

Minutes of the Work Session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, October 1, 2015, in the Council Chambers at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by

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 board on January 8, 2015.

Mayor Kelemen presented a plaque to Dan Schnipp for 11 years of volunteer service to the Planning and Zoning Board including 7 years as Chairman.

Borough Engineer Robert Costa reported updates on various projects around town. He said that the Leonia Avenue paving will be done next week, and he has been working closely with the Bergen County Senior Housing on the flooding issues on Leonia Avenue. The Elm Avenue and River Road County project has not gone out to bid yet. Mr. Costa reported that Borough Attorney Bossong sent a letter to CSX to clean the ditches on the railroad property. Hess, Eastern Concrete, new owner of Sifford property, etc. will have to work together to correct the drainage problems at Fort Lee Road. In December, the County will be going out to bid for Midtown Bridge repairs. PSE&G will be putting a new pipe line on West Fort Lee Road and will have to remove and replace the sewer. Borough Administrator Scarpa requested an alarm be put on the sewer bypass in case it stops working, so any problems can be resolved before becoming disasters. Mr. Costa will reach out to PSE&G to be sure that roads and sidewalks that have been dug up by PSE&G will be repaired. Mayor Kelemen, Councilmembers Napolitano and Mitchell, Mr. Bossong, and Mr. Scarpa all discussed the conditions of the railroad property and the Midtown bridge.

Discussion took place concerning Resolution 15-131 from the consent agenda. Mr. Scarpa explained that in April or May, terms were agreed upon by both parties, but the State did not accept those terms. In August, both parties met and agreed upon new terms. The Director of DLGS agreed to the new terms, so the town must ratify the contract now. Following guidelines from the Director: Steps are frozen, Longevity is eliminated, two months terminal leave instead of three months, Private sector work will be paid at a higher rate. This agreement does not require any police to "pay back". Eliminating longevity moving forward is a long term savings for tax payers.

Resolution 15-134 was also discussed. Mr. Bossong explained that this was a recent request and it would be prudent to deny this request and deal with it in the present litigation created by Tito Jackson against Bogota. Councilman Nunez pointed out that Resolution 15-134 explains the process for paying legal fees as written in Bogota ordinances.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were adopted:

- 15-130 Authorize BCCD agreement for Senior Activities
- 15-131 Approving Police Contract
- 15-132 Dedicating "Put Brakes on Fatalities Day"
- 15-133 Confirming hiring of DPW Driver operator Tim Kueck
- 15-134 A Resolution to Deny Antero Jackson's request for legal fees
- 15-135 Hiring a Full Time Police Dispatcher – Craig Spliedt

The following Approval was made unanimously:
Bogota Hook and Ladder Company 1 accepts Doug Hansen as a new member.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Scarpa reported that areas of Palisade Avenue need to be repaired, and he will apply for grants. The cushions under the swing set in one of the parks were falling apart. They were fairly new, so the company repaired them for free. The DPW will be free now to clean up the parks, etc, since a private company will be picking up garbage. The utility overtime rate in the new police contract is increased. New carpeting will be installed in the Senior Center in approximately three weeks. He will be applying for grants for new tables and chairs for the Senior Center. A Tasca settlement meeting will take place tomorrow. A new recycling calendar was distributed throughout town with a letter from Mayor Kelemen. The turnout gear will be in soon, later than expected. Mr. Scarpa congratulated Dan Schnipp on his many years of service to the Planning and Zoning Board and told everyone that he and Dan Schnipp are fraternity brothers from Seton Hall. Six resumes were received for the Police Chief position. Interviews will begin on November 5th. 2,058 twenty gallon recycling bins were purchased through a Clean Communities Grant. The DPW will distribute them.

Discussion took place concerning the Café Outdoor Seating Ordinance. The current ordinance requires approval of the Police Chief and health official. The Planning and Zoning board should give the approval. The Borough Attorney said that the permit for outdoor seating must be renewed each year on March 1st. He will look into it.

Mr. Scarpa reported that the overtime rate for police utility work was increased to \$125 per hour from \$100 per hour. If a resident does work, he/she is charged the same as utilities which is unfair to them. Residents should be exempt.

Councilwoman Fede reminded everyone that former Police Chief Burke requested ceremoniously renaming part of Broad Street after Henry Smith. An ordinance needs to be introduced at the next meeting in order to have the ceremony on November 13 or 14. Henry Smith was in the armed forces, an avid volunteer and Police Chief for Bogota.

Councilman Napolitano said that if utilities disturb roadways, they should have to restore the roadway from the center line over. Borough Attorney Bossong said that other towns require that.

Mayor Kelemen said that he had a conversation with Mr. Sopelsa concerning Court Sense. Court Sense may want to purchase the property where the Recreation Center is. Money from that sale and possibly grant money would allow the town to build a new Recreation building. The Mayor met with residents to discuss the community garden. Water will be needed for the plants. Councilman Robbins said that they will be breaking ground on Saturday. They will be tilling the ground to ready it for planting. They will have posters, and they need fencing. Each committee member took a part to research. Water is a necessity. Councilwoman Fede suggested using the tree farm. Councilman Mitchell suggested rain barrels.

Citizen Remarks:

Tito Jackson said that the Governor declared a State of Emergency before Sandy, so they went around town and cut down trees. A tv was purchased by OEM to see live updates. There were 10 chairs purchased, and there are 2 left. The First Aid Squad provides oxygen. They are almost out. Mr. Scarpa dislikes me, but residents should be protected. Wind and rain will hit tomorrow, and Tito does not have Reverse 911. He is on call with county emergency management. There is no water available in case of emergency. Other towns are buying water.

Dan Schnipp thanked the Mayor and Council for the plaque. He said it was his pleasure to serve on the Planning/Zoning Board.

George Silos asked if we have an emergency management plan, and if we do not, when did we last have one?

Mr. Scarpa said that it is not his job to buy water for OEM. SwiftReach is for non-emergencies, not OEM emergencies. The emergency management plan has not been approved since 2013. Councilwoman Fede reported that the town just took down trees this month that were deemed dangerous. Rescue took some down as well.

Mr. Scarpa reported that storm drains were cleaned and cleared of any debris.

Mayor Kelemen said that he responded to the OEM Coordinator and requested a meeting. He will reach out to The Rescue Chief, Wayne Sorge, and Fire Chief Mike Brophy as well. He also reported that all bills will be paid when requisitions are filled out properly.

Councilman Napolitano reminded everyone that the OEM office was closed during the last emergency.

Mayor Kelemen said that it is important to know what residents need life support and generators.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Nunez, seconded by Councilman Robbins at 8:37pm. Motion carried.