

M I N U T E S
Meeting of the Mayor and Council
March 5, 2012
8:00 P.M.

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER -

Mayor Moscaritolo called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall.

MISSION STATEMENT & OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS -

Mayor Moscaritolo read the Mission Statement into the record as follows:

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and attend any meetings of public bodies at which any business effecting their interest is discussed or acted upon.

In accordance with this act the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge have caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted in the Borough Hall and notices have been sent to the Record and the Ridgewood News.

The mission of this governing body is to provide essential services through the establishment and implementation of public policy that will safeguard our infrastructure, provide honest, courteous and professional services; and establish a sense of trust and accomplishment with our residents. Through research and prudent planning we seek to minimize risks while improving our services. We are sensitive to the needs of our taxpayers while realizing that this governing body cannot be all things to all people within the revenue constraints imposed by state mandates, economic conditions and prevailing attitudes about taxation.

ROLL CALL - Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni, Councilman Papaleo and Mayor Moscaritolo were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES -

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Porco to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council work session and regular meeting of February 21, 2012.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Porco to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council work session meeting of February 27, 2012.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes; Councilwoman Murphy and Councilman Mignone abstained.

PROCLAMATIONS & AWARDS -

Mayor Moscaritolo read the Proclamation Declaring March 2012 as the 93rd Anniversary of DeMolay as follows:

Proclamation

WHEREAS, DeMolay is a character-building organization of young men from age 12-21; and

WHEREAS, these young men are seeking to prepare themselves to become better citizens and leaders for tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, DeMolay helps develop those traits of character which have strengthened good men in all ages; and

WHEREAS, the organization has carried out the aforementioned goals for over ninety years through programs of athletic competition, social activity, civic service, and charitable projects; and

WHEREAS; the members of DeMolay Leaders of Bergen County - Ethan Allen Chapter will observe the year of 2012 as the

93rd Anniversary of DeMolay

so as to exemplify to all citizens here and everywhere their many activities, and to tender recognition to their millions of Senior DeMolays; now

THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me, I proclaim that March 2012 be observed as

DeMolay Month

I call upon all our citizens to join in saluting the young men of DeMolay, and in expressing our grateful appreciation for the fine example set by them, in contributing to the welfare of our community.

Mayor Sandy Moscaritolo

Dated: March 5, 2012

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONNEL CHANGES -

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to approve the salary change of Dolores Kane, Head of Circulation from an annual salary of \$46,788.00 to \$47,654.00 due to an increase in longevity from 8% to 10%, effective February 1, 2012.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded Councilwoman Murphy to approve the appointment of Joseph Gramuglia to the Police Reserves, effective immediately.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to approve the appointment of Stephen Oatley, 818 Summit Avenue, as a Tenant Representative to the Rent Leveling Board, for a two-year term to 12/31/13, effective March 6, 2012.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to **TABLE** the hire of the part-time Tax Collection Clerk until the matter has been discussed in closed session following the regular meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

CORRESPONDENCE -

Letter	-	Kenneth & Dawn Garrabrant - 2/21/12
		Re: Thank You to Police Officers
Notice	-	PSE&G - 2/22/12
		Re: Application for Modified Freshwater
		Wetlands Statewide General Permit #2
Letter	-	Azzolina & Feury Engineering - 2/21/12
		Re: B.C. Zoological Park-Tamarin Exhibit
Notice	-	River Edge Board of Education - 2/27/12
		Re: Meeting on 2/29/12
Letter	-	State of New Jersey - DEP - 2/29/12
		RE: Remediation Action - Leonard Toyota,
		5 New Bridge Road

LIAISON REPORTS -

Councilwoman Murphy stated that the installation for the Library carpeting is complete and looks great. Public Service had cut down some trees on Adams Avenue and the Shade Tree Commission has been in contact with them to try to get compensation for the trees.

Councilman Porco reported that the Historic Commission is interested in putting information on the website and he will bring it up at the next meeting.

Councilman Bartelloni reported that both school districts met and adopted their budgets, both going to the 2% cap. He informed everyone that the tax increase per household for River Edge schools will be \$68.00 and \$33.00 per household for River Dell.

MONTHLY REPORTS -

Police Department	-	January 2012
Library Board	-	January 2012
Historic Commission	-	January 2012
Shade Tree Commission	-	January 2012
Library Board	-	February 2012
Tax Collector	-	2011 Annual Statement

ORDINANCES - 1st Reading - NONE

ORDINANCES - 2nd Reading

Alan Negreann gave a brief description of Ordinance #1759.

Denise Dondiego, Borough Clerk read the title of Ordinance #1759 as follows:

Ordinance #1759 - ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2012

Ordinance #1759 was introduced by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Porco at the February 21, 2012 meeting as follows:

BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE

ORDINANCE #1759

ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2012

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge in the County of Bergen finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2012 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body hereby determines that a 3.5% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$356,866.12 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge, in the County of Bergen, a majority of the full authorized membership of this Governing Body affirmatively concurring that, in the CY 2012 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of River Edge shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$356,866.12, and that the CY 2012 municipal budget for the Borough of River Edge be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced by filed with the Director of the division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Mayor Sandy Moscaritolo

Attest:

Denise A. Dondiego, Borough Clerk
Dated:

OPEN HEARING OF THE PUBLIC - Ordinance #1759

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Mignone to open hearing of the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

CLOSE HEARING OF THE PUBLIC - Ordinance #1759

There being no comments by the public, motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Mignone to close hearing of the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

ADOPTION - Ordinance #1759

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Porco to adopt Ordinance #1759.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

RESOLUTIONS - By Consent

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Porco to approve resolution #12-97 through #12-99.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

#12-97 Enter Into Agreement With Arthur M. Neiss, Esq., Beattie Padovano, LLC, 50 Chestnut Ridge Road, Suite 208, P.O. Box 244, Montvale, New Jersey 07645-0244 For Professional Services as Planning Board Attorney for the Borough of River Edge

WHEREAS, there exists a need for a Planning Board Attorney for legal services such as attendance at meetings of the Board, doing legal research and issuing oral and written legal opinions; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #01-2010-20-1552-166 of the Current Fund not to exceed \$4,500; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the annual aggregate value of the service may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Arthur M. Neiss, Esq. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Arthur M. Neiss, Esq. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of River Edge Governing Body in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Arthur M. Neiss, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the rate of pay shall not exceed \$85.00 per hour as Borough Planning Board Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, this contract will be retroactive to January 1, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge as follows:

1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached agreement with Arthur M. Neiss, Esq., Beattie Padovano, LLC, 50 Chestnut Ridge Road, Suite 208, P.O. Box 244, Montvale, New Jersey 07645-0244 in the amount not to exceed \$4,500.00.
2. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and
3. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law to Arthur M. Neiss, Esq., Beattie Padovano, LLC, 50 Chestnut Ridge Road, suite 208, P.O. Box 244, Montvale, New Jersey 07645-0244.
4. A notice of this action shall be printed once in THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS.

March 5, 2011

#12-98 Endorse Municipal Open Space Recreation Commission Modified Plan

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge adopted resolution #06-234 on August 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a referendum was held on the question of creating a Municipal Open Space Trust Fund and was approved by the voters of the Borough of River Edge on November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on January 17, 2012 to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on recommendations to spend the Municipal Open Space Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge approved various plans via resolution #07-81 MOE \$27.50, #08-72 DOE \$14.81, #09-105 DOE \$323.10, #10-104 MOE \$4,364.26, #11-168 MOE \$427.86 and #11-168 MSW \$8.35; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Commission desires to modify these plans to provide for a reallocation of funds for a plan on file with the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, this matter was discussed at a work session of the Governing Body on February 21, 2012 and the budget meeting on February 25, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that the Recreation Commission Plan as modified by this resolution and on file with the Borough Clerk, is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governing Body approves the transfer of the above listed plans in the total amount of \$5,165.88 to MOE \$5,165.88.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the Recreation Commission.

March 5, 2012

#12-99 Enter Into Agreement with Capital Alternatives, Demarest House, 619 River Road, New Milford, New Jersey 07646 for Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services

WHEREAS, there exists a need for a Grant Consultant for the Borough of River Edge; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Extraordinary, Unspecifiable Services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

WHEREAS, William Lindsley, Esq. has certified that this meets the statute and regulations governing the award of said contract; and

WHEREAS, a standard certification declaration for an Extraordinary Unspecifiable Service has been received by the Governing Body from the Borough

Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the annual aggregate value of the service may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Capital Alternatives has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Capital Alternatives has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of River Edge Governing Body in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Capital Alternatives from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #01-2010-20-1652-172 of the Current Fund in the amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 subject to the Governing Body making sufficient funds available in the 2012 budget; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed this matter at a work session on March 5, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge as follows:

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached agreement with Capital Alternatives, Demarest House, 618 River Road, New Milford, New Jersey 07646 in the amount not to exceed \$15,000.00.
2. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and
3. The contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the service performed is by a person authorized to practice a recognized profession.
4. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the RIDGEWOOD NEWS for publication.

March 5, 2012

Mayor Moscaritolo-stated that they have already received a legal opinion from Sam Cereste, the Borough Attorney stating that the selection of the Zoning Board Attorney is within the province of the Zoning Board.

Councilwoman Murphy-asked if anyone else had applied for the position that might have had more experience?

Councilman Cordts-stated that we have nothing to do with it.

Councilman Mignone-explained that we just appropriate the funds.

Sam Cereste, Esq.-stated that it's really a motion to appropriate funding.

Sam stated that he has spoken to Michele and offered to sit with her but was informed that she has enrolled in a program for Zoning and Land Use Law. Michele feels that if she needs help she'll call him.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Porco to approve resolution #12-100.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

#12-100 Enter Into Agreement with Michele S. Austin Esq., 153 Waterside Drive, Little Ferry, New Jersey, 07643 for Professional Services as Zoning Board of Adjustment Attorney for the Borough of River Edge

WHEREAS, there exists a need for a Zoning Board of Adjustment Attorney for legal services such as attendance at meetings of the Board, doing legal research and issuing oral and written legal opinions; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the annual aggregate value of the service may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Michele S. Austin, Esq. has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Michele S. Austin, Esq. has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of River Edge Governing Body in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Michele S. Austin, Esq. from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #01-2010-20-1552-167 of the Current Fund not to exceed \$4,500.00.

WHEREAS, the rate of pay shall not exceed \$85.00 per hour as zoning Board of Adjustment Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge as follows:

1. The Mayor and Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached agreement with Michele S. Austin, Esq., 153 Waterside Drive, Little Ferry, New Jersey 07643 in the amount not to exceed \$4,500.00.
2. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and
3. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with 40A:11-5(1)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law to Michele S. Austin, Esq., 153 Waterside Drive, Little Ferry, New Jersey 07643.
4. A notice of this action shall be printed once in THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS.

