

Minutes of the Work session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Wednesday, April 1, 2015 at the Senior Center at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Napolitano

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen, Council members Fede, Kohles, Mitchell, Napolitano, Nunez, and Robbins were present.

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Law have been satisfied as notice was sent to two newspapers and posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board on March 30, 2015.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were passed after discussion concerning 15-64 which involved a broken sewer line on that was known but was paved over:

- 15-59 Authorizing CFO to Request Proposals for Banking Services
- 15-60 Authorizing CFO to Request Proposals for Payroll Processing Services
- 15-61 Introduce 2015 Municipal budget
- 15-62 Tax Sale Certificates totaling \$41,959.62
- 15-63 Amending Resolution 14-204 which previously authorized the Bogota Planning Board to Undertake a Preliminary investigation pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and housing Law, for riverfront Development
- 15-64 Exigency
- 15-65 Emergency adjustment to 2015 Temporary Budget
- 15-66 Tax Sale Certificate Totaling \$44,203.70

Discussion took place concerning eliminating positions for economic reasons. Administrator Scarpa explained that the town is under state watch and recommendations for saving money must be made. The position "Assistant to the Administrator" was a recently created position and is temporary. CFO DiMaria explained that Payroll is processing hours etc to send to the Payroll company, and he will do the payroll processing. Councilman Napolitano reminded everyone that the 2015 Budget is half a million dollars less than last year's budget.

The Personnel Committee made the decision to RICE Connie Carpenter, so Attorney Joseph Monaghan spoke on her behalf. He asked if the State recommended the elimination of these positions. Borough Attorney Bossong commented that the State does not micro-manage and specify. Mayor Kelemen explained that in February, the Mayor, the CFO and the Administrator went to Trenton and were told that Bogota had to show spending cuts in order to have the 2015 budget approved. Mr. Monaghan asked if Mr. Scarpa's salary was addressed in Trenton, and the Mayor said that it was. Mr. Monaghan asked if a calculation was done of the jobs to be eliminated. Mr. Scarpa said that there were no job descriptions for those positions anyway. Mr. Monaghan asked if Connie Carpenter's Personnel file had been reviewed, and Mr. Bossong explained that was an irrelevant matter. Mr. Monaghan asked why Connie Carpenter could not be kept on at a lower salary in a new position. Mr. Scarpa said that Connie Carpenter could apply for the position once it is created and advertised.

The following Resolution was adopted:
15-67 Eliminating Positions for Economic Reasons

The following Ordinances were introduced and approved:
#1458 An Ordinance to Mandate Direct Deposit for Municipal Employees by the Borough of Bogota pursuant to c52:14-15f et. seq
#1459 An Ordinance Amending Chapter XIII of the Code of the Borough of Bogota to Prohibit Smoking in Public Parks and Recreation Areas

The following Payment of Claims was approved:
PC:15-03

The following Approvals took place:
Mayor Kelemen appointed Luis Gonzalez to the Library Board
Steen PTO School Raffle for May 2nd – waiving the Borough fee
Hose Company #2 accepted Baruch Murkoff as a member.
Bogota Day, Saturday, June 13, 2015 Noon to 10:00PM: all activities including sale of beer

Discussion:
Mayor Kelemen was approached by store owners asking for help to promote business. The Mayor asked Council for suggestions. Councilman Napolitano said that revitalizing Main Street could be made part of the Master Plan. Councilwoman Fede talked about the Green Team and “Standards of Excellence”. Store owners who become involved in compliance (making their store fronts appealing) will be showcased. Councilman Robbins spoke about Bogota Beautiful plans for Bogota Day to beautify the town with plants, etc. Councilman Mitchell commented on fixing up the area around Buddie’s Place and repairing the ball fields. Councilwoman Kohles spoke to a store owner on Main Street who is concerned about neon signs. Councilman Napolitano suggested a street fair on Main Street during Bogota Day activities.

Mr. Scarpa spoke about the emergency sewer repairs which means roadwork must be redone. He put in applications for Community Development Grants: \$96,000 for Road Improvements and \$5,000 for Senior Activities. Mr. Scarpa also mentioned Drainage work on Queen Anne Road by the 101 Pub which could be costly. A multi-purpose bond must be started soon. He reminded all that on April 9 there will be a meeting on the CSX railroad issue, that the emergency services were invited to. He also announced that the final adoption of the 2015 budget will be on May 21, 2015. He suggested an ordinance to add the administrator as a signatory when the Mayor is not available.

