

WORK SESSION  
FEBRUARY 25, 2013

A work session of the Mayor and Common Council of the Borough of Ogdensburg, Sussex County, New Jersey, was held in the Council Chambers in the Borough Hall on February 25, 2013. Mayor Ciasullo called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Upon Roll Call the following Council Members appeared and answered the call: Amodeo, Andrews, Hutnick, McGuire, Opilla. Councilman Astor arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Notice requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act, NJSA 10:4:4-6 have been satisfied with a schedule of all meetings, together with the time, location and agenda of same being sent to the New Jersey Herald and the New Jersey Sunday Herald, and posted on the bulletin board in the Borough hall on January 3, 2013.

Councilman McGuire moved, Councilman Opilla seconded motion for approval of Raffle License No. 505 for a Tricky Tray and Raffle License No. 506 for a 50/50 to be held by the Ogdensburg Fire Department on March 23, 2013. Yeas: Amodeo, Andrews, Astor, Hutnick, McGuire, Opilla.

Councilman Hutnick gave an update on the web site. There was a proposal given out with the new features for the website. Still need to recreate about 50 to 80 pages and the site will still need a home page.

Councilman Andrews spoke about the generator for the Borough Hall. He has received quotes from the Engineer from SREC Resources Inc. for \$16,695.00 and from Ed Stinson-Field Service for \$20,000. Two other companies that were contacted never returned a call from the Engineer. After a brief discussion, Council feels that two more quotes should be obtained. Further discussion will be forth coming.

Mayor spoke about a meeting at the County Tax Board that he and Councilman McGuire attended at the request of the County to discuss reassessment. Ogdensburg's home market values at present are higher then they should be. Ogdensburg had a revaluation less then five years ago and the County feels that the Borough can get a benefit from having a reassessment. In order to get the market value of the homes back to where they should be a reassessment or revaluation would be necessary. There were about 73 tax appeals done since the last revaluation. County taxes and school taxes have to be paid based on the numbers that are in the budget; so if the budget is passed in April and someone wins a tax appeal in May and their taxes are lower then there is less money that goes to the county and the school. It will cost less money to have a reassessment done instead of a revaluation and everyone would be assessed at their true market value, thereby decreasing the amount of tax appeals. Mayor Ciasullo stated that the County is saying we have to do it but the Borough has to get approval from the State first. Once the approval is given a reassessment will be implemented as early as 2013 for 2014.

Mayor Ciasullo briefly spoke about shared services with Andover Township for Court. He didn't feel it was a good fit with the amount of days and switching off with the Court Administrator and deputy Court Administrator. Even though Ogdensburg would be the lead town it was felt there would be too much disruption to the town. Mayor Ciasullo mentioned fuel use by the school. The school is using the fuel for the tractor. Mayor would like to keep track of the usage.

Mayor Ciasullo spoke about the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Received a letter back from the Historical Society but still need to hear back from the other organizations. A reminder letter will be sent out. Mayor Ciasullo mentioned that there was a house fire on Main Street. He commended the Fire Department for getting to the house quickly and what a good job they did handling the fire. Mayor Ciasullo discussed the renewal of the Junkyard license. The owner was not current with taxes last year so she could not get a license. She is now up to date with the taxes and council has decided to not charge back fees but just the yearly fee. After further discussion, Councilman McGuire moved, Councilman Andrews seconded motion to accept the 2013 application fee and license fee and not any back fees. Yeas: Amodeo, Andrews, Astor, Hutnick, McGuire, Opilla.

Councilman McGuire spoke about an employee who requested to use sick days for reasons other than being ill. He wants to use 5 sick days for the birth of a child. According to the employee handbook sick time is to be used for being sick. Council would like to look into the matter further. Further discuss will be forth coming.

