

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF SUSSEX
HELD AT THE SUSSEX MUNICIPAL BUILDING
2 MAIN STREET, SUSSEX, NJ
APRIL 5, 2011**

Mayor Parrott called the meeting to order and requested the clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the Governing Body were present: Mr. Fransen, Mr. LaBar, Mrs. Little, Mr. Rose, Mayor Parrott.

Absent: Mr. Dykstra, Mr. Meyer

Mayor Parrott led the assembly in the flag salute and requested a moment of silence.

Mayor Parrott stated "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. It has been properly advertised and certified by the Clerk."

PRESENTATIONS:

Cornerstone Theater Group – At this time representatives discussed with the Council the possibility of leasing the theater at 74 Fountain Square in the Borough. A copy of their report is on file in the Clerk's office.

Sussex Wantage Regional School District – At this time representatives discussed the 2011 – 2012 school budget. A copy of their report is on file in the Clerk's office.

CY 2011 Municipal Budget

At this time Mayor Parrott acknowledged CFO Grant Rome who updated the public and the Council on the CY 2011 Municipal Budget.

Mr. Rome stated that we got the word last week that we did not receive any transitional aid this year. With the introduced budget we were about \$82,000 over cap. He stated that he and the mayor met with representatives in Trenton and he thought that they explained themselves pretty well to them by showing them the Borough's plan for the future. He stated that he discussed with them the possibility of taking a three year average of the reserve for uncollected taxes. Because our collection rate was lower this year then it has been in quite a few previous years they will allow us to do the three year averaging of our collection rate. It has to be done by resolution. It would increase our collection rate by 1%. Taking that into consideration it is about roughly \$38,000 that we can take off our reserve for uncollected taxes which will help us greatly reduce the \$82,000 that we had to come up with to stay under the cap.

Mr. Rome stated that he did work a lot of the numbers and he suggested that the Council hold a budget workshop. Then we could do a budget amendment resolution. He stated that he thinks that we are going to be able to stay within the 2% cap. We might even be \$50 under. He would like to go over all of the possible changes with the Council at a workshop.

Mrs. Gleason stated that if that is what the Council plans on doing then they need to adopt a resolution authorizing her to inform the County Clerk that we will not be going out to referendum and that it can be removed from the ballot.

Mr. Rose asked Sam if he really anticipates that we are going to go up 1% and have a better collection rate.

Mr. Rome stated that it allows us to use the average. Our average was running around 96% over the last two years. This will allow us to get back up more in the realistic range. Collections have started to come in a little bit more. We will collect 100% of last year's taxes. Hopefully the collection rate will remain steady this year. Our utility bills have been coming in better then they have been in previous years. He stated that it is a calculated risk. We added almost \$40,000 over the previous year's amount. The previous years had all been within a couple of thousand dollars of each other. This year it is \$150,000 where in previous year's it was around \$116,000. In order to make cap it is something that we might have to do even though it is a risk. It is a calculated risk to use more surplus also but it is something that you might have to do in order to stay within the cap. Right now he thinks it is what we have to do in order to meet cap.

Mr. Rose asked him what we are going to do in the likely event that it isn't going to come in. He stated that it is his opinion that the economy is getting worse in Sussex County, not better.

Mr. Rome stated that is why it is a calculated risk. He stated that our amount of delinquent taxes was up by over \$60,000 over the previous year. Unfortunately it is a calculated risk. It looks like there will be minimum increases in the schools and possibly a reduction in our County taxes.

Mayor Parrott asked if Mr. Rome could make it next Tuesday for a budget workshop and Mr. Rome responded that he could. He directed the Clerk to advertise for a workshop on April 12, 2011 t 7:30.

Mr. Rose stated that he can certainly appreciate wanting to stay under the cap but this is not the way to do it.

Mr. Rome stated that it is not the point of wanting to stay under cap it is the point that we have to be under cap or go to a referendum.

Resolution #2011-38R – Pulling Referendum off of the Ballot

Mr. LaBar made a motion to adopt a resolution vacating and superseding Resolution #2011-30# and directing the Clerk to remove the referendum from the April 27, 2011 election. Seconded by Mr. Fransen.

Mr. Rose stated that this is it. If we pull it off then we are stuck with this and in the likely event that we are \$40,000 short this year and we have to dip further into surplus.

Mrs. Gleason stated that if it goes to referendum, and it fails, then we are back right here where we are now and we pay for an election. She stated that she did not know the actual cost of the election but that we would be responsible for half the cost since the polls would have to be open a longer period of time.

