

# Borough of Tenafly

Annual Meeting of the Mayor and Council

Council Chambers, Borough Hall  
Municipal Center  
100 Riveredge Road, Tenafly, New Jersey

Sunday, January 1, 2012

4:00 P.M.

MINUTES

At 4:05 p.m. Borough Clerk Lissette Aportela-Hernandez 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. Meeting dates for the year are listed in the Annual Agenda; copies are sent to the, Record, Suburbanite, Northern Valley News and posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center.”

The Salute to the Flag was led by Borough Clerk Lissette Aportela-Hernandez.

Borough Clerk Lissette Aportela-Hernandez called the roll of the present Council, which consisted of Council members Anthony Barzelatto, Barry Honig, Martha Kerge, and Nadia LaMastra.

Edward G. Imperatore, Esq. administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-Elect Peter S. Rustin

State Senator Loretta Weinberg administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect Warms.

State Senator Loretta Weinberg to administered the Oath of Office to Council-Elect Zinna

Mayor Rustin stated that he is honored to be represented by Assemblyman Gordon Johnson and State Senator Loretta Weinberg, the new Majority Leader of the State Senate. He congratulated her on her new role and stated that it will be very beneficial to Northern New Jersey to have her in this position. Assemblyman Gordon Johnson then addressed the residents of Tenafly and stated that in comparing Tenafly to other towns, he expressed his opinion that Tenafly residents are very fortunate to have these individuals to represent them. He expressed his opinion that they care and are intelligent and any final product that comes before the Assembly or Senate is very well thought out. He advised that Lou Stellato, Bergen County Democratic Committee Chairman, is in the audience in support of this event.

Loretta Weinberg expressed her fervent wishes for a healthy, peaceful, and wonderful 2012 to every resident and elected official. She advised that the governing body has a tough road ahead of them and expressed her best wishes to Mark Zinna, the newest member of Council.

Borough Clerk Lissette Aportela-Hernandez called the roll of the 2012 Mayor and Council.

PRESENT: Mayor Peter Rustin and Council members Anthony Barzelatto, Barry Honig, Martha Kerge, Nadia LaMastra, Jon Warms, and Mark Zinna

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Jewel Thompson-Chin

## **Appointment of Borough Attorney**

Mayor Rustin appointed William R. McClure, Esq. to serve as Borough Attorney in 2012 and asked for confirmation of his appointment by the Council.

## **#R11-02/Confirmation of Appointment of Borough Attorney**

Motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Barzelatto.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council has resolved to award the position of Borough Attorney through a non-competitive process pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the anticipated payments under said contract may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5) authorizes the execution of such a professional services contract without competitive bidding; and

WHEREAS, **William R. McClure, Esq.**, has submitted a proposed contract and has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that he and his law firm have not made any contributions to any political or candidate committee in the Borough of Tenafly in the previous one year that would render him ineligible to be awarded this contract, and that the proposed contract prohibits him and his law firm from making any such reportable contributions through the term of the contract, and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available and said certification is attached to the original of this resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor's appointment of **William R. McClure, Esq.** to serve as Borough Attorney is hereby confirmed, and the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized to sign the proposed contract submitted by the Borough Attorney; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Entity Disclosure and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this Resolution.

C. Honig commented that although he did not vote to confirm Mr. McClure last year, he will be doing so this year. He expressed his opinion that the role of Borough Attorney is to act as an impartial arbiter of law, irrespective of political affiliation. He advised that he saw this behavior towards the end of last year and expressed his hope that it will continue this year.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

Oath of Office was administered to Borough Attorney by Kathy McClure, Esq.

Mayor Rustin advised that each member of Council has received a nice letter from Governor Christie, congratulating them, wishing them well, and expressing his willingness to work with them to better things for State of NJ.

Selection of Council President for 2012.

Mayor Rustin asked the Council for nominations for Council President.

C. Barzelatto motioned to nominate C. LaMastra as Council President with a second by C. Zinna. C.Kerge commented that she is pleased to support this nomination, but expressed her opinion that the position should be rotated in the future.

On a voice vote, with all members voting in favor, the nomination was approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Citizens are welcome to address the Mayor and Council on any governmental item of concern to them, whether or not it is scheduled on the agenda below. A total of 15 minutes has been allocated for all public comments to be presented. Citizens must give their names and addresses when recognized to speak. Large groups are urged to select someone to represent them. Please be advised these meetings are recorded and are subject to the Open Public Records Act.

