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2/10/14

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Tuesday, February 4, 2014, at 7:30 PM at Borough Hall

Salute to the flag was led by Councilman Robbins

Roll Call: Mayor Jackson, Council members Burdiaz, Kelemen, Kohles, Mitchell, Nunez and Robbins were present

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied as notice was sent to two newspapers and posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board on January 30, 2014.

Mayor Jackson advised that this is a continuation of the January 30th meeting so that appointments might be made and the following resolutions were adopted; Mayor Jackson felt some of the appointments should be investigated. Attorney Bern advised that, unless there is some disqualifying information, voting should go forth, so the Following resolutions were adopted:

The first four appointments which, were voted on at the last meeting, were ratified At this meeting and RFQs for the Alternate Prosecutor were rejected and the Clerk was directed to re-advertise for that position. Other professional names which were voted down were: Elsbeth Crusius for Prosecutor; GJEM for risk manager; Ray Dwyer for Webmaster which should be discussed by a committee; and special labor counsel.

Approved:

- 14-43 Ratify appointment of Borough Architect – Environetics Group
- 14-44 Ratify appointment of Borough Attorney – Douglas M. Bern, Esq. of Rubenstein, Meyerson, Fox, Mancinelli, Conte & Bern, P.A. Attorneys at Law
- 14-45 Ratify appointment of Borough Auditor – Steve Wielkotz of Ferraioli, Wilkotz, Cerullo and Cuva
- 14-46 Ratify appointment of Bond Counsel – McManimon, Scotland, Baumann
- 14-47 Appointment of Public Defender, Mark DiPisa, Esq., or DiPisa & Lago
- 14-48 Appointment of Borough Prosecutor Ronald A. Dario, Esq. of Dario, Yacker, Suarez & Albert, LLC
- 14-49 Appointment of Borough Engineer – Costa Engineering Corp.
- 14-50 Appointment of Risk Manager – the Alamo Insurance Group
- 14-51 Appointment of Legal Counsel, Bruce Rosenberg, Esq. of Winne, Banta, Hetherington, Basralian Kahn
- 14-52 Appointment of MUNIDEX as Software Support Services

The meeting was opened to citizen remarks:

Bill Brennan felt the atmosphere in the chambers was one of hostility; he asked the Council to investigate Charles Severino, a member of the Board of Education whose sexual assault behavior should be investigated as it exposes the town to liability. Attorney Bern advised that it is inappropriate for this body to be involved and if there is evidence, he should address the matter to the Board of Education

Michelle Rugar felt that the compensations for all appointees be made public and Attorney Bern assured that all information can be viewed and is public information.

Michael Doss wants the town to investigate why there was a tax abatement for the building at 297 Palisade Avenue and where is the paper trail for the debt which has risen from 4 million in year 2007 to 9 million to the present and the storm damage; we need unification.

George Shalhoub advised that the Mayor should accept the new majority on the council since this is the democratic process.

Nick Zampetti's concern is why some positions were not appointed when the RFQs should have been reviewed and don't spend money on readvertising.

Laurie Greiner feels the town is a small community which has volunteers and people who work together, of the council members, the mayor serves with volunteers also.

Terri Robbins said the public should know of any skeletons, if there a conflict of interest, the public should know.

The following resolution was adopted:
14-39A Closed Session

The meeting reconvened and motion to adjourn made by Councilman Burdiaz, seconded by Councilman Robbins; motion approved and carried; meeting ended at 9:15 PM