

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Mitchell

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 January 8, 2015.

Presentation to the Borough of Bogota of an 1862 Bible owned by Aaron J. Bogert was made by Dillon Rodgers and Frank Guerrera of New Horizons Financial. A client of New Horizons gave the Bible to the insurance company. Ed Sweeney of New Horizons felt that the Borough should have this historic find, so Dillon Rodgers and Frank Guerrera presented it to the Mayor to put on display at the Bogota Public Library.

Councilwoman Kohles questioned Resolution 15-139. Administrator Scarpa explained that five people were interviewed. The man who was hired, Christopher Hasselkus, backed out, so there was a need to hire a qualified Purchasing Control Officer. Gregory Bock, who is working in the position temporarily (as an employee of Muidex) has agreed to take the position of Part Time Purchasing Control Agent at a salary of \$27 per hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Councilwoman Fede questioned Resolution 15-136 Accepting Best Practices survey. CFO Frank DiMaria explained that the survey concerns Personnel and Budgeting Procedures. There needs to be four or five "yes" answers in order for the state to approve it. For example, giving up longevity was a "yes" answer.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

- 15-136 Accepting 2015 Best Practices Survey Checklist Results
- 15-137A Endorsing Community Development Grant for Senior Activities
- 15-137B Endorsing Community Development Grant for Road Resurfacing –  
Palisade Ave, Phase II
- 15-137C Endorsing Community Development Grant for Project Success
- 15-137D Endorsing Community Development Grant for Senior Citizens' Bus Driver
- 15-138 Endorsing DOT Road Resurfacing Grant
- 15-139 Authorizing letter of employment for PCO position
- PC:15-11 Payment of Claims

The following Ordinances were introduced and approved: (Voting record is attached.)

- #1469 An Ordinance of the Borough of Bogota naming a portion of West Broad Street, from Elm Avenue to Larch Avenue in honor of Former Police Chief Henry J. Smith.
- #1470 Ordinance adopting the Redevelopment Plan Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and

Housing Law, NJSA 40A:12A-1 et seq., for Property Located at 172 & 229 West Fort Lee Road

The following Approval was made unanimously:

Hook and Ladder Company accepted Brandon Degvo, Conor Denicola, and Evan Costanza as members.

#### Mayor's Report

Mayor Kelemen thanked Raymond Radburn for all the work he did coordinating the Emergency Services night. He also wanted to thank all the members of Fire, Rescue, and First Aid that participated in the event. It was very well done. He announced that the turnout gear should arrive October 20<sup>th</sup>. Chief Brophy showed the Mayor and Council what the turnout gear looks like.

The garbage company has been doing a good job. Mr. Scarpa has spoken to them on some issues. Our DPW workers have more time to do other work. The streets are cleaner, etc. The DPW also delivered new recycling containers to all residents.. The Mayor toured the library and it looks awesome. The Library Director, Radwa Ali, as well as library staff and volunteers did a wonderful job. He also thanked Councilman Napolitano and Mr. Scarpa for their part in the successful repaving that was done this year.

#### Committee Reports

Councilwoman Fede praised the work done by St. Joseph's parish in celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Joseph's with a Mass and reception on October 4<sup>th</sup>. She said everything was very well done. She attended Emergency Services Night and saw a person excavated from a car. It was very interesting. She thanked Mr. DiMaria for providing the budget reports. There was one resignation on the Library Board. They are working on getting tables for teens. There is a great deal of tension between the Seniors and the Library. The Library is putting a spot in the back of the library for reading similar to a Barnes and Noble spot. The Environmental Commission is working on trees for next year. Any money received from recycled lights will go to Bogota Beautiful. There are unsafe oil trains that travel through our towns.

Councilwoman Kohles announced the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report for Code Enforcement. Total Summonses and Assessments for 2015 were \$21,778. Employee salaries were \$11,020. 432 Notices were sent to property owners. 362 property owners complied. That is an 86% compliance rate. Mr. Barese sent out 30 vacant and abandoned registration forms and 29 have registered. The After School program at the Recreation Center has 50 + students in attendance. There was a letter from a parent praising the after school program.

Councilman Robbins said that Raymond Radburn did a great job with Emergency Services Night which was moved from St. Joseph's parking lot to Valley National Bank parking lot. He feels that something should be given to Valley National Bank for their help.

Bogota Beautiful is putting off the community garden until spring. They need help with watering the plants. Rain barrels are a consideration.

Councilman Nunez reported that the Senior Committee has not met in a while. The new carpet will be installed soon.

Councilman Mitchell reported that interviews will be held for the new chief on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The VFW has been very busy. The VFW Hall has been cleaned up a lot and is available for rental. The BOE is doing a great job. Hazardous Waste Day is this Sunday for paint, gas, car batteries, etc. A crossing guard was hit in Westwood. Please SLOW IT DOWN. Use care when driving. You cannot put a price on lives.

Councilman Napolitano expressed appreciation for the grants being submitted in a timely manner this year. He is grateful that the town is financially stable again. Repairing the sewer line, paving West Grove Street, and drainage projects are done. The Library is renovated. Repairs to the DPW building are underway. The drainage on West Fort Lee Road is still being worked on. The Planning Board did a great job with the Hess project. He is hoping that all will go well. This project could make Bogota proud.

#### Administrator's Report

Mr. Scarpa reminded everyone that the state had to approve all contracts. The state sees a great difference in the way things are going in Bogota which is why it approved the police contract. There is a long term significant savings on removing longevity.

Pubic Service offered new lighting projects including the library. It is best to wait until the library is done before PSE&G starts the lighting project.

DPW site work will begin on Saturday. He asked the DPW Superintendent to do a survey of the crosswalks.

#### Clerk's Report

Mrs. Cook reminded everyone that vote by mail ballot applications were available in the Clerk's office, and the deadline to register to vote in November's General election has passed. Don't forget to vote.

#### Citizen Remarks: Each Citizen has one turn with a Five (5) minute time limit

Tito Jackson said that at a meeting last year, Councilmen walked out so that the West Grove Street paving could not be approved. Turnout gear for First Aid is 21 years old. They were left out. The Emergency Services Trailer was removed from town at the Administrator's request. He has a bill from E-dispatches. There are other invoices that need to be paid. Oxygen is needed for the police and first aid. He filed harassment charges against the town. There are multiple signs on lawns.

Rosemary Gasiewicz, as the President of the Seniors, wanted to thank the Mayor, Council, and Clerk for all that they have done for the Seniors. The Eagle Scouts did a beautiful job. New carpeting will be installed after Halloween. The hallway was cleaned up nicely, and a new, large screen tv will be installed soon. Seniors need help with the new Senior bus. They also need a new plaque next to the door and a sign in the foyer saying "Seniors upstairs". Ms. Gasiewicz

helped the library for 3 hours putting books on shelves. She sent Brian (the Eagle Scout) a letter about using the Senior Center.

Art Sopelsa said that bills are not getting paid at the Recreation Center. Their credit card was declined. Their COSCO card was declined. An email said that Jim will be brought up on ethics charges. We need a small business certificate for our referees? When we give a gift certificate, we must get the name of the person on the certificate before we can buy it? We are supposed to be autonomous. Give us a decent building. We have been in this place for 30 years. With a new building, we could make more money. Out of towners give Jim grief. He drives seniors to stores and the doctor when necessary.

Ingrid Brito, Sandra Sweet, and Hector Rodriguez all expressed disapproval with a campaign mailing piece that was sent out.

Nick Zampetti congratulated the Council on making headway on Property Maintenance. He also congratulated Mr. Scarpa on his help with the police negotiations.

Michele Rugar asked if November 5<sup>th</sup> will be a public meeting.

Tony Culmone thanked the Council for the blue containers but felt they were too small and should have lids

Councilwoman Kohles expressed concern on a football matter. She said that the CFO sent an inappropriate email. The Councilwoman and the CFO discussed the emails which pertained to proper handling of referee payments. There were also questions about gift cards.

Mr. Scarpa said that he is working with Jim Moore to be sure everything is done correctly. The town was in financial trouble, and the problems are being corrected.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilman Mitchell. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.