

Minutes of the Work Session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at Borough Hall at 9:15 PM

Salute to the flag was led by Councilman Kelemen

Roll Call: Mayor Jackson, Council members Burdiez, Kelemen, Kohles, Mitchell, 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 20, 2014.

Discussion took place for the “tabled” items from the January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mayor Jackson advised that purchase of a new senior citizen bus can be obtained from the Somerset Co-op shared services and Administrator Greiner added that the state grant would take 18 months to 2 years to obtain. Councilman Nunez said this bus situation had been discussed before and it is a priority, however funding for a new ambulance and a tax abatement to the developer took place, whereas, the Fire Department needs turnout gear and a professional fiscal advisor will determine spending, so as not to impact taxpayers any further. Moody’s ratings have downgraded but planning can achieve a surplus.

Mayor Jackson advised that after the Sandy storm, we spent \$400,000 in expenses, and money gained from the sale of the cell tower was spent.

At 9:42 PM, Councilman Burdiez excused himself and left the meeting.

The old Sifford Pontiac property near the river is a vacant area and could be considered for redevelopment. Councilman Nunez advised that the Council has the responsibility to invite experts to discuss plans for this property which didn’t happen for the school property. Also Pat Wilkins, the Tax Assessor must be consulted.

A committee will be established to discuss amending the borough’s by-laws. The Clerk will distribute copies of the by-laws to each council member.

Mayor Jackson suggested televising the meetings; he also thanked Lou Kern and the volunteers who helped with recent snow storms.

The following resolution was placed on the agenda and was adopted:

14-53 Authorize contract with Benecke Economics, administration services

A temporary emergency resolution for \$17,400 will be placed on the next meeting agenda for the purpose of funding this appointment.

The resolution for appointing a Chief Financial Officer will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

**Citizen Remarks**

Laurie Greiner takes issue with Councilman Nunez who tabled items which are needed.

Ray Dwyer said new members are needed for the First Aid Squad and cost of the new stretcher for the ambulance helps to aid the volunteers for transporting the ill.

Gabby Carpenter said there are applications from members for the First Aid Squad who do not live in town and members are needed.

Councilman Mitchell suggested soliciting young high school students who could take an interest in serving the community and the hydraulic stretcher saves costs for back injuries. Of the members.

Connie Carpenter has concerns with spending \$17,400 for administration and the CFO is resigning; we received \$35,000 from Verizon and \$60,000 from Cablevision.

Jim Berthold from the Rescue Squad reported there are no hoods, no gear, no boots and the truck pumper is 22 years old.

Michelle Rupar advised that Bob Ferro tried to get televising of meetings started and the high school students were interested but a teacher must get involved by advising them. The opportunity lapsed and equipment disappeared.

Michael Doss advised that Benecke Economics has a good track record which is needed for the horrible spending.

Daniel Creange said there are sarcastic comments and asked the mayor not to cast stones bring personal feelings, nor air dirty laundry.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Nunez, seconded by Council Mitchell; motion approved and carried; session ended at 10:53 PM