

Following each meeting, the Clerk's Office will post a short synopsis of the highlights for the convenience of residents who may be interested. This should not, in any way, shape or form be used as the official minutes of the meeting.

*Meeting in Review
6/24/10*

****Councilman Franklin reserved his comments for the budget introduction.**

****In Councilman Mobus' absence, Mayor Ellis noted several complimentary letters on the agenda in regard to the Police Department.**

****Councilman Nehls reported the Public Works Department fielded 57 service calls, and generated 125 work orders, in addition to catch basin cleaning and repair, and performing some corrective measures for drainage issues. He said the bulk pick up program is completed. In regard to Public Affairs, Councilman Nehls reported Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission has received notification from Bound Brook that they are \$40,000. short of their contract obligation for this year. A meeting with the Commission and the Mayor of Bound Brook for further discussion is being planned.**

****Councilman Pote reported monthly activities that include cutting grass at the Ness Farm, preparing the flower beds for planting at the war memorial, and minor spackling and interior painting at the Library. He announced the Historical Committee will be meeting next week at the Texier House with Mrs. Fellin, Tom Herits, and Charles Gunther to discuss improvements.**

****Councilman Black advised that Fire Chief Skip Bell and OEM Coordinator Gary Greves will be reporting on the Bonnie Burn Road incident.**

****Engineer Herits reported the plans for the Johnston Drive DOT project are just about complete and he hopes to be able to award the bid at the next meeting in July. He said Finne Construction was waiting for school to end for the overlay on Valley Road.**

****Lt. Wenzel said it was a pleasure to be at the scene of the overturned truck and observe all of the emergency service teams working together. He gave a "hats off" to Skip Bell and his crew.**

****Fire Department - Chief Skip Bell and OEM Coordinator Gary Greves reported on events pertaining to the overturned fuel tank on June 16th. Chief Bell said the overturned truck took down utility poles and wires on Bonnie Burn Road, in addition to leaking approximately 4000 gallons of fuel down the street and some into the storm drains. Kudos were given to Chief Bell and all of the Borough's Emergency Service teams, and Chief Bell publicly thanked the many towns and the two Counties who responded with mutual aid. The Chief also thanked Weldon who had to close their operations down for most of the day, and the Colorado Café who assisted by providing water to the many volunteers at the scene.**

****Rescue Squad - Captain Rob Winston announced due to Mel's Isidro's resignation, there have been a lot of organizational changes on the Squad. He said Mel will be missed. In regard to the overturned truck on Bonnie Burn Road - he said "we get it, and we do it well" (referencing the emergency service teams working together). Mr. Winston spoke of a bicycle accident on Route 22 last night to which the Rescue Squad responded. He said although it was unfortunate that the victim did not survive, he was very proud of**

the actions and response from the Squad members.

**Attorney Cruz said he had one item for discussion in Executive Session.

**Administrator Fellin reported the Somerset County Prosecutor's office has requested use of the Ness property for SWAT training. Mrs. Fellin announced that the regular meeting scheduled for July 15th has been changed to Monday, July 26th and noted that is the public hearing on the budget.

**Mayor Ellis said he has corresponded with the new commissioner of the DOT and voiced his opinion on the Route 78 Improvement project. He said Assemblywoman Munoz advised a meeting will be set up with the DOT for further discussion. Mayor Ellis thanked Assistant Engineer Arlene McCoy for staying on top of the maintenance for Best Lake.

- A Resolution of support and endorsement for transportation improvements to I-78 / Diamond Hill Road and opposition to additional right turn lane at Plainfield Avenue and Drift Road, was approved

- A Resolution approving the appointment of Joseph D'Amato as a seasonal laborer in the Public Works Department, was approved

- A Resolution authorizing a tax sale certificate refund for Block 5603, Lot 6, was approved

- A Resolution implementing amended cost for copies, when requested through OPRA (Open Public Records Act), was approved

- A Resolution authorizing the return of various escrow monies, was approved

- A Resolution authorizing the introduction of the 2010 Municipal Budget, and setting the date of July 26, 2010 for public hearing, was approved

- A Resolution appointing Timothy Wenzel as Acting Police Chief, effective July 1, 2010, was approved

Finance Chairman Franklin prefaced the following resolution by saying this has been the most difficult budget he has ever had to work on. He said the Borough had to deal with loss of State aid in addition to loss of revenues. He said some hurtful things have taken place and difficult decisions had to be made, but he is pleased with the outcome.

- A Resolution authorizing the introduction of the 2010 Municipal Budget was unanimously approved.

Proposed Ordinance OR:10/13 entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK." was introduced. This Ordinance allows a municipality to bank the difference between its final budget appropriations subject to the 2.5% cap and the 3.5% cost of living adjustment when the difference is not appropriated as part of the final budget, and may be retained for the next two years. The public hearing on this ordinance will be held on July 26, 2010.

The meeting was opened to the public and Lynda Goldschein, Sherwood Drive, inquired as to the cost of the chemicals being used to remove the algae on Best Lake, and asked where the money was coming from, and Mrs. Fellin responded that cost of the permit fee was \$75.00, and the application of the chemical was \$1200. Mayor Ellis added that money was available for this in the Best Lake ordinance.

Mrs. Goldschein asked why Victoria Rousseau is no longer employed with the Borough and Mrs. Fellin explained that her position has been eliminated due to budget cuts. Mrs. Goldschein asked if the Governing Body listens and seriously considers public comment during a public hearing on a proposed ordinance and Attorney Cruz explained that ordinances and the budget, can be amended prior to adoption and after a public hearing. Mrs. Goldschein asked what the Borough's position is in regard to the Governor's proposed 2½% cap for next year's budget and Mayor Ellis said he has asked the Council for input, however, it is up to the legislature to get it on the ballot.