Discussion on the Multi-purpose bond took place with suggestions of money for a roll off truck for the DPW, repairing a fire engine, turnout gear for fire and rescue, roads/ drainage work, a police car, computer and software, miscellaneous signs, and DEP remediation on oil tanks removed in 1993 from Borough Hall and DPW. Councilman Mitchell asked about basketball courts and tennis courts being resurfaced and adding lights to them. No money was included for these items.

Discussion took place about nothing being done on the County Road by the baseball fields to prevent another serious accident to a pedestrian. The County is supposed to put new signage.

Mr. Scarpa spoke about sewer repair being a Capital improvement. An ordinance should be introduced.

Councilman Napolitano spoke about the expense on Fairview Avenue where the sewer line was known to be broken, but the road was paved anyway. CFO DiMaria said to adopt a resolution to hire Collinelli Brothers for \$110,000 for emergency sewer repair. This will be covered under a Bond Ordinance.

The following Resolution was adopted:

15:64A Hiring Collinelli Brothers for emergency sewer repair

Citizen Remarks:

Charles Severeno and David Rushfield complained about West Grove Street not being paved in 2014. Mr. Scarpa said that West Grove Street is on the list for 2015.

Nickie Spiegel said that Superintendent of Schools offered Bixby School for Mayor and Council meetings. The people could park their cars in the playground. She commended Connie Carpenter on her job performance as did Scott Woegens, Susan Fries, and Jim Moore.

Connie Carpenter asked the Mayor who he spoke to in the state. It was Mr. Cunningham, the DCA Director. She commented that she had no health insurance and was told by someone that she should get \$5,000 a year for not having health insurance.

Tony Culmone commended Mr. Scarpa for wanting job descriptions. He said that bills over legal matters have to stop, and Hose Company #2 truck needs to be refurbished.

Mayor Kelemen explained that this Mayor and Council inherited a lot of problems. The fire engine, a roll off truck, turn out gear. Turn out gear will be purchased this year. Fire truck and roll off truck will be handled in the future.

Tito Jackson complained about turnout gear for Ambulance members. He said that our police officers do not have any EMT training. Tito Jackson complained about the black suburban. He said that the Police Chief said that he does not want the black suburban. The Mayor told Tito Jackson that if the Police Chief does not want the suburban, he should tell the Mayor or Administrator, not Tito Jackson.

Pete Faller complained to Councilwoman Fede about a code change to remove fire alarms in basements to save money. Councilwoman Fede explained that it was just a miscommunication.

Tania Carpenter, Connie Carpenter's daughter, explained that her mother has a cardiac medical condition.

Hector Rodriguez said that it seems as though the Mayor and Council are not talking to Council members Kohles and Robbins. He thinks Connie Carpenter should sue the town. She supports her fellow Democrats.

Chuck Martini wished Connie Carpenter well in the future. He thanked the governing body for their hard work. He said that the County Clerk put monies aside to present a poster to each town relating to its history.

George Shalhoub asked why the white EMS vehicle just sits in the Wells Fargo parking lot. He said that he was a member of First Aid for 13 ½ years and went out on all calls. He asked how many calls are answered by the first aid squad now and how many by mutual aid. Councilman Napolitano said 71% are mutual aid and only 29% are answered by the first aid squad. This was according to the Police Chief. George Shalhoub also said that he liked hearing that the new budget has a \$500,000 reduction from the previous year.

Jodie Keller Jackson said that she is a school teacher and that chewing gum is disrespectful. She said that she wants to support the volunteers and that Connie Carpenter is Bogota, the heart of the town.

Chris Ann Kelemen said that there is a platoon care package in Borough Hall and that she can get a list together and get the community involved.

Nick Zampetti asked how much the roll off truck will cost. He said that property on Queen Anne Road and Linwood Avenue should be given to the fire department as well. He also reminded everyone about a woman who just retired after 27 plus years of service without any acknowledgement of her hard work. He also reminded everyone about the former administrator who left two years ago after earning \$113,000 as a part timer. Councilman Napolitano commented that two recurring grants were never applied for last year, and a road grant was lost.

Lori Greiner said that the DPW building was condemned and would like to know what is happening with that. Mayor Kelemen said that they are working on it.

Nick Zampetti said that the governing body could use eminent domain and take over Buddy's Place for a DPW building.

Motion was made and carried to end Citizen Remarks at 10:03pm.

The following Resolution was approved
15-67A Closed Session

Meeting Adjourned.