

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota, 375 Larch Avenue, held on Thursday, February 19, 2015 at Borough Hall at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Robbins.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen, Council members Fede, Mitchell, Napolitano, Nunez, and Robbins were present. Councilwoman Kohles was absent.

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 8, 2015.

The following Resolutions were adopted:

15-44 Tax check totaling \$27,591.46

15-45 Tax check totaling \$27,533.97

The following items were Approved:

Raffle for Steen School PTO on May 2, 2015, waive borough fee

Engine #1 accepted John Tanucilli as a member.

Public Hearing on the following Ordinances took place. Voting records are attached to the minutes:

#1453 Ordinance to prohibit sale of tobacco to persons under the age of twenty one (21)

#1454 2015 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and Establish a CAP

James Irwin and Karen Blumenthal were pleased with Ordinance #1453. Councilman Nunez thanked them for their work, and Councilwoman Fede mentioned moving forward with an ordinance to stop smoking in public parks.

The following Minutes were approved with Councilman Robbins abstaining from the December 18 Minutes. (He did not attend the December 18 meeting): December 4, December 18, January 3, January 8, January 15, January 22

The following amended Resolution was adopted after several items were pulled including Magic Touch, King Transcription, MC Kissoff, and Easy Pass Violations.

PC15-02

Councilman Nunez pointed out that a lot of issues are being uncovered including missing signatures and poor descriptions of purchases. Point of purchase should have justification.

Discussion:

Ordinance For Purpose of "Registration and Maintenance of Vacant/Abandoned Properties" was explained by Borough Attorney Bossong. All agreed to put it on for introduction next meeting.

Ordinance To Mandate Direct Deposit For Municipal Employees By the Borough of Bogota was explained by CFO DiMaria. CFO DiMaria and Administrator Scarpa discussed simplifying system for time.

Committee Reports:

Councilwoman Fede explained that the Library Board would like WiFi installed in the Senior Center, but they need the Borough's help. "Rosetta Stone" for Spanish was donated. A cleaning service is needed. "Friends of the Library" needs to be invigorated.

The Rescue Squad meeting included dinner. Turnout gear was discussed. Boot drive is planned for April. President of Bergen County Rebuilding is selling tickets for \$10 to win \$500 gift card and \$2000 in labor. If Councilwoman Fede wins, she will donate the prize to the Police Department.

Councilman Robbins spoke about problems with parking for firemen. They need to meet with police about parking issues during fires. Also, Police Chief needs to be aware of cars parked across the street from hydrants when it snows.

Councilman Mitchell reported that two of the firehouses locks do not work properly – Broad Street and #3. Police are looking for a new security system. Bogota Beautiful is doing research to have a tour of Bogota, and to bring the community together. Planters may be put on Palisade Avenue. Plans will be brought to Council about park benches and flowers at Firemen's Park and on Main Street. Also, police want to meet to negotiate contract, and crossing guards should receive a salary increase.

Councilman Nunez will be meeting with the Senior Citizen committee next Monday Afternoon. He urged everyone to check on elderly neighbors to help with running an errand or shoveling snow. A new website will be launched. The Finance Committee is getting things in order that have been overlooked for years. He thanked the library director, Radwa Ali for her cooperation with the room mix-up during the last Council meeting.

Councilman Napolitano met with the mayor, the CFO, and the Administrator concerning finances. Bogota seems to be moving forward in a positive way, and the CFO and administrator are hoping to finalize the budget soon. Savings are a priority. Fire Chief Brophy explained the need for turnout gear. FileBank is very expensive for storage of files, \$18,000. Councilman Napolitano commended the First Aid volunteers for their work at the Edgewater fire. First Aid needs more volunteers. All volunteers will need get ID soon. The old Senior bus is taking up space. The Recreation Department expressed interest in it. He, the Borough Engineer, and the Administrator spoke to the County Engineer about the MidTown Bridge. It may be closed for 6-9 months for repairs. The Leonia Avenue project is under way with Bob Costa. PSE&G will have to repair River Road. Baseball season is coming, so something must be done about signage, lighting, etc. The administrator will be looking for a Community Development Grant for drainage at Elm Avenue and River Road.

Administrator Scarpa said that there will be a fee of \$120 to change the Website Name. A state Representative will be present for Police negotiations. The Director of LGS is pleased with the direction the borough is headed. Because of prior history, the Borough's annual liability premium was raised \$60,000. Out of pocket charges for claims rose from \$40,000 to \$100,000.

Mandatory Labor Law posters must be posted. Money is needed to repair sidewalk from tree damage. Sidewalk safety does excellent tree and cement work.

Councilman Robbins discussed refurbishing a fire truck. There is also a need for a DPW truck, so the Fire Department will understand waiting until 2016 as long as it is no longer than that.

Administrator Scarpa reminded Mayor and Council that the bond needs to be introduced in order to have money for turnout gear and whatever else is needed.

Councilman Robbins asked what the OEM Coordinator will do without a vehicle.

Councilman Mitchell reminded everyone that there is a brand new ambulance. OEM vehicle cannot transport people to the hospital. Administrator Scarpa pointed out that the Ambulance Captain and the OEM Coordinator are two different positions, and an OEM Coordinator does not need a vehicle 365 days a year.

Councilman Nunez motioned and Councilman Napolitano seconded to approve the following Resolution: 15-46 To Re-assign Chevrolet Suburban and All Auxiliary Equipment to Bogota Police. Motion carried and discussion took place. Councilwoman Fede expressed concern about the equipment in the vehicle. Resolution 15-46 was approved.

Councilman Nunez motioned and Councilman Napolitano seconded to approve the following Resolution: 15-47 to assign new portable message sign to Bogota Police Department. Motion carried and discussion ensued. Councilman Napolitano pointed out that the Police Chief had requested a sign with a radar detector. Resolution 15-47 was approved.

Citizen Remarks:

Don Stofan asked the Mayor and Council to speak louder. He also had concerns with the DPW, Fire Department Equipment, and Crossing guards. He suggested using police auxiliaries more.

Christine Reidel asked when communication equipment for the police will be purchased.

Michele Rupar mentioned a law passed by State Senate which would make 15 MPH speed limit for park areas. Main Street would need signs where children cross to play baseball. She also asked about computers that were discussed at the last meeting. Administrator Scarpa said that two computers purchased during Hurricane Sandy are still in the OEM, and the Police Chief purchased a computer within his own budget. Mayor Kelemen's computer had been used by former Administrator Nicolosi. Administrator Scarpa also clarified that five monitors had been purchased, not five computers.

Rodney Bennet and Raymond George, football coaches with Bogota Recreation Football, said that their reputations were stained and they had to go to court to clear their names. Rodney said there are problems with Rec football that need to be addressed. He asked if he could see how the money is spent at the Rec. Administrator Scarpa said that he could put in an OPRA request, and also the Borough auditor would be auditing the accounts soon. Also, Councilwoman Kohles is the liaison to the Recreation Commission, and the coaches should contact her to bring the situation to the Council's attention.

Teresa Robbins said that this was a personal matter between the Director of football and these two coaches. Borough Attorney Bossong agreed to look into the matter with Council approval.

Pamela Dirr explained that fuel pumps were down in Ridgefield Park, so other arrangements had to be made for obtaining fuel. She also questioned the first aid conference in Baltimore. Administrator Scarpa explained that public money is used for these classes, so local classes should be taken. This requisition was from December. The former administrator did not sign it, and the new administrator will not sign it either. Several council members reiterated the fact that tax dollars are used for classes, so they should be local.

Tito Jackson commented that turnout gear was needed for ambulance as well. He asked about Holy Name Hospital Radio Communications. The Administrator said that the Police Chief did not call that a priority. Tito Jackson also questioned reverse 911. Administrator Scarpa said that contract was signed by Tito Jackson in 2013 without proper authorization. Contract ended May 31, 2014.

Gabrielle Carpenter heard that there were problems with donations. Many organizations use "Go Fund Me" on line. Petco is donating money and food to fire victims in Englewood.

Ray Dwyer said that two people are needed for the ambulance. He also said that Edwin Ottin who bought the 1950 Cadillac ambulance would like to buy the present "old" ambulance. When it is auctioned, Edwin Ottin should be notified.

Closed Session: Personnel

The following Resolutions were added to the agenda and adopted:

15-48A Appointment of Joseph Scarpa as Bogota Borough Administrator

15-49 Authorizing the Borough Attorney to Forward Minutes, Transcript, and Documents to the Governor's office for an Assessment of the Conduct of OEM Coordinator Activities

Meeting adjourned at 12:36am.

Adjournment