

January 14, 2014

Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens, held on January 14, 2014.

Mayor Holeman called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of Our Country.  
Please remain standing for a moment of silence for our military.

This meeting has been advertised in one newspaper, The Daily Record, in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act.

ATTENDANCE: Councilwoman Cegelka, Councilwoman Cheatham, Councilman Glass, Councilwoman Hedgepath, Councilman Lorenzo, Councilwoman Garcia Montes.

ABSENT: None.

Motion to accept the minutes of 12/10/13 as received by Councilwoman Cheatham, seconded by Councilwoman Montes and approved on verbal vote. None opposed. Councilwoman Cegelka abstained.

Motion was made to accept the minutes of 1/7/14 as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath. Councilwoman Cegelka said she would like to see added to the minutes the name of the person that swore her into office.

Attorney Feintuch said he has mentioned this to this body as well as other bodies at different times, the purpose of the minutes is to memorialize the actions taken by this body, not things that have been said. It is the official records of action taken. That is the purpose of minutes - not everything that goes on.

Councilwoman Cegelka said the record should also reflect the Attorneys presence at the meetings.

Councilwoman Cegelka made an amendment to the motion that the person that swore her into office - his name should appear in our minutes. Motion was seconded by Councilman Lorenzo. Roll call:

Councilwoman Cegelka	Yes
Councilwoman Cheatham	No
Councilman Glass	No
Councilwoman Hedgepath	No
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	No

Councilwoman Cegelka said she would like to make a motion to have Attorney Feintuchs name added when he is present at a meeting. Seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cegelka	Yes
Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

Let the record show that Attorney Feintuch is present at our meeting tonight.

Motion was made to accept the minutes of 1/7/14 as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Hedgepath and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cegelka	No
Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

CORRESPONDENCE:

LETTER FROM CFO - Everyone was given a copy of the letter from Amy regarding the two special elections that were held in August and October of 2013. The State originally said they would pay municipal employees that worked the special elections for any hours worked outside the regular working hours. The town would pay the workers and the State would reimburse the towns. After all payments were made the request for reimbursement was sent to the State. At that time the State said that if municipal Clerks were never paid for elections before, they were not going to pay for the special elections and the towns would not be reimbursed.

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CORRESPONDENCE CONTINUED:

LETTER FROM CFO CONTINUED - As the payment has already been made to the employee the choice would be to let the payment remain paid out of the budget or request payback to the town from the employee. Please let me know your decision.

The Clerk said we need to act on this so that Amy knows what to do. The Clerk said there is an attached letter which everyone received from the State stating that they would reimburse for overtime for staff. Do you want me to read that also? The Council said no.

After discussion on the matter Councilman Lorenzo said to make it fair we should not pay time and a half. We should just pay regular time. It is a total of 16 hours overtime. Is Councilman Lorenzo saying we should pay the 16 hours of overtime as plain overtime and not time and a half Councilwoman Hedgepath asked? Councilman Lorenzo said that is what he is suggesting.

Motion was made by Councilman Lorenzo to have pay the Clerk for the overtime but not at time and a half. It would be paid as straight time. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Cegelka and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cegelka	Yes
Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	No
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

EINHORN & HARRIS - Notice of intent to sue regarding accident with Hector Lorenzo. This was put on the record before. Council has a copy of it. As you will notice that the police report at the time of the accident said that there were no injuries.

MORRIS COUNTY PROSECUTORS OFFICE - I received a phone call from a Detective Primo regarding the appointment of Councilman Glass and the appointment with the recommendations from the local Democratic Committee. He asked for a copy of our minutes when that was done.

Motion to accept correspondence as received by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

VOUCHERS:

Councilwoman Cheatham said 1007 Waste Management there is no employee list attached. We can pay the bill but we want to hold the check until we get that information. 1032 is a duplicate for NJ Natural Gas. So I voided that. 1044 the amount should be \$937.38 .

Councilman Lorenzo asked about voucher 1013 for Golub. Councilwoman Montes said that was for 7 cats that were euthanized. We have to hold them for 7 days and feed them and doctor them and then if no one claims them after 7 days then they are euthanized. This is costing us a lot of money and they are the same people. The Clerk said you would have to check to see if the animals belong to these people. With the cats a lot of them are strays. People feed them but they don't claim them. The Councilman said the last bill was dogs from the same house.

Councilwoman Cegelka had a question about 1041 - is that our website? Councilwoman Cheatham said it was to convert some files for OEM. It was done through our website person.

Motion was made to pay the bills except for the suggestions made earlier. Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cegelka	Yes
Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

(See Vouchers Next Page)

## VOUCHER #

## PAYABLE TO:

## TYPE OF SERVICE

## ACCT.#

## AMOUNT

VOUCHER #	PAYABLE TO:	TYPE OF SERVICE	ACCT.#	AMOUNT
1 000	PHILIP FEINTUCH	LEGAL SERVICES		\$1,833.33
1 001	HERBERT EVANS	BLDG & GRDS		300.00
1 002	SILVERSCRIPT INS.	ADM & EXEC MEDIC		33.80
1 003	DOVER MUNICIPAL CT	JANUARY COST		1,385.58
1 004	DOVER BD OF EDUC	B.O.E. JANUARY		\$75,265.56
1 005	TOWN OF DOVER	FIRE DEPT SERVICE		16,500.00
1 006	AMERIHEALTH	ADM & EXEC MEDICAL		6,216.66
1 007	WASTE MGT	SANITATION		7,968.91
1 008	J.D.AUTOMOTIVE	STREETS & ROADS		933.03
1 009	CABLEVISION	BLDG & GRDS		4.40
1 010	DAILY RECORD	ADM & EXEC		42.80
1 011	DAILY RECORD	TAXES LIST		5.20
1 012	R.V.R.S.A.	JANUARY SERVICE		8,001.00
1 013	GOLUB ANIMAL	DOG WARDEN		1,140.00
1 014	MGL PRINTING	TAXES		210.85
1 015	CARQUEST AUTO PARTS	STREETS & ROADS		411.68
1 016	TREAS. ST OF NJ	ADM & EXEC (COM AFFAIRS)		69.00
1 017	TREAS. ST OF NJ	ADM & EXEC (CHILD & FAMILIES)		75.00
1 018	J.C.P.& L.	BLDG & GRDS		305.89
1 019	DAILY RECORD	ADM & EXEC		17.16
1 020	NJ CONF OF MAYORS	ADM & EXEC		295.00
1 021	J.C.P.& L.	STREET LIGHTING		656.14
1 022	VERIZON	BLDG & GRDS (5312)		188.75
1 023	VERIZON	BLDG & GRDS (7539)		82.08
1 024	CARGILL INC.	STREETS & ROADS		1,915.46
1 025	HOME DEPOT	BLDG & GRDS		68.74
1 026	NAPA AUTO PARTS	STREETS & ROADS		43.85
1 027	NJ ST LEAGUE OF MUN	ADM & EXEC		285.00
1 028	MORRIS CTY MUA	RECYCLES		696.00
1 029	SUNNYSIDE FLORIST	ADM & EXEC		113.00
1 030	FIRST BYTE CORP.	TAXES		775.00
1 031	TJS SPORTWIDE	ADM & EXEC		23.85
1 032	N.J.N.G	BLDG & GRDS		930.00

1 033	QUALITY DISCOUNT	STREETS & ROADS		\$152.00
1 034	MORRIS CTY MUA	RECYCLES		186.00
1 035	VERIZON	BLDG & GRDS		61.63
1 036	ANDERSON & DENZLER	ENGINEERING		632.40
1 037	CARQUEST AUTO PARTS	STREETS & ROADS		94.64
1 038	OFFICE CONCEPTS	ADM & EXEC		316.55
1 039	SUNNYSIDE FLORIST	ADM & EXEC		85.00
1 040	EDUARDO MARTINEZ	STREETS & ROADS		172.30
1 041	MARKETING ENALB	ADM & EXEC		150.00
1 042	J.C.P.L.	BLDG & GRDS		264.12
1 043	A.T.& T.	BLDG & GRDS		48.07
1 044	SHELL FLEET PLUS	STREETS & ROADS		1,056.10
1 045	N.J. NATURAL GAS	BLDG & GRDS		615.20
1 046	PROTECTIVE MEASURES	BLDG & GRDS		696.00
1 047	HENRY O. BAKER INS	INSURANCE		575.00
1 048	POSTMASTER DOVER	ADM & EXEC		368.00
1 049	GERALD FLATT	DOG WARDEN		360.00
1 050	MUN CLERKS ASSOC	ADM & EXEC		100.00
1 051	MORRIS CTY MUA	RECYCLING		216.00
1 052	NAPA AUTO PARTS	STREETS & ROADS		177.57
1 053	PUBLIC WORKS ASSOC	STREETS & ROADS		60.00
1 054	N.J.N.G.	BLDG & GRDS		930.00
1 055	HECTOR LORENZO	STREETS & ROADS S&W		1,692.24
1 056	EDUARDO MARTINEZ	STREETS & ROADS S&W		3,171.41

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\$138,972.95

NEW BUSINESS:

ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD - The Mayor would like to appoint Valerie Williams to the Planning Board as an alternate member.

Motion was made by Councilman Lorenzo, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cegelka	Yes
Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

INTRODUCTION ON CAP ORDINANCE -

**CALENDAR YEAR 2014  
ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION  
LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK  
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to .5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Victory Gardens in the County of Morris finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2014 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and the citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body hereby determines that a 3.0 percent increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$28,790.88 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Victory Gardens, County of Morris, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2014 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Victory Gardens shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:40-45.14, be increased by 3.5% amounting to \$33,589.36, and that the CY 2014 municipal budget for the Borough of Victory Gardens be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

Motion to approve the introduction of the CAP Ordinance by Councilwoman MOnTes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cegelka	Yes
Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

TRANSFER RESOLUTION - No one had a copy of the transfer resolution so that is being held until the next meeting.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING REMINDER - Board of Health meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 6:00 p.m..

RESOLUTION FOR CHATHAM TOWNSHIP -

A RESOLUTION CONSENTING TO THE PROPOSED WATER  
QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT ENTITLED:  
CHATHAM TOWNSHIP, MORRIS COUNTY, MUNICIPAL CHAPTER  
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE UPPER DELAWARE, UPPER RARITAN AND  
NORTHEAST WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN (WQMP)

WHEREAS, the County of Morris desires to provide for the orderly development of wastewater facilities within Morris County, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey DEP requires that proposed wastewater treatment and conveyance facilities and wastewater treatment service areas, as well as related subjects, be in conformance with an approved WQM plan; and

WHEREAS, a proposed WQM plan amendment noticed in the New Jersey Register on December 2, 2013 for the Upper Delaware, Upper Raritan and Northeast WQM has been prepared by the NJDEP and the County of Morris;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 14th day of January, 2014 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens that:

1. The Borough of Victory Gardens hereby consents to the amendment entitled Chatham Township, Morris County, Municipal Chapter, Proposed Amendment to the Upper Delaware, Upper Raritan and Northeast Water Quality Management Plan, and publicly noticed on December 2, 2013, prepared by the County of Morris with the NJDEP for the purpose of its incorporation into the applicable WQM plan(s).
2. This Resolution shall be submitted to the NJDEP in accordance with NJAC 7:15-3.4.
3. Copies of the resolution shall also be sent to the Morris County Department of Planning & Development, Attn. Christine Marion, P.O. Box 900, Morristown, N.J. 07963-0900 and/or faxed 973-326-0925.

I, Deborah Evans, Clerk of the Borough of Victory Gardens, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of a Resolution passed by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Victory Gardens at a meeting held on January 14, 2014.

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Mayor, David L. Holeman, Jr.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Evans, Borough Clerk

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NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED -

CHATHAM TOWNSHIP RESOLUTION CONTINUED - Everyone has a copy of this resolution. We received a copy of the resolution asking us to adopt by the County. The reason for the resolution is that any town in the County Waste Water Management Plan - which Victory Gardens is - every town that belongs to this has to agree to the change. Chatham is making a change. This does not affect Victory Gardens in any way nor does it affect RVRSA.

Motion was made to approve the resolution by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cegelka	Yes
Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Hedgepath	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

OLD BUSINESS:

ENCROACHMENT ORDINANCE - Attorney Feintuch made comments on this. There is no encroachment ordinance because you do not have the authority to do one. An encroachment is legally defined as a situation where one party violates the property rights of a neighbor. Usually by taking or using a portion of the neighbors land. This is something between two neighbors. We as the governing body have no say in this. That is a civil matter and that is the law.

AMENDMENT TO PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE/PUBLIC HEARING - The Clerk said we have another amendment to this ordinance that I received from the Attorney today and gave to everyone today. The Attorney said that in the old ordinance there were no time lines as to how much time a person would have if there was a violation on the property. The time frame in this new section gives the homeowner 30 days to correct the violation and if it takes longer than that the inspector can allow for another 30 days if the property owner lets the inspector know that it will take more time.

The Clerk said we are suppose to have the public hearing on the other amendment tonight. That amendment was: In the event there is a conflict of between the International Property Maintenance Code (2012) and the language set forth below, the language set forth below shall prevail.

We introduced this last year so can't we just have the public hearing on this one and adopt and then do this other amendment at the next meeting? Sure we can do that the Attorney said.

The Mayor said we will have the amendment read again into the minutes then we will open it to the public for comments on the amendment only. The amendment reads as follows: In the event there is a conflict between the International Property Maintenance Code (2012) and the language set forth below, the language set forth below shall prevail.

Motion to open the meeting to the public on the amendment to the property maintenance code only. Motion made by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Glass and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - When you say language set forth below what is that? The language within the code the Attorney said. So you are saying the local code over rides the international code? Only if there is a conflict. What code is the Borough using? It is written in here we are using 2012.

No other comment from the public.

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Motion to adopt the amendment to the property maintenance code. Motion made by Councilman Glass, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on roll call:

Councilwoman Cegelka	Yes
Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Glass	Yes
Councilwoman Cheatham	Yes
Councilman Lorenzo	Yes
Councilwoman Garcia Montes	Yes

Councilwoman Cegelka said she has some questions on the website. Can she ask them now? Did all of Council get the statement of work/contract? Did the Attorney review? No. The Mayor said we will put this on the agenda for the next meeting. Councilwoman Hedgepath asked Councilwoman Cegelka to give her a list of what she wants to know and she will be prepared to answer her at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Hedgepath said she has information on the person that they interviewed for the part time position to help the Clerk. We had 14 applications. 8 were from Victory Gardens, 3 from Dover, 1 Hopatcong, Newton 1, Rockaway Township and Mt. Arlington. We had a list of questions that we asked them to help us qualify the people for the job. Vera and I completed that and we chose the lady from Mt. Arlington because she was most qualified. Not because she had a degree. We had two backup people just in case this one doesn't work out. This person is very knowledgeable, very professional and has a good computer background. We would pay her \$12 per hour.

Councilwoman Montes said she spoke with Mrs. Bly and she is happy with the way things are right now.

Councilwoman Hedgepath said she spoke with her and she said that the days where she has to work 8 hours are very long for her. One day she says she is okay and the other day she doesn't want to work so much. She has said this several times. She would like to work 8 a.m. to 12 noon. I have told Mrs. Bly to call me whenever she wants because I am home during the day. That if she needs help I can help her. I respect Mrs. Bly and before I interviewed anyone I talked with her in length. I have known her a lot of years. These are the things that have been conveyed to me and that is why we started looking for someone.

Councilwoman Cegelka asked how many days a month Debbe is away? It depends on her classes, vacation, meetings. How many times a month are you out for meetings, classes or whatever? Sometimes I am here all month. Other times between Administrator meetings, Clerks meetings, Registrar meetings I could be out 3 or 4 days a month. So if Debbe is only gone for 4 days a month, why would we hire another part time person making it a full time position? If it is only this much, why can't you close the office in the afternoon and let the phone take the messages? I think it is ridiculous to hire someone if you are only looking at 4 or 5 days a month.

Mayor Holeman asked how long do we expect Mrs. Bly to continue working? She could work for another year Councilwoman Cegelka said.

Attorney Feintuch said we should go into closed session and have Mrs. Bly present. Then she will be here.

Councilwoman Cegelka said I can't see hiring someone for a few days a month for Debbe being out of the office. Wait until Mrs. Bly retires and then hire someone.

Councilwoman Hedgepath said that we need to have a contingency plan. What about Debbe taking vacations? We are trying to have the building covered and start breaking someone in so they will know the job.

Councilman Lorenzo asked about the people from Victory Gardens. Councilwoman Hedgepath said without going into personal matters, most did not have any computer skills. Some worked at day care centers. Taking care of dogs was another job. They didn't fit the criteria.

Councilman Glass asked the Attorney if we should be discussing any of this at an open meeting. The Attorney said we are discussing the concept of hiring for a position and that is appropriate. Discussing an individual is not appropriate.

Councilwoman Cegelka asked if we are looking at this person to come in and do the computer work? I would like the person to be computer knowledgeable. We are working on trying to get our computers networked and to be able to use the scanner off the copy machine. So yes, we want someone that knows computer. Is it mainly for the computers? No, it is for everything. Councilwoman Cegelka said that Mrs. Bly said her work is done by 12 noon. The new person would have to know all the things that Debbe and Lorenza do now.

Councilman Glass said we have two good people doing the Administration stuff and we should go by their word and not have to have Mrs. Bly come before the whole Council. They should talk to Mrs. Bly and then come back to Council with their recommendations. The Attorney said she doesn't have to meet with the whole Council.

Motion was made by Councilman Glass to have the Administration Committee speak to Mrs. Bly and then come back to the next Council meeting with their recommendations. Seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on roll call:

- Councilwoman Cegelka No
- Councilwoman Cheatham Yes
- Councilman Glass Yes
- Councilwoman Hedgepath Yes
- Councilman Lorenzo Yes
- Councilwoman Garcia Montes No

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Motion to open our meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Jim Janone - Did Mrs. Bly get a rice notice? No. This was a discussion about the job opening. Everyone is going in different directions. Mrs. Bly is a good worker and has been here a long time. I think you are trying to get her out of here. Mayor Holeman said we are looking out for her best interest. No one has suggested that she be terminated. Everyone agrees that she will be working here until she wants to retire. No one has said anything about replacing her. Debbe is a salaried employee and I think I will contact IRS because you are paying her. The Attorney said that is not true. You talked about Marketing Enablement scanning papers. How many papers? It was the EOP Plan the Mayor said. There were probably 100 pages or more.

Valerie Williams - Did you talk about the encroachment ordinance? Yes. Did you pass it? No. There is not going to be an encroachment ordinance. Encroachment is a situation where one party violates the property rights of another person. We have no business getting involved in a dispute with one neighbor over another neighbor. Did you speak to the Engineer about it? No. It is a legal issue not an Engineering issue. Did you do the property maintenance public hearing yet? Yes. The amendment we adopted was: In the event there is a conflict between the IPC (2012) and the language set forth below, the language set forth below shall prevail.

