



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota, held at the Bogota Council Chambers, 375 Larch Avenue, Bogota, NJ, on Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Napolitano.

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 December 23, 2017.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen, Councilmembers Fede, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Miranda, and Napolitano. Councilwoman Murphy was absent. Also attending were Borough Attorney Bossong and Borough Administrator Scarpa

Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to open the meeting to Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Tony Culmone, the Bogota Fire Chief, said that everything is in place for the new fire engine. He would like the Council to vote to buy the fire engine. He would like to wait to build the Recreation Center until all the money has been collected from the developer. He called the new Recreation Center a pet project.

Motion was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Fede said that it is on record from the last meeting the reasons why the new fire engine was voted down. She explained that she voted against the new fire engine because several members of the Bogota Fire Department said that the fire engine was not necessary at this time. She said that if those same members would sign a petition requesting the new fire engine, she would then reconsider her vote. Councilman Miranda said that he looked into all the fire houses and saw the percentage of people in each house. The firemen he spoke to said that the town needs to look to a broader plan for the future and find a bigger home for the fire engine or consolidate with another house before buying the new engine. He had to make a conscious decision about doing the right thing for the town and not placing a burden. A large number of firemen said that we are making the right decision. He said that you never have money for anything up front. You have to bond for it. The Recreation Center is not a pet project as the Fire Chief called it. The majority of parents in town are interested in having a new community center, so their children will have somewhere to go. Councilman Napolitano said that he was approached by members of the fire department who said the firehouse that will hold the new engine is in disrepair. They said that the old truck functions well and the tests show that it works. He said that he doesn't feel comfortable receiving only one bid. Usually we would rebid in the hopes of getting a better price. He said that Mayor Kelemen spoke with the Council, the Administrator, and to Bogota firemen about consolidating fire houses. A prior administration bought a piece of equipment that was never used and then was sold at auction for a much lower price. He reminded everyone that when this Council

voted on the bond ordinance for the new truck, it was said that voting for the bond ordinance did not mean that we have to buy the truck. Council members would have to investigate to see if the truck should be bought. Money will be set aside for the purchase, and there will be no community development money received for it. He said that Councilwoman Gates-Ferris brought up many times that she did not know if buying the engine was a good purchase. He said that Firemen brought up other issues such as giving a stipend to get more volunteers instead of buying a truck that will not go out. Mayor Kelemen said that no one has been more loyal to the volunteers than him. When he first became Mayor, Brophy said that the men needed turnout gear and had been waiting for years for it. Mayor Kelemen told the Administrator, and turnout gear was bonded for and purchased as well as tires, hoses, three new chief trucks. He has often been challenged by the fire department and he has always succeeded. He also brought back the dinner for the first responders. He said that the Central Avenue firehouse has been falling apart for a long time. We need a new fire station. Also, Mayor Kelemen said that when he went to the firehouse inspection of Engine 3 on Memorial Day, he saw that the floor was crumbling. Also, Tony Culmone handed out literature to people during Emergency Services Night last year saying that the mayor and council do not support the volunteers. Several members of the Bogota Fire Department have said that Engine 2 does not need a truck. I did not see a support group saying to buy a truck for Engine 2. I voted no to the truck out of responsibility to the town and the taxpayer. There were three firecalls in one day recently and Engine 2 did not respond to any of them. He also spoke to a top fire official who said that the \$20,000 savings is a tool used all the time to get a quick commitment. Councilman Miranda said that it would be a good idea to look into a stipend for the people who do the paperwork for the fire department. Trucks cannot be swapped between firehouses. Councilman Miranda requested information for Firehouse 2: How many calls do they respond to? How many active members do they have? What are the recent test reports for the truck? He also requested the statute for service life of a truck. If we are going to advocate for something, we need the facts.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

18-10 Payment of Claims

18-129 Shared Services Snow Plow Agreement with County - 2018 to 2020

18-130 Authorizing Appointment of Municipal Representatives to Bergen County Community Development Regional Committee

18-131 Authorize Bogota Police Department to Continue to Participate in 1033program

18-132 Change Order #21 for DPW building

18-133 Hiring Abigail Alvarado as a Recreation after-school Counselor

18-134 Group Affidavit for Receiving the 2017 Audit

18-135 Adopting Personnel Policies and Procedures for 2018-2019

18-136 Support the Complete Streets Policy

18-137 Opposing Suez Water's Rate/Tax Increase

- Approval: - Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the Minutes of 9/6/18. Motion carried with only Councilwoman Gates-Ferris voting no.
- Motion was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve Ladder Company #1 accepting Tristan Anderson and Sebastian Rollo pending background checks etc. and Engine Company #3 accepting Christopher Santana pending background checks, etc.

Discussion took place concerning storage place at the DPW building. Sprint approached Borough Administrator Scarpa and requested storage space by the cell tower in the new DPW garage for

\$1,000. Mr. Scarpa said that \$2,000 per month would be the lowest accepted monthly fee. An agreement was reached to lease 250 square feet on the first floor of the new facility to Sprint for \$2,000 per month with a 2% increase each year. A resolution will be presented at the next meeting. He reminded everyone that the former administration sold the cell tower. Some towns receive \$125,000 a year in rental fees. Councilman Miranda commented that the \$24,000 could be used for an SRO.

Reports

Mayor Kelemen reminded everyone that the St. Joseph's Carnival started this evening. He said that St. Joseph's is putting up a banner to thank the town for all the help from the Rescue, Fire, Police, etc. St. Joseph's is letting the town use its parking lot for Emergency Services night. He reported that Police Chief Maye did a great job on Monday night at the Board of Ed "town hall" meeting. He suggested creating an ordinance to give our first responders free permits for work done on their houses. Discussion took place concerning waving fees or increasing the clothing allowance.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris: Library Board – She attended the library board meeting and reported that Library Director Coleman would like to attend the November 8th Mayor and Council meeting to present the results of the Strategic Planning. She said that

She attended the Board of Education meeting on Monday and supports a school resource officer. She reported that 125 Anniversary meeting was a success. Mayor Kelemen, Joe Scarpa, Steve Mazzella, Rosemary Gasiewicz, Chelsea Coleman, and Pat Wilkins attended. She encouraged members of the fire department, the Board of Ed, Bogota Beautiful, Chief Maye, the VFW, scouts, and Scott Robinson to attend the next meeting on October 2nd at 3:00pm. There will be a number of committees that will set up times for their individual meetings.

Councilman Miranda: Recreation Committee – He announced that the Ragamuffin Parade and October festival will take place on October 27th. The kids run will start Sunday and includes 55 kids. They will wear a Wristband, and there will be milestones. They will record each mile on the wristband. There will be first, second, and third place. It will continue for a few weeks. There were a lot of parents present to see the 55 children from Bogota only. There were minimum promotions, but still a big turnout.

He requested that the council look into the construction section of the noise ordinance. Can construction be banned on Sunday or at least have to start later in the day. He suggested making the rule for contractors - not homeowners doing work.

Councilwoman Fede: Environmental Commission – She said that thirty pounds of plastic bags were delivered to Target. The bins are full again which is great. She announced that this Saturday is the town-wide garage sale.

Finance – She expressed concern that the Purchase Orders were not accessible for the Finance liaisons to look at before the meetings. A better procedure is needed for looking at the Purchase orders. The CFO has been very receptive when we have questions.

She attended the final Swim Club meeting for this year. Walter Fowler joined. There was concern that the trench still has water in it which attracts mosquitos. They had a successful year.

She attended the Board of Education Town Hall meeting and it was highly informative, and she was glad to see a decent turnout.

Councilman Napolitano: Finance – He requested that the Payment of Claims be ready by Monday instead of Tuesday before a meeting. He reported that the 2017 Audit is complete. Everything is running smoothly in Finance.

Senior Citizens – He said that the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee will be meeting on October 1st.

Buildings & Grounds – The ribbon cutting for the DPW building took place on September 13th. He said that the town needs a long term plan for the assets. The plan needs to be assessed and coordinated. A Pre-Construction meeting took place for the Pascack Road Improvement program. The emergency on Elm Avenue has been corrected. The SRTS grant did go in with all the boxes checked correctly. It will go to Orchard Terrace. Local Aid from DOT will be addressed in October. There will be a project associated with that.

Planning & Zoning – The Area in Needs Study on the area down by the golf center is in the works.

BACSA – He said that BACSA received some grant money. He spoke to Frank Miranda about cameras at the Recreation Center and especially by the DPW building. A lot of bad activities go on there. He is also requesting an ordinance to not sell marijuana in town.

He attended the Board of Education Town Hall meeting and said that marijuana was a concern there as well. He said that the Board of Education members are not unanimous on hiring SROs. He said that the Police Chief did well at the meeting.

Councilman Macfarlane: Board of Education – He said that he supports working with the BOE for SROs. It was gratifying to see about 50 residents attending the meeting. He said that School Superintendent Kennedy is doing a fine job. He announced that Amanda Montgomery read a report saying that the Ethics Commission dropped the Ethics charges that had been made against some of the Board of Ed members by other members. He reported that the new parking lot at the high school has better traffic flow. They are still waiting for PSE&G to move utility poles, so the work can be completed. Administrator Scarpa said that he offered to reach out to the Borough's PSE&G contacts. He just needs an email. Bixby School is having work done.

Board of Health: He reported that the West Nile cases are increasing. More spraying needs to be done. He also reported that vaping has become very popular, and the Board of Health is requesting a possible ordinance to prohibit vaping. Making access to the vaping equipment more difficult would be a help. Councilwoman Fede pointed

out that vaping equipment was included in the ordinance that raised the smoking age to 21.

Borough Administrator Scarpa reported that he attended the Community Development meeting that allows towns to apply for grants. He said that the Council has to decide what road work etc. to ask for. He said that the DPW grand opening was on September 13th. The 125th Anniversary meeting went well. His job was to set up the date for an anniversary gala. The date of the Gala will be November 14 because it was November 14, 1894 when Bogota was first established. The quarterly safety meeting was held on September 19th. The Crossing Guards salaries were brought up to \$15 per hour. He said that the town would like the railroad bridge painted by the culvert. The town received the ok to paint it, but it will take some time to set this up, and the town will be responsible for the cost and for safety issues. It should be painted by CSX. Maybe the County could push for that. The issue on Elm Avenue still needs some work. The Pascack Pre Construction meeting was held on September 11 for East Broad Street, Maplewood Avenue, and Larch Avenue. Milling will be done on October 25th and 26th and the paving will be done on October 29th and 30th. IT safety issues are being addressed by our IT official to coincide with insurance requirements. Councilwoman Fede and Councilman Miranda suggested getting new recyclable pails to give out. The Clean Communities Grant money has to be used 75% for clean-up and 25% for recycling. October 14th is the date to bring hazardous waste such as aerosol cans, fire extinguishers, paints, motor oil, etc to Bergen Community College.

The Borough Attorney had no report.

The Borough Clerk announced that the Flu Clinic will be held on October 2nd from 11:00am to Noon at the Senior Center.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to go into closed session for a personnel matter at 9:02pm. Motion carried.

When the meeting reconvened at 9:03pm, motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to authorize the administrator to advertise for a DPW Driver Operator. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to adjourn. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.