Mr. Rome stated that if we do the resolution for the averages we are allowed to take it up one full percent on our collection rate, but we don't have to. If, by going through the budget at the workshop, we decide to cut something else out then we can go lower than 1%. Any money we put in the reserve is going back into the fund balance. If we wanted to take \$10,000 off of one line and put it back into the reserve we can do that. It just gives us the flexibility to work on the budget and not be stuck at last year's collection rate. We are not bound to go up to the \$150,000 that we are projected at. We can come in perhaps at \$125,000 and make cuts in other places. Hopefully our collection rate will improve. But this gives us the latitude. He stated that what the Council has in front of them is the introduced budget. He did not make any corrections because he wants to have a workshop to see where the Council wants to make the reductions. Right now we are \$82,120 over cap.

Mr. Rose stated that will leave us with another \$45,000 that we have to cut from the budget then.

Mr. Rome stated that is why he would like to have a workshop so that we can look at making cuts. He stated that he and Cathy worked out different scenarios over the weekend and would like to present them to the Council at a workshop. It will take us down to bear bones but that is what we are going to have to do.

Mr. Fransen stated that at the last meeting they were told that we were already down to bear bones.

Mayor Parrott stated that there was some other money in an account that we can use.

Mr. Rome stated that it will blow out all of the reserves that we have but we can do it.

Mr. Fransen asks what happens if something goes wrong.

Mr. Rose stated so we are going to the razor's edge and then on top of that we are hoping that we get another 1% collection rate.

Mr. Rome stated that is why he wants to go over it in a budget workshop so that the Council can make the proper decisions.

Mayor Parrott stated that the cuts that have been suggested to him will not hurt the Borough. We are going to use money that has been in an account that has not been used.

Mr. Fransen asked why we didn't know about this money all this time.

Mr. Rome stated that the Council has always known. It is always on the balance sheet and has been there for a number of years. It is set up in a designated fund. It is the public assistance fund that has been sitting there since we dissolved the Public Assistance Program. That would be one of the things that we can use but it will be a one shot deal. That is why we have never considered using it before.

Mrs. Little asked if we could use that money because at one time she was told that we needed to keep some money in the account in case someone was to need it.

Mr. Rome stated he can call the State to see if we can totally close out the account. If not we can leave some money in it and not use the entire amount. There is almost \$19,000 in it and has been collecting interest for about eight years. Mr. Rome stated that some towns have closed out their whole programs and in some towns the State has told them to close it out. The State has never said anything to Sussex Borough regarding the account.

Mr. Ferry, Borough Municipal Accountant, stated that he would leave at least a dollar in the budget so that if we do have a need for the money we can transfer into the account. If there is nothing we can't create a line item. We can do a combination of leaving some money in the account, using some of it for the budget and cutting other expenditures or using more surplus or playing around with the reserve for uncollected taxes. That is really the reason why the Council needs a budget meeting to figure out what needs to be done. The process takes a while and can't be done tonight with a lot of other stuff on the agenda.

Mr. Rose asked if Mr. Ferry thinks that it is a good plan.

Mr. Ferry stated that it is the Borough's only plan once the State told us that we weren't getting any transitional aid. He stated that Newton has also done the three year averaging on the reserved for uncollected taxes. Other towns are also doing it. He stated that Sam came up with the idea and it is a starting point. It can be adjusted based on what else the Council wants to do with the other lines. He stated that although it isn't his favorite thing to do, to use one shot revenues, but in this case to get us through this year, he thinks that it is a good idea. He stated that in order for the referendum to pass it has to be 50% plus one of the voters to pass and he doesn't think that it would pass. If it doesn't pass then it would delay the adoption process. We might not be ok with the cash flow if we delay the budget any longer without tax bills coming in.

Mr. Rose stated that it wouldn't stop us from sending out estimated tax bills.

Mr. Ferry stated that we can send out estimated bills but that there is a cost associated with doing that. In his professional opinion he would rather not have that.

Mr. Rome stated that a lot of people already got their second tax bills this year because of the homestead rebate credits. It would lead to a lot of confusion with the public.

Mayor Parrott asked both Mr. Rome if it was his professional opinions to average out the reserve for uncollected taxes.

Mr. Rome stated that he thinks that is the way to go. We don't have to go up to the maximum allowed but it will give us flexibility.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little

Nays: Rose Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

Resolution #2011-37R – Increase for Reserve for Uncollected Taxes

Mr. LaBar made a motion to adopt a resolution providing for an increase in the reserve for uncollected taxes. Seconded by Mrs. Little.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little

Nays: Rose Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

Mayor Parrott opened the meeting to the public for any questions or concerns that they may have regarding the CY 2011 Municipal Budget.

