

**BOROUGH OF RIVER EDGE  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor	Edward J. Mignone
Councilman	Vito Acquafredda
Councilman	Alphonse Bartelloni
Councilwoman	Ellen Busteed
Councilwoman	Mary Davis
Councilwoman	Kathleen Murphy
Councilman	Thomas Papaleo

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Borough Attorney	Thomas Sarlo
Borough Administrator	Alan Negreann
Borough Clerk	Stephanie Evans

**ABSENT:**

None

Mayor Mignone called the meeting to order 7:00 PM by reading the Open Public Meetings Act.

**BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR'S TOPICS**

1. Safe Routes to School Grant – Mr. Negreann explained that he sent the Mayor and Council a memorandum on the Safe Route to School Design Assistance Program, this information has been in front of the Council previously and the question is whether the Council would like to advantage of the Design Assistance Program provided by the Department of Transportation. Mayor Mignone has asked if these companies would give is an idea of their availability and a timeline as to design phase. Mr. Negreann reached out to the four companies, and as you can see by their email responses they really didn't answer the questions specifically, they directed him to the Department of Transportation and the person who is handling this program. Apparently there are certain protocols of going through the Department of Transportation Representative, and their expectation is that a Council would make a selection and commit to one of firms and get involved in the program. Mr. Negreann spoke with Julie Seaman the DOT representative and she indicated that our questions were appropriate and if the Council did want to interview this firms that was a possibility but it wouldn't be appropriate for us to question the firms on any of the financial aspects, what their fees were, or the ultimate cost would be, this was all within the realm of the Department of Transportation and the Federal Rules and Regulations that are in place on this. As far as the DOT is concerned they have made the selection of these four firms based on their process. Each one of these firms is qualified under this program and it is up the Council to decide whether they want to participate in this program and/or whether you have a firm that you are interested in doing business with. He is lead to believe though that if you select one of these firms, since we did not get an adequate answer on their availability and their timeline there may be a sufficient delaying moving forward with any of these projects, it might mean 4 months, 6 months, it could be more than that which would have to be determined. Mayor Mignone said his feeling was that at this point there are still a lot of unknowns as to this particular grant, meaning we do that was some over lapping scope between the school grant and some of

the other grants we have gotten say for Midland and the Middle School and the scope has not been defined. The DOT Representative has basically said to us is that once we get an engineer onboard they will come and do a more detailed assessment of the proposed scope to see what is technically feasible and what they are willing to pay for. We know a part of this project is on that steep slope up along the curve on the east side of Kinderkamack where the DOT Representative would do their own cost benefit analysis to see if it was worth being include as a part of the scope. The other factor he thinks with this project is the issue with the bus stop which we need a handicapped ramp and we need a sidewalks installed there also. What he is trying to say is we should retain Mr. Costa to see us through at least through the design, in trying to scope this, and let's get some of the improvements going and if we need to change the scope a little bit we probably can moving north along Wayne, encompass the bus stop and some other areas. Mr. Costa has been involved with the projects and the borough for a long time and he will have a much more local acknowledge then these other firms at this point. We will certainly have to bring them in when we do project on the inspection side because of the DOT rules said you need to have two different sets of engineers doing the design and inspection, but he thinks in this case the money was bonded anticipating paying for the engineer anyway and it would be beneficial to have Mr. Costa representing us at least in the design phase of this, that was his feeling. If council wanted to go in a different direction that was certainly their prerogative, we can bring the firms in to interview, which would be the next step and he would recommend it if we are going that route. Councilwoman Murphy asked if there was any benefit to going with any of the four firms, or seeing what the cost would be, Mr. Negreann reminded everyone that we can't ask any questions about the cost. But the cost of the firms would be on top of whatever the cost amount is for construction. The State is basically paying for the design engineer. Councilwoman Murphy asked if that would be a savings, Mayor Mignone replied yes it could be, but on the flip side you are looking at the time it's going to take get it and also see if they have local knowledge, are they going to be as strong of an advocate for the borough not having the local experience that Mr. Costa who has done work for the borough for a number of years and has a relationship with the DOT as well. Councilwoman Davis asked if Mr. Costa could everything that one of these could do, Mayor Mignone said yes the design work can be done by him. Mayor Mignone said the issue is, Councilwoman Murphy is whether we want to wait and obviously we wouldn't have to pay that portion because right now that money would be bonded as we typically do with all these projects. It isn't unusual, it is the first time they have tried to pilot this kind of kind of program. He doesn't see it going very well so far, they are going to have to revamp the way they are doing it. Councilwoman Murphy asked if we had any rough estimate for what the cost would be. Mr. Negreann replied no not until we really have an idea as to, this is like the chicken and the egg, because we have the scope of the project and the project has this steep slope that is involved, if we aren't going to do then that might be one engineering cost, and if we are going to do that than it might be a whole different story. Mayor Mignone said remember there is probably at least 20 or maybe 30% of that grant overlapped the scope with what we got. What he would suggest is maybe have Mr. Costa come in and just work with us on the scoping part until we get DOT's approvals because they didn't approve the technical scope, they approved the conceptual scope. Maybe we have Mr. Costa work for a smaller amount of money working with us on the scope seeing what the DOT will go for and then we can see going forward what kind of project we are actually looking at. Councilwoman Murphy found it so bizarre that you can't even ask questions like how much. Mayor Mignone said they don't care because we don't have to pay them. The cost really isn't a factor, the individual cost is based on what their expertise in these particular kinds of projects. They are all going to be design highway

engineers, but some highway design engineers can be very good at doing sections of Route 80 or the Turnpike, but may not be as experienced in doing local roads, or they be better at laying out new roads as opposed to retrofitting things into a difficult physical environment, there are plus and minuses on going both ways. But we most certainly have Mr. Costa come in and work with the scope and see where DOT winds up. Mr. Negreann said he knows we are talking about the borough engineer, but he would like the opportunity to double check to make sure there is a certain process we have or don't have to go through in order to hire the engineer of our choice. So tonight if there is a motion to be made, the motion would be either to move forward with the design assistance program or not to. If it is not to then he knows we are going the other route and he will start to pursue the process for that. Councilman Bartelloni asked if we use one of these four firms for the design phase could we then use Mr. Costa for the inspection part because he thinks it might be more important to him around for the inspection versus the design then doing the design and having someone else do the actual inspection of the work. Mayor Mignone said that if he had his druthers on a project he would prefer to work with the design engineer not the inspection because generally on the inspection side the engineer isn't out there it could be a low level staffer or technicians on the field crew, and the engineers are not doing the inspections they are basically making sure concrete tests are being taken and recording the correct linear feet curbing that was laid, that is all the inspection really is. The issue here is we are going to fight with them regarding the scope and there is where we need advocacy to make sure we get as much money and as much of the scope appropriated towards us as we can. Councilwoman Murphy asked if we can do that as you just suggested, make the compromise of having Mr. Costa come in and give us a rough estimate. Mayor Mignone said that Mr. Negreann wants a clear cut that we are not going to go with the design program, Mr. Negreann wanted to reiterate for the council both the Safe Routes and the TAP grant are Federal money, so there are a lot of rules and regulations as to how we hire people, it may have to be a competitive process, or do RFP's. Certainly we know for a fact as the Mayor has said we can not have the same engineer do both design and inspection. But there are other aspects of the Federal regulations that may require we do some sort of competitive process so in order to that we have to have clean hands, we have to make a decision as to whether a certain engineering firm is going to do design or inspection, you can't change it later on. He would at least like the opportunity to check out what the DOT Representative says what the correct process will be. That is why he needs a little bit of direction from tonight so he could come back to the council and discuss how to proceed, there is no immediate deadline. We are not going to get executed agreements until the scope is determined. Councilman Bartelloni asked what does it hurt to have them come in and see what they have to say. If we are not up against a deadline and we can't move forward with anything anyway why not just have them come in and talk. Councilwoman Murphy said it would be nice if they are going to pay for engineering. Mayor Mignone stated they are not going to discuss the scope just their qualifications. We either hire them or we don't. Councilwoman Murphy asked if we could get advice from Mr. Costa, Mr. Negreann said we could if we make a decision not to go into the design program, then we look at what processes are necessary to hire an engineer, possibly the borough engineer to do the design work. Then you move in that direction. Councilman Papaleo said he doesn't understand why we have to definitively say yes or no to the school grant, why can't we bring in Mr. Costa and just talk generally about the scope. Mayor Mignone answered by saying the DOT is going to base their decision on the engineer's recommendation, so if we commit to Mr. Costa then he has to go the rest of the route. They are not going to say Costa set the route now you can bring in another engineer to do the design. Mr. Negreann said that we certainly couldn't hire him to do the inspection. Mayor Mignone

said that maybe we could get clarification what the alternate process would be if we didn't go with the design program. Mr. Negreann said that is what he wanted to do, if they say treat it as a professional service contract or go through some sort of (inaudible) Mayor Mignone stated this information would be needed before the council can...Councilman Papaleo asked what the savings would, how much are we talking about in savings, Mayor Mignone said about \$20,000 to \$30,000, to which everyone agreed that was a lot of money. Councilman Papaleo said that Mr. Negreann would need to answer a question regarding the hiring process, maybe we need to delay this until he has the answer. A motion was made to delay any process until Mr. Negreann is able to provide information regarding the hiring process.

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilwoman Murphy.  
All in favor 6-0

2. Damage to Firehouse – Mr. Negreann explained that he provided the Mayor and Council with the report from our Risk Consultant along with a copy of the police report. Unfortunately there was an accident at Fire Company #1, where a vehicle backed into the brick façade and the second floor wall. The Risk Consultant is asking for direction before this gets closed out by JIF, whether we would like a structural engineer to inspect the property and provide a report. That would become part of the expense submitted to JIF. There were a couple of estimates provided as well. Mayor Mignone asked if Mr. Byrnes or Councilman Acquafredda had looked at this. Councilman Acquafredda replied he hadn't looked at it yet. Mr. Negreann said he didn't think Mr. Byrnes looked at it either and asked if there was a preference. Mayor Mignone replied no usually this is something that would fall under the construction official and he would make the recommendation on whether he felt a structural engineer would be necessary. Mr. Negreann said he could that procedure. Councilwoman Murphy said that Mr. Mehrman was a structural engineer. Councilman Bartelloni asked if JIF would have to provide their own, and Mr. Negreann said no, if we selected somebody they could speak with to reach an agreement. Councilman Bartelloni suggested we have Mr. Mehrman look at it. A motion was made to have Mr. Richard Mehrman inspect the damage.

Motion by Councilman Bartelloni, second by Councilman Papaleo  
All in favor 6-0

3. Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement – Mr. Negreann explained that back in 2012 we had an event emergency in town and as part of the process for applying for funds they mentioned to him that it would be good if the borough had debris management plan, which he started working on it in 2012. He hasn't much too much progress, but he did put together some draft documents. Then we had this recent snow storm and there was a briefing on it and FEMA now tells us that there is pilot program for those towns that have a debris management plan and you can receive a onetime incentive of a 2% decrease cost share for the next time you have debris removal activities. He went the other day to the Riverside Cooperative, which is 16 towns where we do cooperative pricing together, we talk about sharing Interlocal services, and he asked the cooperative whether they would be interested in entering into a mutual aid agreement for public works. Part of the debris management plan is that you have some mutual aid agreements, with lists of outside contractors, dump sites, there are a number of things that go into this plan. One of them is this mutual aid agreements. If we were able to come up with these mutual aid agreements with other towns that would go into the plan, FEMA in this process would review the plan and if they approve it you are then in this particular pilot program and could receive an additional 2% as well. He also told the Riverside Cooperative that if we

received an approved plan from FEMA we would share it with the cooperative and they could basically use as a template for their own town and perhaps apply for approval as well. This is sort of a service that would go beyond River Edge and go to the Riverside Cooperative as well. This is dependent on the Council indicating if they are interested in providing public works mutual aid assistance to another town. One of things he was thinking about for instances is the first 5 days would be free of charge and after that the billing would be allowed for equipment and labor upon mutual agreement from both municipalities. He anticipates that the mutual aid would occur not in a situation where we have a county wide hurricane where everyone is in need of aid. But you might get a micro-burst or God forbid a tornado that would come through a select number of towns where we would have to draw on some other resources to help us that first week to clear the debris from the road where the public road so emergency services would have access to the public. That is the thought, and he is just looking for some conceptual approval so that the mutual aid agreement subject to the council looking at all the details would be something they would be interested in pursuing with the ultimate goal of having a FEMA approved debris removal plan. Councilwoman Murphy stated it was just a one-time incentive, Mr. Negreann said it is a one-time incentive for the next time you have a storm, that's it, you are not going to continually, this is a pilot program so who knows whether FEMA will come back and say this is something we want to see all towns have a debris management plan. It is there for the worst case scenario where you have to get rid of this debris in order to get back in to operation. It's not a bad idea to plan a head like this for a worst case scenario. Mayor Mignone asked if the guidance was clear as to what they are defining as debris, are they talking about construction debris, or trees and branches. Mr. Negreann answered yes there is vegetation, construction, household waste debris, in an ultimate hurricane you could be confronted with all that different types of debris. Mayor Mignone said some of the household debris he would be concerned with is sometimes there is hazardous materials. Mr. Negreann said that as part of this plan you also have to identify those services or outside contractors that would come in and handle that type of thing. It's not necessary that, we have to define what we are doing on public and private property as well. So that all goes into the mix as well for the plan. Mayor Mignone asked if the consensus of the cooperative, were other towns interested in this, Mr. Negreann stated they are receptive to the idea of mutual aid for public works and frankly public works is a service where they have provided support to one and other on an informal bases, this just formalizes it a bit better for the purpose of having something down on paper. Councilwoman Murphy asked if there was more to this because this states there are 12 elements and only one thing shown here. Mr. Negreann replied yes there is a lot more to this that will ultimately come to the Mayor and Council. Councilwoman Murphy asked how far Mr. Negreann was into this process from 2012, since he has been drafting a plan. Mr. Negreann said he has a draft plan based on something out of Louisiana, he started to accumulate appendices for the different types of contracts that we will need, different types of DOP approved dump sites, but he isn't at the point where he is ready to put this together in front of the council, what he would also like to do is get enough of it together to give to FEMA and let them critique it along those 12 points and tell him where it needs more work and where some of the points are ok. Councilwoman Murphy asked when Mr. Negreann went to the cooperative was there anyone else that had been working on this that you could speak with, Mr. Negreann's response was no, this is one of those ideas that came from him and he started to pursue it. Councilman Papaleo asked what John's reaction was to this, Mr. Negreann stated that John was in favor of this, and John has been working with him, and helped identify some of sites around town. We have to look at what would be required to clear a particular site, is a fence going to need to come down or do we have to knock down a forest just in