March 5, 2012

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to approve resolution #12-101 through #12-110 and #12-112 through #12-117.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

#12-101 Resolution to Go Into Closed Session and Exclude Public on March 19, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain enumerated circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the public shall be excluded from the March 19, 2012 meeting at 7:00 p.m. and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:

<u>Closed Session Docket #</u>	<u>Item Title or Description</u>	<u>Statutory Reference</u>
12-3/19-1	Litigation - Petition for Equitable Modification of the Cost Apportionment for River Dell School District	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(7)

2. Any non-attorney client privilege communications will be released at the conclusion of the litigation subject of any orders of the court.

3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

March 5, 2012

#12-102 Resolution to Go Into Closed Session and Exclude Public

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A.10:4-12, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain enumerated circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the public shall be excluded from the March 5, 2012 meeting and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:

Closed Session

Statutory

<u>Docket #</u>	<u>Item Title or Description</u>	<u>Reference</u>
12-3/5-1	Personnel - Emergency Management Coordinator & Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator - Gas Subsidy & Change in Salary Scale	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(8)
12-3/5-2	Personnel - James Bruno, Esq. - Castano Quigley LLC - Redevelopment Attorney	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(8)
12-3/5-3	Personnel - Interview with Francis Regan, Esq. J. Sheldon Cohen, Esq., - Decotiis, FitzPatrick & Cole LLP - Redevelopment Attorney	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(8)
12-3/5-4	Personnel-Hiring of Part-time Tax Collection Clerk	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(8)

2. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public within a reasonable time, the substance of which will be released after the Mayor and Council or the specific authorized public body has reviewed and specifically accepted the data.

3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

March 5, 2012

#12-103 Endorse Municipal Open Space Recreation Commission Plan

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge adopted Resolution #06-234 on August 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a referendum was held on the question of creating a Municipal Open Space Trust Fund and was approved by the voters of the Borough of River Edge on November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on January 17, 2012 to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on recommendations to spend the Municipal Open Space Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge approved various plans via resolution #07-85 MOE - \$5,069.48, #08-70 MOE - \$5,267.00, #09-94 MOE - \$4,133.35, #09-93 MOE - \$50.00, #10-107 MOE - \$420.00, #11-171 MOE - \$577.89, Unauthorized - \$1,371.29; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Commission desires to modify these plans to provide for a reallocation of funds for a plan on file with the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, this matter was discussed at a work session of the Governing Body on February 21, 2012 and at the budget meeting on February 25, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that the Recreation Commission Plan as submitted at the public hearing, on file with the Borough Clerk, are hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Appropriated Budget for 2012 of \$4,834.12 (Salary and Wages) for the Maintenance of Lands for Recreation and Conservation purposes is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the Recreation Commission and Recreation Director.

March 5, 2012

#12-104 Endorse Municipal Open Space Beautification Committee

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge adopted Resolution #06-234 on August 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a referendum was held on the question of creating a Municipal Open Space Trust Fund and was approved by the voters of the Borough of River Edge on November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on January 17, 2012 to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on recommendations to spend the Municipal Open Space Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge approved various plans via resolution #07-85 MOE - \$5,069.48, #08-70 MOE - \$5,267.00, #09-94 MOE - \$4,133.35, #09-93 MOE - \$50.00, #10-107 MOE - \$420.00, #11-171 MOE - \$577.89, Unauthorized - \$1,371.29; and

WHEREAS, the Beautification Committee desires to modify these plans to provide for a reallocation of funds for a plan on file with the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, this matter was discussed at a work session of the Governing Body on February 21, 2012 and at the budget meeting on February 25, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that the Beautification Committee Plan as modified by this resolution and on file with the Borough Clerk, is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Appropriated Budget for 2012 of \$2,000.00 (Other Expenses) for the Maintenance of Lands for Recreation and Conservation purposes is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the Beautification Committee.

March 5, 2012

#12-105 Endorse Municipal Open Space Department of Public Works

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge adopted Resolution #06-234 on August 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a referendum was held on the question of creating a Municipal Open Space Trust Fund and was approved by the voters of the Borough of River Edge on November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on January 17, 2012 to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on recommendations to spend the Municipal Open Space Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge approved various plans via resolution #07-85 MOE - \$5,069.48, #08-70 MOE - \$5,267.00, #09-94 MOE - \$4,133.35, #09-93 MOE - \$50.00, #10-107 MOE - \$420.00, #11-171 MOE - \$577.89, Unauthorized - \$1,371.29; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works desires to modify these plans to provide for a reallocation of funds for a plan on file with the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, this matter was discussed at a work session of the Governing Body on February 21, 2012 and at the budget meeting on February 25, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that the Department of Public Works Plan as modified by this resolution and on file with the Borough Clerk, is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Appropriated Budget for 2012 of \$7,000.00 (Other Expenses) for the Maintenance of Lands for Recreation and Conservation purposes is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the Department of Public Works.

