

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council
Monday, October 21, 2019
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER –

Council President Busted called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Borough Hall.

SILENT PRAYER – FLAG SALUTE

Council President Busted called for a moment of silent prayer and asked everyone to remember the mother of Art DeRosa, our Code Enforcer who passed away this week. Council President Busted asked Councilwoman Davis to lead the salute to the flag.

STATEMENT-

Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meeting Act: This meeting complies with the Open Public Meeting Act by notification on December 21st of this location, date and time to the Ridgewood News and the Record and by posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough Web Site and filing a notice of the same with the Municipal Clerk.

ROLL CALL –

Council President Busted, Councilwoman Davis, Councilman Gautier, Councilwoman Kaufman and Councilman Papaleo were present; Councilman Chinigo was absent.

CLOSED SESSION –

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Davis resolution #19-339 was unanimously approved.

#19-339 Resolution To Go Into Closed Session and Exclude Public

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain enumerated circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances will or presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, as follows:

That the public shall be excluded from the October 21, 2019 regular meeting and discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matter:

<u>Closed Session</u> <u>Docket #</u>	<u>Item Title or Description</u>	<u>Statutory</u> <u>Reference</u>
19-10/21-1	Fire Department – Procedure Report	N.J.S.A. 10:4-12(6)

Formal action may/may not be taken by the Borough of River Edge's Mayor and Council at this meeting.

October 21, 2019

FOR YOUR INFORMATION –

1. Ezio Altamura – GJEM Otterstedt Agency –
Ezio Altamura provided handouts which summarized our 2019 Risk Management Plan through the Bergen County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund and our current claims.
2. Fire Department Capital Purchase – Raymond Poerio explained that at the last meeting there was discussion with regard to potential acquisition of a variety fire apparatus, primarily vehicles. They had some conversation about having the Fire Chief come in to provide additional information on these vehicles. Mr. Poerio told the Council that after this discussion, they will need to give him direction on how they want him to handle two of the items that were already budgeted for. He said that just because you budget an item in your capital budget is not an authorization to purchase it. It takes an action by Council to go ahead to make any purchase from the capital budget the same as purchasing through the operating budget.

George O'Connell- Fire Department Chief & Frank Pugliese, Assistant Chief. Assistant Chief Pugliese is also chairman of the Company 1's committee to replace Squad 7. Chief O'Connell explained that for 2019, they requested a capital purchase for \$175,000 to replace Squad 7 which is a 1983 GMC truck. The Fire Department purchased the current squad truck second hand back in 1997 from the New Milford Fire Department and it was designated at a special operations unit. He explained that it provides a level of service for different situations which initially started as the rope team division of the tri-boro fire system. Since then it has morphed into a unit that carries, in conjunction with OEM, generators and pumps that are needed during power failures. The Fire Department has taken on the responsibility of delivering and setting these things up which are currently stored on Squad 7. He continued to say that because of the way it's constructed, it's utilized for special things such as the collapse of Kress Plaza or the tree that crashed into the house on Park Avenue. It's also used when the south end of town floods because it's the only truck that they can take into the water. He said that just this year, they've pulled 2 – 3 people out of the Steuben House because they can drive it right into the water. He explained the reason why they're able to do this. The Chief said that although it does not go out on every call, it's basically designed to be used during storms. He said that they're looking to replace it with a Ford F550 four wheel drive unit that can used during the winter so they don't tie up an engine or ladder truck to deliver generators and pumps. This truck only sits two people because there are no seat belts in the back. After many attempts to have seat belts put in it, it can't be done because of its age. Frank Pugliese, Assistant Chief-said that this truck has become more of a tool box especially with the needs of OEM. He understands that there's been some discussion about it's use. It's use has been somewhat limited and they would like to expand that. Currently it doesn't have scott packs on it and the new one would have packs and brackets on it. He continued to say that this particular unit did power the Borough Hall during a power outage and ran the police desk for two days. He said that OEM has given them 9 generators and 14 pumps that need to be stored and delivered. On top of that we have all of the rope rescue equipment as they are still the Borough's confined space team for the DPW as well as the air tanks, the cart, the tri-pod, etc. They are also the back-

up confined space team for SUEZ water and house that equipment in the squad as well. He said that this could be something that could supplement the ambulance when they go out to assist them during bad weather. Chief Pugliese explained that basically they chose to upgrade a Ford as opposed to a custom built fire truck which would cost up to \$500,000 - \$700,000. They did speak with the mechanics at the DPW and were told that they stock Ford parts so it wouldn't have to be sent out for special service. He has a listing of all of the calls that the squad has gone on since 2015 which show rescues and assistance. He again said that only two people can ride because of the seat belt situation.

Councilwoman Davis-asked how many people would be able to ride in the new one?

Assistant Chief Pugliese-replied, 6. It will be a crew cab which will have 4 scott packs on it.

Chief O'Connell-said that it will have the same engine and transmission that the DPW is using now.

Assistant Chief Pugliese-said that he knows there was a past discussion about replacing this with a trailer. He said that it was discussed but over the years it has morphed into different things. He said that this particular unit pulled a tree off a house on Bogert Road and assisted in the stabilization of the house on Park Avenue. The unit does get utilized in special cases and they would like to expand on its use.

