

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
July 18, 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	Present
	Councilman Ronald Binaghi, Jr.	Present
	Councilman William Boyce	Present
	Councilman Guy Carnazza	Present
	Councilman Thomas Gallagher	Absent
	Councilman Matthew Nalbandian	Present
	Councilman Jin Yhu	Absent

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

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**PRAYER** – Councilman Guy Carnazza

**PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK**

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion – None

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

Joe Crescetelli, 9 Sunden Court, explained that on July 6<sup>th</sup> an intruder entered his garage in an attempt to steal their car. His son opened the garage door while this was happening, immediately locked the door leading to the house and the suspect fled. His mother-in-law called 911 and he called the Old Tappan Police Department directly. The suspect was lost during a high-speed chase through town. This was a very scary event for his entire family. He is here tonight because he is one of many residents who have had similar events. There is a high volume of these bold car thefts happening in our town and throughout the state. They are scared, feel vulnerable and looking for community support. What can be done right now to better prevent these crimes.

Councilman Nalbandian explained that he lives in a neighborhood that is frequently targeted according to the Police Chief. The laws that have been put into place by the Governor and state legislature are limiting what the local police departments can do. Explained the tips that the Police Chief has given him to prevent theft. Suggested Mr. Crescetelli speak with our State Senator and Assembly people.

Councilman Binaghi described an email that was received from Congressman Gottheimer's office explaining that he is proposing Homeland Security beef up security at the ports since this is where the stolen cars are being brought to. Hopefully this would then trickle down into the towns.

Mike Azarian, 110 Koch Lane, explained that what he is worried about with these thefts is people taking matters into their own hands.

Mayor Kramer explained that this problem is happening all over the state and our police are doing all they can do. It is going to take the legislature and Attorney General to turn things around.

Patches Magarro, 4 Churchill Road, inquired about the Environmental Commission's membership.

Councilman Boyce stated that he is aware that Ms. Magarro would like to join the commission, however, there are two people ahead of her in line but she is next up. He suggested she attend commission meetings.

Mrs. Haverilla will check and see if she has an application from Ms. Magarro on file.

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Carnazza

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

## **CONSENT RESOLUTION**

Councilman Nalbandian read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mr. Skrable reported that a preconstruction meeting for the 2022 Paving Program will occur in the next couple of weeks. Work should be done August into September in order to get better pricing. There will be no impact on the schools. The contractor is a good one to work with.

Discussion ensued on the best way to notify the residents of the milling and paving.

Mr. Skrable explained that the Perry Street Drainage Project has been awarded and a preconstruction meeting held. Residents in the area were invited. We should have a start date soon.

Mayor Kramer went to Perry Street to survey the flooding and explained what he saw.

Mr. Skrable explained that he has never witnessed the muddy water that the residents are complaining about. He explained what issues the drainage project will address.

Councilman Boyce received an email from a resident regarding the stormwater detention basin at St. Pius X Church. They are concerned because they saw sediment. Asked Mr. Skrable to check it out. They are nearing completion on the basketball court and have yet to install the drainage improvements so that could be an explanation. He saw no evidence of sediment during his inspection. Had some questions about seepage pits.

Councilman Carnazza questioned where the church's roof drains because there are no gutters.

Mr. Skrable answered he does not know. But he suggested during an onsite meeting that we collect the runoff from the roof rather than the runoff from the basketball court.

Mr. Skrable explained that we are in the process of trying to get money from FEMA for the Haring Drive Bridge repairs needed because of storm damage. It is about \$100,000 worth of funding.

## **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Read Councilman Yhu's report:

The Seniors will be having a Lunch & Learn on September 29<sup>th</sup>, an International Lunch on October 27<sup>th</sup> and the Christmas Party will be on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

The DPW has had a recent hire resign so the Superintendent will be reaching out to another candidate that was previously interviewed to replace him.

Councilman Binaghi explained the reason for the resignation.

The Construction Department issued many permits this past month, mostly for the Pearson Project. Would like to discuss how to proceed with residents who have large Construction Department bills.

