

REGULAR MEETING OF KENHORST BOROUGH COUNCIL
July 2, 2013

President David Roche called the Regular Meeting of the Kenhorst Borough Council to order at 7:00 PM. Present: Mayor Hatzas, Councilmen DePasquale, Ibach, Fritz, Holland and Mohn, Fire Chief Roger Weidenheimer, Solicitor Jill Nagy, Tax Collector Joanna Roche and Borough Manager Jeri Diesinger. Absent: Reading Police Chief Heim. Eileen Becker, Borough Secretary/Treasurer, recorded minutes of the meeting.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

RESIDENTS/PUBLIC – no residents requested to be heard.

MEETING MINUTES, PRESIDENT ROCHE

- Mr. Fritz made a motion to approve the June Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Holland and the roll call vote was unanimous.

MAYOR HATZAS

- Mayor Hatzas reported a total of \$1,540.22 collected in fines during the month of June.
- Chief Heim will provide June's Crime Activity report prior to next month's meeting.

POLICE CHIEF HEIM - absent

FIRE CHIEF WEIDENHEIMER

- Submitted June month end fire call activity report. There were 22 calls and no loss to the Borough.
- Mrs. Diesinger explained the recent issue regarding the Borough's commercial and worker's compensation insurance renewal. The Borough was informed that because of the Firefighter Cancer Presumption Act 46, which was passed in the state legislator in July 2012, insurance companies will no longer underwrite worker's compensation coverage which includes volunteer firefighters. The state will now be the only provider of the coverage and as such, premium costs have skyrocketed. The firefighters portion of the Borough's workers compensation coverage increased from approximately \$6,800 to \$13,000. In addition to the premium increasing almost 100%, the Borough's current insurance broker did not provide the Borough with a 30 day notice that they were dropping the coverage.
- Chief Weidenheimer informed Council that the Fire Company will be able to take care of \$8,000 of this year's cost. He asked if the Borough could pay the balance. Mr. Fritz made a motion to approve the Borough paying no more than \$6,000 towards the firefighters' portion of the workers compensation coverage. Mr. Mohn seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- A discussion ensued regarding the late notification from the broker. Mr. Correnti reminded Council that he had requested a copy of the Borough's insurance portfolio last year so that he could solicit competitive quotes from another insurance broker. Mrs. Becker never provided that information to Mr. Correnti. It was agreed that the Borough has no choice but to proceed with this year's renewal but will plan to look at other insurance brokers and carriers in December or January. President Roche is not satisfied with Selective/Tompkins Insurance.
- Chief Weidenheimer suggested that if it wasn't already done, could Mrs. Diesinger contact State Representative Caltagirone about this issue. It was also suggested that contact should be made with State Senator Judy Schwank and the state's Insurance Commissioner. Mrs. Diesinger has already reached out to the Borough's Association and will draft a letter to Rep. Caltagirone outlining the Borough's concerns about the new legislation.

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TAX COLLECTOR JOANNA ROCHE

- Mrs. Roche provided a report for the quarter ending June 30, 2013. A total of \$491,562.71 has been collected thus far in 2013. The total of outstanding 2013 taxes is \$27,801.20.

FINANCE, COUNCILMAN FRITZ

- Mr. Fritz provided the revenue and expenditure report and made a motion to approve the June expenses. The motion was seconded by Mr. DePasquale and the roll call vote was unanimous.

CODES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, PRESIDENT ROCHE

- Mr. Roche reviewed the June codes and permitting report from Kraft Code Services. There were 10 building permits issued; 6 property transfer inspections, 22 rental inspections of 27 units and 7 rental re-inspections of 12 units. The open permit report will be posted on the bulletin board for Council's review.
- Mayor Hatzas commented that he still is seeing properties not being taken care, i.e. weeds higher than 10 inches. The Borough must keep up the property maintenance compliance efforts. We may want to put a note to property owners about grass/weeds on the Borough website.

PARKS & RECREATION, COUNCILMAN HOLLAND

- Mr. Holland reported that the program seems to be running smoothly; there are 57 children registered.
- Mr. Ibach will be dropping off a donated television for the playground to use with movie DVDs.

PERSONNEL, PRESIDENT ROCHE

- The Personnel Committee is trying to arrange a time to meet in the near future.
- President Roche has received a lot of complaints about the Borough's current office hours. He believes the hours should be changed back. Mr. Fritz made a motion to change the Borough office hours to 8AM through 4:30 PM. Mr. Ibach seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous. Mrs. Diesinger asked that the record reflect that she supports the office hours change.

PROPERTY, VICE PRESIDENT CORRENTI

- Mr. Correnti reported that the Borough purchased two portable air conditioners for the upstairs room at the Community Center. They were purchased specifically for the playground program. The Community Center building is not air conditioned and it becomes very uncomfortable for the playground participants when they have to stay inside because of weather conditions. Cost of the two units totaled \$498.00.

REFUSE AND RECYCLING, COUNCILMAN MOHN

- Mr. Mohn stated that as far as he knows, things are going well with Eagle Disposal's service. No one has made him aware of any problems.

SANITARY SEWERS, PRESIDENT ROCHE

- Mrs. Diesinger reported that a meeting was being held tomorrow, July 3rd regarding recent correspondence received from the City about the Borough's plan to install flow meters. Ms. Nagy and Borough Engineer E.J. Walsh will attend with Mrs. Diesinger and Mr. Fritz.

STORM WATER/STREETS, COUNCILMAN IBACH

- Mrs. Diesinger reported that the plan this year is to try and do most road repairs in-house with our Public Works crew and save liquid fuels funds for other purposes. Some of the areas targeted for this year are John Glenn Avenue, intersection at Fern and S. Kenhorst Blvd as well as Columbia and S. Kenhorst Blvd.
- Storm water pipe replacement project at High Blvd - . Mrs. Diesinger will contact Plasterer to see if they can rent us a backhoe with a clamp on the bucket.

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SOLICITOR NAGY – nothing to report at this time

BOROUGH MANAGER DIESINGER – June's Manager's report was previously submitted to Council.
Of Note/Completed in June

- Total arrears recovered - \$36,942 ~ 60 accounts sent to RAWA, 31 on shut of list (7/10)
- Achieved PADEP General Permit for Joint High Blvd Storm water Project
- Continued Property Maintenance Inspections
- Newsletter mailed
- Started Playground season

Unfinished Business –

- Upgrade to Phone Lines – *tabled at this time*
- Reverse 911 Communication System – *tabled at this time*
- Mr. Roche and Mrs. Diesinger agreed that these two tabled items will be researched in the next few months so that they could possibly be addressed in next year's budget.

New Business –

- Draft Cable Franchise Agreement – copy available to review – adoption at August meeting. This new agreement is anticipated to bring in additional revenue for the Borough.
- Resolution #625 Adopted – DES/EMA/Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - Mr. Correnti made a motion to adopt the County's plan. Mr. DePasquale seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Resolution #626 Adopted – Rental Housing and Property Maintenance Committee Established - Mr. Fritz made a motion that the Borough establish a committee to enforce rental housing and property maintenance ordinances and codes. Ms. Nagy has reviewed a draft of resolution #626. Mr. DePasquale seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Approved Conditional Insurance Policy Renewal (conditional upon items requiring resolution per Manager's email of June 18th) - Mr. Ibach made a motion to approve the insurance policy renewals as previously discussed and conditional to the resolution of the items in Mrs. Diesinger's email. Mr. Mohn seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- Approved Bulk Item Resolution #627 – Mr. Ibach made a motion to approve a resolution which allows the Borough to give owners a 24- hour notice about the requirement to purchase a \$10.00 trash for bulk items put out at their property. The property's account will be liened for the cost of special collection if they do not purchase a trash tag. Mr. DePasquale seconded the motion and the roll call vote was unanimous.
- The Personnel, Safety/Codes, Sanitary Sewer and Streets/Storm Water Committees to meet in July
- Office will be closed on Thursday, July 4th

RESIDENTS – no residents requested to be heard.

REMARKS – there were no additional remarks. There being no further business, Vice President Correnti made a motion to adjourn the meeting; motion was seconded by Mr. Ibach. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

ATTEST: _____

Eileen D. Becker – Secretary/Treasurer