Councilman Papaleo-said that in the winter of this year they started the budget process and there were many things on the capital budget that raised concerns about whether they would keep them on the budget. At that particular meeting, he suggested they revisit it and come back to it. Soon after we began the process, our CFO/Administrator, Alan Negreann had family issues that required him to suddenly retire and the Mayor had other obligations out of state so the budget process came to an unexpected halt. In the meantime, we looked for a CFO and Borough Administrator and went through a hiring process which eventually leading to the hire of Mr. Poerio. By the time we were able to get back to the process, we were under a deadline and some things got missed. He said that if they had the normal process, he would have raised his concerns about this because during his time as Fire Liaison, he was told that they would spend \$20,000 to \$30,000 for a trailer. It was assured to him that many of the things that they just described could be handled by the ladder or rescue trucks and an expense of \$175,000 was not necessary. It is his understanding that we haven't had a confined space rescue in several years.

Assistant Chief Pugliese-said that's correct.

Councilman Papaleo- said that this also leads him to wonder whether they need to spend \$175,000 on a vehicle that is not serving that purpose although during this presentation they've extended that purpose to rescues of individuals and also delivering generators and pumps. It was his understanding that some of those generators could've been delivered by other vehicles including police vehicles.

Chief O'Connell-explained that during his several meetings with OEM Coordinator Ron Starace, his concern was taking a police officer off the road during emergency conditions which as Councilman Papaleo knows, is organized chaos. There are so many cars on the road and the Fire Department can produce 25 – 30 people during situations like this where they Police Department has 3 guys on the road. 4 if they have the whole shift in. Because the Police Department would be responding to numerous calls for wires down, alarms and aid calls they didn't want to take a car off the road for the purpose of delivering a generator or pump. He said that during his meetings with Ron Starace and Rob Naprstek, he offered the Fire Department's help with that. OEM supplies the Fire Department with a list of names of people in need during emergency situations. The basic idea was to have the Fire Department do it because they would have the most manpower. The DPW is always busy plowing roads and clearing trees and the Fire Department sits and waits for calls. The Chief responded to a questions asked by Councilman Papaleo with regard to the manpower response and the Chief said that on an average call, the turnout is 7 members. He said that they're in a tough situation during the day because many people are

working and it's not uncommon to get 3 guys from each company during the day. He said that he's changed the procedures around which seem to be working out very well.

Assistant Chief Pugliese-said that it's a different scenario during a storm situation because members aren't going to work.

Councilman Papaleo-said that he agrees with that and said that the last purchase that they made, he fought very hard for them. He said he's just not convinced that we need to spend \$175,000 for a piece of equipment that really isn't being used that much. It is his understanding that generators can be put on other equipment that we currently have such as the ladder truck, 3 engines, a rescue as well as 3 Chief vehicles. He isn't sure that there's room for these generators in the back.

Chief O'Connell-replied, no there's not.

Assistant Chief Pugliese- said that if they didn't have this vehicle, that would mean that we would have to take a first line piece of fire apparatus, put a generator on it and send it out on an unplowed street or a street with trees down and tying up a full crew. What they've been doing is sending the Squad.

Councilman Papaleo-said that during Hurricane Sandy, he was fire liaison and remembers that there were engines roaming around as well as engines waiting at the firehouses.

Assistant Chief Pugliese-said that we don't have engines roaming around.

Councilman Papaleo-thought that they were sent out to help with the ambulance squad.

Chief O'Connell-said that they send crews out to assist the ambulance in clearing walkways so that they can get the stretchers in and out. During storm situations, they try and stage the apparatus.

Assistant Chief Pugliese – said that he totally understands his concern but they have a piece of equipment that's 40 years old. If they are heading toward the direction of consolidation of equipment, he completely understands as long as it doesn't affect the level of service that the Fire Department performs.

Councilman Papaleo-said that he agrees with that.

Assistant Chief Pugliese-explained that if he uses a \$500,000 rescue truck to pull people out of Hackensack Avenue and water gets into the intake, there would be \$20,000 worth of damage.

Councilman Papaleo-said that anytime there were emergency calls other than Sandy, we had Hackensack Fire Department respond.

Assistant Chief Pugliese-replied no, sir.

Councilman Papaleo-said that at a structure fire that happened on the north end of town, five different towns responded.

Chief O'Connell-said that structure fires are a different scenario.

Assistant Chief Pugliese-explained that as soon as you add a storm to the mix, you're isolated. He said that during Hurricane Floyd, none of the surrounding towns could get to us. We were literally on our own. During storms, surrounding towns such as Hackensack, New Milford and Oradell are in the same position as River Edge. Everyone is under water.

Council President Busted-asked if they would speak about the enhancements that they plan to make if they move forward with this vehicle that would improve emergency services.

Assistant Chief Pugliese-explained that by going to a crew cab, they are able to carry more members because they'll all have seatbelts. They'll be able to store scott packs, generators and pumps and will be able to carry all of the equipment that they currently have to store. Instead of running back and forth which they currently do now, the equipment will be on the truck. They'll have 4 wheel drive which will help out in snow or mud. Again, he stated that if this isn't financially or fiscally correct, he understands that but they're trying to maintain the level of service that we currently have and make it a little better.

Councilwoman Davis-had a question about being able to go through water where the other trucks can't. She feels that it's a no brainer to have a vehicle that can get through the south end of town when it floods which is quite often.

Assistant Chief Pugliese-said that a year ago in October, they were able to take the Squad in to rescue people from the Von Steuben house. While the boat was still being hooked up, the Squad was able to drive right through because the intakes are raised.

Councilman Papaleo-asked how many inches is that?

Assistant Chief Pugliese-replied that the air intake on the ladder truck might be 24 inches.

Councilman Papaleo-asked what about the rescue?

Assistant Chief Pugliese-replied about the same.

Councilman Papaleo-asked if we still have the boats?

Assistant Chief Pugliese-replied, yes we still have the boats but you wouldn't use the boats in what you would call a deep puddle rescue.

