

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR & COUNCIL REGULAR & EXECUTIVE MEETING
November 1, 2021**

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, notice of this meeting has been sent to our official newspapers and other publications circulated in the Borough of Old Tappan, and notice posted on the bulletin board at Borough Hall.

Please note fire exits located at the main entrance to the Council Chambers and in the rear of the Council Chambers.

REGULAR MEETING

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:	Mayor John Kramer	Present
	Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr.	Present
	Councilman William Boyce	Present
	Councilman Guy Carnazza	Present
	Councilman Thomas Gallagher	Present
	Councilman Matthew Nalbandian	Absent
	Councilman Jin Yhu	Present

Also Present:	Borough Administrator Anna Haverilla
	Borough Attorney Brian Giblin

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT

Planning Board - David Holloway - Alternate #3 - Unexpired 2 Year Term Ending 12/31/21

Mayor Kramer appointed David Holloway as Alternate #3 to the Planning Board.

Mr. Holloway thanked the Mayor for his appointment and introduced himself to the Council Members.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 1196-21 – Capital Ordinance - Amend 2021 Salary Ordinance – Resolution of Adoption

Councilman Boyce described the ordinance and made a motion to open the meeting to the public.

Second – Councilman Binaghi

No Public Comment

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion – None

On voice vote, all in favor, the motion carried.

Councilman Boyce read the resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion - None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Gallagher	Yes
	Councilman Yhu	Yes

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Councilman Carnazza read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion – Councilman Binaghi inquired about the property maintenance resolution.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that the issue was actually just solved and it was too late to delete off the agenda.

The Authorize Property Maintenance Code Enforcement - 12 Innkeeper Road resolution was removed from the agenda.

Councilman Yhu inquired about the Bid Award - Various Streets 2020 resolution and asked for an explanation as to why it was not awarded to the lowest bidder.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that the lowest bidder has been barred from bidding on projects in New Jersey. They never should have bid in the first place.

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes

Councilman Carnazza	Yes
Councilman Gallagher	Yes
Councilman Yhu	Yes

Councilman Yhu abstained on the New Firefighter - Yhu resolution

NEW BUSINESS

Best Practices Checklist

Councilman Gallagher explained that we scored well on this year's Best Practices Checklist and asked the CFO to go into more detail.

Ms. Overgaard, CFO, explained that this is done every year. There is a total of 48 questions. Most of them are scored, some are unscored and just seeking information about various things. You have to get 15 or more points so no state aid is held back and we received 21.5 points. There are only a few things that we didn't answer yes to and we will try and work on those.

Councilman Gallagher thanked the CFO, Borough Administrator, Borough Clerk and DPW Superintendent for their efforts with the checklist.

OTFD Trunked Radio System - Bergen County Communications

Councilman Gallagher explained that the Fire Department was awarded a grant for new radio equipment to improve their overall communications in town and with our mutual aid departments in Rockland County. In order to communicate with the County with our new radios we are going to have to work closely with Central Dispatch. He asked the Fire Chief to come up and give a more in-depth explanation.

Fire Chief Kutzin explained that we are currently communicating with Central Dispatch using a shared radio frequency that most of the Pascack Valley departments are using. That frequency currently has repeaters on it through Hillsdale and Westwood that are tied in together. He explained how the repeater system works. As we upgrade our radios throughout the next few months we are looking to have Central Dispatch start communicating with us on the County radio system. Other towns in the area are doing the same thing. This is a more robust radio system. In order to do this though we need to have an agreement with the County. There is no fee and the County is not dispatching for us. They are just letting us access their radio network. Central Dispatch may need to have a base station radio installed. We need to discuss sharing a radio with River Vale at Central Dispatch, perhaps through a shared services agreement, where we equally fund it. The radio is in the \$8,000-\$10,000 range and lasts about 10-15 plus years. Getting the agreement with the County signed is the first step, then there will be further discussions going into next year about the equipment needed on the Central Dispatch end and how it will be deployed.

Mayor Kramer asked how this will affect the Police Department and First Aid Corps communication systems.

Chief Kutzin stated that it will not affect their systems. He feels signing this agreement will benefit all 3 agencies.

