TOWNSHIP OF WYCKOFF
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OPEN PUBLIC WORK SESSION
SECOND FLOOR MUNICIPAL COURT ROOM
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 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 Haakon C. Jepsen, Brian D. Scanlan and Rudolf E. Boonstra
Also Present: Township Administrator Robert J. Shannon, Jr., Township Attorney Robert Landel, Municipal Clerk Joyce C. Santimauro and Police Chief Benjamin Fox.

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

Policy Action Items:

1. Administrator Shannon discussed the proposed theme for the 2016 Municipal Calendar, Mayor's Wellness Program/Healthy Families. The theme was presented by Mayor Rooney from the Mayor' Wellness Committee and requested governing body approval to begin the preparations for the calendar. Mayor Rooney indicated that currently, a local contest was underway among the school children in Wyckoff. That contest will result in one (1) winning logo and twelve (12) runner-up logos. The governing body would feature the winning logo on the 2016 Municipal Calendar cover. The runner-up logos could be featured on one day of each month in addition to wellness program activities. The Township Committee approved.

2. Two (2) requests were received to waive the rental fee of Township fields. The first request was received from the Ramapo High School Boys Soccer Booster Association to waive $1,800 to utilize the new artificial turf field on June 26th and June 27th for a fundraiser for revenue at Ramapo High School. The Township has a reciprocal agreement with the Ramapo/Indian Hills Board of Education where Township fields and Board of Education fields are utilized for each other's programs. Secondly, the Wyckoff Baseball Boosters have requested the use of the Wyckoff Community Park over Memorial Day weekend for a charity baseball tournament. This will allow Wyckoff's teams that are participating to play all of its games in Wyckoff and avoid travelling. It also allows the Wyckoff Booster parents to utilize the concession stand and generate revenue for the baseball program.
   Received today is a memo distributed from the Recreation Director which indicates the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board approved both requests at the meeting last evening and have requested Township Committee approval.
   Committeeman Scanlan, who serves as liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, recommends adoption of both requests. The Township Committee approved.

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3. The Administrator advised that Stacey Gambuti was approved by the Bergen County Court Division to the position of Deputy Municipal Court Administrator.

4. The Administrator reported that garbage/trash will be collected on Monday, May 25, 2015, Memorial Day. Notices have been posted on the web and social media and e-blasted multiple times.

5. The Administrator was disappointed to report that the State of New Jersey has informed the Township and the Township's Consulting Engineer that the grant application to New Jersey Department of Transportation Trust Fund Program for a monetary grant to pave Crescent Avenue was denied. The Administrator reviewed with the Consulting Engineer why this application was denied. The Consulting Engineer advised the Administrator that essentially other applications from other towns had applications where the roads were substantially more deteriorated than Crescent Avenue. The Consulting Engineer also noted that 45% of all Bergen County's seventy (70) municipalities were not approved for a grant.

6. The next drug and alcohol prevention alliance meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Town Hall.

7. The Township's "Parks & Recreation" section of its website has been reorganized and rewritten to feature the passive recreation options in the Township of Wyckoff.

8. The Administrator is presently working on two (2) shared services: the first shared service is with Franklin Lakes and Oakland regarding lending DPW vehicles and equipment. The second shared service agreement is with the K-8 Board of Education which would permit the Township to repair board of education vehicles at costs less than currently paying.

9. A notice of penalty was issued to the homeowner at 274 Monroe Avenue for performing construction work on the home without permits. This is the primary reason why municipalities are mandated to perform costly revaluations.

10. The next Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Town Hall. The Administrator stated that safety is a positive fiscal operation in addition to making municipal facilities and grounds for employees and visitors safer.

11. With the adoption of Ordinance 1773 later tonight, the work to achieve the capital improvements that are funded in the ordinance and determined by the Township Committee as appropriate for 2015 will begin.

12. Applications for the "Access for All" committee are still arriving. The Township Committee will receive additional applications this weekend. The notice on the Township's webpage and the Friday e-blasts have elicited many applications. Mayor Rooney suggested that a cut-off time be established of June 10, 2015 as the last day to receive these applications. The Administrator was requested to publish the deadline date on the Township's webpage and Friday's e-blasts.

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Township Attorney Report:

1. Mr. Landel has recently completed a sewer agreement for the property owner at 384 Hampshire Court which will allow the company that owns the property to extend the sewer for an individual home connection. The sewer extension was not straightforward – requiring additional verifications due to the fact that the sewer connection is utilizing a private property easement.

2. Mr. Landel has spent a considerable amount of time on assisting the Municipal Clerk and the Chief of Police on Open Public Records (OPRA) requests.

3. With regard to the completion of the documents for the property the Township has obtained at no cost adjacent to the Russell Farms Community Park, Mr. Landel indicated that the property owner is scheduled to sign the document tomorrow. As soon as Mr. Landel receives those documents, he will file same with the Bergen County Clerk's Office to complete this acquisition.

Township Committee Reports:

Haakon Jepsen:

1. Mr. Jepsen reported that at the June 3rd meeting of the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Alliance, he will discuss with the Alliance Chair that a notice was received that D.A.R.E. New Jersey has closed its doors. Since the Alliance funds a portion of the D.A.R.E. Program, Mr. Jepsen will speak with the Alliance Chair and Detective Joe Soto regarding this development.

2. Mr. Jepsen attended the Environmental Commission Meeting last evening. Two (2) additional "green film" presentations are being conducted at the Wyckoff Public Library on Thursday, May 21st and Thursday, May 28, 2015.

3. Mr. Jepsen attended a Zabriskie House Trustee Meeting last week and thanked Bob Shannon for taking the time to review purchasing procedures for the Trust. The Trustees are acclimating to the implementation of the new operating process.
Mayor Rooney inquired if there would be any opportunity at the Zabriskie House for Eagle Scout projects to help defray the Trustee costs as well as providing young men with realistic opportunities to perform improvements in their community. Mr. Jepsen replied that there will be opportunities in the near future.

Brian Scanlan:

1. Mr. Scanlan attended the Wyckoff Board of Health Meeting on Thursday, May 14, 2015. The primary focus of that meeting was preparations for the Board of Health's participation and program at the Annual Wyckoff Day. The Wyckoff Board of Health has waived the permit fees for the Wyckoff Emergency Services who will participate in the chili cook-off contest. The one day food handler's permit costs will also be waived to encourage local businesses to participate in the Annual Wyckoff Day.

2. Mr. Scanlan reported that the Mayor's Wellness Program will begin on Saturday, June 20, 2015.

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3. Mr. Scanlan was pleased to report that the ideas that resulted from last Summer's survey of suggestions for recreation programming have been put into practice. On Saturday, June 20, 2015 there will also be the first "Movies Under the Stars" at the bandshell in Memorial Field. Outdoor movies was one of the suggestions provided by residents from the survey and will be coordinated with the Mayor's Wellness Program. Additionally, the Recreation Department just completed a very successful adult early morning outdoor exercise program. Other activities in the planning stage include a roller skating night at the Township's Roller Hockey Rink – DJ music provided.

4. Mr. Scanlan met with the DPW Manager regarding the installation of the historic signage at the Russell Farms Community Park. The signage is anticipated to be installed in approximately three (3) weeks.

5. Mr. Scanlan requested Clerk Santimauro remove Ordinance #1774 from the Consent Agenda.

Rudy Boonstra:

1. On Saturday, May 9, 2015 Mr. Boonstra attended the Eagle Scout Ceremony at Bethany Church for Connor and Cole Elsaesser. Congratulatory letters from the Township were presented to the Scouts. Mr. Boonstra described the ceremony as very enjoyable.

2. Mr. Boonstra attended a Site Review Meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at Pulis Field. The focus was a discussion regarding the planted berm, fencing and sidewalk location.

3. On Sunday, May 17, 2015 Mr. Boonstra attended the Murray Prawer Walk & Mitzvah Day at Temple Beth Rishon. This event raises funds for cancer research.

4. This morning, Mr. Boonstra attended a Public Policy Subcommittee Meeting with Mayor Rooney, Attorney Landel and Administrator Shannon.

Mayor Rooney:

1. On Tuesday, May 5, 2015 Mayor Rooney and Administrator Shannon met with the new president of Orange & Rockland Utilities. Orange & Rockland is attempting to provide training to municipal public works departments to enlist their assistance in identifying priority areas with downed electric power wires and trees during storms.

2. On Thursday, May 7, 2015 Mayor Rooney attended the first meeting of the building renovation committee. The committee is looking at improvements to the Town Hall Complex which currently includes a non-functioning heating system.

3. Mayor Rooney attended the recent Wyckoff Parks and Recreation Foundation Golf Outing where proceeds will fund the artificial turf field improvements which include outdoor sports lighting and a concession stand.

4. The Mayors Wellness Program will be launched on Saturday, June 20, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at the Wyckoff Community Park. Should there be a rain event on this date, Superintendent Rich Kuder has offered the Eisenhower Middle School Gymnasium as an alternate location.

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5. On Wednesday, May 13, 2015 Mayor Rooney attended a Planning Committee Meeting for the Annual Wyckoff Day scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Wyckoff Family YMCA Campus, 691 Wyckoff Avenue. This year's program will include a chili cook-off contest with the Wyckoff Volunteer Fire Department and the Wyckoff Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

6. Mayor Rooney, with Former Mayor DePhillips and Former Mayor Gordon Stanley, served as judges at the Wyckoff K-8 School Science Fair.

7. Mayor Rooney attended a meeting with staff regarding the status of the landscaping at the Boulder Run Shopping Center.