Council President Busted-said that she thinks this has been very helpful and feels that they've gotten a lot of good information. She would like to evaluate as a Council at another time as to how they want to move forward. She asked if someone was looking to take action tonight?

Councilwoman Davis-feels that they've made very good points here tonight. We're replacing a 40 year old vehicle that's going to be more useful especially since we're seeing more flooding in the south end of town.

Council President Busted-asked what the Council would like to do?

Councilwoman Davis-said that she would like to wait until Councilman Chinigo returns.

Councilman Papaleo-agreed that maybe they should wait for Councilman Chinigo.

Raymond Poerio-asked if it came down to a priority of allocating the resources this year for this truck or putting it towards the other truck that you're looking to replace, which one would it be?

Chief O'Connell-explained that the estimate for the other truck is over \$700,000.

Raymond Poerio-asked the Chief which truck he would want quicker?

Chief O'Connell-replied that he would want the Squad quicker because it's the oldest truck and with weather conditions being what they are, it will get used more than the other. He said that the rescue truck was originally designed for motor vehicle accidents. Until the call with the train wreck that we had a few weeks ago, it was 6 ½ years since we used the jaws of life in River Edge.

Assistant Chief Pugliese-said that you still have to be prepared to provide these services.

Raymond Poerio-asked how much the Borough has allocated?

Chief O'Connell-replied that the Borough allocated \$175,000 towards Squad 7 and \$200,000 towards

Raymond Poerio-asked if this is the first year of the \$200,000 towards.....

Chief O'Connell-replied yes.

Raymond Poerio-said that he was under the impression that last year money was allocated.

Chief O'Connell-explained that last year, \$175,000 was allocated for a rescue truck and then Company 2 changed their minds. They've decided to possibly combine two pieces of equipment.

Raymond Poerio-said that they have \$175,000 from last year?

Chief O'Connell-said that he didn't think that money was there anymore. He was told that it's not there anymore.

Councilwoman Davis-said that they didn't spend it, but it's not there.

Chief O'Connell-said that when he spoke with Geeta in Finance he asked if the line still had money in it and she said no.

Council President Busted-said that they will talk about it when they have a full Council and said that this was very helpful. She thanked them for their time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

On motion by Councilman Papaleo, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, the minutes of the Mayor and Council Closed Session Meeting of October 7, 2019 were approved on the following roll call: Councilwoman Busted, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Kaufman and Councilman Papaleo voted

yes; Councilman Gautier abstained.

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, the minutes of the Mayor and Council Work Session Meeting of October 7, 2019 were approved on the following roll call: Councilwoman Busted, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Kaufman and Councilman Papaleo voted yes; Councilman Gautier abstained.

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilwoman Davis, the minutes of the Mayor and Council Regular Meeting of October 7, 2019 were approved on the following roll call: Councilwoman Busted, Councilwoman Davis, Councilwoman Kaufman and Councilman Papaleo voted yes; Councilman Gautier abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA –

On motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilwoman Kaufman to open public comments on any item on the agenda was unanimously approved.

There being no comments by the public, the motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilman Gautier to close public comments on any item on the agenda was unanimously approved.

APPOINTMENTS & PERSONNEL CHANGES –

On motion by Councilman Gautier, seconded by Councilwoman Davis the salary increase of Brenton Prisendorf, Police Officer from an annual salary of \$72,850.00 to Patrol Officer 14th grade salary of \$81,255.00 effective November 3, 2019 was unanimously approved.

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilwoman Davis the resignation of Andrew Slane from the River Edge Volunteer Fire Department, Company 1 effective October 8, 2019 was unanimously approved.

MONTHLY REPORTS –

Land Use Board	-	September 4, 2019 & September 18, 2019
Board of Health	-	September 2019
Tax Collector	-	September 2019
Chief Financial Officer	-	Revenue Report – 10/14/19
Fire Prevention	-	Third Quarter Report – 7/1 – 9/30/19
Historic Commission	-	September 2019

RESOLUTIONS – By Consent

*Councilman Gautier requested that resolutions #19-356 and #19-357 be added to the agenda.

On motion by Councilwoman Davis, seconded by Councilman Gautier resolution #19-340 through #19-354 and #19-356 and #19-357 were unanimously approved.

#19-340 Refund of Construction Bond for Shade Trees for the Property Located at 271 Olympia Drive, River Edge, New Jersey

WHEREAS, Avedis Derbalian deposited a cash construction bond for shade trees adjacent to the

property located at 271 Olympia Drive in the amount of \$8,617.86 on September 26, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission has performed an inspection and has determined that the trees at this location were not affected by construction activity; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission recommends that the bond in the amount of \$8,617.86 be released.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Accounts Supervisor is authorized to make the following refund of \$8,617.86 from the Trust Other Account to:

Avedis Derbalian
271 Olympia Drive
River Edge, NJ 07661

October 21, 2019

#19-341 Forfeit of Construction Bond for Shade Trees at 284 Van Saun Drive, River Edge, New Jersey 07661

WHEREAS, Michael and Sylvia Clancy, 733 7th Avenue, River Edge, New Jersey deposited a cash construction bond for shade trees adjacent to the property located at 284 Van Saun Drive in the amount of \$1,876.90 on June 6, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission has performed an inspection and has determined that the Borough needs to remove and replace one of the trees due to severe stress and decline as a result of the construction activity; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission recommends that the original bond amount of \$1,876.90 be used to remove and replace the tree; and

WHEREAS, the Borough will remove the tree, grind the stump and plant a replacement tree.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to transfer \$1,876.90 from the Trust Other-Performance Bonds-Shade Tree Account to the Trust Other-Donations Shade Tree Commission Account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Shade Tree Commission recommends that the bond in the amount of \$1,876.90 be forfeited and the Chief Financial Officer shall adjust his records accordingly.

October 21, 2019

#19-342 Forfeit of Construction Bond for Shade Trees at 43 Washington Avenue, River Edge, New Jersey 07661

WHEREAS, DAB Builders deposited a cash construction bond for shade trees adjacent to the property located at 43 Washington Avenue in the amount of \$2,764.69 on August 2, 2018; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the Borough tree was removed during construction; and

WHEREAS, as discussed prior to construction, the bond amount for \$2,764.69 was put aside for

the tree removal permit which included fees for the value of the existing street tree and a fee to replace one tree located on the town right-of-way adjacent to this property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to transfer \$2,764.69 from the Trust Other-Performance Bonds-Shade Tree Account to the Trust Other-Donations Shade Tree Commission Account.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Shade Tree Commission recommends that the bond in the amount of \$2,764.69 be forfeited and the Chief Financial Officer shall adjust his records accordingly.

October 21, 2019

Council President Busted-asked if any residents in the vicinity need to be noticed that these signs are going up, especially because they are flashers?

Raymond Poerio-said that he would have to look into it. If needed, we will go ahead and notice them.

#19-343 Authorize Clerk to Go Out for Bid for Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon Pedestrian Crossing Signs at the Intersections of Kinderkamack Road and Wayne Avenue, Kinderkamack Road and Clarendon Court and Myrtle Avenue and Midland Avenue

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge desires to go out for bid for Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon Pedestrian Crossing Signs at the Intersections of Kinderkamack Road and Wayne Avenue, Kinderkamack Road and Clarendon Court and Myrtle Avenue and Midland Avenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorized to advertise in THE RECORD for the purpose for providing said service.

October 21, 2019

#19-344 Refund of Construction Bond for Shade Trees for the Property Located at 147 Concord Drive, River Edge, New Jersey

WHEREAS, Keltic Woodwork & Construction Management LLC, deposited a cash construction bond for shade trees adjacent to the property located at 147 Concord Drive in the amount of \$3,325.82 on June 9, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission has performed an inspection and has determined that the trees at this location were not affected by construction activity; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission recommends that the bond in the amount of \$3,325.82 be released.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Accounts Supervisor is authorized to make the following refund of \$3,325.82 from the Trust Other Account to:

Keltic Woodwork & Construction Management LLC
12 Helen Street
Little Ferry, NJ 07643

October 21, 2019

#19-345 Refund of Construction Bond for Shade Trees for the Property Located at 199 Greenway Terrace, River Edge, New Jersey

WHEREAS, Keltic Woodwork & Construction Management LLC, deposited a cash construction bond for shade trees adjacent to the property located at 199 Greenway Terrace in the amount of \$2,188.54 on November 18, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission has performed an inspection and has determined that the trees at this location were not affected by construction activity; and

WHEREAS, the Shade Tree Commission recommends that the bond in the amount of \$2,188.54 be released.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Accounts Supervisor is authorized to make the following refund of \$2,188.54 from the Trust Other Account to:

Keltic Woodwork & Construction Management LLC
12 Helen Street
Little Ferry, NJ 07643

October 21, 2019

#19-346 Resolution Authorizing Chief Financial Officer to Cancel New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Loan Payable and for the New Jersey "Environmental Infrastructure Trust Loan"

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge received approval for a loan through the State of New Jersey for a loan entitled "New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Loan"; and

WHEREAS, the loan was taken in 1999 for the elimination of two (2) sewer pump stations and the implementation of a shared service with the Borough of Paramus to process the sewerage; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge made principal and interest payments from 1999 to its last payment in June of 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has on its books and records an account payable of \$565.06 and a deferred charge of \$565.06; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has investigated the account payable and deferred charge balance and has recommended that they can be cancelled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer is authorized to cancel the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Loan Payable and Deferred Charges to Future Taxation Funded both in the amount of \$565.06.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby instructed to adjust the records accordingly.

October 21, 2019

#19-347 Cancel Unexpended Appropriations

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has on its books and records unexpended appropriations; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the following unexpended balances of the Current Fund of the 2019 Budget will not be required.

D) Municipal Debt Service

Principal on Loan	(45-9442)	\$836.88
Interest on Loan	(45-9452)	\$686.57

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the aforementioned unexpended balances be and are hereby ordered cancelled.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer is hereby instructed to adjust his records accordingly.

October 21, 2019

#19-348 Authorize Cancellation of Accounts Payable

WHEREAS, there exists various accounts payable on the books of the Current Fund; and

WHEREAS, the various purchase orders and contracts creating these accounts payable have been investigated and it has been determined that these should be cancelled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following accounts payable in the following amounts are hereby cancelled.

<u>P.O. #</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
34327	Adorama	\$ 369.99	Sony Camera/Recorder
31311	McNerney & Associates	\$ 700.00	Tax Appeal
33330	Phoenix Advisors	\$ 1,150.00	Continuing Disclosure
33796	Thomas Sarlo, Esq.	\$15,000.00	Legal Services
34685	Robert Costa	\$ 5,000.00	DEP Permits - Compost
34679	Robert Costa	\$ 1,830.00	Crosswalk-Kinderkamack & Wayne

October 7, 2019

#19-349 Authorize Tax Collector to Adjust 4th Quarter Taxes for a 2019 Veteran Deduction Allowed

WHEREAS, the following homeowner(s) filed a Veteran Application for a deduction in the amount of \$250.00 and was approved by the Tax Assessor on 9/18/19 for the year 2019; and

WHEREAS, the deduction was not listed in the 2019 Tax Duplicate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to adjust her records to allow the 2019 deduction for the following amount.