There being no one who wished to address the Governing Body regarding the CY2011 Budget, Mayor Parrott closed the meeting to the public and returned to the regular order of business.

Adoption CY 2011 Municipal Budget

Mr. Fransen made a motion to table the adoption of the CY 2010 Municipal Budget for the Borough of Sussex until April 19, 2011 with no further public hearing. Seconded by Mrs. Little.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

Mr. Rome stated that he contacted our budget examiner down at the State to let them know that we will have a budget workshop, have an amendment introduced by the next Council meeting and then have a public hearing on the amendment and adopt the budget the first meeting in May.

Mr. Fransen asked if Mr. Rome could produce a list of debt service, what the initial amount was, what the term of the loan was and what has been paid so far. He would like it on both the municipal side and the water/sewer side.

Mayor Parrott stated that Mr. Meyer requested that information at the last meeting as well.

Mr. Ferry stated that he will also be contacting the bond counsel to see if we can do the refunding of the water/sewer bonds.

At this time Mr. Schultz gave the DPW Report. A copy of his report is on file in the Clerk's office.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Parrott requested that all persons present review the consent agenda and offer any comments they may have at this time regarding the consent agenda.

Mr. Fransen made a motion to accept the consent agenda of April 5, 2011. Seconded by Mr. LaBar.

CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Letter dated March 14, 2011 from Joseph Birchenough of the Bureau of Local for the NJDOT to Mayor Parrott regarding Grove Street Phase 1.
2. Letter dated March 14, 2011 from William Machotka of the NJDEP to John Ruschke regarding NJEIFP Clean Water Project No. S340155-01.
3. Letter dated March 15, 2011 from Patricia Fisher to Catherine Gleason regarding Housing Rehabilitation Program Status Report.
4. Letter dated March 17, 2011 from John H, Moyle of the Bureau of Dam Safety to the Borough of Sussex regarding NJ Dam Safety Post-Earthquake Inspection Guidelines.
5. Letter dated March 17, 2011 from John Eskilson, Sussex County Administrator, to Catherine Gleason regarding the launch of the first County wide solar program.
6. Resolution from Hampton Township in regards to opposing COAH reform bill S1/A3477 by the New Jersey State Senate and Assembly.
7. Letter dated March 23, 2011 from James McDonald of the Sussex County Health Department to Catherine Gleason regarding the requirements for mosquito control.

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Animal Control Report for February 2011

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. NJ State Fireman's Association Membership Application from Joel R. Blackford for the Sussex Fire Department.
2. Sussex Fire Department Application from James M. McCurry for an Associate Member in the department.
3. Sussex Fire Department EMS application for membership from Amy W. Cook.

4. Application from High Point Midget Football for use of the field and concession stand at Brookside Park from July 15, 2011 – December 31, 2011.

RESOLUTIONS: (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of April 5, 2011

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION #1

Mrs. Little made a motion to open the meeting to the public for anyone wishing to address the Governing Body. Seconded by Mr. Fransen. All were in favor.

Ms. Linda Masson, 15 Spruce Ave, asked Mayor Parrott if he owes \$29,188 in water/sewer bills for the Sussex Inn.

Mayor Parrott stated that the amount has been reduced by a payment plan that he is on.

Ms. Masson stated that as of March 8, 2011 he owed \$31,853 and as of March 21, 2011 it was \$29,188.

Mrs. Gleason stated that the Borough received a payment today and she doesn't know exactly how much he still owes.

Mayor Parrott stated that he is current on the payment plan.

Ms. Masson stated that she knows what is done with other people in the town and wants to know why the water was not shut off at the Sussex Inn and why we did not advertise for a sheriff's sale.

Mr. Ursin stated that the collector makes the decision as to when the tax sales are scheduled and what properties are listed for sale.

Ms. Masson asked Mr. Ursin if he was privately hired by the Mayor to represent him as the owner of the Sussex Inn aside from his function as the municipal attorney.

Mr. Ursin stated that absolutely not and that when she makes allegations of something like that she better have facts to back it up. He stated that she is making accusations, which is a big difference from asking questions.

Ms. Masson stated that she is asking questions because the Mayor is also an owner of a property in this town and he owed as of a week ago a substantial amount of water and sewer bills that were delinquent from 2009.

Ms. Masson asked the Clerk why the balance was moved out of over 90 days to 0 to 30 days. She stated that it was not done for any other residents in this town.

Mrs. Gleason stated that she doesn't know how that program works and that if she accusing her of doing something wrong she better have something to back that accusation up as well.

Ms. Masson stated that she is only asking questions.

Mrs. Gleason stated that if she would like to come in and see how the software program works she is more than welcome to.

Ms. Masson asked if the Water/Sewer Collector can be at the next meeting so that she can ask her questions directly.

Mrs. Gleason stated that it would be up to the Council to ask her to do that.

Ms. Masson stated that they see the reports at least quarterly.

Mrs. Gleason stated that she gave her everything she requested on the OPRA request.

Ms. Masson asked if the Tax Collector can move balances around on the report herself.

Mr. Ursin stated that she has autonomy with regard to the collection of taxes. He stated that he is not sure what the importance is to what she is asking with regard to the report.

Ms. Masson stated that there is preferential treatment going on and the rest of the town is making up the difference for those who are not paying.

Mr. Ursin stated that the amounts that are overdue are sold every year at tax sale. That is the Borough's mechanism for collecting its fees.

Mrs. Gleason stated that they only go up for tax/utility sale if money is owed for the prior year balances.

Mr. Ursin stated that she is directing her questions to the wrong people. The Council doesn't make the decision as to what goes to tax sale. The Tax Collector makes that decision. Every person on the Council is a tax payer and a water/sewer customer. That is why the Tax Collector and the Water/Sewer Collector make the decisions as to when they go to tax sale and which ones go to tax sale.

Ms. Masson asked if she has all that authority without any need for approval of anyone in this town.

Mrs. Gleason stated that is her statutory duty as the Tax Collector.

Ms. Masson asked someone to explain the payment plan to her.

Mr. Ursin stated that the Borough has no collection mechanism for any property that is behind on either its real estate taxes or its water/sewer bill other than threatening to turn water off, penalties and interest, and the yearly tax sale. Turning the water off has consequences that cost the Borough money.

Ms. Masson stated that it is done every day to people.

Mr. Ursin stated it is certainly not done every day here in this Borough.

Ms. Masson stated that she begs to differ, that it is done frequently.

Mrs. Gleason stated that it is not done every day here and that it is done rarely.

Mr. Ursin stated that when it is done there are consequences. The water has to be turned back on periodically and if the water is going to remain off then we get into issues of relocating tenants. Then we could get into issues very quickly between landlords and the town as to the cost. The town is pretty judicious in turning off water which would result in some place becoming uninhabitable.

Ms. Masson stated that she guesses that restaurants don't fall into that same category.

Mr. Ursin stated that he is not talking about any specific property but in generalities about the Borough's mechanisms. At the yearly tax sale, if the property is behind on its taxes or behind on its water and sewer, outside third parties come in and buy the tax sale certificates. That is the only mechanism that the Borough has for getting that money back into its budget. Up to the point of the tax sale the Borough will always enter into a payment plan with people to try to get them caught up.

Ms. Masson stated that is not what she has heard in the community.

Mrs. Gleason stated that it doesn't matter what she has heard. It is the truth.

Mr. Fransen stated that prior to the last couple of years, before Cathy came on, that was the way that the Council handled water problems. They would go in and turn the water off right away. That has changed over the last couple of years and because of the economic conditions the Borough has agreed to work with the residents.

Mrs. Gleason stated that it is her belief that it is better for the town to collect some money instead of just turning the water off. She stated that's what was done before she came here.

Ms. Masson stated that it seems like the Council is penalizing the small user to benefit the larger user.

Mr. Fransen stated that Ms. Masson is after one individual. He stated that if the water is cut off then you displace the people who live there. Then it becomes the Borough's responsibility at that point to relocate these people.

Mr. Ursin stated that he would counsel the Council not to discuss individuals' bills.

Ms. Masson stated that when it is the Mayor it is a whole different story.

Mr. Ursin stated that she is entitled to her opinion.

Mayor Parrott stated that three years ago he decided to run for Mayor because the water and sewer rates were so high that he could not see a future for his business in this town. He wanted to step forward for this town to work on lowering the rates. The first thing he did was to get a grant on the sewer end which would allow us to begin a project to help fix our I & I problem. He didn't see anyone in the town doing anything to stabilize the rates. Small things may have been done but it was going to take money to be invested in the antiquated systems that we have. Mayor Parrott stated that we will then be able to bring more customers on which will help us with our rates. We have to be able to expand to developers. We would not be able to do that unless we address the I & I problems. He stated that because the economy was slow and he was unable to keep current on the water/sewer bills, he entered into an agreement with the town to pay it off. Now he is on a payment plan and making regular payments.

Mayor Parrott stated that he is one of the top users of water and sewer in the Borough. He stated that if Ms. Masson would like to do away with the top payers then the cost is going to have to be spread out to the rest of the users. He stated that he has always made his payments on time until the rates went up so high. Initially when the rates were increased they were given to the larger users. He stated that is when he started to fall behind.

Ms. Masson stated that doesn't explain to her why he hasn't made a payment.

Mayor Parrott stated that she keeps asking the same questions and that he has answered her. She may not like the answer but we are going to move forward. He stated that he was not given any preferential treatment. He can understand why the attorney was very upset about the insinuation that there is some underhanded deal between him and I. That is not something that will go on in this town as long as he is mayor. Mayor Parrott stated that she keeps asking the same questions over and over.

Ms. Masson stated that she doesn't seem the same treatment given to others in this town.

Mayor Parrott stated that is her opinion.

Mrs. Gleason stated that she will not discuss an individual payment plan with the public. She received the information through an OPRA request. We work with each rate payer individually. There is no resolution or ordinance that governs that as Ms. Masson was told when she requested it earlier.

Ms. Masson asked Mr. Ursin about High Ridge.

Mr. Ursin stated that High Ridge is a vacant property in Hardyston. The development has failed and the Borough is suing for the fees and the case is currently in court. Mr. Ursin stated that they are behind two years.

Ms. Masson asked if they are behind over \$300,000 and Mrs. Gleason stated that is not an accurate figure.

Mr. Ursin stated that this has been discussed at numerous Council meetings. Some of the billing rates that had been applied to the High Ridge development in the past were not accurate and therefore the number that appears on the water/sewer report is not accurate. It will be corrected when the law suit is over. He stated that the judge will decide what the current value is.

Ms. Masson stated that the Borough is looking into getting involved with other developers and wanted to know if we got up front money or usage money from them.

Mr. Ursin stated that High Ridge purchased gallonage from the town and their upfront payment was approximately \$300,000. They have never used a drop of water. Part of the reason this situation has become so difficult is because when they purchased the allocation they had two years to develop the property and the plans failed. They continued to make payments against

the sewer but have never connected. That is part of their argument. That the Borough's fees are too high. The Borough is taking the position that those were the fees that were agreed upon and it is not the Borough's fault that the development has not succeeded or been built. The future outcome is very unclear. The property is currently up for sale and there is no current development plan. There is a possibility of putting a lien on the property. And the collection of fees is limited until they put a development there.

Ms. Masson stated that this could happen then if we get involved with another developer.

Mr. Ursin stated that whether it is the smallest or the largest rate payer there is always a possibility that they will stop paying. On the High Ridge case we got a lot of upfront money and it was put into the budget.

Ms. Masson asked if this is a drag on the rest of the customers.

Mr. Ursin stated that the drag on the other rate payers in town is that we are currently using only half of the minimum guaranteed flows. High Ridge is a unique situation because they are not a contributor to the system yet. We are not paying SCMUA for their treatment. It would be different if a development was connected and then they defaulted on their payments. Then we would be sending it down and not getting paid but paying for the treatment of it. It would be good for the system to get some money in but he wouldn't consider it to be a drag on the system. Other developments that the Borough is looking at are residential and mixed use. The developer will pay up front cost and then when they are hooked up the individual users will be responsible for paying the bills. The risk is spread out. Mr. Ursin stated that shutting down the water doesn't save the Borough any money because we are still paying the minimum flow to SCMUA.

Ms. Masson stated that we shouldn't be turning any water off then.

Mr. Ursin stated that shutting it off is a collection mechanism.

Ms. Masson asked if the Tax Collector can be at the next meeting.

Mr. Ursin stated that she can pose her questions in writing to the Tax Collector and that it is up to the Collector whether or not she is going to answer them in writing.

Ms. Masson asked who the Tax Collector works for.

Mr. Ursin responded that she works for the Borough but that she has autonomy. Tax Collector's have autonomy for exactly some of the reasons that we are talking about tonight. If Ms. Masson sends written questions and she doesn't get a response then it is something that can be raised with the Council. Mr. Ursin said it would be highly unusual to have the Tax Collector come to the meeting and although it is up to the Council it is not something that he would recommend.

Ms. Diane Snore addressed the Council regarding the school board. The election cost \$9000.00. She stated that it is a shame that people were not allowed to ask questions during the school board's presentation. Not everyone can go to their meetings and sometimes questions need to be asked in a public forum so that people can see what is going on. Sussex Wantage didn't tell you but there are five empty classrooms in the Lawrence School. She stated that she didn't understand why they are making the class sizes smaller then they have five empty classrooms. She stated that she was at a meeting given by High Point where they outlined their plans but Sussex Wantage doesn't inform the public of their plans and not being held accountable to the tax payers. She stated that she wishes that in the future the Council would allow people to ask more questions.

Mr. Fransen stated that the school system did have a public session on the 28th. They have a workshop and a regular meeting once a month. They had a meeting on the 30th as well. This tonight was a presentation for the Mayor and Council. It was not open for questions. He stated that he understands her being upset but that as Mrs. Riker stated in her presentation, 82% of the school budget is out of the control of the taxpayer. The Council has no say on their budget. We have tried to make suggestions to them but they don't have to listen.

Ms. Snore stated that the towns should have stuck together last year and cut one million dollars out of their budget. The enrollment is going down yet they are not cutting teachers. They have also lost a lot of children to the Charter School because there are problems.

Mr. Fransen stated that she should be asking the school board those questions at their meetings.

Mr. Mike Darby, 41 Walnut Street, stated that there is a section of sewer main that runs through the wetlands behind his house and he wanted to know if it was checked to see if it was a source of the infiltration.

Mr. LaBar stated that is the line that comes from Alpine Village.

Mr. Ursin stated that this has been discussed at the Council meetings many times before. The entire system was video taped, including that pipe. The water and sewer engineer took into account the results of those tapes in designing this I & I project.

Mr. Schultz stated that as part of the I & I project we will video the pipes after to see if anything else is still leaking. We can also place the flow meters in the manholes after the project is done. The DPW has also been pulling the manholes after storms to see if any other ones are leaking. Then perhaps they can be added to the project.

Mayor Parrott stated that the line that that line runs into on Grove Street is part of the I & I project so we will be monitoring it closely.

Melissa Fransen, Recreation Commission member, updated the Council on what is going on with the Recreation Commission. She thanked Kathy Little for the donation which allowed them to purchase some items that they needed. She also stated that the Commission will be meeting with Dr. Izbicki on Tuesday to work with Project Self Sufficiency to try and get the teen night up and running. Hopefully, in utilizing this organization, the project will move forward and make the Committee itself stronger. She stated that the inventory is complete. They are in the process of creating a master binder so that everyone knows what is going on. It will be the Recreation Commission bible. She also stated that the first event for this year, the Holiday Egg Hunt, will take place and all of the members will have ID badges so that they are easily recognized.

Mrs. Gleason thanked Mrs. Fransen for all of the cooperation so far this year. It makes the job so much easier when there is good communication.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. LaBar made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mrs. Little. All were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Fransen made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 15, 2011. Seconded by Mr. LaBar.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

Resolution #2011-35R – 2010 Tonnage Grant Application

Mr. LaBar made a motion to adopt a resolution endorsing the submission of the 2010 Recycling Tonnage Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Seconded by Mr. Fransen.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

Introduction Ordinance #2011-05 – Sale of Municipal Owned Property – BI 603, Lot 1

Mrs. Little made a motion to introduce an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF SUSSEX, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF CERTAIN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE BOROUGH AND NOT REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES AND MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS BLOCK 603, LOT 1. Seconded by Mr. LaBar.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

FINAL READING: APRIL 19, 2011

Resolution #2011-36R – Contract Modification

Mr. Rose made a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing a contract modification for US Tank Painting for the Borough's Water Tank Project. Seconded by Mr. Fransen.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Fransen, LaBar, Little, Rose

Nays: None Absent: Dykstra, Meyer Abstentions: None

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION #2

Mrs. Little made a motion to open the meeting to the public for anyone wishing to address the Governing Body. Seconded by Mr. Fransen. All were in favor.

TerryAnn Zander, Advertiser News, asked the Council whether or not she should submit a clarification in the paper regarding the amount of money actually owed by High Ridge. In her recent article she had the \$300,000 amount. She stated that she didn't want to mislead the public.

Mr. Ursin stated that if she correctly reported what is on the Borough's books then a clarification is not necessary at this time. We will not know what the correction is until the court case is over.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. LaBar made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mrs. Little. All were in favor.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Fransen made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. LaBar. All were in favor.

Christian Parrott, Mayor

Catherine Gleason, RMC