# TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
# TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OPEN PUBLIC WORK SESSION
# SECOND FLOOR MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM
# TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Kevin J. Rooney opened the Work Session Meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the second floor municipal court room.

Municipal Clerk Santimauro read the Open Public Work Session statement: "This Open Public Work Session Meeting of the Wyckoff Township Committee is now in session. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting appears on our Annual Schedule of meetings. A copy of said Annual Schedule has been posted on the Bulletin Board in Memorial Town Hall; a copy has been filed with the Municipal Clerk, The Record, The Ridgewood News and the North Jersey Herald and News – all newspapers having general circulation throughout the Township of Wyckoff. At least 48 hours prior to this meeting the Agenda thereof was similarly posted, filed and mailed to said newspapers."

**Present:** Mayor Kevin J. Rooney, Committeemen Douglas J. Christie, Haakon C. Jepsen, Brian D. Scanlan and Rudolf E. Boonstra
**Also Present:** Township Administrator Robert J. Shannon, Jr., Township Attorney Robert Landel and Municipal Clerk Joyce C. Santimauro

Mayor Rooney opened the meeting for the ten (10) minute total public comment period for any item on or off the Agenda, two (2) minutes per speaker, with a motion from Committeeman Scanlan, seconded by Committeeman Jepsen.

There was no public comment.

Committeeman Scanlan motioned to close the public comment period, seconded by Committeeman Jepsen with an affirmative voice vote.

Mayor Rooney advised that the Finance Committee has reviewed and signed vouchers.

## Township Committee Reports:

### Haakon Jepsen:

1. Mr. Jepsen attended the Environmental Commission Meeting on Monday February 16, 2015 where the Pilgrim Pipeline Project was discussed. Representatives from the Environmental Commissions of Oakland and Mahwah were present and provided their opinions regarding the pipeline. A consensus of the Environmental Commission members existed to oppose the project based on their knowledge and research. For the next meeting, the Environmental Commission will draft a sample resolution and refer same to the governing body for review and consideration.

2. Mr. Jepsen met with Richard Lynch to discuss the strategic plan for the maintenance and preservation of the Zabriskie House. The Zabriskie House Trustees are meeting this evening to finalize that strategic plan. Mr. Jepsen suggested starting a future meeting early at 7:00 p.m. to allow the trustees to attend a Township Committee Meeting to present their plans for the Zabriskie House. Mayor Rooney inquired if the Zabriskie House Trustee Meetings are open to the public. A conversation ensued and Mr. Jepsen advised he would contact the Township Attorney for a reply to that question. The Township Attorney indicated that the Zabriskie House is a private, separate trust from the Township and the deed that created the trust also created the original trustees. However, the Township Committee could ask the Trust to voluntarily comply with the Open Public Meetings Act.

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3. Mr. Jepsen suggested to the Administrator that when he issues social media information such as reminding residents of their legal obligation to shovel snow from a fire hydrant, that he not cite the Township of Wyckoff Code which establishes that requirement. There are times when "social media" information that is lengthy may not be fully read. Mayor Rooney indicated that the Township originally issued an "Adopt a Hydrant" public service announcement which was not working. Therefore, the alternate approach was to state the legal requirement at the fire department's request. Mr. Jepsen remarked that our nascent social media approach should not be used to "nag" residents but to encourage them to follow through with the task at hand.

**Brian Scanlan:**

1. Mr. Scanlan has been in communication with the Zabriskie House Trustees concerning a State grant for historic preservation with a due date of April 1, 2015 which is unrealistic. However, Mr. Scanlan points out that the Bergen County Open Space Historical Grant Program has an application due date of September 1, 2015. Also, Mr. Scanlan will be attending the work session at the Hermitage in Ho-Ho-Kus concerning historic preservation grant applications.

2. Mr. Scanlan attended the most recent meeting of the Wyckoff K-8 Board of Education.

3. Mr. Scanlan attended the most recent Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting in February where a passive recreation subcommittee was established and many good ideas for passive recreation programs have been put forward specifically, movies under the stars and permanent chess boards/tables at various parks.

4. The Recreation Department, working in partnership with the Wyckoff Free Public Library, was able to accommodate forty-three (43) coaches trained for concussion awareness at the Library recently.

5. At the last Wyckoff Board of Health Meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2015, the Board is requesting, as part of the Mayor's Wellness Program, that the Township Committee consider a resolution establishing a Mental Health Stigma Free Zone in the Township.

6. In his role as CERT Liaison, Mr. Scanlan provided the list of events the CERTS participated in for 2014.

**Doug Christie:**

1. A sixty (60) year firefighter passed away two (2) weeks ago, Ray Hopf. Firefighter Hopf resided on Voorhis Avenue and will be deeply missed.

2. The Wyckoff Volunteer Fire Department has responded to eighty-three (83) calls for assistance from January 1, 2015 thru today.

3. The information on clearing snow from and around the perimeter of a fire hydrant is an important and significant issue for the fire department. The volunteer firefighters spend an excessive amount of time training on such firematic functions, such as search and rescue, fire suppression, pump operations and ladder operations. To expect the Wyckoff Volunteer Fire Department volunteers to shovel snow from all 573 fire hydrants in the Township of Wyckoff is unfair. What may be difficult to understand is that

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when a fire call comes in in the middle of the night or early morning hours, a firefighter is assigned to alight the truck cab, pull off the hose and wrap the hose around the fire hydrant as the truck pulls up to the scene of the fire. The firefighter must then connect the hose to the fire hydrant. In winter months, if the firefighter forgets to pull off a shovel and there is snow surrounding the fire hydrant, the firefighter must then remove the snow and ice from the fire hydrant for the water supply with his/her hands, thereby losing precious time at the fire scene. It does not seem unreasonable that property owners with a fire hydrant in front of their home could assist the fire department help them or their neighbors by clearing snow from around the perimeter of the fire hydrant.
This past weekend, volunteer firefighters from all three (3) companies went out on Saturday to dig out a number of snow buried fire hydrants.

4. Mr. Christie has been attending numerous budget meetings however, Mayor Rooney will comment on the status of the budget.

**Rudy Boonstra:**

1. Mr. Boonstra stopped by Town Hall on Sunday morning and noticed the custodian's vehicle parked nearby. Mr. Ken Dyer informed Mr. Boonstra that a frozen water pipe burst in the boiler room causing the heat to shut down. A repair to the broken water pipe was instituted immediately. Mr. Boonstra thanked Ken Dyer, Scott Fisher and Joe Vander Plaat for their work.

2. Mr. Boonstra attended the reciting of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in Hebrew at the Temple Emanuel in Franklin Lakes on Monday, February 16, 2015, President's Day.

3. Thursday, February 19, 2015 is the Board of Adjustment Meeting and the Christian Health Care Center will conduct a Special Board of Adjustment Meeting on Monday, March 2, 2015.

4. Mr. Boonstra read the Administrator's memorandum regarding affordable housing fees and requested additional information from the Administrator.

**Mayor Rooney:**

1. On Wednesday, February 4, 2015 Mayor Rooney attended the Wyckoff Family YMCA Annual Meeting and administered the Oaths of Office to new and current YMCA Board of Trustee members.

2. Mayor Rooney attended the January Library Board of Trustees Meeting.

3. Mayor Rooney attended a New Jersey DOT Diagnostic Team Meeting at the Charles Avenue Railroad crossing with Police Chief Fox, DPW Manager Fisher, Administrator Shannon and Township Attorney Landel. The purpose of the meeting was to review the petition that the Wyckoff Family YMCA has submitted requesting a public crossing over the Charles Avenue Railroad Crossing to the Pulis Soccer Field Facility and Spring Meadow Drive. The representatives from NJDOT indicated that if approved the crossing will take approximately 1½ years with an estimated completion date of Spring 2016.

4. Mayor Rooney attended a meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at the Bergen County Dispatch Center in Mahwah with Police Chief Fox and representatives from the Wyckoff Volunteer Fire Department and the

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Wyckoff Volunteer Ambulance Corps. The purpose of the meeting was to review the dispatch operation and the various emergency service protocols and their functionality. All were of the opinion that the dispatch operation is functioning well.

5. On Monday, February 9, 2015 Mayor Rooney attended a budget meeting.

6. On Tuesday, February 10, 2015 Mayor Rooney attended a Wyckoff Day Planning Meeting for the June 6, 2015 event at the Wyckoff Family YMCA. Mayor Rooney also met with the Police Department and later in the day the Wyckoff K-8 Board of Education Superintendent Richard Kuder.

7. Today, Mayor Rooney met with Committeeman Christie, the Chief Financial Officer and the Administrator to further discuss the 2015 Municipal Budget.

8. Mayor Rooney commented that he has been contacted by a number of residents regarding issues with Ridgewood Water specifically, Ridgewood Water has not competently issued and read water bills. Some residents water bills range between $600 and $5,000. Mayor Rooney previously sent a letter over three (3) weeks ago to Ridgewood Mayor Aronsohn describing this problem and asking to meet with him in this regard. To date, there has been no reply from Mayor Aronsohn.
Even more disturbing, over the weekend, there was a water main break on Kennedy Court. Ridgewood Water responded and instead of connecting the fire hydrant to the adjacent catch basin through a short length of fire hose to lower the water level in the hydrant, Ridgewood Water flooded the street, causing water to enter into residents garages and icing formed on the entire street. The Wyckoff Volunteer Fire Department and the DPW were called to respond to the icy road conditions by spreading salt to the street. Mayor Rooney described this incident as being negligent and residents on Kennedy Court are very upset with Ridgewood Water.

9. Mayor Rooney reviewed with the governing body the recent letter received from a resident on Old Post Road requesting the Township issue him a parking permit at the Cornerstone Christian Church. The Township Committee has been receiving weekly updates from the police department regarding the available spaces each week. The total number of parking spaces is 178 and on most days three or four spaces at the park and ride overflow lot are available. Since 300 park and ride permits were sold, and the fact that all commuters were precisely advised that a space would not be guaranteed each day, after further review, the governing body determined not to sell any additional park & ride permits until the overflow area is expanded by pavement and security lighting is installed. The Municipal Clerk was instructed to send information to the approximately thirty (30) people who are on the waiting list including the resident from Old Post Road that the earliest commuter permits are estimated to be sold would be September 1, 2015. An additional sixty (60) park and ride permits are expected to become available after the overflow lot renovations. Each member of the governing body agreed with this approach however, the commuter park and ride waiting list will continue to accept applications.

At 8:00 p.m. the Township Committee recesses the Work Session Meeting to conduct the public business meeting.

At 8:15 p.m. the Township Committee reconvenes the Work Session Meeting with the following vote:

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MOTION: _____BOONSTRA_ _ SECOND ___SCANLAN_ __
BOONSTRA_YES_CHRISTIE _YES_ JEPSEN _YES_ SCANLAN_YES_
ROONEY_YES_

At 8:16 p.m. the Township Committee recesses the Work Session Meeting to enter into Closed Session discussion via Resolution #15-C3.

At 8:45 p.m. the Township Committee reconvenes the Work Session Meeting voting as follows:

MOTION: ____SCANLAN__ SECOND____JEPSEN____
BOONSTRA_YES_ CHRISTIE_YES_ JEPSEN _YES_ SCANLAN_YES_
ROONEY_YES_

The Work Session Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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| Kevin J. Rooney | Joyce C. Santimauro |
| Mayor | Municipal Clerk |