<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Name & Address</u>	<u>Deduction</u>	<u>Adjust</u>
815/12	Michael Machuca 461 Bogert Road River Edge, NJ 07661	Veteran	\$250.00

October 21, 2019

#19-350 Authorize Refund from Recreation Dedicated Account

WHEREAS, residents signed up for Men's Fall Softball; and

WHEREAS, the residents inadvertently paid in full twice for this program and are requesting a refund; and

WHEREAS, a refund will be made to the following:

Ken Garrabrant \$48.00
174 Monroe Avenue
River Edge, NJ 07661

Ed Crane \$48.00
410 Kinderkamack Road
River Edge, NJ 07661

Andrew Astarita \$96.00 (2 registrations)
232 Midland Avenue
River Edge, NJ 07661

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a total of \$192.00 be refunded from the Recreation Dedicated Account #T-18-55-286-004 to the above listed residents.

October 21, 2019

#19-351 Purchase of Computers Through State Contract

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge desires to purchase computers and software from Dell/EMC; and

WHEREAS, the vendor, Dell/EMC is an approved State Contract participant, bearing the State Contract #M0483; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #04-2150-55-1913-200 of the Capital Fund in the amount not to exceed \$30,000.00; and

WHEREAS, N.J.A.C. 5:34-1.2 requires that any local contracting unit purchasing pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12, must award the contract by a resolution of the Governing Body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is authorized to accept the State Contract bid on the purchase of computers as per the State's specifications in an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00.

October 21, 2019

#19-352 Authorize Tax Collector to Adjust 4th Quarter 2019 Taxes for a Veteran Deduction Reinstated

WHEREAS, the following homeowner filed a Veteran Deduction Application and was approved in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the deduction was deleted from the County records in 2019 in error; and

WHEREAS, the deduction was reinstated by the Tax Assessor for the year 2019; and

WHEREAS, the deduction was not listed in the 2019 Tax Duplicate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to adjust the 4th Quarter final taxes for the deduction amount.

<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Name & Address</u>	<u>Deduction</u>	<u>Adjusted Amount</u>
501/4	Edward H. Winkler 5 Kimberly Way	Veteran	250.00

October 21, 2019

#19-353 Resolution to Approve the State of New Jersey Best Practice Survey for the Borough of River Edge

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey passed legislation requiring that the Division of Local Government Services determine how much of each municipality's final allocation of CMPTRA aid and Energy Receipts aid will be dispersed to them based on the results of a Best Practices Inventory; and

WHEREAS, the Best Practice Survey shall be prepared by the Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body has reviewed and agreed with the Best Practice Inventory results as prepared by the Chief Financial Officer presented at their meeting of October 21, 2019; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the survey shall be placed on file and made available for public inspection in the office of the Borough Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Borough of River Edge hereby approves the Best Practice Survey submitted by the Chief Financial Officer.

October 21, 2019

#19-354 Enter Into Agreement with Pulice/Williams Architects, 344 Broad Avenue, Leonia, New Jersey 07605 for the Department of Public Works Roof Restoration

WHEREAS, there exists a need to retain professional services related to the Department of Public Works Roof Restoration; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the annual aggregate value of the service may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, Pulice/Williams Architects meets the criteria for a professional service contract under N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1; and

WHEREAS, Pulice/Williams Architects has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that Pulice/Williams Architects has not made any reportable contributions to a political or candidate committee in the Borough of River Edge Governing Body in the previous one year, and that the contract will prohibit Pulice/Williams Architects from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available from Account #C-04-19-013-151 of the Capital Fund in the amount not to exceed \$4,500.00; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) requires that the resolution authorizing the award of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids and the contract itself must be available for public inspection.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge as follows:

1. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached agreement with Pulice/Williams Architects, 344 Broad Avenue, Leonia, New Jersey, 07605 in the amount of \$4,500.00.
2. The Business Disclosure Entity Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this resolution; and
3. The contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Service" in accordance with 40A:11-5(l)(a) of the Local Public Contracts Law because the service performed is by a person authorized to practice a recognized profession.
4. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the RIDGEWOOD NEWS for publication.

October 21, 2019

#19-356 Resolution Vacating the Suspension of River Edge Fire Department Captain Timothy Carroll

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2019, Timothy Carroll was suspended from the River Edge Fire Department for a period of four (4) months; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carroll's suspension was based on his record keeping duties as Captain and his method in

calculating averages for firematics, clothing allowances and LOSAP for members of Company No. 1; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2019, Timothy Carroll was removed from suspension and authorized to return to full duty as Captain of the River Edge Fire Department Company 1; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief notified the Borough of Timothy Carroll's suspension; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has undertaken its own review of Mr. Carroll's suspension and the underlying basis for same; and

WHEREAS, based on the Borough's review and investigation, the Council has determined that Timothy Carroll's suspension was improper since there was no policy governing how to calculate the different averages and Mr. Carroll was never trained or instructed on how to do so; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey:

1. That the suspension of Timothy Carroll is hereby vacated; and
and he is credited for the four months during which he was suspended.
2. That Timothy Carroll is hereby credited for the four months during which he was suspended making him eligible for advancement to Deputy Chief in the upcoming Fire Department elections.

October 21, 2019

#19-357 Resolution Reversing the Denial of the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) Payment

WHEREAS, the Borough of River Edge has created a Length of Service Program (LOSAP) for its volunteer firefighters by way of Ordinance #1289; and

WHEREAS, the River Edge Fire Department denied LOSAP payments to John P. Younis for the year 2018 because it was adjudged that Mr. Younis did not meet the required credits/averages to qualify; and

WHEREAS, there remains a question as to whether Mr. Younis qualified for LOSAP payments; and

WHEREAS, for financial reason the Mayor and Council feels that it is in the best interest of taxpayers to award LOSAP to John Pl. Younis for 2018; and

WHEREAS, all other names as submitted by the Fire Chief are hereby approved for the 2018 LOSAP payment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of River Edge, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey hereby:

1. The River Edge Fire Department's denial of John P. Younis' LOSAP payments for the year 2018 is reversed for the reasons set forth in this resolution.
2. The River Edge Fire Department is directed to amend its 2018 LOSAP award in conformance with this resolution.

October 21, 2019

Councilwoman Kaufman read resolution #19-355 into the record.

On motion by Councilwoman Kaufman, seconded by Councilwoman Davis resolution #19-355 was unanimously approved.

#19-355 Payment of Bills

WHEREAS, vouchers for the payment of goods and services rendered to the Borough of River Edge have been received; and

WHEREAS, each bill has been checked by the receiving department, approved by the Chief Financial Officer and Borough Clerk and reviewed by the three members of the Finance Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that bills as listed now be confirmed for payment from the appropriate funds as follows:

CURRENT ACCOUNT	\$1,177,719.76
CAPITAL ACCOUNT	\$ 25,574.00
GRANT FUND ACCOUNT	\$ 1,696.00
ANIMAL CONTROL ACCOUNT	\$ 376.00
TRUST OTHER ACCOUNT	\$ 9.41
OPEN SPACE ACCOUNT	\$ 147.93
PAYROLL ACCOUNT	\$ 79,232.16
DEVELOPERS ESCROW ACCOUNT	\$ 3,487.50
RECREATION ACCOUNT	\$ 106.31

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that claims read and approved by the Governing Body at a Council meeting will be dated the day after the reading of those claims and will appear on the following bill list at the next public meeting of the Mayor and Council at which time claims would be paid.

October 21, 2019

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR'S TOPICS –

1. Best Practices-Raymond Poerio stated that since the Council just passed resolution 19-353 approving the Best Practice Survey, he assumes that they have no questions.

2. Parking Permits for Grove Street Residents-Raymond Poerio said that a while back the Council had received an email from a resident who had concerns about Grove Street and that she did not have the ability to park on the street. Officer Diamond included a report and a recommendation for the Council that says that the Police Department and Traffic & Safety Committee have no objections in amending the ordinance to allow this resident to purchase 2 out of the 13 parking permits that are allocated. Mr. Poerio said if this is the direction they want him to take, he will have an amended ordinance ready for introduction at the next council meeting.

Council President Busted-said she has spoken with the resident and is fine with amending the ordinance. She doesn't think it stops with that one home, she believes that there's a home across the street who is having similar difficulties with parking. If we were to do this, she would like to make sure that we're giving ample opportunity to the neighbor across the street. She doesn't know if that impacts the Police Department's recommendation.

Raymond Poerio- said he would look into it and if it's something that the Police Department feels is a workable solution, he'll have an ordinance prepared for the next Council meeting.

Councilman Papaleo-asked if this opens a door? Could any resident between Kinderkamack and Bogert ask for the same thing?

Raymond Poerio-said that there's nothing preventing any resident from making a request. Ultimately it becomes Council's decision whether you want to grant that request and whether you want to pass or amend the ordinance respectively.

Councilman Papaleo-said that he brings that up because early on when he was on the Council, 7-8 years ago, the Chief came forward and said that they couldn't create private parking on public streets and that he would not issue this type of parking permits.

Council President Busted-said that this is in the business lot not for purchase to park on the street.

Councilman Papaleo-said that's why he asked the question because they're not saying that we are giving permit for public streets, we're giving them for our parking lot. He asked Mr. Poerio if that was his understanding.

Raymond Poerio-said that he will do further research and get back to them.

Council President Busted-asked Mr. Poerio to reach out to the resident and let them know where we stand.

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

On motion by Councilman Gautier, seconded by Councilwoman Kaufman to open for public comments was unanimously approved.

Christina Amirian-183 Kensington Road-said that she has sent emails to Councilwoman Davis and Chief O'Connell regarding the siren at Kensington and Elm and thanked them for their responsiveness. She would like to come up with an alternative notification system that would serve everyone in town. She suggested talking with other fire departments to collect facts and data and commission a few studies to understand pluses and minuses of the choices in order to make the best decision. She said that in the past residents have complained about the sirens but to date, there have been no analysis, facts or studies used to determine the best course of action. The last time this issue was discussed there was only 1 piece of analysis done by the County Health Department measuring sound produced by the siren. She said now we have available studies on public health effects of this kind of noise on people. She named the different types of studies that are of no cost to the public. She emailed the reports to Ms. Davis in preparation for the meeting tonight. She concludes that they will feel that leaving the siren operational in a residential area is a public health issue with consequences for adults and children alike. She would like to revisit the issue of removing or relocating the siren in the residential area of Kensington and Elm. She doesn't believe that there's been any action or analysis by the Fire Department to date to find alternatives despite requests by the community. She said that this is a choice

by the town and is completely reversible and within the Council's power to improve the quality of life and public health in town. She would like the Council to revisit what purpose the sirens serve and would like them to look into other alternatives that are available.

Mike Rosenberg, Esq.-asked if she has spoken with the Fire Chief about her concerns personally.

Christina Amirian-replied yes, she's been emailing back and forth with him.

Mike Rosenberg-asked what his opinion is.

Christina Amirian-said that she did not ask him if we could get rid of the siren. In the past she knows that the Fire Chief's felt it was very important to be able to reach the firefighters reliably. She said we all want them to be reached reliably but the issue is how should they be reached reliably.

