



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota, held at the Bogota Senior Center, 375 Larch Avenue, Bogota, NJ, on Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 7:37pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Connors.

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Law have been satisfied as notice was sent to two newspapers and posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board on January 31, 2020.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Carpenter, Connors, Fede, Murphy, Napolitano, and Robbins were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Bossong, Borough Administrator Scarpa, CFO Bock, Tax Assessor Wilkins, and Borough Architect Bilow.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to open the meeting to Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Rosemary Gasiewicz asked when the Council meetings will be televised.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Borough Attorney Scarpa said that he is working with the high school to get the equipment needed to start televised meetings. He mentioned that one discussion item is a best practices resolution to explain how everyone should conduct themselves when being recorded live.

Presentation: Mayor Kelemen and Councilman Napolitano explained that meetings took place to move the location to have more parking spaces. The tennis and basketball courts will be moved. They explained that Cresskill has a community center built in 2006 using developer money, and Bogota was able to get ideas about the kitchen, security, etc. They explained that the building will be only one story instead of two stories which will save money on the elevator. Borough Architect Bilow as well as Matt Bilow and Matt Spagnola presented drawings for the new community center with the new location and increased parking which will serve the original building and the new building. There will be an outdoor tree-lined plaza. The playground will stay where it is, but the canopy and bandstand will be moved. There will be a large basketball court, a couple of multi-purpose rooms, an office, storage area, a commercial kitchen, etc.

Discussions: -CFO Bock explained the Recreation Trust Account should be used for expenses for after-care and programs which are supported by fees for the individual programs. All other expenses should be taken from the Recreation Operating budget. He said that the Recreation Trust account was being used for all expenses in 2019 which was a contributing factor in the short fall. Part time counselors should be paid out of Recreation Trust. There have been problems which will be rectified. They will try to get grant money for the Senior Bus Driver and Project Success this year as well.

- Tax Assessor Patrick Wilkins explained that a revaluation needs to be done in Bogota soon because one has not been done since 2009. The County Tax Administrator said that the tax ratio is at 80% which means that sales values are much higher than the assessed value. They are requesting a revaluation for the 2021 tax year. Tax maps will have to be updated as well which have to be completed by the Borough Engineer and then approved by the state. A revaluation will cost about \$200,000 which can be spread over a three year period. He explained that there is a rolling re-assessment that is more expensive but gives a more accurate evaluation. He will discuss this with the CFO, the Administrator, and the Attorney.
- Police Chief Maye discussed hiring another SLEOIII for evening events at the schools and voids in the school. The starting costs are around \$3200 which the school will pay half. The salary is paid by the school. His second request is for police officers. He said that since he became the Chief, there has been one less officer than needed, There are two tours of three officers and one tour of two officers every day. He asked if he could

start the process of advertising now for officers because it takes a long time for training and background checks etc. Administrator Scarpa asked him to wait one month for the budget to be introduced before advertising for police officers.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Connors, to advertise for an SLEOIII. Motion carried.

Police Chief Maye explained the need for part time dispatchers and Crossing guards. (Resolutions for both are on the consent agenda.) Police Captain Piferski explained that the President authorized that surplus military equipment can be obtained by Police Departments for free under the 1033 program. Computers, flashlights, etc. have been acquired already. (Resolution for 1033 program is on the consent agenda.)

- Best Practices Broadcasting Resolution – Mr. Scarpa gave a sample resolution with guidelines for broadcasting the meetings. He asked for comments and considerations on the guidelines. This resolution will be voted on at the next regular meeting of the Mayor and Council.

Councilman Napolitano motioned and Councilwoman Carpenter seconded approving the following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

- 20-047 Renew Green Team Advisory Committee
- 20-048 Establish 2020 Creative Team
- 20-049 Authorizing Sustainable Jersey Grant Application
- 20-050 Authorizing Bogota Police Department to Participate in 1033 Program to Request and Acquire Excess Department of Defense Equipment
- 20-051 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 55, Lot 06
- 20-052 Authorize Advertisement for Crossing Guards
- 20-053 Authorize Advertisement for Police Dispatchers

Resolution to be voted on Separately:

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the following resolution. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter recusing herself from voting for her paycheck.

PC20-02 Payment of Claims

The following Ordinance was introduced with Councilwomen Carpenter and Murphy voting No:

1537 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2-8 Et Seq. Entitled "Recreation Committee" To Increase The Membership Therein

Approval: Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Connors, to approve the Minutes from January 16, 2020. Motion carried with Councilwomen Carpenter and Murphy voting No. Councilwoman Carpenter voted No because a statement she made at the last meeting was not included in the minutes. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by councilman Connors, to open the meeting for Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Rebecca Youla said that she was at the meeting when the new Recreation Center was defeated by a tie, and she is glad that it is moving forward now. The Recreation Center will be good for the town. Home prices are improving. She said to keep up the good work.

Rosemary Gasiewicz asked if the tube that was put in the ground in 1994 has been dug up yet.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Reports: Mayor, Council Committees:

Mayor Kelemen said that in October, Jeffrey Kuhl of Palisades Park wanted to put peanut allergy signs in Pagano Park. He is related to Sgt. Pagano who the park is named after. The other day Jeffrey said that there is money left over that he would like to donate to the Recreation Trust Account. The Mayor discussed the firehouse with Mr. Scarpa, and they are going to ask the architect to make up drawings and plans to move forward. He spoke to grant writer Steve Welsh about grants and low interest loans for the firehouse and the aging fire truck. He met with the Superintendent of Schools last week. They discussed putting an addition on a school and possibly buying the masonic temple. They spoke about how to pay for everything. He said he will support the school plans, but the tax dollar must be kept in mind. He wants to take down the fence and have a beautiful complex. He wants to have a meeting with the Board of Education

within a week. He wants safe schools, improved curriculum, industrial art classes, etc. He thanked Mayor Romeo of Cresskill for all his help and requested that all the Council members go to Cresskill and see the rubber gym floor.