March 5, 2012

#12-106 Endorse Municipal Open Space 9/11 Memorial Plan

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge adopted Resolution #06-234 on August 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a referendum was held on the question of creating a Municipal Open Space Trust Fund and was approved by the voters of the Borough of River

Edge on November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on January 17, 2012 to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on recommendations to spend the Municipal Open Space Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge approved various plans via resolution #07-85 MOE - \$5,069.48, #08-70 MOE - \$5,267.00, #09-94 MOE - \$4,133.35, #09-93 MOE - \$50.00, #10-107 MOE - \$420.00, #11-171 MOE - \$577.89, Unauthorized - \$1,371.29; and

WHEREAS, the 9/11 Memorial Committee desires to modify these plans to provide for a reallocation of funds for a plan on file with the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, this matter was discussed at a work session of the Governing Body on February 21, 2012 and at the budget meeting on February 25, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that the 9/11 Memorial Plan as modified by this resolution and on file with the Borough Clerk, is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Appropriated Budget for 2012 of \$1,000.00 (Other Expenses) for the Maintenance of Lands for Recreation and Conservation purposes is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the 9/11 Memorial Committee.

March 5, 2012

#12-107 Endorse Municipal Open Space Shade Tree Commission

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge adopted Resolution #06-234 on August 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a referendum was held on the question of creating a Municipal Open Space Trust Fund and was approved by the voters of the Borough of River Edge on November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on January 17, 2012 to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on recommendations to spend the Municipal Open Space Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge approved various plans via resolution #07-85 MOE - \$5,069.48, #08-70 MOE - \$5,267.00, #09-94 MOE - \$4,133.35, #09-93 MOE - \$50.00, #10-107 MOE - \$420.00, #11-171 MOE - \$577.89, Unauthorized - \$1,371.29; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission desires to modify these plans to provide for a reallocation of funds for a plan on file with the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, this matter was discussed at a work session of the Governing Body on February 21, 2012 and at the budget meeting on February 25, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that the Shade Tree Commission Plan as modified by this resolution and on file with the Borough Clerk, is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Appropriated Budget for 2012 of \$1,000.00 (Other Expenses) for the Maintenance of Lands for Recreation and Conservation purposes is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the Shade Tree Commission.

March 5, 2012

#12-108 Endorse Municipal Open Space Environmental Protection Commission

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge adopted Resolution #06-234 on August 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a referendum was held on the question of creating a Municipal Open Space Trust Fund and was approved by the voters of the Borough of River Edge on November 7, 2006; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on January 17, 2012 to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on recommendations to spend the Municipal Open Space Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge approved various plans via resolution #07-85 MOE - \$5,069.48, #08-70 MOE - \$5,267.00, #09-94 MOE - \$4,133.35, #09-93 MOE - \$50.00, #10-107 MOE - \$420.00, #11-171 MOE - \$577.89, Unauthorized - \$1,371.29; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Commission desires to modify these plans to provide for a reallocation of funds for a plan on file with the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, this matter was discussed at a work session of the Governing Body on February 21, 2012 and at the budget meeting on February 25, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge that the Environmental Protection Commission Plan as modified by this resolution and on file with the Borough Clerk, is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Appropriated Budget for 2012 of \$1,000.00 (Other Expenses) for the Maintenance of Lands for Recreation and Conservation purposes is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby instructed to send a copy of this resolution to the Environmental Protection Commission.

March 5, 2012

#12-109 Award Bid for the Cherry Blossom Community Park Soil Remediation Project to Aurora Environmental, Inc., 1102 Union Avenue, Union Beach, New Jersey 07735

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2012 two (2) sealed bids were received for the Cherry Blossom Community Park Soil Remediation Project; and

WHEREAS, the lowest bid was received from Aurora Environmental, Inc., 1102 Union Avenue, Union Beach, New Jersey 07735 in the amount of \$28,800.00; and

WHEREAS, there was a mathematical error in the calculation of the price for grading by the bidder in the amount of \$50.00 and the bid amount should have been \$28,750.00; and

WHEREAS, the it is the Borough Attorney's legal opinion that the defect is a *de minimum* effect which is waiveable and non-material; and

WHEREAS, the bid has been reviewed by the Project Engineer and the Superintendent of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have discussed this matter at a work session on February 26, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #04-2150-55-1654-300 of the Capital Fund in an amount not to exceed \$28,750.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the bid is hereby awarded to Aurora Environmental, Inc., 1102 Union Avenue, Union Beach, New Jersey 07735 in the amount not to exceed \$28,750.00 and the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign said contract for the Borough.

March 5, 2012

#12-110 Designate Representatives for Statement on Auditing Standards No. 114

WHEREAS, the American Institute of Certified Public Accounts in December of 2006 has issued an update of Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 (SAS 61) with the new Statement on Auditing Standards No. 114 (SAS 114) with regard to required communication with audit committees; and

WHEREAS, SAS 114 broadens the provisions of SAS 61 to apply to audits of financial statements to all entities not subject to the Sarbanes Oxley Act or

the rules of the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), including those without formal audit committees; and

WHEREAS, the firm of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP and Certified Public Accountants and Registered Municipal Accountants to the Borough of River Edge has made a recommendation with regard to compliance with the auditing standard; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have considered this matter at their meeting of March 5, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Administrator/Chief Financial Officer has made a recommendation that the position of Chief Financial Office be designated as the Management Representative of the Borough of River Edge and that the Finance Committee of the Governing Body be designated as the point of contact for the auditor; and

WHEREAS, these designations do not relieve the Governing Body of their responsibilities with regard to the audit and financial statements of the Borough of River Edge.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in order to improve communication between the Borough and its Auditor, the Governing Body does hereby designate the Chief Financial Officer's position as that of the Management Representative for the Borough and the Finance Committee as the designated contact for the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is hereby instructed to forward a copy of this resolution to the firm of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, LLP.

March 5, 2012

Councilman Porco-stated that he has concerns about the total tax increase that will be put upon each household and feels that they could have done better. Mayor Moscaritolo-asked Alan what the consequence of not introducing the budget at tonight's meeting would be.

Alan Negreann-explained that they would have to have a special meeting and introduce it by March 9th.

Councilman Porco-asked Alan if they could come up with a different figure tonight?

Alan Negreann-stated that yes they could if they so desired. He said that they would have to pass a resolution with new figures which could take some time to do new computations.

Councilman Mignone-asked if that could be done before final adoption as well? He asked if they could introduce it and then amend it before adoption?

Alan Negreann-replied, yes you can introduce the budget and then amend it prior to adoption. He explained that you can continue discussing the budget after you introduce it. There will be a hearing on the budget 28 days after introduction, which would be April 2nd, at which time the public would have the opportunity to comment.

Mayor Moscaritolo-asked when the final adoption is?

Alan Negreann-stated that it could occur on April 2nd after the public hearing and we would need the State of New Jersey's permission to adopt the budget at that time. If they don't provide it, we would have to carry it until such time as they provide the authority to adopt the budget.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to approve resolution #12-111.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Mignone and Councilman Papaleo voted yes; Councilman Porco and Councilman Bartelloni voted no.

#12-111 Introduce 2012 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED that the Local Municipal Budget of the Borough of River Edge, Bergen County, New Jersey for the fiscal year 2012 be approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, and the Clerk be and she is hereby instructed to advertise it in THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS on March 16, 2012 and that a final public hearing before passage will be held on April 2, 2012 at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers and that said budget shall authorize total general appropriations of \$14,262,064.96 and the anticipated revenues of \$2,522,747.93 leaving an amount to be raised by taxes for municipal purposes of \$11,739,317.00.

March 5, 2012

#12-112 Introduce Capital Budget 2012 and Capital Plan for 2012-2017

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Capital Budget for 2012 and the Capital Plan for 2012-2017 are hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Capital Budget and Plan be published as part of the Municipal Budget for 2012 in the RIDGEWOOD NEWS on March 16, 2012.

March 5, 2012

#12-113 Include Item of Revenue in 2012 Budget

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge desires to anticipate as an item of General Revenue in the 2012 budget with prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Parking Lot Fees.....\$15,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of River Edge, that the prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services be requested to include as an item of General Revenue in the 2012 budget under the following caption:

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior
Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Parking Lot Fees.....\$15,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Director of Local Government Services.

March 5, 2012

#12-114 Include Item of Revenue in 2012 Budget

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge desires to anticipate as an item of General Revenue in the 2012 budget with prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

County of Bergen Interlocal Snow Removal.....\$5,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of River Edge, that the prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services be requested to include as an item of General Revenue in the 2012 budget under the following caption:

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior
Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

County of Bergen Interlocal Snow Removal.....\$5,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Director of Local Government Services.

March 5, 2012

#12-115 Include Item of Revenue in 2012 Budget

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge desires to anticipate as an item of General Revenue in the 2012 budget with prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Police Outside Duty.....\$35,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of River Edge, that the prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services be requested to include as an item of General Revenue in the 2012 budget under the following caption:

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior
Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Police Outside Duty.....\$35,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Director of Local Government Services.

March 5, 2012

#12-116 Include Item of Revenue in 2012 Budget

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of River Edge desires to anticipate as an item of General Revenue in the 2012 budget with prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Reserve for Sale of Assets.....\$10,000.00

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Borough of River Edge, that the prior written consent of the Director of Local Government Services be requested to include as an item of General Revenue in the 2012 budget under the following caption:

Special Items of General Revenue Anticipated with Prior Written Consent of the Director of Local Government Services:

Reserve for Sale of Assets.....\$10,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the Director of Local Government Services.

March 5, 2012

#12-117 Authorize Tax Collector to Refund Duplicate 2011 Tax Payment

WHEREAS, the tax office has received a duplicate tax payment for the 2011 taxes on the following property; and

WHEREAS, a written request was received from the homeowner to refund the overpaid amount directly to the homeowner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Accounts Supervisor is hereby authorized to issue checks in the following amounts and the Tax Collector to adjust her records accordingly.

Block/Lot	Name & Address	Refund Amount
1108/7	Adolph Orlando 331 Howland Avenue River Edge, NJ 07661	\$2,895.76

March 5, 2012

Councilman Porco read resolution #12-118 into the record.

Motion by Councilman Porco, seconded by Councilman Mignone to approve resolution #12-118.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

#12-118 Payment of Bills

WHEREAS, vouchers for the payment of goods and services rendered to the Borough of River Edge have been received; and

WHEREAS, each bill has been checked by the receiving department, approved by the Chief Financial Officer and Borough Clerk and reviewed by the three members of the Finance Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that bills as listed now be confirmed for payment from the appropriate funds as follows:

CURRENT ACCOUNT	\$682,997.03
RECREATION ACCOUNT	\$ 1,266.45

TRUST OTHER ACCOUNT	\$ 200.00
TRUST OTHER DEVELOPERS ACCOUNT	\$ 3,820.20

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that claims read and approved by the Governing Body at a Council meeting will be dated the day after the reading of those claims and will appear on the following bill list at the next public meeting of the Mayor and Council at which time claims would be paid.

March 5, 2012

OPEN HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

Motion by Councilman Porco, seconded by Councilman Mignone to open hearing of the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Peggy White-741 Center Avenue-made reference to the sketches of the proposed memorial monument and noted that there were only stairs going into the Borough Hall. She suggested that handicap accessibility should be a definite consideration.

Michael Gonnerman-485 Windsor Road-stated that he was a member of the 2012 Citizens Budget Committee and would like to address four budget issues. He stated that there is money allocated for the American Legion and asked if that money is not used, where will that money go without going into next years budget.

Mayor Moscaritolo-responded that it will remain in the Capital Fund until it's allocated.

Michael Gonnerman-asked if it can be allocated for something else?

Mayor Moscaritolo-answered, yes.

Michael Gonnerman-asked how the issue of changing the By-laws came up?

Mayor Moscaritolo-stated that the Borough has been operating under a set of by-laws from 1927 or 37 and feels that they are ancient. He continued by saying that they are so old and were enacted at a time when women didn't have the right to vote and they list departments of the Borough that don't exist anymore. Mayor Moscaritolo, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Mignone were appointed to a sub-committee to come up with a revised draft of the by-laws and came up with two different versions.

Michael Gonnerman-feels that looking into every aspect of each version could be very time consuming and asked if these two versions would be available to the public for their comments before it is voted on.

Councilman Bartelloni-stated that it is public record and anyone can request a copy.

Mayor Moscaritolo-stated that they haven't taken any official action and it's still a work in progress.

Michael Gonnerman-wonders why they ask citizens to be part of the budget committee and ask department heads to come before them when many times there seem to be cuts made on a whim, specifically the tree trimmer truck.

Councilman Porco-stated that all the department heads come before them with capital items and asked Mr. Gonnerman if he feels that they should approve all of them?

Michael Gonnerman-stated that John Lynch had come before the budget committee and explained the safety concerns he had with the tree trimmer vehicle and doesn't understand why something like that would be cut.

Councilman Porco-explained that they have to take many things into consideration such as their budget, costs and tax rate on homeowners and then they need to prioritize. He stated that at the last meeting when John Lynch came up and spoke about the tree trimmer vehicle, they were willing to get the tree truck but felt that they had to prioritize other items that were not safety issues and no one wanted to do that. He feels that you can't have it both ways.

Councilwoman Murphy-stated that she thinks what Mr. Gonnerman is trying to say is that if Councilman Bartelloni had not seen the truck when he went down to DPW, the request wouldn't have been brought back to the table for discussion.

Councilman Bartelloni-stated that when John originally came before them, the safety issue was that he was not comfortable allowing his men to ride in an older vehicle that would not get certified. Councilman Bartelloni explained that what was brought up later on, was a comment from Chief Cariddi regarding diesel fumes. He doesn't recall John bringing the issue up about diesel fumes at the first meeting when the Council voted it down. Councilman Bartelloni went to the DPW to drop something off and while he was there, it was his intention to speak with John. By chance, the guys were coming out as he was going in and he had the chance to speak to them. During budget meetings, he did have reservations on whether they should put the truck in this year or wait until next year. Councilman Bartelloni stated that the thing about the budget is yes, they do address capital at this time of year, but they have the

opportunity throughout the year to continue to address capital. We're not precluded from buying anything as the year goes along but they have to find the money in the existing budget that can be repurposed. He stated that although the truck is seventeen years old, it is currently certified and can still be certified for another three years. He felt that revisiting it and putting it in for this year made more sense than delaying it another year. Councilman Cordts-explained that capital is a progress in motion because many times they receive information in bits and pieces and will inevitably go back and revisit things.

Michael Gonnerman-feels that it's important for the Governing Body to investigate things further when it comes to the big ticket items. He was disappointed in the motion that was made by Councilman Porco regarding turning off the Elm Avenue siren and turn on Main and Kinderkamack. Mr. Gonnerman asked if that topic needed to be on the agenda before it's voted on.

Mayor Moscaritolo-stated that it is his opinion, the last time such a motion was made, it should have been on as a formal resolution. He further stated that if Councilman Porco made a motion tonight that was seconded, he is under the impression that it would be on for a formal resolution at the next meeting, at which time the public could comment on it.

Sam Cereste-feels that it is a legislative act and therefore should be done by ordinance. He stated that they should list the locations of the sirens and then as they are retired or changed, the ordinance could be amended to reflect that revision.

Michael Gonnerman-stated that his understanding of the reason for shutting off the siren at Kensington and Elm is a quality of life issue. He asked why the Council doesn't think it would be a quality of life issue for the residents at the south end of town if they turn the siren on at Main and Kinderkamack. He feels that it would be a hasty decision especially since there has been no research done. He also feels that more importantly, they are putting individuals' safety at risk.

Councilman Porco-stated that the agreed upon scenario or resolution that came out of the meeting with the Citizens and Fire Department was to turn off Elm and Kensington Avenue and turn on Kinderkamack and Main. He doesn't feel that this is a hasty decision because the residents have been complaining about the siren for well over a decade.

John Mauthe-770 Oak Avenue-Fire Department Chief-stated that he respectfully disagreed with Councilman Porco's statement. He stated that it was mutually agreed upon at the meeting by all parties, that the siren at Kinderkamack and Main would be activated and a study would be done to make sure there is coverage before turning the siren off at Kensington and Elm. He feels that the Fire Department should have been notified if there was going to be a vote on the issue. He stated that Councilman Porco's statement is a direct conflict to what took place at that committee meeting.

