

Special Public Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield was held on March 7 , 2011 at 8:30 A.M. Eastern Standard Time. Meeting was held at the Ridgefield Community Center, 725 Slocum Avenue, Ridgefield, New Jersey.

Mayor Suarez stated that this meeting of the Mayor and Council is being conducted pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of the meeting has been given by publishing notice in The Record. Furthermore, notice was posted in the Borough of Ridgefield Municipal Building.

Roll Call: Mayor Suarez, Councilmen Castelli, Todd, Vincentz, Severino, Acosta and Jimenez were present,.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Suarez asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for those residents who have passed away since the last meeting.

Mayor Suarez asked if anyone had comments on tonight's agenda

No comments were made

Mayor Suarez began the discussion pertaining to the State Comptroller's inquiring regarding the refund of overbilled legal services. Stephen Pellino commented that the Office of State Comptroller sent correspondence on the issue that the controller alleged instances of overbilling mischarges by the prior borough attorney, Doug Doyle . The letter was received March 3rd inquiring about our status resolving this issue. Stephen Pellino stated that our original plan was to try to work this issue out amiably, however some of the Council members are not satisfy with the offer from the prior borough attorney. Councilman Jimenez and the Finance Committee investigated some possibility in terms of conducting a professional audit, and found a couple of companies that specialize in this area and with some investigated they decided to go with the company listed in the resolution.

Councilman Jimenez stated that two companies were looked at, Legal Cost Control and ABC Accountability Systems. They choose Legal cost which will be responsible for looking at a small percentage of the bills to see if we should go forward with the process before we pay them. Councilman Jimenez stated that we will have to scan the bills, send it to them and they will begin to review them and let us know if it's worth going forward. The review will cost the borough no money. If they do decide to look at everything and move forward then it will be 2% of the total amount of bills which the estimated cost will be \$8,000 in bills they would have to review.

Councilman Todd asked the question; "is the controller just requesting what Governor Corzine requested? Mayor Suarez stated that Councilman Todd was inaccurate, Governor Corzine requested the State Comptroller do some investigation with regards to contractors with developers. Councilman Todd stated that it was required that the

controller only review two years of Doug Doyle bill. Doyle Doyle then sent a refund to the borough of \$15,890. Councilman Todd questioned why now are we reviewing the bills from 2007 and if we are reviewing the bills from 2007, why isn't the current borough attorney Stephen Pellino reviewing the bills. Councilman Jimenez stated that the initial review is for free. Councilman Todd wants to understand why no one reviewed the bill when Doug Doyle offer for anyone to come to his office and review his settlement offer.

Councilman Vincentz questioned the March 1st letter to the borough from the controller, Councilman Vincentz wanted to know if anything in that letter indicated that the Comptroller questioned the amount of money that was sent back or offered. Stephen Pellino stated that no indication was made, they were silent on that issue regarding Doyle office and his explanation. Councilman Vincentz also posed the question that in the resolution 118-2010 nothing is listed or indicated that the review will be free, so how is the Mayor and Council suppose to vote accurately? Councilman Jimenez stated that he never stated it will be a free review, he stated that initially they will look at a percentage of the bill to tell us if we should go forward with this issue. Councilman Vincentz stated the resolution should state; a random check of the data for free; Councilman Jimenez agrees and believes the resolution should be amended to state just that. Mayor Suarez stated along with Councilman Jimenez they spoke with a representative from LCC who indicated the preliminary review substantive going forward . Councilman Vincentz requested documentation of the conversation.

Councilman Vincentz question how was a statement put into the resolution, "that the Mayor and Council has review the proposal by the firm" when in fact half of the Mayor and Council have not review the proposal? Councilman Acosta suggested that when Councilman Vincentz received the resolution he should have called Councilman Jimenez whom is sponsoring the resolution. Councilman Vincentz objection remains.

Motion made by Councilman Vincentz; seconded by Councilman Todd to authorize a free initial review and submit proposal for further action.

Mayor Suarez questioned Councilman Vincentz regarding if they find it appropriate to conduct a full review, will he authorizing that to take place afterwards. Councilman Vincentz stated No, he stated that Doug Doyle offer \$15,000 back to the borough. Councilman Catelli stated that we received another bill from Doug Doyle for \$12,000 for the month of December. Councilman Vincentz believes that the company about to be hire may not be qualified to audit these bills.

Councilman Jimenez questioned if Councilman Vincentz is able to vote on this resolution due to the fact (allegation not proven, contested) that he received a political donation from Doug Doyle, shouldn't he have to recues himself.

Roll Call on Motion:

Councilman Castelli No

Councilman Todd	Yes
Councilman Vincentz	Yes
Councilman Severino	Yes
Councilman Acosta	No
Councilman Jimenez	No
Mayor Suarez	No

118-2011 Councilman Jimenez Legal Cost Control-Doyle, Edwards & Caldwell, and DeCoitis Law Firm

Councilman Todd asked why Stephen Pellino can't review these documentations. Mayor Suarez stated that this is not included in his contract

Councilman Severino stated that Doug Doyle offer the borough back \$15,000 and if by chance the new auditor discovers Doyle's firm owns another \$15,000 that will cost us \$14,000 to make that discovery. Councilman Severino doesn't believe this whole process is worth doing over \$2,000.

Roll Call on Resolution 118-2011

Councilman Castelli	Yes
Councilman Todd	No
Councilman Vincentz	No
Councilman Severino	No
Councilman Acosta	Yes
Councilman Jimenez	Yes
Mayor Suarez	Yes

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS: (All speakers are limited to five minutes maximum per meeting)

No comments were made

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50 P.M

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda M. Prina
Acting Borough Clerk