

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
March 15, 2021**

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, notification of this meeting has been sent to our official newspapers and other publications circulated in the Borough of Old Tappan, and notice posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall.

Please note fire exits located at the main entrance to the Council Chambers and in the rear of the Council Chambers.

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:            7:30 p.m.**

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	Mayor John Kramer	Present
	Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr.	Present
	Councilman William Boyce	Present
	Councilman Guy Carnazza	Present
	Councilman Thomas Gallagher	Present
	Councilman Matthew Nalbandian	Present
	Councilman Jin Yhu	Present

Also Present:	Borough Clerk Jean M. Donch
	Borough Attorney Brian Giblin, Jr.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**PRAYER** – Councilman Guy Carnazza

**PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK**

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

Cara Boyce and Violet Oster, Old Tappan Girl Scout Cadets, are hoping to install a floating library in Oakes Park. This will allow visitors to borrow and share books. You can get books or drop them off at any time. Helps keep people socially distant and hand sanitizer will also be provided. They explained how and what the box and post will be built out of and what it will look like. It will be able to hold approximately 20 books. They provided a handout.

Councilman Binaghi asked if they have seen this done in other places.

Miss Boyce answered yes, she has seen it in other states while on vacation and also locally.

Councilman Nalbandian asked if they had a spot in Oakes Park picked out.

Miss Oster answered that they are going to install it near the parking lot, right by the path so it won't interrupt any sprinkler systems or grass. They have spoken to the DPW Superintendent who gave his approval and will help them install it. They have also spoken to the Library, who liked the idea.

Miss Boyce explained that they first need approval from the Girl Scouts Organization for their fundraising idea and then they will probably start in April or May, once it gets a little warmer out.

Motion to approve the proposed project - Councilman Nalbandian

Second - Councilman Binaghi

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

## **CONSENT RESOLUTION**

Councilman Carnazza read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – Councilman Nalbandian asked about the new firefighter resolution and why the physician's report and physical exam was not included with the new application. He sees that the doctor signed off but would like it to be included moving forward.

Councilman Gallagher stated that he is not sure but he does know that the gentleman is already a firefighter in another town and is our new Fire Inspector. He will find out and report back.

Councilman Yhu asked, for the benefit of the public, for an explanation of what we are hoping to achieve with the resolution in regard to amending the Senate Bill for law enforcement officers.

Councilman Binaghi explained the current cannabis law that was just enacted and how it limits the police's ability to perform their job and makes them libel for a civil suit. They are tying the hands of the police. Our legislators are working to get this changed.

Roll Call

Councilman Binaghi

Yes

Councilman Boyce	Yes
Councilman Carnazza	Yes
Councilman Gallagher	Yes
Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
Councilman Yhu	Yes

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **COUNCILMAN GALLAGHER – FINANCE/FIRE**

The Borough family was very saddened to learn of the passing of Lori Langone after a long battle with COVID-19. No arrangements are set at this point but they are accepting donations to help support the family. The Borough Administrator will begin searching for a new Administrative Assistant and is recommending tweaking the position to add some Board of Health responsibilities.

Our CFO, Rebecca Overgaard, has announced that she will be retiring mid-2022. She will be very difficult to replace and will be greatly missed.

Lisa Krivoruk has resigned from the Finance Department so we are in search of a new Accounts Payable Clerk.

The Fire Department continues to respond to all emergency calls day and night. There has been an uptick in commercial and residential fires. Sadly, a young junior firefighter from Ridgefield Park was critically injured while on a call. This shows the dangers that first responders face every day. He highlighted some advances in their technology and how it helps them prior to arriving to a call.

Councilman Boyce had some questions in regard to the new technology.

Chief Kutzin responded to the questions and explained the technology in more detail.

### **COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – POLICE/AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Read the Police Department activity report for February. Saturday morning there was an apparent double suicide in town, however, the Prosecutor's Office is still investigating.

Councilman Gallagher inquired about what happens internally when a major incident occurs in town. Is there a way for the Mayor and Council to know about it so they don't hear it first from a resident or in the newspaper? How can we do a better job amongst ourselves.

Councilman Binaghi stated that our current Police Chief calls him, as the Police Commissioner, right away and then they discuss who will contact the Mayor. Maybe we should come up with a notification process while remaining cautious and respectful to the people involved. He does not want to compromise any investigation. The best thing to do is contact the Police Chief directly.

### **COUNCILMAN NALBANDIAN – DPW/CONSTRUCTION**

The DPW has repaired all of the damaged mailboxes from this past winter's snowstorms. The Superintendent is currently interviewing for a new hire that we are looking to do later in the year. When he gets a list of candidates he will reach out to the DPW Committee for interviews. They are on schedule for mid-April for their mulch deliveries so orders will begin on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Our Construction Code Official is getting ready for a busy year. They discussed how important getting these inspections done the right way is.

#### COUNCILMAN YHU – FIRST AID/SCHOOLS/SENIORS

Hybrid and virtual learning continue at all Borough schools until further notice. He read in a newspaper article that both the NVRHS and local schools districts will be receiving stimulus money in this latest round.

The Library has reopened for browse and borrow 6 days a week. They receive the insurance claim from the patron that injured his toe on the bike rack.

Now that that weather is improving he is looking to hold an outdoor Senior Citizens Advisory Board meeting hopefully in April.

The First Aid Corps had requested a first responder vehicle during budget time. He took a look at the Police Department's old Expedition vehicle and it seems to be suitable for their use but they will need to customize it to hold oxygen bottles and other equipment. They will probably seek some money to take care of that.

He is looking forward to the community wide event that he will be hosting with Nancy Labov of Alumni in Recovery. He will be introducing the event to our local Board of Health at their next meeting. It will be open to middle age schoolkids and older, along with their parents. This will conclude with their Black Poster Project at Oakes Park on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF/PLANNING BOARD/ENVIRONMENTAL

The Golf Course is due to open towards the end of this week. They are hoping to have 300 registered members this year. There are a couple of outings already booked. The Concessionaire has paid year to date but moving forward they are going to have to start paying the money they owe us from last year. This past year improvements were made to the Club House. The Superintendent has found a reasonably priced gator that is important for him to have.

In regard to the Environmental Commission, he went over the need for a curb cut and parking lot improvements at the Chestnut Field Community Garden with the DPW Superintendent. They have estimated that to be about \$10,500.00. It will be a modest, simple parking lot. He will discuss this at the next Environmental Commission meeting.

The Planning Board is hoping to have a meeting in April. There are 2 small applications.

The Boy & Girl Scouts are having a car wash this year. They are looking to return to summer

camp. Katie & Ryan Weaver will be taking over the leadership rolls for the Boy Scouts.

He is hoping that there will be a Memorial Day parade this year to honor our Veterans.

Mrs. Haverilla stated that decision needs to be made on whether or not to have the Memorial Day parade.

All were in favor of having the parade but if the weather is bad it will be canceled.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that there are 3 concerts planned for this summer.

#### **COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – RECREATION/HEALTH**

The Recreation Commission is discussing what they are going to do with the seasons. There are no indoor sports planned in any of the schools through at least June. If basketball and baseball seasons are held there will be a limited amount of games. He discussed Town Day and what can be done for that, the date will be September 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

Reminded the Council to sign on to the JIF insurance seminar. It discusses some very interesting information. We also get a \$250 credit on our insurance rates for attending.

#### **ACTION ON MINUTES**

Councilman Carnazza made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- Closed Meeting, February 16, 2021
- Regular Meeting, February 16, 2021
- Regular & Executive Meetings, March 1, 2021

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – Councilman Nalbandian abstained on the Closed and Regular minutes from February 16, 2021.

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Oakes House Proposal**

Councilman Binaghi received a price on a 30 x 40 building. He passed around a handout. He went to Oakes Park with the DPW Superintendent and measured the area, it came out to be 35 x 40, so it's close. It will cost approximately \$18,000.00 to take the building down and \$65,000.00 to put up the new one with concrete floor, 6 windows, a garage door, 2 people doors, etc. Bathrooms would have to be ADA compliant, hopefully there are some grants available for those. Utilities were discussed. Money will also be needed for finishing the inside of the building and site preparation. He is waiting for other quotes. This will all be discussed at budget time. The basement is not in good shape, the DPW Superintendent is not in favor of saving it. The building will primarily be used for storage, bathrooms and utilities for the park. Other potential uses can be discussed.

Mrs. Haverilla spoke about putting space for the Recreation Director's office there.

Councilman Binaghi then passed around paperwork in regard to Borough Memorials and establishing parameters. He received 2 more requests for memorials so he wants to make sure that we have a consistent set of protocols. He listed the suggested parameters.

Discussion ensued on various potential parameters.

Councilman Boyce suggested a virtual memorial.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **328 Old Tappan Road - Sidewalk Contribution**

Councilman Nalbandian explained that the owner would like to make a contribution in lieu of the sidewalk installation. This needs to be approved by the Mayor and Council so the owner can get their certificate of occupancy. Currently there are no sidewalks on that side of Old Tappan Road.

Motion to approve the contribution - Councilman Nalbandian

Second - Councilman Carnazza

Discussion – None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

### **Ordinance 1178-21 – Amend Sanitary Sewer Ordinance – Resolution of Introduction**

Councilman Nalbandian read the resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

Councilman Yhu asked that the Borough adopt the resolution that was included in the Communications Agenda in regard to supporting the Asian and Asian American communities in response to the violence occurring against them. Several other towns have already adopted it.

All were in favor. It will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Councilman Boyce discussed the tree ordinance and that the Environmental Commission will be proposing an amendment to it. The amendment was discussed. He knows that some are hesitant at adopting tree ordinances because they are overreaching but trees add value to a town.

#### **PUBLIC'S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK**

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried

No Public Comment

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion - None

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Donch, RMC  
Borough Clerk

Reviewed & Approved: April 19, 2021