Motion to close the meeting to the public by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilwoman Cheatham and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

The Attorney said he asked the Mayor if he may speak to the Council before the meeting is closed.

I have been the Attorney for somewhere around 10 years. There are a few things I would like to relay at this time. We have gone through a number of lawsuits during this time and I believe I have represented the Borough quite well. Although the fees being paid to me are often in question I have no hesitancy in saying that they are fair. There are many things I have done in this time where I did not charge the Borough. This is not the reason I asked for these few minutes to speak.

Firstly there has been much discussion about retaining professionals that have worked for the Borough for many years. Interestingly enough the comments have not been made to their competence or ethics but rather to their fees. I caution the governing body as a former Mayor of a town much bigger than this one, that their concerns are misguided. There was a reason that the legislature allowed towns to enter into no bid contracts with professionals. The main reason was to allow the experience of each of the professionals to continue. For instance, the Borough Engineer has been here for a very long time. That firm knows where every pipe in the Borough is located. They know what has been replaced underground and what hasn't. The firm is familiar with every lot in the Borough and are aware of current issues as well as many years back issues. They do not have to be educated to the history of the town, the streets, the infrastructure. They know when the streets were widened and when they were paved. I strongly recommend to this body that the history of each of the professionals be judged on their successes not on their bills. You are not shopping for soap detergent. You are shopping for people that have been with this Borough, know this Borough and they do not have to be re educated about it. No one has questioned their abilities or their expertise.

Secondly, I have served with any number of Council members with few exceptions that have come before the public with good intentions and without agendas of their own. They served the Borough well. They made major decisions predicated on what they thought was in the best interest of the Borough. They gave their time.

However, recently it appears that certain council members have brought with them their own personal biases. Again, I caution you, biases have to be left at the door. If you have personal ill feelings towards anybody or personally have any disputes with any of the professionals, you should not make those decisions on your personal views. Base your decisions on the facts. Overall, the public should be proud of the people they selected to serve them. This community is not rich by any stretch of the imagination. I suspect that whether you are a renter or a homeowner you struggle to enjoy financial independence. The governing body, so long as I have been here, has kept that in mind. The surplus of funds that this Borough enjoys, I suspect, is greater than any town in this State. Per capita this Borough probably has more money in surplus than any other town.

ATTORNEY CONTINUED -

Finally, I must comment on the attack that Mr. Janone made against Councilwoman Hedgepath at the last meeting. It was uncalled for, it was rude and disrespectful and undeserved. Mr. Janone is the wrong person to be calling someone else silly. It is this type of harrassment and personal agenda that I spoke of earlier. Although from time to time Mr. Janone has offered constructive suggestions to the governing body, most of the time his efforts are confrontational or not helpful or constructive. I hope that a more mature manner will overcome him and I speak for the governing body that we welcome suggestions and direction from the public but not abuse. That is all I have to say.

Councilwoman Hedgepath said that it must be very disheartening for Mrs. Bly to have people come in and question her ability and her authority. That is the reason we have the administratio committee. I would ask you please not to approach her about this. I can imagine with people coming in and saying they are going to replace you and when are you leaving - it must be very upsetting for her.

It is the job of the Administration Committee to talk to her. We don't want to upset her. We don't want to get rid of her. She is a decent fine woman. It upsets me that people are talking to her and upsetting her.

Councilwoman Montes said she wants to comment on the Attorneys comments. I know that our Engineer is high. He has been charging us high for years. I have been here for about 8 years. I have seen where one of our Council members had to have the Engineer come back and look at something because it wasn't right. It isn't just the money.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Montes, seconded by Councilman Lorenzo and approved on verbal vote. None opposed.

Submitted By:

*Deborah Evans*

Deborah Evans  
Borough Clerk