Councilman Porco-said he disagrees. He stated that he contacted one of the citizens who attended that meeting and explained what was happening and she agreed with him stating that wasn't what was agreed on. Their understanding was that they would potentially do a study and try to get grants for a new system but right now, one was going on and the other was going off.

Chief Mauthe - mentioned that Councilman Cordts spoke with one of the members of the committee this week and had the same understanding that there was going to be a study done before the siren was turned off to make sure that we had adequate coverage.

Councilman Cordts-said that he spoke with Assistant Chief Cariddi and the agreement was to work on the Kensington fire siren and then also turn the one at Main Street on. At the same time, shut the other one down without taking a resolution on it. He said that as far as the testing of it, he understood that they would try to eliminate the problem off the bat and then go for testing. Councilman Cordts suggested organizing another meeting with all parties so they can regroup and move forward. He feels to sit and argue about it is a waste of time.

Chief Mauthe-agreed with the comment that this decision has been made very quickly and he feels the priority should be making sure the Fire Department has adequate coverage. He is concerned that right now they don't know if the siren at Kinderkamack and Main will do that.

Councilman Cordts-stated that one of the citizens who was involved in the meeting was open to the idea of meeting again to pick up where they left off.

Chief Mauthe-is open to meeting again but is concerned about the motion on the table.

Councilman Cordts-stated that he will rescind his motion.

Neal Carroll-321 Wales Avenue-stated that after last weeks lengthy discussion on the capital versus operating budget, he's still confused as to what we are doing with leaf pick-up. He asked if residents will have to pack all the leaves in bags and bring them to the curb?

Mayor Moscaritolo-stated that there was a sub-committee to discuss the leaf issue. He asked if the sub-committee has met and come up with anything yet.

Councilwoman Murphy-replied, no.

Councilman Cordts-also replied no, that they haven't had a chance to pull anything together with the current budget. He anticipates that they will meet in the next few weeks.

Neal Carroll-suggested that since there has been no overtime for snow plowing, maybe they could use that time towards leaf pick-up. He explained that he

lives in an older neighborhood and he and his neighbors would rather not have to bag their leaves.

Councilman Porco-stated that he had never brought up the issue of overtime for snow removal or leaf pick-up.

Councilman Bartelloni-explained that when John Lynch came up to us with a number of items for discussion, one of which was the topic of leaves, the Council had assigned it to a sub-committee. He said that the topic was not generated from the Council, it was brought up by John Lynch.

Raymond Frost-160 Lozier Terrace-stated that he purchased a new construction home three years ago and is very upset with the rapid tax increases that he's been getting. He's also very upset because he feels that the Realtor misrepresented what the actual taxes were at the time they purchased their home. He asked the Mayor and Council if they feel that a 90% tax increase over three years is valid? He feels that the Borough and the schools are taxing people out of their home. He also feels that a similar home in other towns such as Franklin Lakes would have less taxes and stated that he would not have purchased this home if he new this would happen.

Councilman Cordts-stated that he agrees with Mr. Frost and also feels that the taxes are out of control. He doesn't understand what criteria the reassessment firm used because he's heard several complaints from residents. He's recommending that the Tax Assessor, Jim Anzevino be invited to a Council meeting to explain the process.

Councilman Mignone-also agrees with Mr. Frost and feels that the Tax Assessor and the reassessment firm should have come to the Mayor and Council to explain what the impact would be. After looking at the statistics, he doesn't understand the reason for the massive increases and decreases in assessments town wide and he also has heard complaints and concerns from his neighbors.

Raymond Frost-asked that the Mayor, Council and school board think seriously about the future when making decisions that will impact the residents.

Colin Busteed-597 Bogert Road-asked what the average tax increase will be for this current budget.

Alan Negreann-replied, \$142.00 on a home that is assessed at 436,000.

Councilman Porco-agrees that the biggest issue is the rise in taxes and agrees that a 90% increase is absolutely ridiculous. He also feels that a 40 or 50% increase is not much better. He doesn't understand why more taxpayers don't come before the Council to complain when Borough department heads can get 30 to 50 people at a time to come up and help issues get passed because no one wants to lose services. While he agrees that no one wants to lose services, at some point something has to take a hit. He also feels that if this was a business in the private sector, they would absolutely take a hit and doesn't understand why, in government, people seem to think its free money to spend. He also agrees with Mr. Frost that we are absolutely pricing ourselves out of our own homes. Councilman Porco stated that he's been trying to get that point across but not enough people want to put in the time to say enough is enough. He explained that the Borough is at a dangerous level, having 1.5 million in debt, which is the highest ever and feels that's not okay. He feels that we have staff that could potentially do things a little differently and yet we do the same old thing over and over again which is obviously not working. He continued by saying that year after year, departments come up with large capital items and at some point we need to look into other options. He's of the opinion that we don't need to do every service in house because it's not cost effective anymore.

Anna & Dominic D'Agostino-291 Oak Avenue-Dominic stated that he's also here because of the taxes and explained that he moved to town a year ago and is currently paying \$19,700. He's upset with the reassessment results because his taxes will increase to \$24,000 per year. Anna feels that even if they try to sell the house, they will never get what they've paid. She doesn't understand why their assessed value would increase 80,000 when the real estate market has done nothing but go down. Anna is concerned because at this rate, where will the taxes be in five years and who will be able to afford to stay. They've made an appointment with the assessment company this week.