Mayor Kramer asked Chief Kutzin to explain more about the potential agreement with River Vale.

Chief Kutzin explained that it is his understanding that River Vale is maintaining their infrastructure and we are utilizing it. We do not own any radio system currently. The Fire Department uses a channel called PV Response as do several other surrounding towns. This will help improve the dead zones in town.

Councilman Gallagher explained that we are ahead of the game because we received the grant. Splitting a radio with River Vale will most likely come up during 2022 budget meetings. We already have several shared services with River Vale.

Councilman Yhu suggested paying Central Dispatch to purchase the radio and maintain it so that we do not have to worry about.

OLD BUSINESS

Borough Memorials

Councilman Yhu reviewed the application forms that he put together. He suggested that for the benches and plaques we could require that the person must have contributed outstanding service to the Borough for a minimum of 15 years.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that she just had a request for a bench donation at Oakes Park with a plaque on it just saying who is was donated by, it is not in memory of someone. How should we handle that?

Mayor Kramer stated that he does not think we should make this overly difficult. We do not have a lot of people requesting benches or plaques. He went and looked at the benches currently installed at Oakes Park and 2 of them are broken.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that the DPW Superintendent is looking into benches made out of a more durable material that will hopefully last a lot longer. She does not know what we are going to do with the broken benches since nothing is in writing. On these new applications the issue is addressed.

Discussion ensued on the wording and criteria in the applications including years of residency and years of service to the town in order to qualify for a bench or plaque.

Councilman Yhu then discussed the application form for the naming or re-naming of

Borough property or streets. He reviewed the criteria listed on the form.

Discussion ensued on the wording and criteria on the application including whether the person should be deceased and years and type of service to the Borough.

Mrs. Haverilla will work on the applications and present them at the next meeting.

PUBLIC'S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Gallagher

On voice vote, all in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Gallagher

On voice vote, all in favor, the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE MEETING

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MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

ROLL CALL:	Mayor John Kramer	Present
	Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr.	Present
	Councilman William Boyce	Present
	Councilman Guy Carnazza	Present
	Councilman Thomas Gallagher	Present
	Councilman Matthew Nalbandian	Absent

Councilman Jin Yhu

Present

Also Present: Borough Administrator Anna Haverilla
Borough Attorney Brian Giblin

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Skrable discussed the road paving bid that was awarded tonight. The lowest bidder was not awarded the bid due to the fact that they are debarred in New Jersey. This was confirmed by the Borough Attorney. We have some experience with the company we did award the bid to. The project will begin Friday since the schools are closed and will continue through next week. He listed the roads that will be worked on.

Councilman Carnazza asked about 5 Arrowhead Road and whether or not their attorney had reached out to the Borough Attorney and Borough Engineer.

Mr. Skrable explained that their attorney had reached out to both him and Mr. Giblin. Mr. Giblin needs to review the wording in the agreement but he was fine with the bond and the technical terms of the bond release.

Councilman Carnazza asked to see the agreement and bond since he is in direct contact with the resident.

Mayor Kramer inquired about the Perry Street drainage project. He received a call from a Northvale resident who lives on Wescott and gets flooded out. Hopefully the work on Perry Street will relieve his issue.

Mr. Skrable explained that the survey work has been done and it will be designed over the fall and winter and built next year. His only concern is that when we made our initial application for the grant Northvale submitted a letter approving the project but they also included some conditions since the connection to the larger pipe is on Wescott in Northvale. They want to review the final design and make sure it does not have any impact on them. That is a little extra hurdle at the end that he is worried about. It does not think it will impact them so he is hoping they are reasonable.

Mayor Kramer inquired about the DeWolf Road project and the drain pipe that is affecting a resident in the area.

Mr. Skrable explained that he received a price from D&L Paving to do the work that Bergen County Soil is requiring. He emailed NJDOT for the third time today because he wants to ensure that they will reimburse for it. He doesn't see why they should not but they are being funny about money these days. Once they say yes then we will start working.

Councilman Yhu stated that a few years ago after Herbst Road was repaved water has begun to pool at the intersection of Old Tappan Road after it rains.

Mr. Skrable will look into it.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF/PLANNING BOARD/ENVIRONMENTAL

The Golf Course Superintendent put together an inventory of capital items currently at the golf course. There appears to be about \$800,000 worth of items. Most of them have serial numbers, what doesn't he has asked the Superintendent to label prior to the new management company possibly coming in. They have narrowed down the management companies to 2 of the most qualified firms - Kemper and Indigo. They have now requested more specific Scope of Work from both firms and then they will re-interview them again in the early part of November. They are hoping to work with current golf course members and groups to make them a priority moving forward. They met with Suez last week to determine if we are allowed to run the cart path alongside the 3rd hole. They are hoping to have an answer by April.

The Environmental Commission had a robust attendance at their last meeting, which was attended by a member of Bergen SWAN and the Harrington Park Environmental Commission Chairman. They both contributed to the public comment portion by denouncing any development on 244 Old Tappan Road. They also offered some money to possibly buy that property and explained how the town might generate funds to do that but not enough information was given to make it a very easy path moving forward for the town. The gentleman from Harrington Park and Bill Howe walked the property from Chestnut Field to Harrington Park where we are gaining momentum in building a little trail network connecting the 2 towns. A preliminary plan was prepared for the new community garden over at Chestnut Field. There is a lot of demand in town for the additional garden.

The Planning Board's main focus has been the 244 Old Tappan Road application. They are working on perfecting their plans. It has not been heard yet by the board. It was tabled for both October and November while they flush out more of their design details.

The Boy Scouts have an Eagle Scout ceremony on November 27th for 2 Eagle Scouts. A Girl Scout has also received her Silver Award.

They are holding a design contest for another Veteran's memorial at Oakes Park. He is getting a small group of Veterans together to help with this.

Councilman Gallagher asked if the Men's Club at the golf course collects a fee to join.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that there is a minimal fee that is supposed to cover their tournaments, lunches, etc. The president of the Men's Club collects the fees. It is a private group.

Councilman Boyce stated that he will look into Councilman Gallagher's question and report back.

Councilman Yhu asked if we do anything for Veteran's Day.

Mayor Kramer stated that he usually attends a service at the high school on Veteran's Day. He has not received an invitation yet though. He asked Councilman Boyce to add Frank Venditti, Fred Puglisi and Phil Vogis to his list of Veterans for the design contest meeting. They are all eager to be involved.

COUNCILMAN YHU – FIRST AID/SCHOOLS/SENIORS

Election Day is tomorrow and there are several candidates for both school boards on the ballot. Voting is in the CDW gym from 6:00am - 8:00pm.

The Seniors just ran a successful bus trip to The Brownstone for a show and a meal. Next month he will have a few appointments to fill the board vacancies.

The First Aid Corps had a very busy October. They ran 17 Old Tappan calls and 45 mutual aid calls. Both rigs were out at the same time on 3 of those calls. The new rig suffered some minor cosmetic damage during a call.

The Library Board had 2 members resign recently and their replacements have been chosen. The Library Director is considering putting together a welcome packet for new residents. He suggested offering a free round of golf to new residents and hopefully they will consider membership after that. He will explore these ideas further and report back.

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – POLICE/AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Read a newspaper article from February 1, 1952 in regard to the Zoning Board and other Borough business.

COUNCILMAN GALLAGHER – FINANCE/FIRE

Asked that they all do their best to make as many 2022 Budget Meetings as possible.

The Fire Department held their annual inspection and dinner this past Friday. Thanked Mayor Kramer for his speech. Congratulated Logan Yhu and Christian Cioce for passing their State Firefighter 1 Training Program.

COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – RECREATION/HEALTH

The Halloween Festival this weekend had to be postponed to next Saturday due to poor weather.

The Board of Health reported 388 COVID cases total in Old Tappan since the beginning

of the pandemic. They welcomed their new member.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Tomorrow he will be attending the TBD School for a Teacher's Professional Day. Next Monday the 3rd grade will be visiting the Borough Hall. Spoke about the political signs this year in town and how out of control they are. Next year he would like to get the word out to the residents that we do have an ordinance that governs this and he will be seeking the assistance of the Code Enforcement Officer to get things back in order again.

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Binaghi

On voice vote, all in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Donch, RMC
Borough Clerk

Reviewed & Approved: November 15, 2021