliance Group** met last night, with only 5 members attending, with hope for more participation as this organization should be "wildly" supported.

Councilman Pruiksma Recreation

Councilman Pruiksma reported the Community Day picnic is this week end, and due to the expected rainy weather, tomorrow it will be decided if it is going to be on Saturday or Sunday. He noted the Fall tennis program has started, there will be Saturday cooking class, the Halloween parade will be October 30th, and after school bowling are in progress.

Councilman Holst Public Works

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Administrator Dugan reported there will be two Community Development ADA grant applications on the next meeting Consent Agenda for Council’s approval. One is for ADA accessible bleachers to replace the old wooden bleachers at the Johnny VanDer Meer Field, and the other is for ADA bathrooms on the top floor of the DePhillips Center.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution #154-09 – Raffle License – M.P. Education Foundation, Inc.

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 5:28-7, provides for Governing Body approval of applications for license for legalized games of chance; and,

WHEREAS, the Midland Park Public Education Foundation, Inc., located at Post Office Box 5, Midland Park, has applied for such license to conduct an On-Site Merchandise Draw Raffle, to be held on October 9, 2009.

WHEREAS, an investigation of the Midland Park Police Department into qualifications and merit of the applicant has uncovered no reason to deny such application for licensing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Midland Park that the Borough Clerk be and is hereby authorized to issue a raffle license to conduct this raffles on said date, at the location of Ethos Fitness & Spa, 85 Godwin Avenue, Midland Park, N. J. 07432.

Resolution #158-09 – Bills List

WHEREAS, claims have been submitted to the Borough of Midland Park in the following amounts:

Current Fund (09)	\$ 81,725.96
Private Duty Fund	\$ 350.00
Dog Fund	\$ 159.00
Trust Fund	\$ 2,914.28
Capital Fund	\$ 118,584.68
TOTAL:	\$ 203,733.92

WHEREAS, such claims have been listed according to Department and account number with corresponding vouchers to be reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the CFO has determined that the funds have been properly appropriated for such purposes and are available, in the Borough of Midland Park and that the claims specified on the schedule attached hereto, following examination and approval by the Finance Committee, be paid and checks issued accordingly; and,

WHEREAS, claims have already been paid in the following accounts:

Current	August 28th Payroll	\$ 118,784.48
Current	September Health Payment	\$ 50,694.59
Current	September School Tax	\$1,246,732.80
		\$1,416,211.87

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park that the claims totaling **\$1,619,945.79** be approved and ratified respectively.

Resolution #159-09 - Private Duty Refund

WHEREAS, Fairfield Maintenance Inc. paid for the services of our police department for

private duty; and

WHEREAS, their payment was an “estimate”, paid before the actual job was done and the actual man hours used were less than the amount paid of \$1875 actual \$1762.50

WHEREAS, Fairfield Maintenance Inc. located at 4 Commerce Rd, Fairfield NJ is due a refund of \$112.50.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Midland Park that the Financial Assistant will issue 2 separate checks for these refunds in the above amounts.

Resolution #160-09 – National O.E.M. Awareness Month

WHEREAS, National Preparedness Month is an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of emergency preparedness, and to encourage all citizens to better prepare their homes and communities for emergencies; and

WHEREAS, protecting our homeland and citizens is the shared responsibility of the entire Nation. Individuals can prepare themselves and their families for emergencies by taking simple steps such as organizing an emergency supply kit, making a personal preparedness plan, setting up distant emergency contacts, becoming informed about different threats, and getting involved in preparing their community. These activities create a culture of preparedness and can help save lives; and

WHEREAS, our governments continue to improve our ability to prepare for emergencies, and the Department of Homeland Security is working with Federal, State and local government organizations, as well as the private sector, to prevent, respond to, and recover from all types of emergencies. Together we can significantly enhance the level of national preparedness to further safeguard our communities and secure our homeland; and

WHEREAS, this month is also an opportunity to pay tribute to American’s first responders who put themselves at risk for the safety of their fellow citizens. These brave police officers, firefighters, ambulance corps and other emergency service personnel, exemplify the compassion and commitment that help strengthen our community. We will be forever grateful for their service and sacrifice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Midland Park, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim the month of September

“NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH”

in the Borough of Midland Park, and we call upon all citizens to recognize the importance of preparing for potential emergencies.

The Consent Agenda was:

Introduced by: Councilman Pruikisma Seconded by Councilman Holst

Roll Call:	Councilman Papapietro	Aye
	Councilman Junta	Absent
	Councilman Pruikisma	Aye
	Councilman Holst	Aye
	Councilman O’Hagan	Aye
	Council President Peet	Aye

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #161-09 – Rigs Development - Community Development Grant Appl.

WHEREAS, a Bergen County Home Program Loan of \$449,175.00 has been proposed by Rigs Development, L.L.C. for Construction of 3 Affordable Rental Units in the municipality of the Borough of Midland Park, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the State Interlocal Services Act, Community Development funds may not be spent in a municipality without authorization by the Council; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid project is in the best interest of the people of Midland Park, and

WHEREAS, this Resolution does not obligate the financial resources of the municipality and is intended solely to expedite expenditure of the Home funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of Midland Park, New Jersey hereby confirms endorsement of the aforesaid project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the Director of the Bergen County Community Development Program, so that implementation of the aforesaid project may be expedited.

Introduced by: Councilman Pruiksmas

Seconded by: Councilman Holst

Roll Call:	Councilman Papapietro	Aye
	Councilman Junta	Absent
	Councilman Pruiksmas	Aye
	Councilman Holst	Aye
	Councilman O’Hagan	Aye
	Council President Peet	Aye

Resolution #162-09 – Appoint Crossing Guards/Sub Crossing Guards 2009/2010

WHEREAS, the need for School Crossing Guards and Substitute Crossing Guards exists in the Borough of Midland Park; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police feels these candidates are suitable to the duties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council, that the following appointments be made as Crossing Guards in the Borough of Midland Park, for the school calendar year of 2009 – 2010, in compliance with Ordinance 2-11.15:

Regular Guards

George Vander Plaats
Dolores Cook
Elizabeth DeKnight
Penny Sermeus
Rich Rehbein
Donald Hachey
Jill Kiernan
Sharon Moran

Substitute Guards

Cheryl Biswurm
Richard Carruthers
Michael Koeller
Sharon Moran
John Miller
Dawn Odell
Frank Post
Betty Roeland
Martha Schimpff
Mary Televantos
Helen Van Der Plaats

Introduced by: Councilman O’Hagan

Seconded by: Councilman Holst

Roll Call:	Councilman Papapietro	Aye
	Councilman Junta	Absent
	Councilman Pruiksmas	Aye