Mike Rosenberg-said that River Edge is not the only town that has them and he knows it's been an issue in other towns as well.

Christina Amirian-mentioned that Whippany used the same method to alert their fire department and in their assessment, 20 years ago they decided that the technology was at a point where it wasn't necessary anymore. If the decision or if it's in the interest of the public that this air raid siren remains, what is the rationale for it being in this residential area? She said that the residents in her area have dealt with it for 50 years and feels that another part of River Edge should shoulder the burden.

Council President Busted-said that they received this information about 6:00 this evening so they will need some time to review it. She said that she appreciates her comments and well thought discussion with us tonight. She would like them to discuss this topic at a future work session because she would like to understand how similar municipalities of size and volunteer service have handled the removal of sirens.

Council President Busted said that although Ms. Amirian referred to Whippany, Whippany is a very different community with their fire service. She would like to get comparisons from municipalities similar to us.

Councilman Papaleo-said that the last time this issue came up, the Council at that time felt that the Fire Department's recommendation for public safety was the preeminent opinion we needed to follow. He feels that the Fire Department would need to weigh in on this before the Council starts discussions so that they have criteria and parameters to discuss it.

Council President Busted-said she would like the Fire Department to provide a review of this to look at similar municipalities that have been successful in removing these sirens as part of their analysis.

Mike Rosenberg-suggested that they look into Closter.

Councilwoman Davis-stated that they did change the times when the siren goes off. The only go off until 11 p.m. unless if it's a structure fire or life threatening situation.

Christina Amirian-she wonders if there has been any negative consequences as a result of taking 3 of the sirens off line.

Councilman Papaleo-said that it was about 7 years ago and one of the things that was reviewed was the siren that she's talking about, was the one most south. In addition as an accommodation, because they do understand how loud they can be, the Fire Department went through 4 different ramp ups and ramp downs. The decibels are not controlled by how much energy, but how long you ramp it up. Right now, it doesn't go to it's full decibel level. The Fire Department sent their members to the southern most parts of town as well as the western most part of town and ran these different scenarios. They determined what would be the least amount of ramping up and what would be the least amount of cycles to be able to notify everyone in town. The firefighters did look into different technology solutions, because we have to have a solution if we decommission them.

Christina Amirian-said "or you can just move the siren".

Councilman Papaleo-said that the residents who bought homes in the area of the sirens, the sirens were already there. To move the siren, would now be placing residents who bought homes that were not in the area of sirens. He feels that would be a concern. He feels that she has legitimate concerns and feels that it wouldn't hurt to review it again. Because he had gone through it, he feels it's important to have the Fire Department weigh in. He feels that we need to have a solution other than moving the siren. He doesn't think we could do that without entering into a lot of liability and lawsuits.

Christina Amirian-said that her neighbor next door to her was unaware of the siren when they bought the

house and feels that it's not a selling feature to a neighborhood. She said that it's incredibly unpleasant and is unfair that one group of residents really have to shoulder the burden for the entire town.

Lou Grasso-172 Lozier Terrace-spoke with regard to the business parking lot on Grove Street. He said that he's the owner and managing member of 840-846 Kinderkamack Road. He stated that back in 2014, the parking for businesses on Kinderkamack Road between Lincoln and Washington was almost non-existent. Back then, former Mayor Moscaritolo suggested constructing a business parking lot on an empty piece of Borough property which was not serving any purpose. The business parking lot was formed and the process which is currently in place was that employees of businesses could purchase a permit and be permitted to park back there during business hours. After that happened, the parking situation on Kinderkamack Road greatly improved and was a massive improvement to all of the business owners. You can drive by during the day and actually see empty spaces between Lincoln and Washington where prior to that, there were never any spots. He feels that by allowing residents to park in this area is setting a dangerous precedent because now you're allowing residents to park in a business parking lot. It will open the doors to other residents coming and asking to park in that business parking lot. The business districts need to have as much help as possible because we don't have any municipal lots. The only parking area in existence for these employees and business owners is this lot. He said that the occupancy on that lot changes. Some years permits are all taken and sometimes there are still 4 or 5 permits available. He feels that the residents have the ability to park in front of their house, they can park on Park Avenue and feels that they have other options. He really doesn't think it's a good idea to sell permits to residents. He said that there's a paper street that goes between Grove and Lincoln and there was talk of taking that street and making additional spaces there which never happened. To now go backwards and say we're going to take some of the existing spaces away from the businesses is preposterous. He said this is a lot that's borough owned and not a public street. He owns the strip of land that he provided the Borough an easement which he had no qualms about and was compensated \$1 for. To take this business parking lot and open the door to residents when there are plenty of others areas to park he thinks would be horrendous for the businesses that are on that strip.

Council President Busted-said that the Police Department has been looking at that lot for months taking counts and it was their recommendation based on the counts that there is flexibility to take 2, 3 or 4 of these spots away. The residents on Grove Street are being continually ticketed for parking in front of their house and she feels that it's unfair to them. She said that his points are very well taken and she assumes that the Police Department had verified the number of permits during that period of time that were purchased.

Lou Grasso-he said that it's a fluid situation because he's gone in years past to get purchased and was told that they were all sold.

Council President Council-again stated that the recommendation was based on research that the Police Department had been doing over a period of time. Councilman Chinigo has been involved with the Traffic & Safety Committee to come up with this recommendation. Councilman Chinigo was not able to make the meeting tonight so perhaps they'll want to hear from him at the next meeting before they take any additional action.

Lou Grasso-again said that he thinks it opens the door because you may have other residents coming in with the same request. He asked, where does it stop?