Councilwoman Fede went to the Bogota Beautiful meeting. Bogota Beautiful and the Library will be co-sponsoring the International Pot Luck in the Senior Center on March 21 from 1pm to 3pm. She thanked the Council for approving the Creative Team Resolution. The Creative Team will be meeting the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm. She reported that the second park bench has been delivered which means that Bogota has recycled 1,000 pounds of plastic. She reminded everyone that the plastic to be recycled must be stretchy plastic. She attended the Friends of the Library meeting and announced that they need members. She said that May 2nd will be Clean-up Day. They might create a list of Seniors who need yard work.

She looked into the grant writer for Rutherford and found that it was a citizen in town, Julia Lynn Segal, an engineer who helped write the grant. The Sandy Recovery Tree Grant was awarded. The small trees will be coming April 25th, and she would like to give them out by Valley National Bank in concert with the Rescue Boot Drive. She said they have been working hard with Bruno Associates to get a sustainable jersey grant for new appliances for the seniors. Mr. Scarpa got quotes, so it is moving forward. She said they are also applying for a grant for a pollinator/raingarden for the Community Garden.

Councilman Robbins said that there were no noise complaints in January for Bogota. He inquired as to when the tarp to cover the Hose 2 leak on the roof will be done, and Mr. Scarpa said by Wednesday it should be done. He said that Fire Marshall Kern gave Mr. Scarpa a sample ordinance for fire watch that he would like to revisit because the River club buildings will be completed soon. Mr. Scarpa said that Mr. Kern also gave a copy of an air b&b ordinance and both ordinances will be addressed.

Councilwoman Murphy said that next Library Board meeting will be February 10th. She said that Rescue meetings are on the same night as other meetings, so she will work on her schedule to try to attend.

Councilman Napolitano said that the CFO gave an excellent presentation. They will work on the budget when the Annual Financial Statement is completed. He thanked the Police Chief for his presentation. He said that the police chief gave him the emergency placards, and he will give them out to the governing body after the meeting. The police answered 2,150 calls and traveled 5,380 miles this month. No DUIs. The Seniors had a meeting Tuesday. A grant was applied for appliances for the Senior Center. He said that the Seniors are excited about the new community center. The Seniors have a yoga tape to watch. One senior requested a handicapped parking spot, so the police chief will look into that. He reported that the River Club had an emergency services meeting to look into access for emergency services at the new development. He thanked Cresskill for their assistance. Mike Hamlin showed them around Cresskill and gave them advice about maintenance etc.

Councilwoman Carpenter did not make the County Meeting because she was ill. The next meeting will be February 19th. She said that there are 31 vacant properties, and they are all registered. The DPW interviews took place yesterday. They have 9 men, one superintendent, and two part-timers., and they are doing a great job.

Councilman Connors attended the Board of Education meeting in January. They had an open position. Three candidates spoke and Zabrina Kearns was chosen. Mr. Jim Moore will be resigning from the Board of Education. There was no Recreation meeting since the last Council meeting. Mayor Kelemen thanked Mr. Moore for his service.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that River Club is now called Atwater. Shred Day will be on July 18th from 9am to 1pm at the Recreation Center for Bogota Residents. The roof on Hose 2 should be repaired on Wednesday. Some street signs were damaged, and some just did not exist, so street signs will be ordered and completed, so the town will be uniform. Construction official Dan Howell now has a direct email. He said the attorney will prepare Bruno's contract. He gave a list of all stop signs etc that were looked at by the police. Street lights and outages are being addressed by Officer Luciano. He said that he and the fire marshall submitted a report to the state. He said the Safety Meeting was held in December and his report on the meeting was submitted to the Joint Insurance fund by January 15th. The grant request for appliances for the Senior Center totaled \$1,806 for all energy efficient appliances. The BCUA made their list of hazardous waste days. Copies are available in the clerk's office. The hazardous waste included bug sprays, etc. There were 7 interviews for a DPW position. The recommendation was for Paul Serveli, and a resolution will be approved at the next meeting. Veteran's preference will be included in all future bid specs.

Borough Attorney Bossong thanked the Mayor, Council, and staff for the beautiful flowers for his mother. The family appreciated seeing such thoughtfulness.

Borough Clerk Cook reminded everyone to follow the Open Public Meetings Act.

Borough Attorney Bossong said that the Personnel matter will be handled in open session at the request of the Senior Bus Driver. Mr. Scarpa said there were recurring issues with time sheets, safety inspections of the vehicle., tardiness, or not showing up, calling in sick and being seen driving another bus, using her personal car. The Senior Bus Driver said that she used her car only when the bus could not fit in the driveway of one of the seniors. She said that she does all she can for the seniors. She has a disabled husband and three children.

Mr. Scarpa said that the time sheets had discrepancies. He told her that she has to use the borough phone for appointments. Mr. Scarpa felt that the Borough should advertise for a new Senior bus Driver. Discussion took place with Mayor and Council.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to give a 60-day probationary period to then revisit. Motion carried. During the 60 day probationary period, there should be no complaints from the seniors, no violations.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.