

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

MARCH 26, 2015

SPECIAL MEETING

A Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council was held in the Municipal Building on March 26, 2015.

Mayor Bivona opened the meeting at 8:00 A.M. and Borough Clerk, Sally Bleeker, read the Sunshine Law Statement.

ROLL CALL

The following Council Members and Professional Staff were present: Mayor Bivona, Councilperson Cadicina, Councilperson Kahwaty, Council President Kelly, Councilperson Lambrix, Councilperson Swist, Borough Administrator Hart. Councilperson Ramsey was absent this morning.

OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Motion to open the time for public comment was made by Councilperson Lambrix, seconded by Councilperson Kahwaty, all ayes.

No one from the public came forward at this time and Councilperson Cadicina made a motion to close the time for public comment, seconded by Councilperson Lambrix, all ayes.

**Resolution 100-15
CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED that the following resolutions, placed on this agenda by consent, require no discussion and the same having been previously reviewed by each Governing Body member, be and are hereby adopted in their entirety by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Franklin Lakes. Full text of all consent agenda resolutions can be found after the Adjournment.

- Resolution 101-15 Accept Report of Finance Committee
- Resolution 102-15 Emergency Temporary Appropriations

Resolution introduced by Councilperson Kahwaty. Seconded by Councilperson Lambrix. Discussion – None.

Roll Call Vote

- Ayes: Cadicina, Kahwaty, Kelly, Lambrix, Swist
- Nays: None
- Abstain:
- Absent: Ramsey
- Motion Approved

DISCUSSION

- **2015 Goals**

Property Taxes - Mayor Bivona stated that the purpose of this meeting is to focus on and review the goals which were outlined in January 2015. Councilperson Lambrix stated that goals should be measurable either in a one year or multi-year metric. He suggested that over the next six years the goal should be to reduce debt by 20%. Mayor Bivona spoke about property taxes and noted that there is a high assessed value for properties in the Borough which results in a low tax rate. Councilperson Lambrix said that per capita

spending should be improved by 5% over the next three years to improve efficiency. Mayor Bivona stated that 10% of the budget or expenditures is directed at the payment of debt and this will be ongoing. The goal should be to focus specifically on debt reduction. The goal of efficiency will serve as a guide when looking at staff levels and will force a level of discipline.

Council President Kelly pointed out that wellness and the Mayor's Wellness Campaign was not included on the list of goals. Mayor Bivona said that this could be listed as a subset of Recreation and Parks.

Shared Services and Synergies - Mayor Bivona referred to Shared Services and Synergies and commented that so little is done in conjunction with other municipalities. There seems to be a fear of providing shared services because of the feeling of a loss of control. Councilperson Lambrix said that goal should be to come to an agreement on one shared service agreement in the next year. Mr. Hart pointed out that on a day to day basis there is a lot of sharing of services in small areas. After more discussion, Councilperson Kahwaty suggested making a wish list that gives the Council something to work towards. Mayor Bivona said that he would be comfortable going with County dispatch if they can agree to the right price. This will save money for the taxpayer. Mr. Hart said that they have several mechanisms for exploring shared services. They have considered the possibility of a merger with Oakland and Wyckoff through the WOLF process but sometimes it is not financially beneficial. Mayor Bivona pointed out that a willing partner is essential for shared services to be successful. Councilperson Lambrix commented that this should be a low priority goal; however, Mayor Bivona disagreed stating that this should be a high priority goal with a low probability of success.

Mr. Hart reported that they are meeting with the High School with the goal of bringing that entity into the synergy process. The Wyckoff Y is very interested in the process as well.

Public Safety - Mayor Bivona said that the police force in Franklin Lakes is wonderful with excellent response time; however, they need to be pro-active. The public should be more involved with the police and he suggested a more visual, public presence. Mayor Bivona stated that in order to be more pro-active rather than reactive, police cameras could be installed in various locations to help catch criminals during home burglaries. Councilperson Cadicina commented that DARE and the Neighborhood Watches were great programs that have been eliminated. Mayor Bivona said that neighbors do watch out for each other to a certain extent and many criminals have been caught due to neighbors reporting suspicious activity. Mr. Hart said that the Police Department website is being overhauled to be more customer friendly.

Councilperson Lambrix suggested a public safety goal directed toward the Police Department. Councilmembers agreed that the Police Department will be charged to develop a comprehensive public safety communications program by the end of the year.

Roads – Mayor Bivona said that the Borough needs to improve their response to road issues. There should be a centralized mechanism to report problems on the roads. Mr. Hart explained that every three or four years, interns are hired to assess the roads which includes updating the prior assessment. He suggested completing the assessment this year. Mayor Bivona said that they need to go beyond simply assessing and ranking road conditions and responsiveness needs to be measured. Councilperson Lambrix suggested informing the public of the grading system.

Mr. Hart referred to the Middletown, N.J. website which was revamped to be user friendly. The overhaul of the website has reduced phone calls to the town by 50%. There is a pothole log that is presently used by the DPW. Councilmembers suggested looking at the Middletown website and to consider incorporating some of their ideas into the Franklin Lakes website. The goal would be to develop a computerized response system that would implement a more defined process relative to service requests.

Mr. Hart said they are looking into the possibility of privatizing lawn maintenance to save money. Savings could be reinvested into a hot box device for pothole repair that

could be shared with other towns. Mayor Bivona said that rather than cutting grass, some DPW employees could be trained to pave small sections of roadways.