None.

#### **#R12-02/Confirm Appointment of Labor Counsel**

Motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Honig.

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council has resolved to award a one-year contract for the position of Labor Counsel through a non-competitive process pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the anticipated payments under said contract may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5) authorizes the execution of such a professional services contract without competitive bidding; and

WHEREAS, the firm of **Ruderman & Glickman, P.C.** has submitted a proposed contract and has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the said firm and its principals have not made any contributions to any political or candidate committee in the Borough of Tenafly in the previous one year that would render the firm ineligible to be awarded a contract to serve as Labor Counsel and that the proposed contract prohibits him and his law firm from making any such reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available and said certification is attached to the original of this resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-140, the appointment of **Ruderman & Glickman, P.C.** is confirmed by the Council, and the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized to sign the proposed contract engaging **Ruderman & Glickman, P.C.** as the Labor Counsel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this Resolution.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

#### **#R12-03/Confirm Appointment of Bond Counsel**

Motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Warms.

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council has resolved to award a one-year contract for the position of Bond Counsel through a non-competitive process pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.5; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's Chief Financial Officer has determined and certified in writing that the anticipated payments under said contract may exceed \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5) authorizes the execution of such a professional services contract without competitive bidding; and

WHEREAS, the firm of **Lomurro, Davison, Eastman, & Munoz, PA** has submitted a proposed contract and has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that the said firm and its principals have not made any contributions to any political or candidate committee in the Borough of Tenafly in the previous one year that would render the firm ineligible to be awarded a contract to serve as Bond Counsel and that the proposed contract prohibits **Lomurro, Davison, Eastman, & Munoz, PA** and its principals from making such reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available and said certification is attached to the original of this resolution.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-140, the appointment of **Lomurro, Davison, Eastman, & Munoz, PA** is confirmed by the Council, and the Mayor and Borough Clerk are authorized to sign the proposed contract engaging **Lomurro, Davison, Eastman, & Munoz, PA** as the Bond Counsel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Entity Disclosure Certification and the Determination of Value be placed on file with this Resolution.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

**#R12-04/Confirmation of Mayor’s Appointments**

Motion by C. Kerge, second by C. Warms.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey that all of the following appointments are hereby confirmed for a one-year term to expire on January 1, 2013.

Prosecutor	Mark Fierro
1st Alternate Municipal Prosecutor	Andrew Cimiluca
Public Defender	Jordan Yuelys
1st Alternate Public Defender	Robert Metzdorf
2nd Alternate Public Defender	Nina C. Remson
Borough Historian	Alice Rigney
Assistant Historian	Paul Stefanowicz

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

**MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING BOARD**

PLANNING BOARD	Term	Expires
Mayor Peter Rustin (Class I Member)	4 yrs.	12/31/2015
Eugene Marcantonio (unexpired Green)	4 yrs.	12/31/2012
John Kim (unexpired Zinna)	4 yrs.	12/31/2013
1st Alternate – Theodore Kagy	2 yrs.	12/31/2013
2nd Alternate – Sheryl Gaines (unexpired Kim)	2 yrs.	12/31/2012

**#R12-05/Appointment of Class III Member to Planning Board**

Motion by C. Zinna, second by C. Barzelatto.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey that Councilmember Warms is hereby designated as a Class III member of the Planning for a one-year term to expire on December 31, 2012.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	nay	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

**MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT	Term	Expires
Jeff Grossman	4 yrs.	1/1/2016
Jeffrey Levene	4 yrs.	1/1/2016
1st Alternate – Mitchell Lieberman	2 yrs.	1/1/2014
2nd Alternate – Randy Babcock (unexp Lieberman)	2 yrs.	1/1/2013
Martha Kerge, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2013

**MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION	Term	Expires
James Coyle	3 yrs.	12/31/2014
Joseph Lavin	3 yrs.	12/31/2014
1st Alternate – Joseph McDermott (unexpired Coyle)	2 yrs.	12/31/2013

Jon Warms, Council Representative 1 yr. 12/31/2012

**MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION	Term	Expires
Mario Turchi	4 yrs.	12/31/2015
1st Alternate – Sereno Danese (unexp. Stefanowicz)	2 yrs.	12/31/2013
Martha Kerge, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2012

**#R12-06/Confirm Appointments to the Board of Health**

Motion by C. Zinna, second by C. Barzelatto and unanimously approved:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey, that all of the following appointments to the Board of Health are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Alexandra Gottdiener (unexpired Kuhns)	4 yrs.	1/1/2013
Daniel Feit, DDS	4 yrs.	1/1/2016
Maria Xylas	4 yrs.	1/1/2016
Jon Warms, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2013

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

**#R12-07/Confirm Appointments to the Library Board of Trustees**

Motion by C. LaMastra, second by C. Honig and unanimously approved:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey, that all of the following appointments to the Library Board of Trustees are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Soon Juhng (unexpired Rochford)	5 yrs.	1/1/2014
Martha Kerge, Mayor’s Alternate	1 yr.	1/1/2013
Board of Education Member – David DiGregorio, Superintendent’s Alternate	1 yr.	1/1/2013

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

**#R12-08/Confirm Appointments to the Recreation Board**

Motion by C. Kerge, second by C. Warms and unanimously approved:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey, that all of the following appointments to the Recreation Board are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Robert Silber	5 yrs.	12/31/2016
Nadia LaMastra, Council Representative	1 year	12/31/2012

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

**#R12-09/Confirm Appointments to the Advisory Committee for the Disabled**

Motion by C. Zinna, second by C. Kerge and unanimously approved:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly, Bergen County, New Jersey, that all of the following appointments to the Advisory Committee for the Disabled are hereby confirmed.

	Term	Expires
Dr. Maureen Moomjy	2 yrs.	12/31/2013
Shirley Shapiro	2 yrs.	12/31/2013
Jackie Salzman	2 yrs.	12/31/2013
Robert Byrnes, Sr., Construction Official Recreation Dept. representative (TBD)	1 yr.	12/31/2012
J. Robert Beutel, DPW representative	1 yr.	12/31/2012
Vincent Benenati, School District representative	1 yr.	12/31/2012
Gerry Migliore, (CVS), Business Community rep	1 yr.	12/31/2012
Barry Honig, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2012

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warmes:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

**ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR RUSTIN**

Note: The appointments to the following non-statutory Committees do not require Council confirmation.

YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Term	Expires
Diane Schiller	3 yrs.	1/1/2015
Arthur May	3 yrs.	1/1/2015
Roger Rajaratnam	3 yrs.	1/1/2015
Recreation Commission Liaison, TBD	1 yr.	1/1/2013
Mark Zinna, Council Representative	1 yr.	1/1/2013

SENIOR CITIZENS SERVICE COMMITTEE	Term	Expires
Rose Kao	3 yrs.	12/31/2014
Gayle Chertoff	3 yrs.	12/31/2014
Laurie Cannon	3 yrs.	12/31/2014
Julie Villafuerte, Director	1 yr.	12/31/2012
Rebecca Stauffer, Assistant Director	1 yr.	12/31/2012
Nadia LaMastra, Council Representative	1 yr.	12/31/2012

TENAFLY WELCOME! COMMITTEE	Term	Expires
Millie Rapp	2 yrs.	12/31/2012
Christine Evron	2 yrs.	12/31/2013
Katherine Kojanis	2 yrs.	12/31/2013
Linda Gallione	2 yrs.	12/31/2013
Stanley Kapp	2 yrs.	12/31/2013
Chiew Kwei Kaw	2 yrs.	12/31/2013
Carol Schulter	2 yrs.	12/31/2013
Nadia LaMastra, Council Liaison	1 yr.	12/31/2012

**BOROUGH/JOINT USE COMMITTEE**  
Mayor Peter Rustin, Chair; Councilmembers Barry Honig and Nadia LaMastra

**TENAFLY NATURE CENTER**  
Jon Warmes, Council Liaison

**TENAFLY PRESENTS**  
Mayor Peter Rustin  
Jon Warmes, Council Liaison

**TENAFLY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Jon Warms, Council Liaison

AD HOC COMMITTEE (1 year term) - TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Mayor Peter Rustin  
Councilman Barry Honig  
Councilman Mark Zinna  
Howard Seiden  
Joseph McDermott  
Byron "Gus" Allen, Jr.  
Michael P. Bruno, Police Chief  
Kevin Tremble  
Michael Bishop  
Michael Sudnow

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenafly Fire Department

Anthony Barzelatto, Council Liaison  
Barry Honig, Alternate Council Liaison

Appointment of Council Liaison to the Tenafly Volunteer Ambulance Corps

Nadia LaMastra, Council Liaison  
Barry Honig, Alternate Council Liaison

Appointment of Board of Police Commissioners

Mayor Rustin, Councilmembers Anthony Barzelatto and Nadia LaMastra

CONSENT AGENDA

C. Honig requested that Resolutions #R12-17/Designate Official Depositories, #R12-28/Appoint Risk Management Consultant, #R12-30/Reaffirm Borough Personnel Manual for 2012, and #R12-34/Authorize Separate Accounts for Official Depositories/Authorize Signatures be removed from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately. He explained that Bank of America and Eifert French are clients of his precluding him from voting to approve #R12-17, #R12-28, and #R12-34 and stated that he would like to have a discussion about the personnel manual. Council agreed to approve #R12-17, #R12-28, and #R12-34 as one vote and to vote on #R12-30 separately.

**Motion by C. Kerge, second by C. LaMastra that the Consent Agenda be approved as amended.**

#R12-10/Adopt 2012 Meeting Schedule/Holiday Calendar  
#R12-11/Adopt Robert's Rules of Order  
#R12-12/Confirm Time and Place for 2012 Regular Meetings  
#R12-13/Authorize Adoption of Minutes at Regular Meetings  
#R12-14/Designate Official Newspapers  
#R12-15/Confirm Process for Determination of 2012 Salaries  
#R12-16/Confirm Elected Officers to the Tenafly Fire Department  
~~#R12-17/Designate Official Depositories~~  
#R12-18/Appoint Tax Search Officer  
#R12-19/Appoint Insurance Commissioner  
#R12-20/Appoint Official Municipal Improvement Searcher  
#R12-21/Ratify Public Official Bonds/Finance Office  
#R12-22/Appoint Acting Borough Clerk and Acting Official Improvement Search Officer  
#R12-23/Appoint Deputy Treasurer  
#R12-24/Appoint Apportionment Officer  
#R12-25/Authorize Adjustments/Assessor  
#R12-26/Authorize Stipulations/Assessor  
#R12-27/Authorize Semi-Monthly Payrolls  
~~#R12-28/Appoint Risk Management Consultant~~  
#R12-29/Appoint Public Agency Compliance Officer  
~~#R12-30/Reaffirm Borough Personnel Manual for 2012~~  
#R12-31/Designate Locations for Temporary Signage Displays  
#R12-32/Temporary Budget 2012  
#R12-33/Interest Rate/Delinquent Taxes 2012  
~~#R12-34/Authorize Separate Accounts for Official Depositories/Authorize Signatures~~  
#R12-35/Petty Cash Funds

#R12-36/Investment of Surplus Current Funds 2012 and to Authorize Transfer of Current Operating Funds  
#R12-37/Authorization of Wire Transfers  
#R12-38/Approve Cash Management Plan

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

C. Zinna motioned to approve Resolutions #R12-17/Designate Official Depositories, #R12-28/Appoint Risk Management Consultant, and #R12-34/Authorize Separate Accounts for Official Depositories/Authorize Signatures, second by C. Barzelatto.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	abstain	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

C. LaMastra motioned to approve #R12-30/Reaffirm Borough Personnel Manual for 2012, second by C. Kerge

C. Honig expressed his concern that the Personnel Manual needs updating and would like to see it amended before it is approved. C. LaMastra pointed out that updating the manual is part of work that new Labor Counsel will undertake. Borough Administrator Thompson-Chin advised that the manual is not a stand-alone document, but instead a compilation of resolutions and ordinances. Mayor Rustin added that voting yes to this resolution does not preclude it from being amended.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

C. Barzelatto:	aye	C. LaMastra:	aye
C. Honig:	aye	C. Warms:	aye
C. Kerge:	aye	C. Zinna:	aye

Mayor Rustin recognized new members of Boards, Commissions and Committees. He announced that Randy Babcock, newly appointed to the Board of Adjustment, was in the audience and thanked him for volunteering his time.

Mayor recognized former Bobby Thompson and Patrick Rouse, former Councilmembers.

Mayor's State of the Borough Address:

It has been a long standing tradition at the annual Reorganization Meeting that the Mayor presents a State of the Borough message. This will be my ninth such speech. Following a Mayoral election year, it is quite tempting to make my message a bit personal and those that know me are cognizant of my inability to defy temptation.

This past election challengers suggested that it was a time for change, whether it be in Washington, state capitals or in local governments such as Tenafly. That theme will resonate again in 2012 and even I, as a two term incumbent agree; it is time for change. Government is as popular today as the Dallas Cowboys will be tonight at Metlife Stadium! Our system is broken; it no longer works and our nation is slowly moving in the wrong direction in so many ways and no one seems to have the answer. I am proud of what we have here in Tenafly. Our Borough Hall is working well. Together, our employees, elected officials, and volunteers serve our residents extremely well. Tenafly is the envy of many surrounding communities. Do we do everything right? Of course not. Can we improve in many areas? Of course we can. But I refuse to be negative about our town. At some point in time we all made a decision that this is where we wanted to raise our families, for many different reasons. We knew then that taxes were high in Tenafly, but we also knew of the numerous benefits Tenafly provides; many of them quite unique. But for some of us, the town is no longer affordable and that my friends, is the number one challenge facing those of us who have taken the oath of office to serve our community to the best of our ability. I would like once again to thank all of the voters who have given me the privilege and honor to serve Tenafly for the next four years. I look forward to the challenges facing us, because I believe that Tenafly is prepared to meet those challenges; and together with the members of our Council, our employees and volunteers, we have the tools to move forward and deal with whatever obstacles the economy, Washington, Trenton, or New Jersey Transit place in front of us.

Over a year ago the 2010 Council charged our then new Borough Administrator to prepare a 2011 budget with an increase as close to 0% as possible. Last year's Municipal budget came in with an increase of under 1%, the smallest increase in recent memory. The process was not easy. A hiring freeze allowed us to trim the size of our work force significantly. That created a need for our remaining employees to absorb a considerable increase in their workload. I am pleased to say that our employees did an admirable job in meeting that test. We increased the amount of services we shared with neighboring towns and our Board of Education. And please remember, the other side of this balancing act was to do all of this without cutting back on our level of service to our residents.

2011 proved to be the most demanding year for Borough Hall since I took office. A series of intense weather events created continual issues for us; keep in mind that one year ago, during the last week of 2010 we had a huge blizzard, the magnitude of which can wipe out whatever funds have been put aside for overtime and salt. Numerous power outages added to the problems as we struggled to maintain public safety and a reasonable quality of life. Despite comments to the contrary, those truly in the know appreciated the quality of our responses to each of these storms. You need only compare our town with surrounding municipalities to better understand and appreciate what was accomplished here by our Police Department, Volunteer Fire Department and Volunteer Ambulance Corp. Two quick anecdotes; a resident recently approached me and told of walking his dog one evening only to be stopped by a car that turned out to be an unmarked Tenaflly Police car with a plain clothed officer inside. The officer asked if that was his house down the end of the block with the open garage door. When the resident replied yes, the officer told him not to leave the garage door open as it provided easy access for the type of burglars that have plagued Tenaflly and surrounding communities recently. The other story: on Christmas Day I passed the Fire House in the late morning and saw several of our fire fighters getting out of one of the trucks. I pulled in and discovered that 15 of our volunteer fireman had answered a call Christmas morning to help out at a fatal blaze in Dumont. Public safety does not happen by accident, it is maintained by the diligence of our Police, Fire and Ambulance employees and Volunteers as well as the work of our DPW.

2012 presents a multitude of challenges and Tenaflly would best be served if more residents get involved. High on everybody's mind is the reemergence of the Northern Branch passenger rail project. The Draft Environmental Impact Study has been released and to put it in simple terms, it basically ignores the impact it would have on Tenaflly. Although it includes correspondence it has received from other concerned communities along its route, none of the correspondence it received from Tenaflly is included which is not surprising since New Jersey Transit has never responded to our inquiries or concerns over the past seven years. They show no mitigation for the problems the project would create in our community and their plans include taking a large part of our commercial district which would shrink our tax base significantly. Each resident of Tenaflly must take every opportunity possible to let New Jersey Transit and our representatives in Trenton and Washington know where we stand on this issue. We cannot allow outsiders or the media to paint Tenaflly as elitist or backward as they did when we fought school regionalization. We have serious traffic and parking issues that would be intensified if the project goes forward. Public safety could be endangered. The project would put more cars on our streets than it would remove. The project would require vast improvements to our infrastructure that we can't afford and New Jersey Transit has not agreed to fund. Hardly anyone in Tenaflly would use it. We must send a loud clear unified message to Newark and Trenton.

One of the areas that would be most impacted by passenger rail service is our downtown business district. I anticipate that 2012 will be the year business owners and residents alike start to see the benefits of our new Business Improvement District. Together with the BID board of directors and the Chamber of Commerce, Borough Hall will work diligently to upgrade our downtown. We share concerns brought on by the numerous vacancies in our downtown, the latest being the buildings that contained Oxygen and Charlie Brown's. Rest assured that we are doing whatever we can to fill those buildings, in this economic climate an arduous task.

Other projects I foresee in the coming year include the dog park. The Council needs to decide if Tenaflly should have a dog park and if they choose to have one, we need to pick a location and get it done. The process of picking a location is not easy and we will never have a location that satisfies everyone, but a decision should be made one way or another.

I would like to once again review our landscaper's ordinance and consider if any changes need to be made. I will convene that committee shortly to review all of the comments we have received trying to balance our quality of life with the needs residents have for landscapers who in their own way contribute to our quality of life and certainly the appearance of our town.

Our Joint Use Committee will be meeting with the Board of Education to discuss a project to improve our high school football field. The renovation of our Municipal Field which included artificial turf and lights was in my mind some of the best money the municipality ever spent. The project created space equivalent to perhaps four new fields. Tenaflly is one of the few towns in Bergen County that does not have a full-size turfed field. As a

result the field currently gets less than 1/3 the use it might get with improvements similar to those on the Municipal Field. This project would go a long way to solving our chronic long term field shortage problems.

Eight years ago we started a program that produced concerts in Davis-Johnson Park to go along with concerts in Huyler Park. Last year due to budget pressures, the Borough ceased funding summer concerts altogether and this must not happen again in 2012. I will be looking for volunteers to produce summer concerts in 2012. If you are interested in serving on a committee that will create a summer concert series and maybe even an art show please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Also one area in which Tenafly is behind a program called the Mayor's Wellness Campaign. Over 300 towns in New Jersey are participating in this program which makes good health and active living a priority. I would like to form a committee to promote this program. If you would like more information on this program please go to [www.mayorswellnesscampaign.org](http://www.mayorswellnesscampaign.org).

Finally, I have been disappointed in the lack of progress being made in the construction of a much needed bathroom and snack shack building alongside the Municipal field. Despite the serious need for this facility little progress has been made even though funds have been set aside for it. I would ask the Council to allow me to coordinate this project with the goal of having it completed before the end of the softball season. I am asking the Borough Clerk to add this for discussion at our next work session. I believe that I can work with our designated project Engineer, Construction Officer and several key volunteers and get this thing built.

In closing I have not yet mentioned the biggest challenge facing Borough Hall in 2012. That is the budget process which we will now be focusing on. Last year unlike many communities, we were not worried about getting under Governor Christie's 2% cap, our energy was spent closing in on a zero percent increase. The same goes this year with one additional caveat. We are currently either negotiating or have negotiated new contracts with our employees at Borough Hall. It is never pleasant asking employees for give backs or to hold the line on salaries. Employees must not confuse either of those concepts with a lack of appreciation for their work. The truth is that we can no longer afford to do business as we have done in the past. Many of us in the private sector have found that we have had to do with less and in some cases had our jobs eliminated and careers waylaid. Earlier in my speech I mentioned having to require our employees to do more. At no time have we forgotten that. We ask that our employees not forget the realities we face. It truly pains me when I get the sense that an employee feels unappreciated. In our Borough Hall we have the greatest group of employees one could reasonably hope for. They are talented and energetic and one of the reasons I decided to take this job for another four years was the privilege offered to me of working alongside the folks here at Borough Hall who have become my friends as well as co-workers over the past eight years. I close by offering the residents of Tenafly this promise. We, your Mayor and Council, the employees and volunteers at Borough Hall will continue to strive to keep Tenafly the special place it has always been and to make it as affordable as possible so that we can all continue to enjoy living in what I believe is one of the nicest communities on this planet. To all, have a very healthy and a happy 2012.

#### Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion from C. LaMastra, second by C. Kerge, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela-Hernandez, MPA, RMC  
Borough Clerk