order to create a debris site, we have to come up with a checklist of criteria for some on these sites. John has been working with me and has expressed interest in continuing this. This is a plan he would need in such an event occur. Mayor Mignone said it is just a plan, some are a lot more boilerplate then specific, is there a lot of boilerplate sections to type of plan. Mr. Negreann said yes there are and is, as mentioned there are 12 points, there are points you have to hit, there's boilerplate to it, there's somethings he has questions about whether they would even apply here in New Jersey. Mayor Mignone said wouldn't it make sense if that is the case, rather then you spending all your time writing a plan maybe there are other people in the cooperative who can different sections an come up with a model language for each section that way the burden isn't on you to write the whole plan that the whole cooperative that is going to benefit from. He doesn't know why or see, maybe he is missing what the importance is of us taking the lead on this, as opposed to working with cooperative to advance this kind of an issue, why do we need to take the lead on it. Mr. Negreann replied by saying he has had this kind of experience before in the 20+ years of the cooperative projects and he thinks the way this works best is if I need the input of the superintendents of the public works from the other cooperatives, we have had meetings and he brings them in and they give him ideas, but to do the nitty-gritty of writing and putting it together and making sure all the t's are crossed and all the l's are dotted, one person should really take that on and do it. Councilman Papaleo felt it was a good idea, given the way storms are currently happening in the Midwest and the south and given the memory of Hurricane Sandy, the snowstorm on Halloween, he thinks this is a type of plan that we want to invest in. Councilman Murphy stated this was the first time they are offering money and she would agree. Councilwoman Davis said that as long as you kind of agree with the Mayor and you working on this from what she reads each plan with vary, so how can Mr. Negreann do a general when it depends on local ordinances, zoning ordinances, infrastructure, emergency services, how would you have all that, Mr. Negreann replied because part of the plan has the sections where you have to fill-in for instance, the debris sites, you have to fill in these mutual aid agreements, you have to fill in outside contractors who will pick up and dispose the debris, so it could be several garbage collection companies that would do that. Councilwoman Davis said she would understand him knowing all that for us but it just seems like a lot of work. Councilwoman Murphy said he would have framework, Mr. Negreann said they would take out whatever is inserted and fill in their own part, they would substitute say we may have a vendor who will test air quality but it's different from who they want to use. That is how he sees it working once we get it together and approved. Mr. Negreann appreciated the Mayor's thoughts about trying to share the work load, but this is something he thinks will have value for not only River Edge but for many of the towns beyond us if it becomes a reality. Mayor Mignone asked if there was a deadline to which Mr. Negreann said not that he knows of. We have a meeting with FEMA on the project worksheets that we have to compile for the snowstorm, so he will be able to discuss his draft with them at that time and ask for a little bit more direction. Mayor Mignone asked how much money do we get from FEMA after Sandy, Mr. Negreann said off the top of his head and no one quotes him on this probably a little under \$200,000.00 . Mayor Mignone said about \$4,000.00, Mr. Negreann said yes a small incentive. Mayor Mignone said he was weighing that against Mr. Negreann's time of what he needs to do and if he feels he can fit this into his schedule, he is all for it. Mr. Negreann said he doesn't work on it constantly, he pull sit out here and there and will go through many, many, many drafts. Councilman Papaleo stated that the council could always bring a motion to bring it to an end if it becomes burdensome, but he thinks Mr. Negreann...Mr. Negreann repeated that he started this in 2012 (inaudible) Mayor Mignone said we are talking about something within the first 90

days of an activity and the next event. Mr. Negreann said the bigger question is if you want to share reports in this manner with towns. Mayor Mignone said he felt everyone was in favor of that. A motion was made to move forward with the pilot.

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilwoman Murphy  
All in favor 6-0

4. Tax Bill Stuffer – Mr. Negreann stated that he provided the Mayor and Council with tax bill stuffer and he is just looking for tonight a conceptual approval. Councilwoman Busted wanted to point out that all the information on how to sign up for emergency information and Nixle has been added and she thinks that is a very smart step and just wanted to recognize it. Mayor Mignone stated that going forward we needed to add a little more information on these and should be able to see year-to-year what the increases are, he thought that would help for each unit saying last year 2015-2016 the tax rates or the average tax portion in dollars, the percentages don't really say anything. That would be his recommendation going forward. Mr. Negreann said he would make a note in the file and would try and give an option to look at next time. A motion was made to approve the concept tax bill stuffer.

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilwoman Murphy.  
All in favor 6-0

#### **FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Eagle Scout Project – Mr. Negreann explained that an Eagle Scout candidate reach out to the borough and ask that he provide us with a plan. Jay Campbell is the candidate and he has something called the “Eastbrook Nature Trail Plan”, some of the bullet points he intends to do will remove garbage from the nature trail, he will clear the overgrown vegetation, he will create blazes on the trail, installing a bench overlooking the river, repair two small ditches on the trail, identify trails trees, placing geocaches off the trail and setting up a long term maintenance plan. Please remember we had some work done on this trail before by an Eagle Scout, so this will be a follow-up to that and in support of what has previously been done. We sent this out to the departments soliciting comments from them and haven't received anything from them to his acknowledge. Mayor Mignone asked if we could at least get a “no comment” if they have no comment from them so there is nothing unclear. A motion was made to approve it on the condition there will be no additional comments.

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilwoman Murphy  
All in favor 6-0

2. Revision of Pawn Shop Ordinance – Mr. Sarlo explained that Police Chief Cariddi asked him to discuss with the Mayor and Council the State of New Jersey's State Police is going to do electronic reporting for all transactions in pawn shops in the state. It is obviously a very important tool for the police burglaries occur a lot of things find their way to pawn shops. This will force pawn shops to electronically report all of their transactions into a database that all the police will have immediate access to. Part of the requirements is that each town enact an ordinance that if you have pawn shops and scrap metal businesses they have to participate in this electronic reporting. The town would then enter into an agreement with the vendor the State selected, the acronym is RAPID. There is no cost to borough, the pawn shop would have to pay a \$250.00 annual license fee to this 3rd party company so they can maintain the database. Mr. Sarlo wasn't certain if the borough had any scrap metal or pawn shop businesses now. Councilmembers informed Mr. Sarlo there was a gold shop in town. Mr. Sarlo said the gold shop would

apply, maybe that is why the Chief is asking that this be enacted. For the State to roll this out, right now it's on a limited bases, for them to put it on a full time bases you would need to have an x number of pawn shops or businesses that participate, they are reaching out to all the towns saying to enact this ordinance so your businesses need to participate. So we require a drafting of an ordinance then from there it would entering into an agreement with the 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor. If Mayor and Council want he can prepare an ordinance or get more information from the chief, if you are ok with the explanation he can prepare the ordinance. Again his understanding is there is no cost to the borough. A motion was made to move forward with the ordinance.

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, second by Councilwoman Davis  
All in favor 6-0

3. Affordable Housing Resolution – Mr. Sarlo explained that he received an email today from Mr. Suarez, the attorney representing the borough for the affordable housing litigation. He has indicated that the initial \$2,000.00 retainer from all the towns to hire the expert has already been exhausted and the consortium is looking for an additional \$2,000.00 from each town to move forward with the project. He anticipates there will be more additional costs as this goes forward, but right now they are looking for an additional \$2,000.00. There is a resolution on for tonight authorizing the \$2,000.00 for the expert to continue and move forward. Mayor Mignone stated the resolution is scheduled for the regular meeting at 8pm. Mr. Sarlo said there is no rush, it can go on at the next meeting. Councilwoman Murphy stated it's an extra \$2,000.00 and you anticipate the cost to be higher, is there any kind of...Mr. Sarlo said he doesn't have any idea but he anticipates...Councilwoman Murphy said why are we stop at the \$2,000.00 now, isn't it just ripping the Band-Aid off slowly. Mr. Sarlo said he didn't know, but he could have Mr. Suarez come in and give a little bit more as to what he thinks it will be, he is just (inaudible) that \$4,000.00 from each town is not going to do it to have this expert report on this type of litigation. Councilwoman Murphy stated that \$2,000.00 is just like a...Mayor Mignone stated that we paid more than that already. Councilwoman Murphy said she knew but it's like the abyss. Councilman Bartelloni said the oral has been going on for a very long time. Councilwoman Murphy went to make a motion, and Mayor Mignone reminded everyone that there a resolution on for tonight's regular meeting.

#### **WORK SESSION CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approve July 4<sup>th</sup> Grand Marshall Recommendation – Barbara Christiansen
2. Authorize Mayor to Sign Agreement with Nixle for License as a Government User
3. Approve the Waiver for a Portion of the Police Outside Duty Rate for the St. peter the Apostle Parish Carnival from September 22 through 25, 2016
4. Amend Contract with Matthew Giacobbe, Esq., Labor Attorney in the amount not to exceed \$3,000.00
5. Amend Contract with Costa Engineering for Services Related to the Design of the Borough Hall Entrance Ramp in the amount not to exceed \$3,000.00
6. Amend Contract with Costa Engineering for Services Related to CDBG Curb & Sidewalks – Oxford Terrace & Rutgers Place in the amount not to exceed \$2,000.00
7. Enter into Agreement with Robert Costa, borough Engineer for Professional Services Related to the 2016 Riverside Road Resurfacing Program-Inspection- in the amount not to exceed \$10,000.00

Councilwoman Murphy asked about #3, she believes it happened last year, when you look at the resolution it says to waive the administration fee portion of the \$135.00, so what is the administrative fee portion of that. Mr. Negreann replied whatever is not the overtime rate that is

being charge. We will pay the overtime rate for whatever officers are there and whatever the balance is will be waived. Until he knows which officers he knows are going to be over there, which he won't know the overtime rate. Councilwoman Murphy continued so the outside duty rate of \$135.00 will be waived and that the actual overtime rate of the police officer assigned to that duty will be charged. Everyone agreed with that statement.

Councilman Bartelloni stated that he needed to abstain from #3 since he is on the committee.

A motion was made to move 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 on the consent agenda.

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilwoman Busteded

All in favor 6-0

Abstain: Bartelloni

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A motion was made to move #3 on the consent agenda.

Motion by Councilman Papaleo, second by Councilwoman Davis

All in favor 5-0

Abstain: Bartelloni

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Mignone stated that he attended the New Jersey Conference of Mayors in Atlantic City last week and one of the issues that was a big topic was COAH and what was related to us, and this is why he wasn't sure about needing more, apparently a lot of the preliminaries have been settled. The consortium we are a part of presented our report to the court and the Fair Housing people submitted their report also and the issue at hand right now is where or not between the old round 2 and the new round 3 was there a ten year gap which no one accounted for new numbers. Basically that is inflating estimates from 20 to 40% we were told. The question for the court now is whether this gap really exists. The municipalities, the Mayors Conference, and the consortium is taking the position there was no gap and the act was pretty clear and there is a continuum and there was no gap so the number is the number. From what was explained the consultant that the consortium used submitted a revised report under protest assuming there was a gap. So we have numbers presented by the consortium which we'll say represent the low end, the Fair Share Housing advocates will have a very high number and now this other number, but our own experts under protest more in the middle more a skewed toward the lower side which is before the court. Senator President Sweeney was there and one of the other Assembly leaders who had indicated that very shortly there should be some legislation coming out of Trenton addressing all of these issues. They said basically it should if not eliminate the need for the court interaction it should at least mitigate whatever the issue is particularly with this the gap. Their feeling is we are going to be getting approved plans with actual numbers sooner rather than later. With that being said one of the Mayors sis step up, he doesn't remember what town it was, they have already spend \$30 to \$40,000 on this. If you multiply that by the 565 towns, millions and millions have been spent on this and not one stick of housing been built anywhere. We are just paying for lawyers and planners and nothing is getting done. So Mayor Mignone thinks that reality is being seen by the legislators and they are realizing we shouldn't be wasting money on plans and studies at this point we should be figuring out ways to build the housing where needed. They are trying to reestablish, he doesn't want to call it transfer development rights but they are looking at that kind of concept, almost like banking different, like where boroughs can put money into a bank and other towns can borrow money to build housing, they are going to look at that as part of the concept to meet the obligations under the Mt. Laurel numbers. Mayor Mignone thinks we are going to start seeing some more definitive movement on this and towns are going to be required to start implementing some of these plans. Based on what he was hearing from the legislators they are looking for ways to bring this to a conclusion and moving it forward. The other thing that was quite clear was despite how much we protest and we sent

them resolutions about the energy receipts tax that money is not coming back to us ever and that was pretty clear. It was kind of disappointing because they were talking about how all these fees and things which were collected and not being used for their original intended purposes, and example apparently there is some kind of .90 a month tax on our cell phone bills which was to go towards building the original 911 system Statewide and now \$10,000,000's of millions of dollars later it stills just goes to the general treasury and we are still paying that tax. The gas tax will be raised, that was quite clear, so that is coming. Again they tried to make it enticing to us talking about the local aid and remember out of all the money they collected from the gas tax they only send he thinks they said only \$70,000,000 goes towards local aid and we get \$149,000 from that a year. One of the Mayor's used an example which was very similar to Fifth Avenue or Howland Avenue, how he had one street that took them 10 years to pave using local aid money. So the process while we appreciate getting money back it's not the most efficient process, and he has seen many times while doing town projects because we are not able to gang them up into bigger projects or use it under the cooperative we are paying more on a per foot bases then we normally would so getting the money is not necessarily getting the value of the money. Those were the take-aways he got from the conference and nothing urgent. They are still talking about ways to reform the income taxes and school funding and other things but no one seems to have a good handle on how to proceed and they are just going to keep talking about it. Even a Mayor who has served for 25 years said he has heard the same story every year and we don't expect to hear anything different this year or next year unfortunately. Mayor Mignone said that he thinks as far as local governments are concerned if we still see issues we should express our sense of concern through the League and get other towns to pass resolutions because the pressure through the local governing bodies does have some impact. The Energy Receipt Tax Incentive may not have worked but we still need to empress upon our assembly people and our State Senator to find ways to straighten out the school funding issue, and finding ways to offset property taxes. The one thing he didn't hear from them was how they were going to reduce State spending which didn't seem to be a concern on their part at all. It seemed to all be about how the school funding was under-funded and the trust fund being under funded and how they were going to find more money and taking out from different pools. There was one Legislator who was pushing a "0" CAP on towns which would be their way to make towns consolidate but there isn't any evidence that shows there is any money savings either. He doesn't know if they even understand some of the issues and as far as we are concerned particularly River Edge we have done an excellent job staying under the CAP and a lot of local government have made those choices and it doesn't seem the State is willing to do the same.

#### **FOR YOU INFORMATION**

1. Council Reports – Technology Committee, Agreement with Cablevision for Live Streaming – Councilman Bartelloni stated that Mr. Hoogstrate submitted a list of components and it's his understanding that some IT professional from Ridgewood come in and review it. The camera is relatively inexpensive and easy enough to get and we can start moving forward with that. The Clerk explained that the Mayor signed a letter tonight asking Verizon for a Public Access Channel, and that Optimum still needs to send someone out to conduct a survey, also a closet need to be constructed. Things are progressed slowly, but they are progressing. Mayor Mignone asked that Cablevision be contacted again to get them moving, to which Councilman Bartelloni said he could nudge. Mayor Mignone said that once we get the response back from Verizon he believes we just have to pass a resolution requesting a PEG channel.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Grove Street

Library Roof and HVAC-Finish Barrel Vault – Councilwoman Murphy asked Mr.

Negreann if he heard anything back, and everyone responded that there was an email on that. Mr. Negreann said in today's email there was a report on the roof project, a copy went to Daragh, the Library Director and John Lynch as well, fabricating a metal shingle, middle grey color.

Borough of River Edge Senior/Community Center – Councilwoman Murphy asked about April 7 meeting with the architects, Mayor Mignone stated that was nothing to report because they were still waiting for information from the architect. Councilman Acquafredda said they were waiting for a probable cost estimate at which point we will probably schedule an informative meetings with the rest of council and then will schedule a presentation for the public after that. Mayor Mignone said the first step is we need to get a handle on the cost, which makes the project viable or not. Councilwoman Murphy asked if they had the community input, Mayor Mignone replied yes, it all goes back to the original survey and original meetings that were held over the last year and ½. Councilman Papaleo asked when do you think we will hear from them. Mayor Mignone replied that they had given us some conceptional ideas at the beginning of April, then they were away, I was away, so I would expect they will have it soon. Once they give us the number we will know if it's going to be doable.

Generator – Fire Company #2- Pre-Construction

Shade Tree Commission

Social Media Policy – Councilman Bartelloni wanted to follow up and see where we are on implementing it, he knows that was a Nixle alert regarding road work on the south end of town, but he thinks if we had a Facebook page it probably could have gotten out to more people. He thinks he got the Nixle alert as he was pulling out of his driveway and realized he was going to be traffic for the next week and ½ going to work. If we had the Facebook page it would have reached a lot more people. Mayor Mignone stated that it was referred to Mr. Sarlo to compare with the JIF to make sure we were in compliance. Mr. Sarlo said it would have it next week.

Sidewalk and Curb Responsibility

LESO Program

## **NEW BUSINSESS**

Councilwoman Busted stated that the Recreation Commission received some correspondence from a resident asking a question additional opportunities for seniors. She wanted to bring to the council the possibility of having a Senior Advisory Committee or Group that can be an umbrella to look at all of the seniors not just have a silo for rec or a silo for public health. We had the visiting nurse/homemakers service come the other day and talk to us about some of the struggles and things they can do for the seniors in River Edge but she thinks we should have a conversation under taking an analysis of who the seniors are, what their needs are, so we can put some plans in place to serve them. She wanted to see if this was something the council was interested in having a conversation about. Councilman Bartelloni agreed it needed a more comprehensive approach and not just leave it on rec's doorstep. See what all the priorities are and see what people think is missing and what can be provided through the town agencies. Councilwoman Murphy asked if this would be in conjunction with SCORE, to which Councilwoman Busted replied yes. Councilman Bartelloni said that would be an element, Councilwoman Busted agreed, but said the comprehensive approach would be housing needs, public health needs, emergency service needs, recreation needs, how the library has been serving them and how they will continue to serve them, obvious we need

to hear from the ambulance service on how they have been serve them, make sure all the stake holders are present. Mayor Mignone asked if she envisioned a sub-committee by pulling people off existing committees, Councilwoman Busted felt that would make sense. Mayor Mignone mentioned that Ms. Faustini was present also with members of REVAS, and the Rec Commission, Councilwoman Busted suggested a member from the Library Board. Councilwoman Murphy mentioned the Policy were doing a program where with a key and a lockbox, do we know how many people were utilizing that service, if there were any numbers on that. Councilman Bartelloni said he could get the numbers on that and the he doesn't think it too high (simultaneous talking)

Councilman Bartelloni stated that the current garbage contract currently is a multiyear contract and the contract itself doesn't end for several more years but there is an opt out provision. ~~Mayor Mignone stated it is a 5-year contract with one renewals in October.~~ Councilman Bartelloni would like to see and get a sense from Council is whether or not there is interest in going out to bid again on the contract to see whether we can get better numbers but to look at twice a year garbage collection, sorry twice a week garbage collection all year long, perhaps as a viable as an option on that right now June to September but any time the temperatures over 70° obviously that can happen, May to October the temperatures are higher and it does present a problem if you have a young family like he does they could put out 4 garbage cans every week. If you are an older person a once a week garbage collection could present a problem for you because of the weight of the garbage versus having to take it out twice a week. These are issues hopefully we can explore and see if it makes financial sense great and if it doesn't ok at least we looked at to see if it whether or not it viable. Mayor Mignone said to his point if the council is inclined to do this time is of the essence, there is a two month bidding process required for solid waste contracts, we would have to move on this pretty quickly in order to have it back in time. Mayor Mignone reminded everyone that we did do this last year so most of the language for a bid is in place already. A motion was made to go out to bid for a garbage contract with an option for twice weekly garbage collection all year long.

Motion by Councilman Bartelloni, second Councilman Acquafredda  
All in favor 6-0

Mr. Negreann stated that since we did a joint bid with New Milford he wasn't sure this would effect a joint bid, he know we each the option (simultaneous talking) Mayor Mignone said we did last year to, Councilman Bartelloni said didn't we get something from New Milford that they were looking to do something different, Mr. Sarlo said it can't hurt. Mayor Mignone said he didn't think it hurts either and what happens is, we did the same thing last year where it was the option to continue with New Milford that year or not so we have a motion.

Councilman Bartelloni said he was approached by his daughter's teacher about having a tour of borough hall and having some of the other classes taking a tour. He doesn't know the logistics, he thinks they wanted to some sort of mock council meeting seating up on the dais. He wasn't sure what would be a good time of day, is that something for during the day or at night, and he wanted to see what everyone's terms of involvement would be or something to just think about to just try and put something together. Mayor Mignone said he had discussed it with initial with Dr. BenDov and he thinks it needs to be more civic lessons giving particularly in elementary schools whether we do something formal or do it on class by class. Councilman Papaleo said we should be asking the school district to come up with a program, multi lessons over a month to two month period,

coming in the evening to witness a real council meeting before doing mock meeting or otherwise it becomes a field trip without a lot of context and without a lot of learning going on. It should be done right and it is an outstanding idea, but the school board has to come up with lessons and a program that will make it a meaningful and instructional experience. Councilwoman Murphy had one comment, in her day they did this as well, but it was done through the school and everyone could be with the Police Chief for a day and you ran against someone and you got picked and each person got to be a member and you just shadowed that person for a day. Mayor Mignone stated that the same type of program was being spoken about, and just this morning through the Create Program where a teacher reached out to him on this 7 month program regarding recycling and she asked him to come and speak about recycling from the towns' point a view. He went with John Lynch and it was very enjoyable and they had a lot of really good questions and there is obviously a lot of interest in how a local government works. In using this as a test case it would be good to expand this, but we need the input from the school on how to organize it but he still thinks on short of getting that done, if a class still wants to come in they still should see the borough hall, fire department, and police department. Councilman Papaleo said that in teaching social studies and infusing civics into the curriculum as a councilperson and teaching in an elementary grade right now it is very important that a school not treat this as a field trip but as a learning experience. Mayor Mignone said that his feedback from them was that they thought trying to fit this into everything else they try to do is a concern so but he still has on-going dialog so maybe we can get something get going. Mr. Sarlo has mentioned he has this ongoing in Little Ferry also. Maybe we can reach out to the teacher there who organize it.

**MOTION TO OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, second by Councilman Bartelloni to open.

All in favor 6-0

No public comment

**MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING**

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, second by Councilwoman Davis to close.

All in favor 6-0

**MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8:04 PM**

Motion by Councilwoman Murphy, second by Councilman Bartelloni.

All in favor 6-0

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Stephanie Evans. Borough Clerk