Mayor Moscaritolo-thinks that it is a good idea to meet with them and go over their property record card to make sure it is accurate. Mayor Moscaritolo understands the frustration especially since he was never in favor of doing a reassessment. He knew that it would open up a can of worms. His only suggestion to them right now was to do a tax appeal.

Councilman Mignone-asked if we could have a representative from the reassessment firm and Jim Anzevino come to a Council meeting to explain the process?

Alan Negreann-stated that he will ask the Borough Clerk to set that up.

Peggy White-stated that the person who came to her home walked around the house and was gone in five minutes so she doesn't understand how they can come up with accurate information in that short period of time without going inside.

CLOSE HEARING OF THE PUBLIC -

Motion by Councilman Porco, seconded by Councilman Cordts to close hearing of the public.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

COUNCIL COMMENTS -

Councilman Bartelloni-thanked everyone for coming and for voicing their questions and comments regarding the budget. He stated that everyone wonders, how did we get to where we're at? He wonders the same thing and also wonders where River Edge is going. He explained that although this year's budget is actually 2.23% less than last year, unfortunately people are going to see a tax increase. As he has stated in the past, they are dealing with the repercussions of the previous Council's use of surplus funds which makes it difficult because now there isn't much left. He feels that for many years this town was living well above their means, especially since the budgets were in the high 14 millions and revenue was only 11 million. He stated that you can't run a budget of 14 million when you don't have revenue to support it and that's what happened for a number of years. He explained a few of the what he called "gimmicks" that happened over the last few years such as furloughs, the pension deferral, which he believes was an effort to try and make up for a lack of planning. He explained that in no way is he happy with the budget and although they did work very hard to get to the number that they're at, he hopes that they will revisit putting a little less into surplus and more into tax reduction. He is also hopeful that with this budget they are turning a corner because if you look back over the last year or so you will notice less of an increase each year. Councilman Bartelloni hopes that they are coming back to sustainable budgets that are based on actual revenue because the years of having surplus are over. He addressed the issue of why there are so many large capital requests and his explanation was that they are addressing critical infrastructure needs in this budget. Councilman Bartelloni admitted that he would rather not spend the money but you have no choice when you're dealing with leady roofs, generators that don't work or HVAC systems. This Council inherited an infrastructure that was falling apart on all of the buildings and have no choice but to correct the problems. He thinks that by next year, they will have a sustainable budget based on realistic numbers instead of the policies of the past that have failed this Borough. Again, he thanked everyone for coming and assured them they will try to address some of the discrepancies in the reassessment results.

Councilman Porco-stated that what he finds amazing about the surplus depletion is that there are still broken down trucks and equipment that need to be replaced. He added that after spending millions of dollars you would think that nothing would need to be replaced and that's not the case. He doesn't understand where all that money went.

Councilman Papaleo-stated that he doesn't disagree with any of the comments that were made but feels that a few things have to be put into context. He explained that we're talking about replacing a seventeen year old tree vehicle that has gotten a lot of service and taken many poundings over the year and a 26 year old fire truck. Councilman Papaleo stated that all of the equipment has been well maintained over the years and feels that nothing lasts forever. Secondly, Councilman Papaleo feels that blaming past Councils for what they did or didn't do is unproductive. In addition to that, he thinks that River Edge has had a bad track record, in general, of encouraging businesses and keeping businesses because of micromanagement. He gave several examples of tax revenues that have been lost over the years. Councilman Papaleo again stated that instead of dwelling on how we got to where we are, this Council needs to concentrate on working together to fix things and also feels that they need to look at the commercial side to increase the revenues. Councilman Papaleo again stated that he does agree with the comments that were made, especially Councilman Porco, when he said that we can't keep spending, spending, spending. He does believe that they have prepared a very responsible budget and is hopeful that they can move forward from this point on.

Mayor Moscaritolo-stated that as he has said in the past, he feels that the reassessment was a bad idea and feels that basically it was a shell game to move numbers around. He commented that the residents who have newer homes or have improved their homes will bear the brunt of the reassessment. The Mayor isn't sure how it can be fixed at this point. He also stated that he is proud of the Council for hiring a grant consultant because as revenues are decreasing, grants can be used to offset that loss of revenue. He hopes that they move forward with grant applications. Mayor Moscaritolo thanked the public for coming out this evening because he feels that the meetings are more enjoyable when they ask great questions. The Mayor invited everyone to come back to meetings in the future.

ADJOURNMENT - 9:32 P.M.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Porco to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

RE-OPEN - 10:30 P.M.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Porco to re-open the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilman Bartelloni to approve the hire of Emerencia Hums, 418 Lafayette Avenue, as a part-time Tax Collection Clerk, 20 hours per week at an hourly rate of \$15.74, with a six-month probationary period, effective March 19, 2012.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Councilman Cordts-stated that he would like replace Johnny Porco with Alphonse Bartelloni as the Recreation Liaison.
Mayor Moscaritolo-stated that he will make the nomination to replace Johnny Porco with Alphonse Bartelloni as the Recreation Liaison. The Mayor asked for consent.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

ADJOURNMENT - 10:33 P.M.

Motion by Councilman Cordts, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to adjourn the meeting at 10:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Councilwoman Murphy, Councilman Cordts, Councilman Porco, Councilman Mignone, Councilman Bartelloni and Councilman Papaleo voted yes.

Mayor Sandy Moscaritolo

Attest:

Denise A. Dondiego, Borough Clerk

Dated: