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**TOWNSHIP OF ROCHELLE PARK
151 WEST PASSAIC STREET
ROCHELLE PARK, NJ 07662
AGENDA – WORK SESSION**

February 9, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Open Public Meetings Act - (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6)

According to the Open Public Meetings Act, this meeting of February 9, 2022, was sent to the “Our Town” and “The Record” and published on **January 11, 2022**, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and on Rochelle Park’s web-site and Facebook page and has remained continuously posted as the required notice under the Statute and is being recorded and video taped. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

02/09/2022 - Work Session

Wed, Feb 9, 2022 7:00 PM - 2:00 AM (EST)

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Present: Comm. S. Iacobucci; Comm. V. Bessetti; Comm. L. Boniface,
Deputy Mayor. G. Artola, Mayor P. Mosca

Mayor Mosca led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

Mayor Mosca asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

- Comm. Boniface stated that she would like to remove the discussion for the advertisement for a Court Clerk from the agenda until Jack returns and there are calculations presented as to how much the Court has made in revenue and is projected to bring. Both Comm. Boniface and Iacobucci would like to explore a shared service agreement where Rochelle Park is the host as well. Comm Iacobucci stated that the Court makes about \$10-13,000 a month and they would need one full time and one part time worker. A discussion ensued. It was decided to leave the agenda as is and wait to have verification of what the court is projected to make and take it from there.

Mayor Mosca asked for a motion for the Approval of the Agenda.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor. G. Artola and seconded by Comm. L. Boniface to confirm.

AYES: Comm. S. Iacobucci; Comm. V. Bessetti; Comm. L. Boniface, Deputy Mayor. G. Artola, Mayor P. Mosca

Discussion:

1. Mike Kelly – Engineer’s Report dated January 21, 2022

ROP-101 Rochelle Avenue and Railroad Avenue Intersection Improvement Project

- We are waiting for signage and striping plan from the County. We spoke to the County on January 5, 2022. They expect to have the required plan shortly. Expect design to be completed within two (2) weeks of receiving plan from the County.
- The Township must finalize obtaining easement from property owners.

- The County is scheduling the required Diagnostic Team Meeting with the railroad.

ROP-104 Saddle River Basin - Flood Mitigation Project

- Meeting held on August 20, 2020 with the County and affected municipalities.
- Meeting held on August 25, 2020 with Rochelle Park representatives to develop the municipality's plan and schedule based on meeting with County.
- Received drone footage from Police Department on September 4, 2020. We reviewed footage and performed field evaluation. Met with Township on September 29, 2020 to review.
- We provided the Township with a detailed report with exhibit detailing our findings on October 7, 2020.
- Meeting held on October 20, 2020 with Municipal and County Officials. It should be noted that Rochelle Park has been very proactive in this matter.
- The County must follow up with the other affected municipalities.
- Meeting held on March 10, 2021 with Municipal and NJDEP Officials to review.

ROP-110 Matthew Field ADA/Bleacher Improvement Project

The Township has received a \$35,103 matching Grant from the Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund. Project substantially complete. Punchlist items to be addressed in the Spring, 2022

ROP-136 Route 17 Bridge Deck Replacement Projects (NJDOT)

Route 17 over Central Avenue Route 17 over 2 Railroad Bridges

- Meetings held on October 29, 2018 and January 16, 2019 with NJDOT Officials, Engineering Consultants for NJDOT, Administration, Rochelle Park Police Department and DPW, and our office to review the above project.
- The project involves the replacement of structurally deficient bridge decks over Central Avenue, NYS& W Railroad and railroad spur.
- They are currently in project development phase. Anticipate design and preparation of plans to take 5-6 years to complete.
- Project would not consist of any road widening.
- The NJDOT understands the importance of not disturbing traffic to the greatest extent possible. Are proposing to utilize Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) Technologies. Bridge decks would be constructed off-site adjacent to bridge location. The Central Avenue Bridge may require a full closure for one (1) weekend. The Railroad Bridges could require a full closure for two (2) weeks. They would try to coordinate these closures during non-peak travel times. Additional closures of Route 17 at 11d Central Avenue will be required for utility relocation work.
- We anticipate many meetings with the NJDOT in the future as the project progresses.

ROP-163 Marinus Street and 2020 Road, Curb and Sidewalk Program

- Project complete.
- Must submit for final reimbursement from NJDOT.

ROP-170 Bergen County's Open Space Trust Fund -2020 Funding Round

- Township applied for Barrier Free Ramp at Carlock Field.
- Township received a Grant in the amount of \$274,000.00.
- Project to be funded in 2022 budget.

ROP-171 Revaluation and Digitizing of Tax Maps

- Proposal submitted on January 12, 2022 for digitizing and making necessary revisions to tax maps for revaluation.
- It is our understanding that this work will be funded in the 2022 budget.

ROP-177 Oldis Street Improvements

- Road paved on November 23, 2021 and striped on November 24, 2021.
- Punchlist items to be addressed in the Spring, 2022.

ROP-178-A Berdan Street Sanitary Sewer Improvements

- Phase II bid on December 10, 2021.
- Pre-construction Meeting held on January 11, 2022.

ROP-179 (ROP-192) Sanitary Sewer Pump Station Improvements

- We reviewed our Sanitary Sewer Report with the Mayor and Township Committee at the meeting held on May 13, 2020.
- Our proposal for engineering design services submitted on July 13, 2020. Received authorization to proceed with design on October 14, 2021.
- Township has made initial submission to the New Jersey Water Bank Financing (NJWB) Program.

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- Initial Application submitted to the State for funding as part of FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) - FY 2021 on November 25, 2020. Application for funding denied. Revised Application and resubmitted for FY 2022 on November 19, 2021.

ROP-191 2021 Bergen County Road Resurfacing Project and Barrier Free Curb Ramp Program

- The County proposes to resurface Essex Street.
- Design and construction of ADA ramps have been completed.
- Expect road to be paved in Spring of 2022.

ROP-217 Howard Avenue Drainage and Resurfacing

- Received a NJDOT Local Aid Grant on October 26, 2021 in the amount of \$201,000.00.
- Submitted LTPF Grant Application to NJDOT on December 21, 2021 in the amount of \$795,000.00.

ROP-220 El Dorado Court and Crescent Street Improvements

- On November 16, 2020 the Township received notification from the NJDOT that they have been selected to receive a Grant in the amount of \$189,000.00 for this project.
- Project to be included in the Township's 2022 Road Improvement Program.
- Proposal for engineering design services submitted on January 17, 2022.

2. Bergen County Open Space Trust Fund - 2022 Funding Round

Bergen County made an announcement for the 2022 Funding Round – Available Funding and Application Materials with an application deadline of Friday, May 6th, 2022 and the declaration of intent to apply of Friday, April 8th, 2022. Open Space Trust Fund Programs are now available on the County of Bergen website.

The Bergen County Board of County Commissioners set the 2022 open space tax assessment rate at 1 cent per \$100 of total County equalized real property valuation. It is anticipated that approximately \$18 million will be collected; *the County Treasurer will determine the final amount of available funding.* 2022 Trust Fund money will be allocated with 70% of the available to the County Program and 30% to the Municipal Program. The Municipal Program 30% will be further allocated into each of six sub-regions in the County.

For the first time this year, the Historic Preservation Program will accept grant applications for the preparation of documents as eligible projects. Documents may include Historic Surveys, Historic Design Guidelines, and the Historic Preservation Element of a municipal Master Plan. Interested parties should contact Elaine Gold, the Historic Preservation specialist. Other categories include:

- Municipal Park Improvement Program
- Historic Preservation Program
- Land Acquisition Program
- Floodplain Acquisition Program

The Township Committee members will think of projects that would qualify and work in conjunction with the Township Administrator and CFO to see what budgetary funds would be available for a project.

3. 2020 BC Open Space Contract 2100071 - Carlock Field: Construction of ADA-Compliant Concrete Sidewalk Ramps

The Township received an award of \$271,500 with the term of contract of February 16, 2021 to February 16, 2023. Project Work Elements to include: Mobilization, Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Measures, Clearing Site & Tree Removal, Earthwork and Retaining Walls, Concrete ADA Ramps with Railing, Concrete Walkways, Concrete Viewing Platform, Concrete Stairs and Access Walkway. The Township has to see when budgeting if they can match the funds and also work with the Township Administrator and Engineer to see if the County would grant an extension and what they need from the Township.

4. Proposed Fee Ordinance: The township Committee discussed proposed fee changes 2022 for Chapter § 80-3 Fee schedule. [Amended 5-20-2009 by Ord. No.

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1001-09]. Committeewoman Iacobucci worked with the Building Department and James Demaria, who solicited fees in surrounding municipalities, to update the fee schedule for different permits which has not been updated since 2009.

Comm. Boniface stated that she does not like the parts of the Ordinance which directly impact town residents, for example, residential pool permit fee which are suggested to go from \$175 to \$500. Mayor Mosca stated and Comm. Iacobucci that the rates are not set in stone so they can be adjusted. Tank removal and solar system were new addition, Mayor Mosca and Comm. Boniface would prefer residents to get rid of tanks and not be charged for a permit. A discussion ensued.

Comm. Iacobucci will ask James Demaria for clarification either in writing or next meeting about the suggested changes.

5. **Spatial Data Logic Proposal:** The township Committee discussed a proposal submitted by Spatial Data Logic with the total initial investment of \$16,600. This would increase efficiency and workflow in the building department, it would automate the whole department. The software managers the entire permit process including permit applications, escrow process, plan reviews, coah, inspections and more. The program also helps streamline & automate daily workflows that occur both in and out of the office. For example. our Building module includes tools for permitting, inspections, plan reviews, complaints, violations, OPRA requests and many other tools and resources. A discussion ensued.

Comm. Boniface asked where the funding for this would be coming from. Comm. Iacobucci stated that Jack found money in the multipurpose bond that was adopted last year, the technology bond. Jack confirmed with the bond counsel Steven Rogut that the money is there. Comm. Boniface stated she just wanted to make sure the money was encumbered properly and that it is there.

6. **Duties of Veterans Affairs Coordinator:** Mayor Mosca put together a suggestive description of duties of a Veteran's Affairs Coordinator he would like to start in town. It can be a coordinator position with a stipend to help facilitate services available to our veterans and as a Township we should have something for our Veteran's through the town.

Comm Boniface asked why this would be needed if there is an American Legion in town. Mayor Mosca stated they do great things for the veterans, but he would also like someone that is tied into the town and the governing body. Deputy Mayor Artola said that the American Legion is a stand-alone organization, who does amazing work, but there can be a liaison who is a direct line to the governing body and town. Comm. Boniface would not be in favor of a town position created for this, the veterans get great services from the American Legion. A discussion ensued.

Deputy Mayor Artola asked for additional information, like what additional benefits would be offered to the Veteran's and how this would benefit them.

7. Newsletter

8. Welcoming Committee

Attorney – Mark DiPisa

1. Rochelle Park Township Personnel Policy Manual
Old Business:

New Business:

Administrator's/Committee's/Attorney/Clerk's Reports

1. Clerk Interviews – Date Confirmation
2. Personnel Advertisement - Court Clerk
3. FEMA meeting for Ida reimbursement - 2/15 via conference-call

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Comm. V. Bessetti:

Recreation Committee: Committeeman Bessetti informed everyone that the Rec is holding adult basketball is held on Wednesday night starting at 6:30 in the midland school gym, for those interested more information is available on the Township website. Registration is opened for boys' baseball and girls' softball; more information is available on the Township website. The 20222 Snow Angles Program is seeing volunteers who are able and interested in helping their neighbors snow shovel. For school ages children who need volunteers' hours or those who would like to help, please reach out to the Recreation Chair at recchair@rochelleparknj.gov or text 201-975-5118.

Police Committee Report: Committeeman Bessetti would like to share a letter sent to Dear Colonel Callahan thanking Frank La Boy of The Rochelle Park Police Department.

January 18, 2022

Dear Colonel Callahan,

I am writing this letter of appreciation for the extraordinary service of Officer Frank La Boy of The Rochelle Park Police Department.

My husband and I were stranded mid highway this past Sunday, after our tire exploded.

We were on our way to a wedding at The Meadowlands Hilton, and time was of the essence, as we were participants in the service.

AAA road assistance was unavailable for at least 2 hours. The local Police Precinct recommended local companies, but they too were unavailable.

I remained calm, began praying, and suddenly a belated Christmas miracle occurred;

Officer LaBoy had pulled up alongside our car. I tearfully asked him if he could help us.

Without a moment's hesitation, he rolled up his sleeves, located the hidden spare tire, unbolted the tire and we were off in no time at all.

These are difficult times for all of us. Every ounce of compassion and care goes a very long way. Officer LaBoy deserves recognition for his role in helping us get through this challenging period on both micro and macro-levels. He is a gem.

With respect and gratitude,

Taryn Fishman, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor

The New York Presbyterian-

Weill Cornell Medical College

N.Y., N.Y.

Chief Pinto addressed the Mayor and Township Committee, as well as the residents, regarding the 7-11 robbery. This was the second robbery on this business in less than a years' time, suspects came in armed with a handgun. So, I reached regarding cameras on the traffic lights and was directed to the Prosecutors office to expedite things. I had a very fruitful conversation with the person in charge of that project and the business owner himself. We will be able to set up a camera there at the location which will provide us with license plates reader as well as 8k photographs of vehicles passing through. We have a great relationship with our stakeholders in town and our law enforcement partners

Sergeant Ken Stapleton completed the ABLE Instructor Course. He received recognition form the Program Instructor stating: "I wanted to thank you for your participation in ABLE's TTT 053 and being part of Group #3. I hope you enjoyed the class and yesterday's teach-back. I was honored to be part of the group, facilitate and meet you. You are clearly an experienced instructor, so I have little doubt you easily step into ABLE training with ease. In addition to the quality, I saw yesterday, I really appreciate your participation today when you were not teaching back. You took the time to provide thoughtful feedback, participated with energy and were encouraging of your peers. You clearly prepared and your presentation skills were evident. Specifically, you were intentional and consistent in getting input & engagement from the class while you were presenting. Your style of teaching, your pace and your overall presence will help you succeed with this program. It was really a pleasure to experience the dynamics and experience of each participant in the group."

The Chief spoke about Rochelle Park being ABLE certified now and thank you to Deputy Mayor Artola, then Mayor, who signed off on the program and RPPD participation.

Comm. L. Boniface: Hello Everyone Thanks for attending!

First up. I attended along with my fellow Committee persons a seminar given by the League of Municipalities, Orientation for Newly, Reelected and Experienced Elected Officials. Even Though I took this seminar in 2018 I thought I needed a refresher and I did, very educational. Recycling: Shredding Event April 16th 9am to 1 pm in the Municipal Building lot. Most of the County events start in April, but March 12. The County is holding the First Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event from 9:00am to 3pm in Moonachie at the Bergen County Utilities Authority at the end of Empire Blvd. simple directions take the exit where the Fiesta is, go to top of ramp make a left and just stay straight road ends at the BCUA. I will remind you of future dates. The Township is still recycling plastic. This would include produce bags, plastic shipping envelopes, bread bags, case wrapping, dry cleaning bags the air pillows you get in packaging, bubble wrap, food storage bags. Clean and dry, please. The container is by the building dept. We ordered an outside container; due to supply issues it was back ordered. Civil Rights: February is Black History month.

Restoring Energy Tax Receipts: There was a bill passed that authorized payments to municipalities from the Energy Tax Receipts Property Tax Relief Fund and under Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief Aid to their 2008 levels and require municipalities offset their tax collections to account for the additional aid. Last year Rochelle Park received about \$660, 000 back and this year I urge all the Committee people to petition our state legislatures to push for Rochelle Park to receive a payment as well for what they deserve.

Late last year a resident of Forest Ave notified me about a large tree down over sprout brook in the County Park. Bob did notify the County about it and their timeframe for removal was beginning of this year. I am happy to report the tree was removed.

Happy Valentine's Day! That's all Folks!

Comm. S. Iacobucci: As Liaison to the Building Dept I met with James DiMaria, Construction Official and Annmarie, Technical Assistant to review how the Dept operates, intending to see what resources they will need to prepare for the 2 big building projects for 2022. I am happy to report with the help of our new Municipal Administrator, plans are moving forward to automate this dept. Spatial Data is used by most municipalities now. The software will automate and assist our current employees in doing their jobs. It will better enable inspectors in the field: Permits, Applications, Inspections, Property Maintenance, Escrows, fines, scheduling with inspectors, 200 ft reviews to the point that it will print the labels for the mailings. Annmarie now has a stack at least 6" thick of inspections that will physically get faxed out, signed and faxed back in, just one thing that will flow thru the system electronically.

We were contacted by the County's Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs about updating their Directory. Since the Historic Society is basically inactive did anyone have any objections to Chip's group being listed? As you know they have gathered a tremendous amount of the town's history. And the Scout Museum? No objections everyone is in support.

Early in December I attended a Flood Mitigation meeting with Nick initiated by Lodi. It was the consensus to submit thousands of signatures to Trenton on behalf of taking action on the flooding along the Saddle River. The Peckman River project has received a lot of attention and funding. They were going to submit a letter from the river towns to 'change.org' and we would alert our residents. The letter was drafted, reviewed by the TC for approval and submitted to Lodi.

Notice of a meeting of the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency regarding Affordable Housing to be held on Feb 9th was forwarded to me which I, in turn forwarded to Mike Edwards. He thanked us for the information, was not available to participate but would send a representative because Rochelle Park may rely on the subject tax credits in the 2025 plan. Interestingly the date of 2025 was mentioned during our Newly Elected Officials seminar so the date seems to be the next milestone for the Affordable Housing issues. Thank you.

Deputy Mayor Artola:

I attended the seminar given by the League of Municipalities for elected officials on Saturday. I attended this seminar when I was first elected and was happy to attend again. I'm glad others on the Township Committee attended as well.

Throughout January and February there have been snowstorms and icing. I received comments complementing the DPW on their plowing work and the salting they did for the ice. Thank you to the DPW for working around the clock and for keeping residents safe.

Members of the Volunteer Fire Department attended an active shooter training. We thank them for all the varied types of trainings they take to ensure our safety and their own safety as they enter into different types of dangerous situations.

Public Portion

Closed Session – Litigation Update

Adjourned

THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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