

BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR & COUNCIL SPECIAL & EXECUTIVE MEETING
February 5, 2024

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.

All meetings are videotaped and posted on the website.

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

REGULAR MEETING

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

ROLL CALL:	Mayor Thomas Gallagher	Present
	Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr.	Present
	Councilman William Boyce	Present
	Councilman Guy Carnazza	Present
	Councilman Cort Gwon	Absent
	Councilwoman Christine Massaro	Present
	Councilman Jin Yhu	Present

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATION

Northern Valley Eagles Junior Football Team

Mayor Gallagher read the proclamation honoring the Northern Valley Eagles Junior Football Team.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Board of Health - Jina Park - Unexpired 4 Year Term Ending 12/31/26

Historical Committee - Brian Davidson - Unexpired 1 Year Term Ending 12/31/24

Motion to accept the appointments – Councilwoman Massaro

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilwoman Massaro	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Councilman Yhu read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilwoman Massaro	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Gallagher explained that Westwood adopted a resolution in regard to COAH that we should consider acting on.

Mr. Giblin explained that the League of Municipalities has also taken a position on the same topic so we can look at their website and see if there is a sample resolution that we can use.

This topic will be discussed further at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – None

Motion to close meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – None

On voice vote, all in favor, the motion carried.

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

On voice vote, all in favor, the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL:	Mayor Thomas Gallagher	Present
	Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr.	Present
	Councilman William Boyce	Present
	Councilman Guy Carnazza	Present
	Councilman Cort Gwon	Absent
	Councilwoman Christine Massaro	Present
	Councilman Jin Yhu	Present

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Councilman Binaghi asked for an update on the DeWolf Road drainage project.

Mr. Skrable explained that the structures have been delivered but he does not have an exact start date yet. He will reach out to the contractor and report back.

Mayor Gallagher explained that the owner of the last house on the right by Bonnabel Park is concerned about the new bridge and that both the bridge and road were raised

which is now creating a damming effect that is causing river bank to erode. He is going to visit the property but wanted to keep Mr. Skrable in the loop.

Mr. Skrable explained that if there is something site specific that can be done to help them we can look at that. The big picture is the bridge and the road and that's not going to change. The Borough is limited in what it can do especially since it's not within our jurisdiction. It was a county project that is subject to state regulations.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that there is Blue Acres funding available for houses that flood. The homeowner could look into that if they are interested in selling.

Councilman Boyce asked about the silt that is going into Stanaland Park from the work at The Enclave. Does Mr. Skrable think that at this point all of the soil has stabilized and that they have removed all of the sediment control measures and whatever silt has been deposited in the park can now be cleaned up before we issue them their final COs?

Mr. Skrable feels that the site is definitely stabilized and he is not worried about any additional accumulation of silt. The developer did do some work removing debris but he is not sure how much impact that had. We should look at it again and decide how much work is really necessary because now is the time to get the developer to do it. This is definitely a grey area and we don't want to get in trouble with the DEP over it.

Mrs. Haverilla inquired about the Exxon station.

Mr. Skrable explained that the gas station stopped adding fill behind it because DEP enforcement was on to them but he does not see that back and forth once the DEP gets involved so he is not sure what the outcome was.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

COUNCILWOMAN MASSARO - RECREATION/HEALTH/HISTORICAL

The Youth Council held their first meeting on January 25th with strong interest and attendance from a broad range of high school students from different grades, backgrounds and towns. They want to set up a structure that is sustainable throughout the years. There was strong interest in volunteerism and attending the Mayor and Council meetings to learn about local government. They have offered to help spread the word about town events through social media as well as encouraging others to join the emergency services organizations. They would also like to create events and spaces for teens to meet in the same way that the town has provided opportunities for other age groups.

The Board of Health meeting is on February 21st via Zoom. They continue their Mental Health Book Club meetings at the library as well as their Mayor's Wellness Campaign activities.

The Recreation Commission will meet tomorrow night. Opening day for spring sports is April 27th. Has been working with the Recreation Director to address some of the reimbursement issues with the coaches for officials.