Councilman Astor discussed the specs for the garbage contract. He feels everyone likes what we presently have and would like to keep it the same. The only change would be with recycling option and location of pick up for the collection of recyclables. Mayor Ciasullo discussed calling out the Department of Public Works for icy or snow covered roads. Supervisor of DPW explained what they do and clarified how they do the work. The steps to be taken in bad weather were read from the employee hand book as to what the practice is. Councilman Andrews mentioned a water main break on Beardslee Hill Drive and asked the Supervisor of DPW to keep on top of it. Also discussed the camera at the Recycling area. Council would like to see if there is a better camera that can be used so that the view of people dumping can be monitored more accurately. Councilman Andrews mentioned that back at the end of January the Chief of Police received a thank you note from the students when a bus broke down by the school and Officer Davis escorted the bus to a safe location in the school and got all the students off the bus and took them into the school to stay warm because it was a real cold morning and that is why the bus stopped running. Councilman Andrews also informed Mayor and Council that the Borough's new police officer, David Cowdrick is doing very good at the academy and they are pleased with his progress.

Councilman McGuire discussed having the police payroll on the same schedule as the regular employees. When they started, their paychecks were withheld for a week, which made them a week behind everyone else. The CFO asked if they could be put on the same schedule as the regular employees. Council was in agreement to have their schedule the same as everyone else. Council discussed the Fire Department and items that need to be replaced such as a latter and air tanks.

Councilman Opilla moved, Councilman Hutnick seconded motion to open the public session of the meeting. Yeas: Amodeo, Andrews, Astor, Hutnick, McGuire, Opilla.

Robert Armstrong, Chair for the Land Use Board attended the meeting to discuss Heater's Pond and the Main Street Streetscape. Mr. Armstrong reminded Mayor and Council that in the spring he would be taking out the Phragmites up by Heater's Pond. Mr. Armstrong also spoke about the Main Street Streetscape. He mentioned that he has a draft but there are some issues in it. He met with the engineer and designer and informed Mayor and Council of all the issues involved. Everything is contingent upon costs. Mr. Armstrong has started a progress chart to keep on top of this project and also stated that he would like to have an ad hock committee along with a member from Council and the Historical Society to help with the design and planning. Mr. Armstrong also mentioned that he will go to the business owners also to discuss the Main Street Streetscape and at some point in time feels there should be public information meeting.

All final approvals will go before council. Mr. Armstrong said he will be keeping the Mayor and Council updated as things progress.

Christopher Peterson from Eagle Scout Troop 187 attended the meeting with a more detailed plan including pictures to fix up the pavilion at Heater's Pond as requested by the Council. Once approved by the town he will go to the Eagle Scouts council head and get approval and then will be able to proceed. Then letters will be going out for contributions and help that will be needed to work on the project. After further discussion, Mayor Ciasullo asked for a motion to approve the project. Councilman McGuire moved, Councilman Hutnick seconded motion to accept the proposal by Eagle Scout, Troop 187 to fix up the pavilion at Heater's Pond. Yeas: Amodeo, Andrews, Astor, Hutnick, Opilla. Jean Castimore, 63 Main St. asked if there has been any more discussion about starting e-waste collection. Mayor Ciasullo said he hasn't looked into it yet. The problem is that it has to be indoors. Mayor said he wants to see if the Borough can do a dumpster outside verses inside. He will be looking into it.

There being no further business from the public, Councilman McGuire moved, Councilman Andrews seconded motion to close the public session of the meeting. Yeas: Amodeo, Andrews, Astor, Hutnick, McGuire, Opilla.

Councilman Opilla moved, Councilman McGuire seconded motion to adopt the following resolution.

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

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

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

The public shall be excluded from discussion of an action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter(s). The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows:

Contract issues

It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public when settled. Action may be taken on the above listed matter/matters or on other matters discussed in closed session. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Yeas: Amodeo, Andrews, Astor, Hutnick, McGuire, Opilla.

At 9:20 p.m. Councilman Opilla moved, Councilman McGuire seconded motion to go into executive session to discuss contract issues. Yeas: Amodeo, Andrews, Astor, Hutnick, McGuire, Opilla.

After returning from executive session at 9:40 p.m. Councilman McGuire moved, Councilman Hutnick seconded motion to adjourn the meeting. Yeas: Amodeo, Andrews, Astor, Hutnick, McGuire, Opilla.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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Borough Clerk

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Mayor