

Borough of Tenafly

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2013

At 7:31 p.m. Mayor Rustin read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act P.L. 1975, chapter 231, the notice requirements have been satisfied. The meeting dates for the year are confirmed at the Annual Meeting, are posted on the public bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center, and published in the Record within the first 10 days of the New Year."

Present: Mayor Peter S. Rustin

Council members: Anthony Barzelatto, Barry Honig, Martha Kerge, Nadia LaMastra (arrived at 7:49 p.m.), Jon Warms, Mark Zinna

Borough Administrator: Jewel Thompson-Chin
Borough Attorney: William R. McClure, Esq.

Absent: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Rustin read the following statement:

Public Comments: A total of 15 minutes has been allocated for this purpose. Citizens are welcome to address the Mayor and Council only on matters pertaining to Emergency Management. No other matters will be discussed or considered. Citizens must give their names and addresses when recognized to speak. The public is advised that these meetings are recorded and are subject to the Open Public Records Act.

No one came forward.

PRESENTATION BY THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR, COUNCILMAN ANTHONY BARZELATTO

C. Barzelatto explained that the purpose of this meeting is to provide an overview of the Borough's emergency management operations as well as the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. He advised that he met with County officials in September and drafted an emergency operations plan, which was approved by the Emergency Management Section of the New Jersey Division of State Police on January 16th.

C. Barzelatto advised that on September 14, 2012 he held an emergency management meeting to discuss potential shelter sites, reasons for evacuation, and notification procedures. The Mayor, Police Department, Administration participated in this meeting along with officials from Mt. Carmel, the JCC, the Clinton Inn, and the Superintendent of Schools.

In anticipation of Hurricane Sandy, a pre-meeting was held on Friday, October 26th to review supplies, the incident command structure, and manpower for response. Governor Christie declared a State of Emergency on October 27th. C. Barzelatto advised that he participated in daily conference calls with the County and the Board of Education with regards to safety and school closures, as well as a conference call with Governor Christie.

The issues the Borough faced mainly involved down trees, trees into houses, generator failures, relocation of polling places for the General Election and a house fire. Since this is the second year Halloween was disrupted, the Borough must consider alternate

plans as it is expected for these storms to continue their pattern. Code Red was a valuable tool to inform residents about the status of safety in the Borough and more funds should be allocated to this service.

The Borough will be reimbursed by FEMA for the overtime incurred, regular hours, equipment used, fuel, food, the rental of a tub grinder, which cost about \$5,000 daily, and the purchase of a crane for \$13,612. Additionally, FEMA will pay for storm preparations and up to 30 days for the cleanup of debris.

He advised that the Red Cross has been touring facilities for possible shelter locations. They have toured Mt. Carmel, Tenaflly Middle School and Tenaflly High School. Stillman School may be considered. The JCC will be evaluated at a later date. Unfortunately, none of the locations have a generator; however C. Barzelatto advised that he is in the process of applying for grants to obtain generators for these facilities. Once the Red Cross has completed their evaluation, they will issue a master list for viable locations.

To equip shelters, C. Barzelatto noted that funds must be allocated to purchase cots, emergency food and water kits, pillows, blankets, hygiene supplies, first aid kits, and AEDs. He recommended that a SUV that the TVAC does not frequently be used be transferred as an OEM vehicle and that a trailer be purchased to store and transport the supplies as it can be hitched to the SUV.

C. LaMastra commented that more and more houses have installed generators over the past 2 years and that the community should become involved in providing their homes shelter as a neighbor to neighbor program. The Borough Administrator will obtain the number of generator permits issued by the Building Department.

C. Barzelatto recommended that the Borough purchase 2 natural gas generators to provide power to the Senior Center and the portion of the municipal complex covering the McCandless Room, Library, and Youth Center. Mayor Rustin noted that the DPW needs a generator as well.

C. Honig stated that the Lubavitch be considered as a shelter as it has a generator, kitchen and a large space to accommodate displaced residents.

C. Zinna inquired about issues with the phone system at the Police Department. C. Barzelatto responded that the 911 issue was due to a tree damaging Verizon's phone line to the Police Department.

C. Barzelatto reiterated that the purpose of the meeting was to apprise Council of emergency management issues and to have the governing body begin thinking proactively. The next step is that Council needs to prioritize expenses, such as generators, supplies, and a trailer. He advised that Sgt. Epstein was the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator and he recommended that the Borough Clerk be the next Deputy. Council concurred with the recommendation.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Rustin recognized Borough Attorney William McClure, who read into the record Resolution 13-66A.

BE IT RESOLVED in compliance with NJSA 10:4-12, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenaflly are going into Closed Executive Session to discuss the following matters:

- A. Personnel
 - 1. Police Chief selection process
- B. Legal – Litigation
 - 1. Henderson vs. Borough of Tenaflly

Minutes will be taken of the meeting and released to the public at the time that the matter is resolved. After Closed Executive Session, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in the Richard D. Wilson Committee Room to adjourn this public meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion from C. Honig, seconded by C. LaMastra, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Committee Room at 8:46 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Council, on a motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Warms, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela-Hernandez, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk