

**BOROUGH OF BLOOMSBURY  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 23, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held on December 23, 2014 at Borough Hall, 91 Brunswick Avenue, Bloomsbury, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the reading of the Sunshine Law by Kim Francisco

As required by the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 16, 2014 by the publication of said notice in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the posting of said notice in the Municipal Building on the same date.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	Chris James	Al Stiehler – arrived 7:50
	Kathleen Jordan	Chris Smith
	Vicky Papics	Eric Weger
	Martha Tersigni, Mayor	William Edleston, Esq.

**FLAG SALUTE**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The November meeting minutes will be held for approval at the January meeting.

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS**

Mrs. Papics moved Council approve the Tax Collector's Report of November 30, 2014; seconded by Mrs. Jordan.

ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye; Papics-aye; Smith-aye; Weger-aye. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF BILL LIST**

Mr. Weger moved Council approve the Bill List of December 23, 2014; seconded by Mr. Smith.

ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye, abstain from payroll; Papics-aye, abstain from payroll; Smith-aye; Weger-aye.

Motion carried.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT**

Mrs. Jordan moved Council accept the Code Enforcement Report of December; seconded by Mr. Smith. All ayes. Motion carried.

**STATE POLICE – PERRYVILLE**

No report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*C. James:*

Nothing new to report.

***K. Jordan:***

**Board of Education-**

- Mrs. Jordan stated there is nothing new to report.

**Newsletter -**

- Mrs. Jordan asked that all newsletter submissions be forwarded to her as available.

***C. Smith:***

**Recreation –**

- Mr. Smith advised that luminary sales are wrapping up and he anticipates a net profit of about \$215.00.
- Mr. Smith stated that he has spoken to Mr. Francisco and advised he has numbers to share to wrap up on fall sports as well as some receipts and some money from the snack stand. Mr. Smith believes there will be a balance of about \$700 in the account when everything is finalized and in order to cover the summer recreation deficit they will need to ask the Spooky Sprint for about \$2,500. There was no PTO meeting this month in order for this to be approved. Discussion followed.
- Mr. Smith stated that the Commission Members have agreed to downgrade to a Committee. Discussion followed. Mrs. Tersigni asked Mr. Edleston to prepare whatever we need to have done to change Recreation from a commission to a committee, as we did when we changes the Environmental Commission to a committee. He agreed to the same. She added that she fills these spots early and would like to include in the Code amendment in January.

***V.Papics:***

**BCC-**

- The BCC will host the Town for Sale on June 13, 2015.

**Fire Department-**

- No Report.

**Rescue-**

- Mrs. Papics reported they are now on dual alert and added that the one vehicle in the parking lot with an expired inspection sticker is being used for personal use by one their members.

**Safe Routes to Schools-**

- Mrs. Papics stated that she spoke to Freeholder Rob Walton who said he will help in any way he can for the Borough to secure the funds. Mrs. Tersigni stated if there is anything he can do to shake something loose. She asked if either Mr. Smith or James have made any progress on the same. Both replied that they have not yet looked over the grant information that the Clerk emailed to them.

**E. Weger:**

**DPW-**

- Mr. Weger stated that he has not yet heard back from Rick regarding the street opening fees for Aqua. He added that we should at least have some documentation about where they dug in town.

Mrs. Tersigni asked if Mr. Weger had walked the Main Street Project area. He stated that he feels that everything that can be done this time of year has probably been done, and that the seed won't take now. He also noted that there is a bit of a hump at either end of the paving area. Discussion followed.

**Mrs. Tersigni presented:**

**Clerk/Administrator's Report:**

**TAX OFFICE –**

- Tax Sale was held on 12/15/2014 at 10am

2 Lienholders were present. One was from a company called Pro Capital and the other was an individual investor.

There were 4 properties up for bid:

Block 8, Lot 1	Quovadis	\$21,977.84
Block 16, Lot 13	Devlin, Joseph Sr	\$6,040.93
Block 17, Lot 38	Tardiff, Douglas & Mary Merendino	\$76.96
Block 17, Lot 42	Unknown Owner	\$99.41

- Only Block 16, Lot 13 was bid by a lien holder for 18%, the other 3 properties were left for the Borough.
- According to our tax map - Block 17; Lot 42 is .07 ac. We are interested in possibly foreclosing on this lot as it is a river front parcel which we could add to our Open Space.
- Eloise has requested an extension from the HC Tax Board fir completing the reassessment until the end of January 2015. This will allow for letters to go out in the early January with sufficient time for taxpayer reviews.

**E-CODE –**

- There is now an e-Code app for your phone - search eCode tap the FREE button to turn green then INSTALL APP.

## **INSURANCE-**

- Annual Inspection of our Park/ Office was conducted on 12/2/14. A response is required within 60 days. Nothing marked urgent, one item marked Important (Mulch – will be handled in the spring) and one marked for program improvement. They are advising that new ADA statutes effective March 15, 2011 would require we have 3 different types of ground level components and we currently have 2. Compliance with the statute is required by March 15, 2015.
- I met with Bob Gemmel of Brown & Brown for our Annual Insurance review and for once – we have good news! Our premium for 2014 was \$66,901 and for 2015 it is \$59,892 – a reduction of \$7,009! I asked how much of this is due to the training done online by all of us and Bob reported back that 3 of us did it for a \$750 credit – which is NOT accurate. I have noted that we should get a credit of \$1,750. I will keep on this and update as needed.

## **2015 PROFESSIONALS-**

- I have contacted all of our Professionals and all have stated that they wish to be considered for re-appointment for 2015.
- If Council so appoints at January 1st re-org, I will then request all contracts and pay to play docs be sent to me not later than January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## **DATES TO REMEMBER –**

The Clerk started a draft 2015 Dates to Remember as follows:

- Clean Up Day has been scheduled for Saturday, July 18, 2015 from 8 – 11 am
- Annual Free Rabies Clinic has been scheduled for Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 2 pm
- Trick or Treat will be October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5 – 7 pm

The Clerk still needs dates/info for:

- Town for sale
- Halloween Parade
- Christmas/Santa at the firehouse
- Anything else anyone may have should be forwarded to the Clerk as she would like to have it ready for distribution by Jan. 15, 2015.

## **ALLEYS-**

- Per Council request at the November meeting, a letter was sent – via blast email on December 16<sup>th</sup> to residents regarding snow clearing from the alleys & secondary rds. 3 resident questions were received. I do not know how to answer the same and have shared them with Martha & Eric.
- I still do not have a status on the survey work for Musconetcong Drive.

- I have created the following list and map of alleys – and our recommendations for the same- which will require Council consideration/discussion, perhaps a public meeting regarding vacation of the same.
- Last month- Bill said he would start looking into this – specifically drafting the Ord. that may be required so that we can start the process in early 2015. I again encourage all Council members to drive around town and look at these so we are all on the same page.

Mr. Weger stated that he drove the alleys with the Clerk and saw the issues. He explained that he spoke to a resident on Smith Lane who had voiced concern about the Council letter. He asked that the resident try to keep vehicles out of the way so the plow can get through and they understand that we cannot plow it through to Willow and as in the past, it will get plowed shut.

Mr. Weger explained that the bottom of Sheets Alley is difficult because you cannot make the turn by the barn. If you plow from the Church Street end, the snow gets piled up toward his garage and if you plow down Sheets, it ends up piled at his fence and in the way of the Fire Department access to the river. Mr. Weger said he may need to speak with the resident to advise that the DPW will clear when they can, but that they can't spend hours at that corner until the Main Roads are clear. He advised that they may have to go down with the loader to move snow at that corner. Mrs. Tersigni advised that the property owner has never reached out to the Borough, but rather the tenant has. Mr. Weger stated that it was tough to do even with the loader and that is why he believes the Clerk looked into getting a plow attachment for the same and possibly creating a turn area on the property that the Borough just acquired.

Mrs. Tersigni stated that people have asked for an actual hierarchy of what gets plowed when in what order and what gets taken care of last. She stated that she doesn't believe that the public needs a list, that it suffice to say that main roads will done first and secondary roads done next. Mr. Weger stated that there are variables that can affect this, like vehicles left on the street. Mrs. Tersigni asked if it is better to direct these questions to Mr. Weger. Mr. Weger stated that he can bare the burden of some of these calls to.

Mr. Weger stated that there is a cul-de-sac in Fawn Run that has a lot of cars parked on it. He said there is also a fire hydrant and a transformer there as well. He said if they plow over the transformer and something went wrong people would criticize it being covered. Mrs. Tersigni stated that those cars park nose in, which is not legal, and a bus that parks there, and buses are never permitted to park on Borough Streets.

Mr. Weger stated that he really thinks that members of Council need to take the map and list the Clerk created and go look at the alleys. He said there are several that are of no public use which could be vacated. Mrs. Tersigni asked where we stand with this, that Eloise was going to gather deeds which have not been received. Mr. Edleston stated he has not yet seen these deeds but that he would then move forward with an Ordinance to vacate whatever the Council desires to vacate. Mr. Weger asked that if we have a 20' alley and we vacate it, so that each adjoining property owner would get 10' wide, we are not looking for the extra tax money, we are just saying the Borough no longer owns it.

Mrs. Tersigni asked what if some of these end up being like private roads, advising she is currently dealing with one on a property she owns outside of the Borough and it is a nightmare.

Mr. Edleston stated that if it is a private road it is not the Borough's concern. Mrs. Tersigni asked if we can make someone take a private road. Mr. Edleston stated the Council cannot make them accept a private road.

Mrs. Tersigni stated that if you look at the street signs and the people they are named for you will understand why they got there. She said for argument's sake, say we vacate Weger Lane and Weger's don't want it, it goes on the tax rolls as unclaimed owner, it goes to tax sale, no one buys it, and it goes back to the Borough.

Mr. Weger asked Council to look at the alley by Point Park because she had issues with him parking cars on it. He asked if we vacate that does it become part of the park. Mrs. Tersigni stated that if you look at all the information provided by the surveyors when doing the work on Pickel Lane, it was owned by the family who owned the farm and that piece was never sold. She advised that if you track it down, she likely owns a piece of it. Mrs. Tersigni advised if we have to do a search back in time for an owner in a case like that, it will get very expensive.

Mr. Weger said no, we just don't designate it an alley anymore. We are not going to plow it, mow grass or plant flowers, it will just stay the way it is, but we are not going to have it as an alley. Discussion followed. Mr. Smith stated that most of the complaints was when we didn't have salt, it was more of a complaint about the general condition of the roads when we ran out of salt last year. Mr. Weger said that some areas got tight last year with the snow turning into ice overnight and some of the areas were where there were cars parked on the streets.

Mrs. Tersigni asked if he believes that part of the problem was enforcement not getting the cars off of the streets. Mrs. Tersigni stated that this is part of the Zoning Officer's job. Mrs. Tersigni reminded Mr. James that she named him zoning office liaison last year and she cannot do it. Mr. James advised that he is not in town during snow storms so he cannot do it either. She advised that he can do it do before. He stated that he goes into work at 6:00 am. Mrs. Tersigni said that he can do it a few days before. Mr. Weger interrupted and said that if there is a snow event, he will be more available this year and he will call Mr. Creveling if need be.

Mrs. Tersigni will ask again that Mrs. Hagaman pull deeds for the Borough.

Mr. Smith asked if we want to move forward with this, or had Council just decided that we didn't want to. Mrs. Tersigni stated that she thinks we need to know what we have. Mrs. Jordan asked that if we sent out an email advising what we are not going to plow certain things aren't we covered at least for this snow season. Council will continue this discussion in January.

Mr. Stiehler joined Council at the table.

#### ***A. Stiehler:***

#### **Bethlehem/Bloomsbury Court –**

- Mr. Stiehler presented Council the 2013 Court numbers which he just received this afternoon. He explained that in 2013 we paid about \$38,800 and taking into account our share of expenses, we

should pay \$7,128 less for 2014. Mr. Francisco stated that that is why they went up there in July, although they didn't expect it to take until December, once all the final expenses were calculated and our actual was over \$7,128 less and this will be deducted from our final 2014 payment. Discussion followed. Mr. Francisco stated that we budgeted \$10,000 in court revenue for the year and actual revenue was about \$17,000 so we received \$7,000 more, and are paying \$7,000 less. Mr. Francisco stated that Mr. Stiehler has opened the door to Bethlehem for these discussions.

***M. Tersigni:***

**Planning Board-**

- The December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled as there was no pending business before the board.
- No one has voiced interest in being appointed to the Board to date.

**Budget Letters-**

- Mrs. Tersigni stated that she has had no further contact with Rescue following the last meeting which she reported about last month. She did send out the budget letters and heard back from the Fire Department and Council received a copy of their response in meeting packets. The Environmental Committee has not gotten back to her, but she assumes their expenses would stay the same. Mrs. Tersigni stated that she doesn't have anything for the Recreation Committee either.

**Rescue-**

- Mrs. Tersigni requested Hunterdon Communications furnish response statistics for the Rescue Squad from January through November and the same has been received and forwarded to Vicky and Al. By her rough count they had 313 total incidents 96 were in the Borough and out of those, 49 were to residences and the rest were to TA, Pilot and Route 78. Discussion followed. Mrs. Tersigni stated they did not respond to 1 % of calls to residences in the Borough.

**2012 Recycling Tonnage Grant-**

- Mrs. Tersigni stated that the Borough received the recycling tonnage grant reimbursement for 2012 for \$1,246.01.

**PERRYVILLE STATE POLICE**

Mrs. Tersigni reported that there has been additional police activity in the Borough, with the same type of issues, nothing new.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**MAIN STREET PHASE III UPDATE**

Mrs. Tersigni stated that the curb striping still needs to be done and she has not received any follow up from the Engineer at this time.

**MILL REDEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Edleston stated that he still has not received the deed back from Mr. Zaleski. He stated that he called and left a message and will send another letter to him requesting it be signed and returned and he will copy the Clerk on the same.

**NORTH STREET/PICKLE LANE**

Mrs. Tersigni stated that this has been on as old business for a year, it was mentioned again in the Clerk's report tonight and will be discussed again in the new year.

**MUNICIPAL REASSESSMENT**

Mrs. Tersigni stated that this was mentioned in the Clerk's Report, Eloise requested an extension and the letters will go out in January.

**AGREEMENT FOR ASSESSOR'S SERVICES**

Mr. Edleston stated that he is still waiting for Mrs. Hagaman to sign the agreement and he will call her again.

**SERVICE ELECTRIC FRANCHISE AGREEMENT**

Mr. Edleston stated that he spoke to the lady that he sent the letter that Council reviewed today and she said that what she would suggest is that we just solicit comments from the residents of the Borough and then incorporate those comments into a simple report and send that to Service Electric. Mrs. Tersigni asked if there are certain questions that we are supposed to ask. Mr. Edleston stated there are not and the Council can ask whatever questions they want to ask. Mr. Edleston stated that this can be done in the next newsletter or by an email blast and that it needed to be done by sometime next year. Discussion followed. Mr. Francisco stated that Service Electric makes about \$100,000 in the Borough and the Borough gets about \$2,000 of that. Mr. Edleston will work with Mrs. Tersigni to develop the questions for public comment.

**NEW BUSINESS-**

**RESOLUTION # 54-14 - CANCELLATION OF TAXES Block 17 Lot 41**

**WHEREAS**, the following property has outstanding property taxes for 2014;

**WHEREAS**, this outstanding amount occurred due to the Borough of Bloomsbury acquiring the property;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury this 23rd day of December, 2014 that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel the following taxes:

**Block 17 Lot 41  
Borough of Bloomsbury**

**91 Brunswick Ave.**

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr.</b>	<b>\$124.25</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Qtr</b>	<b><u>\$124.25</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$248.50</b>

Mr. Weger moved Council adopt Resolution # 54-14; seconded by Mrs. Jordan.  
ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye; Papics-aye; Smith-aye; Stiehler-aye; Weger-aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 55-14 - TRANSFER IN THE 2014 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, NJSA 40A:4-59 states that transfers can be made to budget appropriations during November and December, and

**WHEREAS**, by unforeseen demand there has arisen the necessity for expenditures in excess of the following budget appropriations, and

**WHEREAS**, there is an excess in the following budget appropriation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury that the following 2014 budget transfers be made:

TO:	Finance – Salary & Wages	\$260
	Electricity	\$1,000
	Recreation – Other Expenses	\$2,500
FROM:	Water	\$3,760

Mr. Francisco stated that if all of the funds for recreation are not needed, they simply are not used, there is no harm in transferring the full amount. He explained this amount would be the worst case scenario. Mr. Weger moved Council adopt Resolution # 55-14; seconded by Mr. Stiehler.  
ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye, except payroll; Papics-aye, except payroll; Smith-aye; Stiehler-aye; Weger-aye. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION # 56-14 - CANCELLATION OF WATER RENTS RECEIVABLE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,445.52**

**WHEREAS**, there are Water Rents Receivable on the Borough of Bloomsbury balance sheet in the amount of \$9,445.52, and

**WHEREAS**, these balances are several years old from when the Borough owned a water company, and

**WHEREAS**, 99 North was foreclosed by the Borough in 2014 is now Borough owned and the Water Rent Receivable will not be collected, and

**WHEREAS**, the Water Rent Receivable for 75 North was paid in a prior year but posted to Tax Liens Receivable in error,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury that the following Water Rent Receivables be cancelled from the balance sheet

NO-75	\$3,207.68
NO-99	\$6,237.84
Total	\$9,445.52

Mr. Tersigni stated that this is a housekeeping item, that when we sold the Water Utility we had two items still on the balance sheet. One was for 99 North Street, which we foreclosed on this year and since we now own it, we will not be collecting this one. He explained the other one was for 75 North that was set up as a lien on the property and when the property was sold it was paid, but posted as a tax lien instead of a water lien so it's a minor book keeping mistake as it still comes out of the same place but nothing can come off the balance sheet without a Resolution.

Mrs. Jordan moved Council adopt Resolution # 56-14; seconded by Mrs. Papics.

ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye; Papics-aye; Smith-aye; Stiehler-aye; Weger-aye. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Council reviewed correspondence. Discussion followed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Papics; seconded by Mrs. Jordan. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. Burd Reindel, RMC, CMR  
Borough Clerk/Administrator