

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
October 17, 2022**

In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law, notification 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.

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

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

Also Present:            Borough Clerk Jean M. Donch  
                                 Borough Attorney Brian Giblin, Jr.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**PRAYER** – Councilman William Boyce

**PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK**

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Gallagher

Second – Councilman Yhu

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.

**BOARD APPOINTMENT**

**Senior Citizens Advisory Committee - Clara Fusillo - Unexpired 2 Year Term Ending 12/31/22**

Motion to accept the appointment – Councilman Yhu

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

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

**CONSENT RESOLUTION**

Councilman Binaghi read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion – None

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

**COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF/PLANNING BOARD/ENVIRONMENTAL**

The Environmental Commission is expecting that the professional survey of 244 Old Tappan Road will be complete this week and ready for review.

The Boy Scouts will be meeting Thursday to begin working on the Community Garden sign. This will be for a wood working merit badge.

He is trying to get together a small committee for the veteran’s memorial at Oakes Park. He has a few names of those who might be interested.

The Planning Board meeting was adjourned last week and has been rescheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup>. Some members of the public are concerned with this date because it falls right before school break and they will not be able to attend. He will bring these concerns to the Planning Board.

## COUNCILMAN GALLAGHER – POLICE/GRANTS

Bruno Associates is doing a good job as our grant consultants. He reviewed the grant availability report that they sent and the items that stood out to him for emergency services and public safety.

Councilman Nalbandian asked if the Library can use our grant consultants as well.

Mrs. Haverilla answered yes.

Read the September 2022 Police Department activity report. The Chief reports that he is having a tough time getting the new police vehicle that was budgeted for.

## COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION

Read minutes from the most recent Borough Hall staff meeting. One item in particular that the staff discussed was switching to 2 paychecks a month. They all seemed in favor of it but the Mayor and Council need to make the final decision. Concerns with the rising cost of health insurance was also discussed.

A Tax Sale was held recently for those who are in arrears for property and sewer taxes.

## COUNCILMAN YHU – DPW/CONSTRUCTION/FIRST AID

The Seniors will be having a Lunch & Learn on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The Balance Class given by the county was very well attended.

The DPW has begun picking up leaves. There will be a shredding event at the DPW this Saturday from 9am-1pm.

The First Aid Corps had a successful 5K fundraiser and Safety Night. Thanked the DPW, First Aid Corps, Fire Department and Police Department for all their help with these events.

Reminded everyone that the bridge on Old Tappan Road heading into River Vale will soon be closed for a long-term construction project.

Councilman Nalbandian expressed concern with the construction vehicle entrance at The Enclave project. He has already brought it to the Construction Official's attention who will speak to the project's construction manager.

## COUNCILMAN NALBANDIAN - FIRE/LIBRARY/SCHOOLS

The Library had a meeting last week. With school back open they are once again busy and doing well budget wise.

Last week the Fire Department held a Fire Prevention Week Open House that had a good turnout. They also went to all the schools and daycares in town as part of Fire Prevention Week.

They hosted a Cub Scout troop and taught them different safety measures.

## **MAYOR’S COMMENTS**

None

## **ACTION ON MINUTES**

Councilman Binaghi made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- Closed Meeting, September 19, 2022
- Regular Meeting, September 19, 2022
- Regular & Executive Meetings, October 3, 2022

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – Councilman Gallagher abstained on the closed and regular September 19<sup>th</sup> minutes.

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Parking Restrictions - Howard Drive, Doris Place, Charlotte Place & Charles Place**

Councilman Yhu explained that he has been hearing some complaints from residents on these blocks during various events at the high school field in regard to the parking. He is concerned that emergency vehicles will have a hard time getting through. It is dangerous because there is a constant flow of pedestrian traffic.

Councilman Gallagher spoke to the Police Chief today about this topic and he is not in favor of any parking restrictions in this area. He feels that the high school needs to lock the back gate. The Chief spoke with the School Superintendent who was fine with locking the gate and would speak to the principal. Having the unlocked gate is another access point to the campus that could be a public safety issue. Emergency services all have keys to the gate. He is also not in favor of putting parking restrictions that could be tough on the residents that live in those neighborhoods. We should push the public safety issue with the high school. He will stay in touch with the Chief about this and report back.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Right-of-Way Access Request - Block 1301, Lot 24**

Mr. Giblin explained that there is a landlocked property within the town's leaf dump. We have received a letter from the owner's attorney saying that they want access to the property as stated in the Municipal Land Use Law.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that the son of the owner approached the town about buying the property. This type of property is known as an encyclopedia lot.

Mr. Giblin feels that the town should purchase the lot or condemn it if we have to. Putting an access way through the leaf dump could cause a much bigger problem for the town. The owner cannot challenge the condemnation but they can challenge us on the cost. It would then go to court and a judge would decide how much it is worth. By law, we will have to get an appraisal of the property.

Councilman Boyce asked if there are more encyclopedia lots like this one?

Mrs. Haverilla explained that there are a few more in town.

Mr. Giblin, with the Mayor & Council's approval, will contact the owner's attorney and explain that the town can condemn the property but rather than doing that can we agree upon a purchase price.

All were in favor of Mr. Giblin doing this.

**Ordinance 1222-22 – Capital Ordinance - Haring Drive Footpath Repairs (Fully Funded) – Resolution of Introduction**

Councilman Yhu read the resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – Councilman Nalbandian asked if this is in addition to what he had budgeted or a change?

Mrs. Coward explained that this is in addition because we applied for a FEMA grant and just received the money.

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

Councilman Gallagher explained that Foxwood Estates is concerned with the students getting dropped off and picked up for the high school. It gets dangerous in that area. They would like to change the hours.

Mrs. Haverilla will get in touch with the Foxwood Estates board and discuss this with them.

**PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK**

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion – None

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

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Gallagher

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion - None

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

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Gallagher

Second – Councilman Binaghi

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Donch, RMC  
Borough Clerk

Reviewed & Approved: November 21, 2022