

The Annual Re-Organization Meeting of the Borough of Riverdale Mayor and Council opened on the above date at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor William Budesheim presiding.

ROLL CALL: **Present:** **Astarita, Falkoski, Guis, Loesner, Wetzel, Carelli**
 Absent: **None**

Mayor Budesheim announced that proper notice of this meeting was made as to time, date, place and agenda.

Mayor Budesheim thanked Freeholder Director Gene Feyl and Freeholder William Chegwiddden for stopping in tonight.

MUNICIPAL CLERK READS CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION:

Municipal Clerk Carol Talerico read the certification of the determination of the November 2, 2010 General Election as follows:

NAME	OFFICE	TERM
Joseph J. Falkoski	Borough Council	3 Years
Garrett Astarita	Borough Council	3 Years

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

The Oath of Office was administered to the Borough Council Members.

INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REMARKS BY SAME.

COUNCILMAN GARRETT ASTARITA:

First let me say that it has been my honor to serve Riverdale as your Councilman for the past 15 years. I want to thank my fellow residents for having the trust and confidence in me to elect me to a sixth term. The next several years will present a challenge for all New Jersey municipalities while we struggle through the 2% cap with the issues with consolidation, as always trying to keep our municipality affordable to our citizens. As in the past, I am confident this Council along with our Mayor will face these issues head on and keep the citizens of Riverdale first in our minds. In closing, I pledge to work with my fellow councilpersons to keep Riverdale a great affordable place to live for all our residents. I do feel the future of Riverdale is a bright one and I am privileged to be part of that future. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN JOSEPH FALKOSKI:

I'd just like to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year and thank the voters for re-electing me to serve another term on this Governing Body. It is an honor and a privilege. Last year saw some controversial and divisive issues debated before us - police merges and salary issues among them. These issues will continue to escalate in the future with budget caps and an alphabet soup of committees and groups - GEM, LUARC, etc., along with state agencies pressuring us to consolidate, merge, share and lose identity. I urge the members of this Governing Body to stay on top of current actions being proposed along with proposed and new legislation in this regard. Let us not wait until decision day to try to educate ourselves on the issues. By doing so, we will be prepared to ensure the best outcome with a minimum of divisiveness and polarization for our community, its workers and its citizens. Thank you.

APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY – BY MAYOR AND CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL:

Mayor Budesheim offered the name of Robert Oostdyk as Borough Attorney.

Thereupon, Councilman Carelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Astarita, to appoint Robert Oostdyk as Borough Attorney.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Astarita, Falkoski, Guis, Loesner, Wetzel, Carelli**
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

RESOLUTIONS:

Councilman Falkoski asked for clarification of resolution No. 6-2010. Mayor Budesheim stated it is used for clarifying that hours for non-mandatory schooling and qualifying will fall under the 28 day schedule instead of the 40 hour work week.

Thereupon, Councilman Astarita set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to approve the following resolutions:

- 1) **Resolution No. 1-2009;** Re: Official Legal Newspaper – Suburban Trends.
- 2) **Resolution No. 2-2009;** Re: Annual meeting schedule – 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
- 3) **Resolution No. 3-2009;** Re: Bank Signatures and Depositories.
- 4) **Resolution No. 4-2009;** Re: Delinquent Taxes & Interests.
- 5) **Resolution No. 5-2009;** Re: Local Public Contracts Law.
- 6) **Resolution No. 6-2009;** Re: Police Department – Setting Work Schedules.
- 7) **Resolution No. 7-2009;** Re: Official Holidays – Borough Employees.
- 8) **Resolution No. 8-2009;** Re: Cash Management Plan

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Astarita, Falkoski, Guis, Loesner, Wetzel, Carelli**
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

COPY OF RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGES 2-A, B, C, D, E, F, G AND H

COUNCIL TO SELECT PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL:

Councilman Carelli thanked the Governing Body for the honor of serving as the Council President for the past three years.

Councilman Carelli offered the name of Ted Guis as Council President; motion seconded by Councilman Falkoski.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Astarita, Falkoski, Guis, Loesner, Wetzel, Carelli**
Nays: None
(6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

MAYOR BUDESHEIM NAMES COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Mayor Budesheim stated the 2011 Council Committees:

Councilperson Carelli	Finance	2 nd Loesner
Councilperson Falkoski	Public Safety	2 nd Wetzel
Councilperson Guis	Public Works	2 nd Astarita

Councilperson Wetzel	Community Relations	2 nd Falkoski
Councilperson Astarita	Buildings & Grounds	2 nd Guis
Councilperson Loesner	Personnel	2 nd Carelli
Councilperson Guis	Vehicles	2 nd Carelli

COUNCIL TO APPOINT PLANNING BOARD LIASON:

Councilman Guis offered the name of Joseph Falkoski as Planning Board Liaison, motion seconded by Councilman Astarita.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes:** **Astarita, Guis, Loesner, Wetzel, Carelli**
 Nays: **None**
 Abstain: **Falkoski**
 (5 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

2011 APPOINTMENTS MADE BY MAYOR BUDESHEIM AND CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL:

Mayor Budesheim stated that the Council had received a copy of the 2011 Appointment List.

Mayor Budesheim requested Council confirmation of the 2011 Appointments.

Thereupon, Councilman Loesner set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Astarita, for Council confirmation of the 2011 Appointments as listed.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes:** **Astarita, Falkoski, Guis, Loesner, Wetzel, Carelli**
 Nays: **None**
 (6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

COPY OF 2011 BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE APPOINTMENT LIST IN FULL PAGE NO. 3-I

Councilwoman Wetzel set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to appoint Councilman Carelli as council representative to the H.U.D. Committee.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes:** **Astarita, Bush, Carelli, Guis, Wetzel, Falkoski**
 Nays: **None**
 (6 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

REMARKS MADE BY MAYOR WILLIAM BUDESHEIM:

2010, a year in which the way we govern our municipality was changed considerably. We are now greatly restricted in the way we are able to provide the services our residents and business community expect from their local government. The past year was a learning experience for the Governing Body. We learned a lot about the people we work with and how to best adapt to a changing landscape. This past year the state imposed a 2% cap on the amount the local municipalities are able to increase their taxes. For us the amount we can increase taxes is \$90,000 or one tax point. How are we to apportion that \$90,000 throughout the budget? Some examples of the challenges we are facing:

1. The Morris County MUA increased its garbage tipping fees over the past 12 months by 8.1%. This is done a 2% world resulting in an increase of at least \$12,000.
2. The Riverdale PBA through their contract will be receiving an average salary hike of 8.25% for a total of \$102,000.

REMARKS MADE BY MAYOR WILLIAM BUDESHEIM (continued):

3. The Passaic Valley Water Commission increased its rates to the municipalities for the second year in a row. This year it went up an additional 5% after going up 4% in 2010. Since we hadn't had a water rate increase in over two years, we were forced to increase our water rates by 30 cents per thousand gallons this year.

Among the line items exempt by the state from the 2% cap are the pension costs and medical insurance premium increases over 2%. These are the two line items that are controlled by the state and we have received our notice that the health insurance premiums are increasing by 16.7%. Again, this is in a 2% world. The public employees' pension system charges the towns 11.05% of the employees' gross pay and the police pension premiums are billed to the municipalities at a rate of 29.36%. When you add the police pension costs and - let me just say here this isn't meant to focus any special attention on police. This is the result of a system under which we are living and this is the result of a contract that this Governing Body proposed and adopted. It's not a negative reflection on the department but this is reality and this is what we're facing. When you add the police pension costs to the matching taxes, workman's comp and health benefits there is a 57% add-on. How does that translate into dollars? The 15 members of the PBA are slated to make \$1.34 million in base pay in 2011 and adding our costs to that we will be paying out \$2.12 million. That's 47% of all the taxes that we collect from the municipality.

Over the past four years, though, we have been cutting the operating budgets for many of the line items up to 30%. We had to lay off an inspector in the Building Department at the end of this year. We will not be continuing our Municipal Alliance Committee saving money there. We have reduced some of our banking costs for the court system. We challenged Verizon. They were going to withhold their personal tangible property tax for 2011 which comes to about \$103,000. We challenged them on that. We sent letters and we got our legislators involved and it went to the Attorney General's office. We got a call from Senator Pennacchio this morning that Verizon has agreed that what they were attempting to do was not right so we are not going to lose that money at this time. This year we became part of MCUrgent which is using the social networks to notify people of road closures, snow closings and so forth. We've reactivated our CERT teams. We have a new Deputy Coordinator, Russ Hatzel, a policeman from Mt. Olive who lives in Stoneleigh. He's been reactivating that so that's going to become an active organization within our community. In December we honored Jack Norton who just celebrated 50 years as an active fireman in town. This coming year we'll be honoring Bill Bowersox, another 50 year veteran of the Fire Department. These two men are at every single fire especially during the day. The Community Center is of course one of the treasures of the town. Last year we had over 400 events at the Community Center. We now have the pavilion set up at the Glenburn for outdoor activities and so forth. We have \$250,000 we received in grants for historic preservation of the Glenburn and we're going for another grant. By the end of this year we'll have awarded a contract hopefully that will totally renovate the interior of the Glenburn for events. We got good news last week. It looks like we will be saving Slater's Mill. We've made arrangements with some private business people who will be purchasing it for us to give the Riverdale Art Center time to raise the funds. They want to move their headquarters there and start restoring it. So we have a lot of good things coming up and a lot of challenges. The Council has always been very supportive and we enjoy working with each other and I'm looking forward to that this coming year.

Mayor Budesheim announced that Senator Pennacchio just arrived. He told the Senator that we are extremely grateful for all of the work he did for us in dealing with Verizon and it means a lot to the residents not to lose that \$103,000.

REMARKS MADE BY MAYOR WILLIAM BUDESHEIM (continued):

Finally, this coming year we're going for a new reval. We had one about five years ago but unfortunately we did that at the peak of the values of residential properties and the residents paid a bigger portion of the tax bill. We want to bring the assessments into line to fair market value so we'll be doing that this year. That should help with the property owners' taxes that they pay and hopefully stop the bleeding of the tax appeals that we're getting hit with. There's so many and unfortunately we're not winning them.

Senator Pennacchio wished everyone a happy and health New Year.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 1:

There being no comments, Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Astarita, that the public portion be closed.

ALL IN FAVOR.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE:

The Oath of Office was administered to the members of the Recreation Committee.

Councilwoman Wetzel thanked the committee for their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Falkoski set forth the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Wetzel, to adjourn the meeting.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol J. Talerico, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk