

**BOROUGH OF OLD TAPPAN
MAYOR & COUNCIL SPECIAL & EXECUTIVE MEETING
February 6, 2023**

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 Cort Gwon	Present
	Councilman Jin Yhu	Present

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATION

NVOT Marching Band

Mayor Kramer read the proclamation honoring the NVOT Marching Band.

PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 1225-23 – Amend Golf Course Fees – Resolution of Adoption

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

Second – Councilman Yhu

No Public Comment

Motion to close the meeting to the public – Councilman Gallagher

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

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

Councilman Boyce read the resolution

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Councilman Yhu inquired about the guest fees because they seem high.

Councilman Boyce will discuss these fees with the Golf Committee at their next meeting.

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

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Councilman Gallagher read the Consent Resolution

Second – Councilman Yhu

Discussion – None

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

NEW BUSINESS

Golf Course Membership Dues Request

Councilman Boyce explained that Fullam Nelson is requesting that his 2022 membership dues be carried over to the 2023 season since he was not able to play at all last year due to an injury.

Mayor Kramer suggested that the new rate increase be applied and that Mr. Nelson pay the difference.

Councilman Binaghi made a motion to only charge Mr. Nelson the new rate increase for the 2023 golf season

Second – Councilman Gallagher

Discussion – None

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC’S OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK

Motion to open the meeting to the public – Councilman Yhu

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – Michelle Ottamanelli, Harrington Park, is here tonight to discuss the high school gate located off of Howard Drive. She has also spoken about this at the NVOT Board of Education meeting. The gate has always been open and available to the students and community until recently when the school locked it. There appears to be a parking problem in the area, not a gate problem. She does not feel that shutting the gate is the answer. She was told the gate was locked because of resident complaints so she submitted an OPRA request for police records regarding complaints and parking violations on Howard Drive from March 2020 to present. The request revealed about 25 parking violations and complaints. Single side of the street parking is only done for high school football games via temporary no parking signs however there are plenty of other activities that go on at that field. The town should consider making single side of the street parking permanent. She has spoken to several Howard Drive residents who are open to some sort of permanent parking restrictions so the gate can remain useful to the whole community. The high school sent on an email on Friday explaining when the gate will be opened and closed. She is hoping that the town as well as the Board of Education revisit the decision to lock the gate since it is a hardship to the community. Suggested that the town poll the residents of Howard Drive. She feels that the high school also needs to communicate better when there are going to be events on the fields.

Councilman Yhu explained that they approached the high school with this issue because they felt that the access to the gate should be controlled. The high school in response put up a fence and locked the gate except during specific times.

Councilman Binaghi explained that this is not a new issue and that many of the complaints about the gate came from the Governing Body. He travels Howard Drive every day on his way home from work and by the evening the road is a mess. He spoke to the Police Chief about this and a big problem is that the high school does not give him the full schedule so that the temporary no parking signs can be put out. This has nothing to do with access, it is all about safety. Single side of the street parking was discussed at one time and there were residents who were not happy with that solution.

Melissa Diggins, Harrington Park, has a problem with the gate being locked. This is where students from Harrington Park access the school. There are now kids jumping the fence. If it is a parking issue then the parking should be addressed, not the gate. She would like to know when and where the problem is because this gate has been used for years. There seems to be some disconnect because the school is blaming the town and vice versa.

Councilman Gallagher explained that the decision to lock the gate was a collaboration between the School Board, Police Department along with the Mayor & Council's input and suggestions. There is another gate on the west side of the campus near the library. The security of the campus was also considered. The police noted to him that there is quite a bit of unacceptable behavior during events in the area of the gate in question. There were many things that went into the decision to lock the gate.

Andrea Pagnozzi, 6 Elena Drive, is a former resident of Harrington Park and the gate is a vital access for Harrington Park students. The gate offers handicap and senior citizens easier access to the field. Feels that it would be very dangerous for that gate to be locked during school hours especially when gym classes are being held in that area. There are better solutions if the problem is truly the parking.

Ms. Ottamanelli explained that they are trying to get everyone on the same page. Suggested creating a task force.

Mayor Kramer explained that we will take everyone's comments and suggestions under consideration and move forward from there.

Motion to close meeting to the public – Councilman Yhu

Second – Councilman Binaghi

Discussion – None

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

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting – Councilman Binaghi

Second – Councilman Gallagher

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

EXECUTIVE MEETING

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.

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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 Cort Gwon	Present
	Councilman Jin Yhu	Present

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

ENGINEER’S REPORT

12 Charles Place Bond Request

Mr. Skrable explained that this was a soil disturbance permit for a pool and patio for which he did a memorandum of review. A few years ago, we amended the soil disturbance ordinance so that anytime impervious coverage is being increased by more than 150 square feet stormwater management needs to be done. This review fell under that ordinance. The drainage was shown on the plan submitted by the applicant’s engineer. For whatever reason, the contractor did not install it. The project is now completed and final restoration has been done so the property owner requested release of their bond which is when it came out that the drainage had not been done by the contractor. There has been some back and forth to try and figure out why it wasn’t done. This is a contractor issue but now in order to remedy the issue it would cost the property owner a significant amount of money.

Sunghoon Sohn, 12 Charles Place, described his project and the issues he is having with his contractor. He followed up with the Building Department thinking that everything was completed correctly to request release of his bond and discovered from Mr. Skrable that the drainage was not done.

Mr. Skrable explained why the requirement for the drainage was put in place by the town. Every town does something similar to this. Explained that this process is controlled through the bond posting. We bond for public issues. We need better control over this process so issues like this do not keep happening. There is financial incentive to not do the work.

Mayor Kramer is concerned about setting a precedent if they let this slide for Mr. Sohn.

Mr. Skrable explained that he had never dealt with this contractor before. Offered some solutions to Mr. Sohn's problem all of which would have been acceptable from the very beginning of the project.

Councilman Gwon asked if we should put a process in place to inspect the drainage before projects can continue. This would help eliminate issues like Mr. Sohn's.

Mr. Skrable will look at various solutions to try and help Mr. Sohn and will report back to the Mayor and Council.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

COUNCILMAN BINAGHI – GRANTS/HISTORICAL

The Historical Committee would like the 5 blue signs denoting historical sites in town cleaned up. The DPW is going to remove the signs and fix them up in the summer. They will be meeting again next week.

He sent the Social Services Director an email introducing himself.

Councilman Boyce explained that there is sediment all over the top ½ inch of water at Stanaland Park from recent construction going on in town. There are also a lot of invasive plants and the banks are eroding. It needs to be greatly improved. Would like to meet with our grant writers to discuss what is available to refurbish the area. The DEP has grants for these types of projects.

Councilman Binaghi will send an email to the grant writers.

COUNCILMAN GWON - RECREATION/LIBRARY/SCHOOLS

He has been to several Library Board meetings where they have discussed their budget. The board is concerned with costs. They would like to try and open up on weekends this summer. Read a list of all the different programs that the Library holds each week.

The Recreation Commission presented their budget to the Mayor & Council last week. They are getting closer to appointing new commissioners. The town camp is looking for indoor rain sites since the schools are no longer possibilities. Explained an incident at the high school with indoor soccer that was quickly resolved.

Gave an update from the last NVOT board meeting. There was a request from the local PTO to the Recreation Director to donate a free registration to a sport or the summer camp. The Recreation Director did not feel comfortable with this and denied the request. The PTO is looking to the Mayor and Council to override the Recreation Director's decision.

Discussion ensued and it was decided to support the Recreation Director and deny the request.

Mayor Kramer will pass along the decision to the PTO.

COUNCILMAN YHU – DPW/SENIORS/FIRST AID

The First Aid, along with their mutual aid partners, responded to 51 calls in January. We are grateful for their service. They have already presented their budget to the Mayor and Council.

The Senior Citizens Committee is really trying to keep our seniors active, especially during the colder months. We now offer 6 exercise programs each week.

Read the January 2023 DPW activity report. The DPW Committee interviewed 2 candidates for the Assistant Superintendent position. The committee selected Daniel Hartman who will be appointed at the next meeting. Since Mr. Hartman is now being promoted their will be vacancy a in the Foreman position so the committee will be speaking about filling that position from within the department.

Councilman Binaghi stated that both candidates were top notch.

COUNCILMAN CARNAZZA – POLICE/ADMINISTRATION/HEALTH

He attended a meeting at NVOT where the Howard Drive gate was discussed. The school made the decision based on safety and security. The 3 safety officers, coaches and assistant coaches have keys to that gate. The school wants everyone going through the same entrance so they have them on camera. 2 cameras will be placed at the Howard Drive gate that will be coordinated to the camera in the front where the security officer sees who is coming and going. They are opening the gate in the morning and afternoon for the convenience of those residents who want to drop their children off and go through there. He supports the school's decision.

Read the January 2023 Police Department activity report. There were residential break-

ins and he commended Sergeant DiMaria on his detective work that led to the arrest of the perpetrators. He was informed tonight by Chief Tracy that our accreditation has been completed and approved.

COUNCILMAN BOYCE – GOLF/PLANNING BOARD/FIRE

The golf cart path work will hopefully begin this week.

The Fire Department responded to 14 calls in January. One of these calls was for a pipe extending towards the road from a piece of property adjacent to Newark Street. He visited the site with the DPW and Fire Department to try and figure out where the water was coming from. The water had an oily sheen to it so they recommended that the Building Department find out if there is an abandoned oil tank in one of the adjacent uphill properties.

The Planning Board will be meeting on February 8th where he is anticipating that 244 Old Tappan Road will be on the agenda.

He was contacted by Mr. Venditti who is looking to work with us to improve the veteran's memorial at Oakes Park.

COUNCILMAN GALLAGHER – FINANCE/CONSTRUCTION/ENVIRONMENTAL

Budget season continues. We have 2 more department meetings and then a wrap up meeting.

Attended the last Environmental Commission meeting to introduce himself. He will not be able to make the February 21st meeting and asked Councilman Boyce to attend in his absence.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

None

Councilman Binaghi stated that a long time resident, Perry Massey, passed away. He was president of the local school board for a long time.

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Carnazza

Second – Councilman Yhu

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Donch, RMC
Borough Clerk

Reviewed & Approved: February 21, 2023