Capital Projects - Mayor Bivona stressed the importance of adhering to the six year plan. Councilperson Lambrix recited some of the goals including a one year goal to complete work at Police Headquarters and the purchase of two fire trucks. The two year goal should be completion of the sewer installation. Mr. Hart stated that they are meeting next week to review capital requests with the Finance Committee. Every decision made must be within the context of the capital plan that must be adapted as needed.

Recreation and Parks – Mayor Bivona said that Wellness will be added to this category as suggested earlier by Council President Kelly. The goal is the renovation of the Recreation Center which is ongoing at this time. A goal of one year for renovations to the Community Center was recommended and the Y is planning for a grand opening in September. Mr. Hart said that it is important that the Borough has a representative present on talks relative to programs being offered at the Franklin Lakes Recreation Center. Mr. Hart spoke about the installation of the outdoor fitness equipment and the DPW is moving forward with the installation of the concrete pads. Mayor Bivona stated that Dina Robinson, Wellness Chairperson needs the support of the Council relative to the Wellness Committee.

Sewers – Mayor Bivona said that they meet once a month on sewers and they should encourage the installation of sewers in most of the neighborhoods in the Borough. The Council needs to become creative and take a more pro-active stance to promote sewers. He suggested that the Council work with Northwest Bergen Utility Authority (NWBUA) in an attempt to convince NWBUA to subsidize the cost of sewer installation by means of a long payback period. Mr. Hart suggested the formation of a Sewer Oversight Committee and he noted that Franklin Lakes should utilize the representative they have on the NABUA Board. He noted that they might have success if they can convince commercial properties or larger neighborhoods to hook up to the sewers. Councilperson Lambrix said he would support promoting enhanced communication on the benefits of the program. Mr. Hart noted that it has been clearly stated that the Mayor and Council is not encouraging sewer hook-up but they encourage residents to consider the option and make their own decisions.

Special Needs Housing – Mayor Bivona stated that this is ongoing before the Planning Board. A lot of effort has been put into this due to the State's drive to incorporate people with special needs into the community. Mayor Bivona stated that he hopes to have the financing secured in 2015 with a goal of two years to complete construction. This will be a great addition to the community and is far better for the neighborhood than the earlier plans for 150 condominiums. Mr. Hart pointed out that in order to meet this objective in two years a contribution may be necessary from the town using Affordable Housing Trust Funds.

Councilperson Cadicina left the meeting at 9:15 A.M.

Mr. Hart stated that the first meeting relative to the development of an Affordable Housing Plan is being held on Friday. The meeting includes the Planning Committee and Borough professionals and Development of the Affordable Housing Plan should be a goal for 2015.

Municipal Alliance – Mayor Bivona commended Henry Wasserstein for the work he has done on the Municipal Alliance. He has an excellent grasp of the issues involved along with Janis Strauss who has contributed enormously. Mayor Bivona said that the Council has to be more involved because drugs are a serious problem that is only getting worse. No one seems to be focused on the problem and the Municipal Alliance program suffers from a lack of attention and funding. Mayor Bivona said that the Council needs to work with the schools as well as having someone advise them on this serious problem. He suggested inviting Henry Wasserstein, Janis Strauss and Detective Jost to a special meeting with the Mayor and Council about the best ways to address the problem.

Service – Mayor Bivona stated that everyone in the Borough needs to have a service mentality. Responsiveness has been measured by Revelstone, a performance management system, which has been used recently by Mr. Hart. The Mayor said that there must be a focus on rewarding service and Mr. Hart said that a performance reward system should be an additional goal for 2015.

Councilperson Swist stressed the importance of communication in the Borough. She suggested placing Shade Tree under the Environmental Committee. Improved recycling should also be a goal also under Environmental. The Recycling Coordinator should suggest goals for 2015. Tree fund escrow could be used for hazardous trees in the Borough. Mr. Hart suggested that the departments and committees should come up with their own goals for 2015.

Councilperson Lambrix commented that this has been an excellent meeting. Mayor Bivona said they need to keep focused on the goals and objectives discussed tonight. Mr. Hart will outline future meeting objective.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilperson Kahwaty to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 A.M. Councilperson Lambrix seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Councilmembers Kahwaty, Kelly, Lambrix and Swist

Nays:

Abstain:

Absent: Councilmembers Cadicina and Ramsey

Motion Approved

Resolution 101-15

RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Franklin Lakes that the report of the Finance Committee be accepted and recommendations adopted; that the report be made part of the record of this meeting; and the proper Borough Officials are hereby authorized and directed to issue warrants in the amount of \$12,748.38 as shown on the Claims Bill List.

Resolution Number 102-15

Emergency Temporary Appropriations For CY 2015

WHEREAS, the CY 2015 budget has not been adopted, and adequate provisions could not be made in the CY 2015 temporary budget to provide necessary funding for certain ongoing operations of the Borough of Franklin Lakes; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of emergency temporary appropriations for the aforementioned purpose; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary resolutions adopted in CY 2015 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 including this resolution totals \$1,460,630.95;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Franklin Lakes, County of Bergen, New Jersey, that in accordance with provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20:

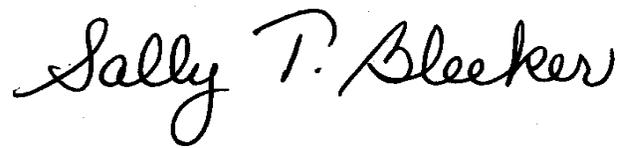
1. That emergency temporary appropriations be and the same are hereby made for:

Other Expenses:	Environmental Comm.	300.00
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2. That said emergency temporary appropriations be provided for in the CY 2015 adopted budget.

3. That one certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Director of Local Government Services.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sally T. Bleeker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'S'.

Sally T. Bleeker, Borough Clerk