8. Earlier this week, Mayor Rooney met with Mark Borst to review the planting of the berm at the Pulis Soccer Field adjacent to the property line with the Spring Meadow Condominiums. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2015 afternoon with Mr. Savage from the Spring Meadow Condominium Association regarding the planted berm.

9. This morning, Mayor Rooney conducted a Public Policy Subcommittee Meeting where the primary discussion focused on the Township's efforts to provide special needs housing, to address the Statewide need and to satisfy the Township's mandated affordable housing requirement. The next subcommittee meeting will be conducted on Monday, June 1, 2015.

10. Mayor Rooney advised that this Monday, May 25, 2015 is Memorial Day. This is the day each year where communities set aside time to remember and honor their war dead. The activities begin in Wyckoff at 9:00 a.m. with a Memorial Service at Fire Company #1, a Community Memorial Service at 10:00 a.m. on the Green at the Wyckoff Reformed Church and the Memorial Day Parade begins at 11:30 a.m. at the corner of Wyckoff Avenue and Russell Avenue.

11. On Monday, June 1, 2015 the Township Committee will appoint a new member to the governing body.

12. Committeeman Jepsen inquired if there is a role the Environmental Commission could participate in relative to the Mayor's Wellness Program. Mayor Rooney responded that there is and he has spoken to Harriet Shugarman, Chair of the Environmental Commission in this regard.

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.

1. Ed Tamar, 622 Lawlins Road stated that if the report is performed by the Wyckoff Police Internal Affairs Staff, it is not a great report. For example, the audio transmission indicates the police officer called in "shots fired." The officer did not say he had been bitten by the dog. The police officer stated he fired four (4) shots. However, the dog was shot into its back end and the bullet exited the dog's shoulder. Mr. Tamar stated the story the officer gave is baloney. If you were to watch any western movie, the bad guy always shoots the good guy in the back, we have a bad cop here, he said. Mr. Tamar further stated that if the internal affairs staff cannot see that and cannot put that in their report, something is wrong. They either don't want to do it or they are incompetent, he said.

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2. Gina Calogera, 3 South Dorchester Road, Emerson, New Jersey stated she is a practicing attorney in Oradell and Chair of the New Jersey Bar Associations Animal Well Committee. She is here this evening as an individual and has participated in a New Jersey Bar Association Program entitled "Please Don't Shoot My Dog" at a bar conference. The conclusion reached by the bar committee indicated that the State of New Jersey should adopt uniform guide lines for police officers when interacting and encountering dogs. That way, police officers will learn alternatives when dealing with dogs and to prevent what has happened here from happening again, she said.
Ms. Calogera suggested that Wyckoff could become the first municipality to provide this training and stated that officers should never be sent out without this type of training. She stated she is a municipal prosecutor and has worked side by side with cops and cops should have this training. The Township Committee is subjecting the taxpayers to civil litigation because the Township Committee does not give cops training to deal with dogs she added. She suggested it is cheaper to train cops than to loose cops. Ms. Calogera stated she has served on the Police and Fire Retirement System Board and witnessed cops applying for disability pensions because they were traumatized. She suggested Officer Ferriera did not wake up that morning and say "I am going to shoot a dog today." She suggested that Officer Ferriera is upset. The Township could gain the trust of its citizens back – the citizens are now wondering if they can trust the cops – it would not have happened if there was a mandatory law in New Jersey requiring police officers to undergo this type of training with mandated refresher training, she said. Citizens cannot be comforted by an internal affairs report that the police officer acted reasonably when there are no guidelines for encountering dogs. The Attorney General guidelines do not address encountering dogs, she said, and canines are not like humans. There are training videos from Texas that are available; use of force guidelines when encountering dogs are in place in states such as California, Colorado and Delaware. Ms. Calogera stated she is here tonight advocating a reasonable smart move by the Township to be the force of change and turn this situation into a positive.

3. Megan Stillwell, 25 Peter Street, North Haledon, New Jersey stated that the actions of this town has diminished her respect for the police officers and town council. She is not sure what got in the way of doing the right thing. Ms. Stillwell said she recognized Officer Soto who taught D.A.R.E. when she was a student at Eisenhower Middle School as well as Mr. Scanlan and Mr. Shannon who coached her in softball. "I know you are all good people, and now you have given me a reason not to trust you. We could have trained our police officers not to use deadly force with our dogs. Our pets are our family. If anyone has made Wyckoff look bad, it is not the people here tonight or the people on social media. It is the people who are running the show in Wyckoff. The Bergen County Prosecutor personally lied to me twice on the phone. I was personally dismissed and insulted over the phone and that really sucks. Basically, we should be able to trust our police department, our fire department and our town council. You have lost my trust."

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

The Work Session Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Kevin J. Rooney	Joyce C. Santimauro
Mayor	Municipal Clerk

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