The Historical Committee has decided to meet every 4th Thursday at 7:30pm in the Senior Center. They continue to grow under the leadership of Karen Goddard. They are hoping to have guest speakers, historical tours of the town and interactive maps of Old Tappan's history at Town Day.

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI - POLICE/ADMINISTRATION/GRANTS

Has been speaking with the Police Chief about the potential for a 3-way stop sign on Howard Drive where it meets with Charles Place. There could also be a crosswalk placed in that area as well. There is a temporary speed detector sign in that area now that seems to be helping. The engine that we are getting from Norwood is in the works. There have been issues in surrounding town with stolen cars. The Police Chief is proposing license plate readers at the town entrances. This will be discussed during budget meetings.

Mayor Gallagher suggested looking at the intersection of Charles Place and Irving Street near Gallagher Field as well.

COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – DPW/CONSTRUCTION

Read the 2023 Construction Department summary report and the January 2024 activity report.

Read the January 2024 DPW activity report.

COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF/PLANNING BD/ENVIRONMENTAL

The Veterans Committee will be meeting on February 15th at 4pm in the Borough Hall Council Chambers. They would like to visit other towns veterans' memorials to get ideas.

The Golf Course and restaurant were very busy this past weekend. Will be meeting with the DPW Superintendent to review the course grounds and make sure that Kemper is keeping up with their care. They will then have an onsite meeting with Kemper to go over potential course modifications.

The Environmental Commission has a vacancy that they are looking to fill.

The Planning Board will be meeting next week where they will review the proposed tree ordinance and provide feedback that he will bring back to the Mayor and Council.

Mayor Gallagher asked that the Planning Board begin working on the Master Plan.

Mr. Giblin explained that the Mayor and Council need to authorize the Planning Board

and direct them to reexamine the Master Plan. An RFQ can be done for a Planner to help with the review.

Councilman Boyce will bring all of this up at the next Planning Board meeting. Discussed the vacancies on the board.

Councilman Yhu asked if anything has been submitted yet for the new PSE&G building on Central Avenue.

Mrs. Haverilla stated that nothing has been submitted yet.

Councilman Boyce stated that it was his understanding that PSE&G was looking for a variance free application.

Mrs. Haverilla answered yes but that they still need to go before the Planning Board for site plan review.

COUNCILMAN YHU – FIRST AID/FIRE/SENIORS/SCHOOLS

Pre-K registration has begun, applications are due on March 25th. There are limited seats available and seats will be chosen by lottery. Kindergarten registration is open until March 28th.

Read the January 2024 Fire Department activity report. Gave a tour to the Boy Scouts and attended wake and funeral services for life member Chester Pilatowski.

Read the January 2024 First Aid Corps activity report. Taught CPR and first aid to the NVOT junior health class, presented at the NVOT EMS Club, hosted the Cub Scouts and taught CPR to the Woman's Club. Received an informative email from the CFO in regard to an EMT being paid as a Borough employee versus being paid from a separate organization. We have to consider that EMTs are hard to find and hire.

Mayor Gallagher asked the CFO to clarify the medical plan costs for the potential EMT hires. Vacation, personal and PTO days were discussed. Asked the CFO to send out an amended spreadsheet with all this information.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that she has been reaching out to local hospitals to see what EMT services they offer to municipalities.

Mayor Gallagher asked that the First Aid Cops come to the March 4th meeting to go over all the different options for utilizing paid EMTs. We are going to need to make some sort of decision so we can move on.

Councilman Yhu is still waiting to hear back from River Vale as to what they plan on doing.

Councilman Binaghi spoke about Chester Pilatowski an OTFD life member who just passed away. Was very impressed with how the Fire Chief handled the services.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

We have our final budget meeting coming up this Thursday where we need to pull everything together in order to present a responsible budget.

Spoke with the Borough Attorney about 244 Old Tappan Road and if there is any kind of update from the courts and what the developer plans on doing.

Mrs. Haverilla said they had to postpone hearings due to a medical emergency for the developer's attorney.

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Yhu

Second – Councilman Binaghi

On voice vote, all in favor, the motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Donch, RMC
Borough Clerk

Reviewed & Approved: February 20, 2024