

A work session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Ridgefield was held on April 25, 2011 at the Ridgefield Community Center, 725 Slocum Avenue, Ridgefield, New Jersey

Call to Order: 5:30 P.M

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

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

Bergen County Animal Enforcement has the same rate as last year and the contract is for two years. They changed their name from Hudson County Animal Control to Bergen County Animal Enforcement. Linda Prina stated that the current contract will expire at the end of this month, and received this from Jad Mihalinec and suggested it go on May 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

Councilman Vincentz would like to discuss a letter the Mayor and Council received from Tuminos Towing. Tuminos stated that currently there is a fixed rate and would like to raise those fees. Stephen Pellino stated according to Tuminos there is a state statute passed recently, it's permissible to allow for add-ons for certain towing services such as a charge for the speedy dry, charges for sweeping up and they believe our fee structure is too low and suggested that we raise them by adding on those charges. Stephen Pellino stated that this would apply to towing of private property, or towing that was ordered by the town done by the police, it wouldn't cost any money to the borough, the fees would be incurred by the owners of the vehicle. Councilman Acosta suggested we table this for now and give this to the Chief of Police and let him investigate this matter. Councilman Castelli is hesitant to allow add-ons. He stated that he doesn't want to see the owners have to pay for the towing pay any unnecessary charges.

Stephen Pellino spoke about the company that will be providing the fireworks display and the contract they have provided. Ray Ramirez the Recreation Director stated that he likes the job the company has previously provided in the past several years and believes they are reliable. Stephen Pellino however believes there are some deficiencies in their contract, one being the insurance requirement. The contract currently doesn't list anything about insurance. Linda Prina stated that the company sent everything that the MEL required and stated it's all attached to the contract. Stephen Pellino suggested that the Mayor and Council pass this resolution subject to working out details such as insurance. Linda Prina stated that their insurance expires in May and the renewal begins in June. Linda Prina stated that no one will be permitted to sign it until after they receive the certification. Stephen Pellino stated that everyone may understand that they're required to provide an insurance certification; the contract documentation itself doesn't

state anything about insurance. He advised the Mayor and Council to add this into the contract.

Stephen Pellino stated that Stanley Turitz the attorney for the Board of Education is interested in partnering with the borough in terms of advertising down at Willis Field. Councilman Castelli stated that he is a little aggravated at the fact that in the past we have reached out to the Board of Education and they never reciprocated. Councilman Vincentz stated there was a resolution adopted regarding fundraiser banners hung at Willis Field establishing criteria and guide lines. Nothing in that resolution stated that the Board of Education can not allow parents from using banners for solicitation of fund raising. Nothing prevented them for participating in their own way, nothing said that football, cheerleaders, band, soccer, baseball and track teams could not participate. Councilman Castelli stated there is a little history here regarding Advantage 3, and the laws of New Jersey. Councilman Castelli stated the problem is regarding concessions. He stated that Advantage 3 is considered third party that would make money by getting us advertisements. He stated that we can not have any concessions sponsor any holiday events; he stated that there is a special contract for the Board of Education to sponsor things. Councilman Castelli agrees with the idea of the special contract for the Board of Education, however only if the Board of Education is willing to work in conjunction with the Mayor and Council.

Bruno Associates made a presentation regarding serving the Borough of Ridgefield. Bruno Associates is a company that seeks out funds, all federal, state, and county in foundation grants. Its their responsibility to make sure the borough receives all the funds that the borough is entitled to. There is roughly 125 to 127 federal funding in the state of New Jersey that the borough could be entitled to. Bruno Associates would like to know what the Borough of Ridgefield goals are, help grow Green Acres, Open Space, Re-Development, Police, Fire Etc. Mayor Suarez stated right now the main focus is on developing a new recreation center, making the municipal building ADA accessible and purchasing a new garbage truck. Chris Brown the representative for Bruno Associates stated that for the Borough of Garfield they're helping them expand their school and add on a new recreation center. They have completed a five million dollar expansion for the open acres in Belleville. He stated they completed work in Belleville and were able to expand their children library. Also for Bricktown they were able to create a whole new autistic program for children.

Chris Brown questioned what we do with our Bergen County Community Development money. Mayor Suarez stated an application is submitted every year, we receive a certain amount of money and last year it was spent on repairing some of the roadways. Chris Brown stated that in Bergen County with the population of Ridgefield and what it's accumulated of, that's how the county determines how much money they will give, they'll divide it up in various regions. Councilman Vincentz stated that it comes from the federal government that comes to the county who sends it to the towns. And then there is maps of the towns, based on incomes which may fall in those perimeters and then will qualify.

Mayor Suarez asked how their fee structure work? Chris stated that do not charge by grant to grant, their fee structure is a one year contract, a flat fee that's paid in monthly payments. Mayor Suarez asked what would be the amount paid every month? Chris stated that it varies based on the size of the town and the population. Chris stated based on their research and the amount of hours they anticipate to work, they estimate the yearly fee to be \$40,000 which is payable monthly. They do not take a percentage off any grants receive. They promise to file every grant application possible, whatever the borough wants in the grant writing business they promise they will be there for us.

Mayor Suarez stated one big issue the borough is looking into is, Senior Housing. Chris stated that the money for Senior Housing usually comes through the federal level and through the lower level, DCA. Chris stated a lot of times it depends on the income of the seniors, their total income. Chris stated that a local house authority would have to be created and they can help with that. He stated that he knows of programs/grants that were set up in the past for housing. He stated that Ridgefield is located in an area of funding, that have the statistics on our side, and asked if we had a share service agreement with the Board of Education? Mayor Suarez stated that just certain items, but we don't have any share service agreement for DPW and departments like that, but we share a field and a building. Chris stated that they are able to do something with the share portion of the field and they can help the Borough of Ridgefield. They are available to attend any Mayor and Council meeting and or any committee meeting that's it's considered necessary.

Stephen Pellino asked how they would handle any potential conflicts of interest, for example if they had various municipalities looking at the same grant. Chris stated that the statistics all are different, every population is different and stated that the 41 years they have been in business they have never reached that problem. Councilman Acosta stated that a meeting will be arranged with Erik Lenander and they all can sit down and talk about the various options.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Prina  
Acting Borough Clerk