Council President Busted-wonders whether they had looked at other solutions for the residents. She felt that his points are very well taken and looks forward to hearing from Councilman Chinigo the next times he's present. She went to Grove Street to visit the neighbors and said that they're really having a difficult time.

Lou Grasso-feels that the paper street should be paved which would open up parking for the residents. Right now there are boulders there so no one can go through. He has spoken to the owners of the businesses since the parking lot was added and they've said that it's helped them out dramatically.

Council President Busted-agreed with him but feels that we have to be mindful of the residents that are on that street. She feels it's important to hear from Councilman Chinigo or Officer Diamond to address the Council and all that they've reviewed to come up with this recommendation.

Councilman Papaleo-agreed. He pulled out a copy of the plans for the parking lot. He asked why the residents are getting ticketed outside of their homes? Is it for parking outside their home for a 2 hour period?

If so, that goes back to what he asked the Borough Administrator because anyone living between Kinderkamack and Bogert also get a ticket for parking in front of their homes.

Council President Busteed-said she's not sure about that.

Councilman Papaleo-said that he's not against it, he's just saying that he keeps information in his drawer for any project that may come back if anyone wants to take a look.

Council President Busteed-asked Mr. Poerio to reach out to Officer Diamond to obtain more information than was he provided in his analysis.

Lou Grasso-assumes that the 2 hour parking on Grove was to stop commuters from parking on Grove.

Council President Busteed-said sometimes you solve one problem and in turn have another problem down the road.

Lou Grasso-again voiced concerns about taking spots away from the businesses and at what point do you stop? He said that he gave the Borough in good faith an easement for \$1 to alleviate the problem and would hate to see this happen.

Cindy Bequeaith-745 7th Avenue-said that before moving to River Edge she lived in San Diego. They had taken down a siren in her neighborhood for the same reasons and one night was a fire at 3 a.m., and the only way they knew to evacuate was through reverse 911. There was no longer a siren to alert people that there was a problem. She's not saying that this is the exact situation, but cell phones are not always reliable. She grew up a few blocks from where that siren is and remembers it being loud. However she feels that you can't trust a cell phone. After hearing the annual report from our Risk Consultant, she said that as a volunteer for the 4th of July, she wasn't made to sign any waiver in case something happened.

Mike Rosenberg, Esq.-stated that those waivers don't always work.

Cindy Bequeaith-said that she's not saying that they do, but feels that putting something like that into place is a no brainer. She would like the Council to consider doing that. With regard to the Community Center, she would like the Council to consider moving all handicapped parking spaces from the new upper lot down to the Library lot where the ground is flat. She would prefer to have the seniors only have a level area to walk on. She said that she would appreciate if someone would look into it.

Raymond Poerio-asked if she means once the project is done or is she saying as of today.

Cindy Bequeaith-said that there's no handicapped spaces on that new lot that have been marked off as handicapped. She feels that any incline is a potential hazard and doesn't feel that any senior who is using a mobility device should be at risk by walking on a ramp. She also spoke about the many sidewalks in town that have been uprooted by tree roots and thought that when a house was sold, the seller must repair the sidewalk before the town grants a C.O. A property around the corner from her was just sold and that did not happen. The town granted a C.O. without making the seller fix the sidewalk. She spoke with the new owner who said that he may have to pay to fix it. She feels that in good faith, if a mistake was by the town and a C.O. was signed unintentionally, they should go back, take a look and fix it for this new owner.

Council President Busteed-asked if she knew the property number?

Cindy Bequeaith-said that she doesn't know, but it faces 8th Avenue. She again asked if someone would take a look at it. She said that she attended an event over the weekend hosted by a group called Cedar Jam which a fundraiser for the Wyckoff Volunteer Fire Dept. and Ambulance Corp. She said that it was a wonderful musical performance and was wondering if we could do something like that in our community. She said that she would be more than happy to spear head it.

Council President Busteed-suggested that she speak with someone from the Fire Department and REVAS to see if that's something they would like to do.

On motion by Councilman Gautier, seconded by Councilman Papaleo to close public comments was unanimously approved.

COUNCIL COMMENTS -

Councilwoman Davis-said that she noticed that the Health Department put out that the New Jersey Department of Health Created Resources for Public Awareness regarding vaping. The links are: Inccorruptible.us and VapeFactsNJ.com. and gives all up to date information for parents, teachers, coaches or health care providers. She feels that this is a good thing to get out to the public since this is such a big issue right now.

She will report on Fire and Ambulance at the next meeting.

Councilman Gauter-announced that on October 23rd, the staff at the Library will have a training event on the Bccls programs and will be closed until 1:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Kaufman-reported that this Saturday at 2 p.m. is our Halloween Parade where she will be a judge for the costume contest. She attended a conference last week on the high price of pharmaceuticals. Some at the conference mentioned that there is a program called Senior Gold for seniors who are having trouble affording their medications. The phone number to call for more information is 1-800-792-9745.

Council President Busted-reported that the River Edge Stigma Free Initiative will host a program on October 24th on hoarding. If anyone is interested in attending, it will lead by a professional who will explain the resources that are out there for anyone who has this problem. This seminar will be held at 7 p.m. at the Library. Council President will also be attending the Halloween Parade and mentioned that the Recreation Department is finalizing their schedule for next year. Carolyn, the Rec Director is looking to add additional programming including a possible "Taste of River Edge" event with local restaurants. Plans are underway to add a menorah to their display at borough hall during the holiday season as well.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:35 P.M.

On motion by Councilman Gautier, seconded by Councilwoman Davis to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Council President Ellen Busted

Attest:

Stephanie Evans, Borough Clerk

Dated: