TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OPEN PUBLIC WORK SESSION
SECOND FLOOR MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.

Mayor Kevin J. Rooney opened the Work Session Meeting at 7:45 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 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 advised that the Finance Committee has reviewed and signed the vouchers.

Report of the Administrator:

1. On Friday, May 1, 2015 the Township opened the competitive sealed bids received for the annual road resurfacing and purchase of a pick-up truck. The resolution for the purchase of the pick-up truck to the lowest responsive/responsible bidder is on the Agenda. The award resolution for road resurfacing will be prepared for the May 19, 2015 meeting.
   The Administrator was pleased to announce for the second year in a row the Township's strategic bidding results in a price lower than the regional co-op bid, precisely $1.20 per ton less. The Township will be able to pave one, possibly two (2) additional roads by capturing a price lower than the regional bid price.

2 The Annual Stormwater Management Act Report has been completed and submitted to the New Jersey DEP. This is an annual compliance requirement of the municipality established by the Federal Clean Water Act.

3. The Administrator reported that the Township began the second full townwide curbside leaf collection on Monday, May 4, 2015. The leaf crew has completed District 4 today and will enter into District 5 tomorrow.

4. The Township's Environmental Commission has submitted a grant application to the Association of the New Jersey Environmental Commission and has been notified the commission has been awarded $1,500 grant to enhance the Russell Farms Community Park for open space.

5. The next public business meeting, May 19, 2015 will include two (2) ordinances for public hearing and further consideration. Also, there will be the introduction of a bonding ordinance as well.

6. The new State unfunded mandate requiring municipalities to report the budget information in a completely new format has been completed and posted on the Township's website. The Administrator recognized Diana McLeod, Chief Financial Officer for performing this additional extensive work during the budget process. This report required the Chief Financial

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Officer to devote ten (10) hours to complete this task as well as time devoted from the Tax Assessor, Township Administrator and Auditor.

Township Attorney Report:

1. Mr. Landel report that the receipt of the documents from the property owner next to Russell Farms relating to the donation of land contiguous to the Russell Farms Community Park to the Township is still pending. Once this information is received, Mr. Landel will file the deeds at the County Reporter's Office.

Mayor Rooney made the following statement:

Good Evening,

As a dog owner myself, the incident last week resulting in the loss of Otto was tragic. On behalf of my colleagues and myself, we extend to the family of Otto our sympathy.

The Township Committee continues to believe in the process and the ability of our Police Department to conduct the on-going investigation. However, as a result of the unfounded accusations of a biased investigation, both Chief Fox and I wrote to Chief Martino, of the Bergen County Prosecutor's office, requesting that one of their detectives assist our Police Department in the ongoing investigation. In addition, I also requested Senator Kevin O'Toole to contact the Prosecutor's and Attorney General's offices.

While we appreciate your comments, please understand we will not engage you, as this is an on-going police investigation and personnel matter.

Some ground rules, please turn off your cell phones or place them on silence. Speakers must begin by stating their name, address and organization if any. Speakers must be courteous in their language and comments and direct their comments to the Township Committee. There will be no debate or discussion between speakers and members of the audience.

If the rules are ignored, the public comment period will be closed.

You will have the ability to approach the microphone for public comment during our Work Session and Business meeting.

In advance, I would like to thank you, for sharing with us tonight your comments.

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 Boonstra.

1. Edward Tamar, 624 Lawlins Road stated that a number of items went wrong during this police call. They included: a) miscommunication between the dispatch office, the dispatcher and the police officer; b) there is no reason for the officer to have drawn his weapon. If these miscommunications are not resolved or corrected, this will occur again and a human being could possibly be shot.

2. Goran Vukobratovic, 622 Lawlins Road stated that his family accepts the loss of Otto but that they are still mad at the comments that they have read in the newspaper and/or heard on television regarding the events that day. They do not make any sense to them or anyone else. These are the comments that have hurt them the most. He has not seen the police report and that's what hurts them

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the most. Otto would not allow anyone a few feet into our yard. The town must prepare its officers for encounters with dogs. He said, most yards in New Jersey have a dog and police need to know how to interact with dogs.

3. Susan Karney, Toms River, New Jersey announced herself as an animal advocate and stated she represents the organization "Freeze – Don't Shoot." Ms. Karney read a prepared statement in which she indicated training and containment of pets is required. Police Officers need to be trained on how to deal with and/or interact with dogs. If they are not trained, officers will shoot - some dogs are shot multiple times. The result is that the public loses respect for the police and the town. Many shootings are unnecessary and it is a problem we should all look to resolve. Ms. Karney's association provides courses that are available to train police officers on how to interact with dogs and not use lethal force.

4. Igor Vukobratovic, 622 Lawlins Road came forward to report that Otto was more than just his dog, he was the community's dog. Igor always took his dog to the Memorial Day Parade and many people petted his dog. He would walk his dog past Abma's Farm with all the Abma's dogs. It is very sad and the town has to do the right thing. Why the officer shot my dog and there is no investigation is not right.

5. Robert Lehmann, 52 Saxonia Avenue stated that this is a highly emotional community issue. Mr. Lehmann's father was a police officer and then a police chief. Transparency is important – it falls on the Wyckoff Police Department. If they are at fault, they need to take responsible action and turn this negative situation into a positive one. Police need to receive training – what occurred is a horrible event. Please try to turn this into a positive and have this great community move forward as one community.

6. Todd Parkhurst, a part-time Wyckoff resident at 421 Rutgers Court, cannot believe what the police did and is appalled with the chain of events. Mr. Parkhurst has owned dogs all of his life. New York City has a policy called a "No Shoot Dog Policy." It is a question on the police application – if you say you would shoot a dog if attacked, you are not hired. The reason is that the bullet goes through the dog and ricochet potentially hitting an innocent bystander. During his research, Mr. Parkhurst found stories online that are questionable. I don't know how Wyckoff ever hired Police Officer Ferriera.

It was 8:00 p.m. and Committeeman Jepsen motioned to close the public comment period, seconded by Committeeman Scanlan with an affirmative voice vote.

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

At 8:30 p.m. the Township Committee reconvenes the Work Session Meeting voting as follows:

MOTION: BOONSTRA SECOND SCANLAN
BOONSTRA YES JEPSEN YES SCANLAN YES ROONEY YES

At 8:30 p.m. the Township Committee recesses the Work Session meeting to enter into Closed Session discussion via Resolution #15-C.

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At 9:00 p.m. the Township Committee re-enters the Open Work Session Meeting with the following vote:

MOTION: _____SCANLAN_____ SECOND _____BOONSTRA_____
BOONSTRA_YES_ JEPSEN _YES_ SCANLAN_YES_ ROONEY_YES_

The Work Session Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Kevin J. Rooney
Mayor

Joyce C. Santimauro
Municipal Clerk