The First Aid Corps will begin their fundraising campaign soon for ballistics gear. They will be working with the schools and other community organizations to get the word out.

A discussion ensued about the Construction Department bill issues.

Councilman Nalbandian explained how these issues initially came about and how 2 specific residents with these bills need to be handled differently than the others who were obviously breaking the rules. We need to deal with these on a case by case basis.

This will be further discussed when Councilman Yhu is present.

Councilman Boyce then gave his report.

The CFO has provided us with the golf course's financial information. The 2022 season has been pretty consistent. Expenses are down and so are registrations slightly, golf cart rental fees are almost the same as last year and greens fees are up. Kemper is doing a good job.

The Environmental Commission is looking for 2 new members. An emergency meeting might need to be held in order to assess what the value of the trees are at 244 Old Tappan Road. We must provide guidance to the Planning Board as to the value of the trees that would be removed. An independent study would be conducted at the expense of the applicant. This is a very prudent step and we need to do our due diligence. He explained how this study would be done.

Passed out a rendering of a new Veteran's Memorial for Oakes Park that he created. This monument would be for those who served and then lived in Old Tappan. He explained what it would be made out of and how it would be assembled. It can fit about 60 names.

Mayor Kramer explained that he received an email from a resident in regard to non-member residents being able to play at the golf course since their taxpayer dollars go to support it. The gentleman feels that residents should be allowed to play during the week even if they are not members and could pay a day rate to play. He will attend the next Golf Committee meeting to voice his thoughts.

Councilman Boyce explained that the committee has spoken about having off-peak hours available to residents.

Brian Maher, Golf Course Manager, explained that they are looking to offer to non-member residents, during off-peak hours, special rates to play. They would like to get this going hopefully by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Normally the resident would have to bring an ID or piece of mail to prove that they are a resident.

## **COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION**

The Tax Collector sent an email stating that estimated tax bills for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter have been printed and are ready to be stuffed and mailed. This should be completed this week. By executive order, towns with sewer utilities are required to offer installment plans to rate payers with delinquencies. Interest through March 15, 2022 had to be waived. An offer letter was mailed to delinquent rate payers with a deadline of July 8<sup>th</sup> to opt to a 12-month installment.

## **COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – RECREATION/HEALTH**

The Board of Health does not meet again until September.

The Recreation Commission responded to a request from another town to use our fields. We will be addressing the day camp later on in tonight's meeting.

## **COUNCILMAN NALBANDIAN - FIRE/LIBRARY/SCHOOLS**

The Library has amended their hours and now have a virtual lemonade stand on their website to try and raise money. Encourages all to donate.

The Fire Department had a visit from Congressman Gottheimer to see how grant money was used to make improvements. The Congressman was very impressed and appreciative of the efforts put forth by the Chief and the rest of the Fire Department.

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

None

## **ACTION ON MINUTES**

Councilman Nalbandian made a motion to approve the following minutes:

- Regular & Executive Meetings, June 6, 2022

Second – Councilman Carnazza

Discussion – None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Stone Point Park Day Camp**

Councilman Carnazza explained that an issue came up that the park was being closed during camp hours, which are 9:00am - 1:00pm. There have been complaints from residents. The Borough Administrator sent him the rules regarding Open Space lands which states that we are not allowed to close the park at any time. The Recreation Director was closing the park out of an abundance of caution because there are 106 kids, along with counselors, that she wants to keep safe.

Recreation Director, Gloria Wiesner, explained what goes on throughout the day at the park during camp hours. She feels opening the park to the public is a safety concern for the children. It was suggested by the Borough Administrator to open public access to the park around the outside area. This would still intersect the camp since they basically use the whole park. The camp has been at this location for the last 10 years and most people understand why the park is closed and go somewhere else to walk, occasionally there are people that push back a little bit and when it gets heated she sends them to the Borough Hall. It has been manageable. Problems could arise from large groups, dog walkers, bicyclists, children not affiliated with the camp and those who are not at the camp wanting to use the bathrooms. These could all lead to potentially dangerous situations. The DPW has provided her with barricades that say the park is closed. Occasionally she gets people who go around the barricades.

Mayor Kramer explained that he went down to the park to observe what goes on during camp hours and witnessed a man move the barricade so he could park his car and then went for a walk. He observed others walking in the park as well. Received an email from a parent who was upset that the park was closed, he responded with the reasons for the closure and then received a response stating that although they want the children of the camp to remain safe while attending it does not mean it should be at the detriment of the other children who do not attend the camp and that there are many parents in town who are upset with not being able to use the playground.

Mrs. Wiesner explained that she has already told the camper's parents that the park will be closed to the public during camp hours. She made this commitment and finds it hard to go back on it now. In the long term we can try and find a solution that works but for this year she would like to continue to close the park. There are 2 weeks left of camp.

It was decided that the park will remain closed for the duration of summer camp and other ways to resolve this issue will be explored for the 2023 summer camp season.

Mayor Kramer will respond to the parent that emailed him with this decision and invite them to come to the next meeting if they would like to discuss it further.

### **Fire Department Ordinance Amendment**

Mayor Kramer explained he was approached by Tom Shine, Jr. who is an officer of the Old Tappan Fire Department and lives in town with a request. Mr. Shine is also a member of the River Vale Fire

Department and has been given the opportunity to become Fire Chief in River Vale. He would like to assume the position of River Vale Fire Chief and maintain his position as Lieutenant in Old Tappan however our Borough ordinance does not permit that. Mr. Shine is requesting that the Council consider amending the ordinance to permit him holding both positions. He is asking the Council for their thoughts.

Councilman Nalbandian spoke with our Fire Chief to find out his thoughts on this matter. The Chief raised concerns about where the person's responsibilities would lie when there is a conflict. There are also issues if both departments respond to a mutual aid call.

Councilman Nalbandian feels that Mr. Shine should relinquish his position with Old Tappan so the Fire Department can fill it with someone who does not have a conflict. He does not believe he will be able to fulfill his responsibilities to Old Tappan if he is Fire Chief in River Vale.

Councilman Binaghi explained the reason why this ordinance came to be. It is a lot of work to be an officer on a Fire Department and he does not know how Mr. Shine will be able to do both jobs. He heard the other day that Mr. Shine was actually already appointed as Fire Chief which means he is already in violation of our ordinance. Mr. Shine also should have come to his Council liaison with this request.

Councilman Nalbandian spoke with Councilman Gallagher, who was not able to be at tonight's meeting, and he said that he was not in favor of changing the ordinance.

Councilman Carnazza is not in favor of changing the ordinance and he wishes Mr. Shine good luck in River Vale.

Fire Chief Kutzin stated that he does not know if Mr. Shine has already been appointed as the Fire Chief in River Vale. Feels that it will not benefit Old Tappan to have Mr. Shine as an officer on both departments.

#### **Ordinance 1216-22 – Amend Traffic Ordinance – Resolution of Introduction**

Councilman Binaghi read the resolution

Second – Councilman Carnazza

Discussion – None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes

#### **Ordinance 1217-22 – Amend Construction Ordinance – Resolution of Introduction**

Councilman Boyce read the resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – Councilman Nalbandian asked what is being changed.

Mrs. Haverilla explained that the name of the actual certificate is being changed.

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes

### **Ordinance 1218-22 – Amend Fire Department Ordinance – Resolution of Introduction**

Motion to table Ordinance 1218-22 – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion – None

Roll Call	Councilman Binaghi	Yes
	Councilman Boyce	Yes
	Councilman Carnazza	Yes
	Councilman Nalbandian	Yes

### **PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK**

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Nalbandian

Discussion – None

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

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Nalbandian

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion - None

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

Motion to adjourn by Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Nalbandian



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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Donch, RMC  
Borough Clerk

Reviewed & Approved: August 15, 2022