

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.

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

MUNICIPAL CLERK READS CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION:

Municipal Clerk Carol Talerico read the certification of the determination of the November 5, 2013 General Election as follows:

NAME	OFFICE	TERM
Garrett Astarita	Borough Council	3 Years
Stephen W. Revis	Borough Council	3 Years

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

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

ROLL CALL: **Present:** Astarita, Carelli, Guis, Mastrangelo, Revis
Absent: Wetzl

INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REMARKS BY SAME.

COUNCILMAN STEPHEN W. REVIS:

Good evening everyone. I'd like to thank my wife and family who have always supported me and shared me willingly with the Board of Education during my 29 years of service there, and will continue to support me and share me with the town Council as I embark on my new adventure. I'd also like to thank the people who voted for me. I promise that I will do my best to ensure that I will never do anything that will cause you to regret your vote. Finally, I am excited to now be working with the Mayor and Council members who have done so much over the years to make Riverdale the great town that it is. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN GARRETT ASTARITA:

Happy New Year everyone. Once again it is my honor and privilege to serve the residents of Riverdale as your Councilman for the next three years. 2014 is a new year and it comes with a variety of issues and challenges to confront. During the next year we will be debating these issues and hopefully come to agreements that will best serve the residents of our borough. The system works best when there is a healthy dialogue and exchange of ideas through respectful conversation keeping in mind that we are all here for the same purpose – the betterment of our town. I sincerely believe we can resolve any differences in this manner. I welcome our new Councilperson, Steve Revis, and will be excited to hear his new perspective on things. I will miss Joe Falkoski, his insights and his gentlemanly manner. I thank all of our employees for their work in keeping our borough running, keeping in mind that times change and the need to adapt is ever present. I especially thank all our volunteers. You are a special breed to give your time to our town for little or no compensation and you are the spirit and identity of Riverdale. To the residents of Riverdale I pledge to do my best to make the decisions that will benefit us all in the years to come. Thank you.

COUNCIL PRESENTATION TO COUNCILMAN JOSPEH FALKOSKI:

Mayor Budesheim stated that we would like to take this time as we welcome the new Councilmen to say goodbye and thank you to Councilman Joseph Falkoski.

MAYOR BUDESHEIM:

It was just eleven years this month, Joe, that you were appointed to the Council. You've had a lifetime of service – first to Butler and then to Riverdale and we appreciate all the time that you've put in. I used to see you here two or three times a week checking in on your committees. It was a testament that the Police Department gave you recognition for your years of service to the community. You received a plaque from them and what the Council decided to do is give you a gift certificate so that you and Susan could spend some time enjoying yourselves on the town.

COUNCILMAN JOSEPH FALKOSKI:

As I said at my last meeting, it was an experience working up there with you people but it was a good experience. I'll never forget it and I want to thank all of you for the kind things you've said to me especially at that last meeting. 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 Guis set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Mastrangelo, to appoint Robert Oostdyk as Borough Attorney.

ALL IN FAVOR.

RESOLUTIONS:

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

1. **Resolution #1-2014** - LEGAL PAPER.
2. **Resolution #2-2014** - ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE.
3. **Resolution #3-2014** - BANK SIGNATURES AND DEPOSITORIES.
4. **Resolution #4-2014** - DELINQUENT TAXES & INTERESTS.
5. **Resolution #5-2014** - LOCAL PUBLIC CONTRACT LAW.
6. **Resolution #6-2014** - POLICE DEPARTMENT - SETTING WORK SCHEDULES.
7. **Resolution #7-2014** - HOLIDAYS - BOROUGH EMPLOYEES.
8. **Resolution #8-2014** - CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN.
9. **Resolution #9-2014** – TEMPORARY BUDGET – 2014.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Astarita, Carelli, Guis, Mastrangelo, Revis**
 Nays: None
 (5 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

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

COUNCIL TO SELECT PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL:

Councilman Carelli offered the name of Theodore Guis as Council President; motion seconded by Councilman Mastrangelo.

ALL IN FAVOR.

COUNCIL TO APPOINT PLANNING BOARD LIASON:

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

MAYOR BUDESHEIM NAMES COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Mayor Budesheim announced the 2014 Council Committees:

Councilperson Carelli	Finance & Shared Services	2 nd Wetzek
Councilperson Mastrangelo	Public Safety	2 nd Revis
Councilperson Guis	Public Works	2 nd Astarita
Councilperson Wetzek	Community Relations	2 nd Carelli
Councilperson Astarita	Buildings & Grounds	2 nd Guis
Councilperson Revis	Personnel	2 nd Mastrangelo

Council has appointed Mayor Budesheim as a third member of all committees.

Thereupon, Councilman Carelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Astarita, to approve the Council Committees.

ALL IN FAVOR.

APPOINTMENTS TO H.U.D. COMMITTEE:

Councilman Astarita set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Carelli, to appoint Stephen Revis as council representative to the HUD Committee.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Mayor Budesheim appointed Garrett Astarita as representative to the HUD Committee and Elaine Wetzel as alternate representative to the HUD Committee.

2014 APPOINTMENTS MADE BY MAYOR BUDESHEIM AND CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL:

Mayor Budesheim stated that the Council had received a copy of the 2014 Appointment List. The appointment of Judge will be held pending his acceptance of the salary. In addition, the following are appointed to the Recreation Committee:

Diane Pezzuti	Anne Gould	Chris Scanelli
Erika Picinic	Annemarie Nadiroglu	Kari McCarthy

Mayor Budesheim requested Council confirmation of the 2014 Appointments.

Thereupon, Councilman Astarita set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Mastrangelo, for Council confirmation of the 2014 Appointments as listed.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Astarita, Carelli Guis, Mastrangelo, Revis**
 Nays: None
 (5 ayes – 0 nays - motion carried)

COPY OF 2014 BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE APPOINTMENT LIST IN FULL PAGE NO. 4-J**REMARKS BY MAYOR BUDESHEIM:**

I would like to extend my congratulations to our newly sworn Councilmen - veteran Garrett Astarita and Steve Revis, a thirty year veteran on our Board of Education. I'm looking forward to working with them on our common goal, the betterment of Riverdale. So much is said about the ever increasing size and costs of government from the federal, state, county and all the way down to local governments. Standing at the bottom of this government food chain, local governments suffer under the trickle down effects of regulations, mandates and restrictions. In New Jersey we hear constantly about the high local property taxes, among the highest in the nation. The state, while showing little restraint on its own spending, has imposed a 2% cap on local tax levies. As we trim the budget to meet this cap, it becomes more difficult each year to continue to provide and maintain the accustomed level of services. Protecting the lives and property of our citizens is the primary responsibility of government. In order to meet that obligation we must be creative and innovative in our approach. In 2013 we embarked on a program of shared services as encouraged by the state. Our state aid is determined in part on our shared services programs. For instance, we filled the vacancy of Tax Assessor through shared services reducing the cost of that department by \$20,000. Recently the governor signed into a law a bill allowing the towns to share services that were previously tenured. We then entered into a shared service for tax collector beginning this month. This agreement will reduce the cost of that department by \$55,000. Upon the retirement of our bookkeeper we replaced that full time employee with a part timer reducing the cost of that function by approximately \$30,000. I am hoping to continue this approach in the coming year. What is next? During the meeting following our reorganization I will be presenting two more shared services which should then complete the shared services part of our restructuring goals. The building department has done well by us over the past decade including large, numerous projects. The resulting fees brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars. However, with the downturn in the economy that pipeline has all but dried up. We can no longer maintain the \$88,000 cost of our building department when taking in only \$35,000 in building permit fees. Our Planning Board has not heard an application for a new project in over three years leaving a bleak horizon for justifying the continuance of our own building department. I will be presenting a proposal for a shared service with Wanaque for building department services. Many towns have done this and it has been very successful. In a way the services will be nearly identical to how we've been operating the past two years. With the retirement of our utility billing and collections clerk, I am proposing this evening a shared service with Butler to bill and collect our sewer and water accounts. Butler has been doing this same service most effectively for themselves as well as Kinnelon and Bloomingdale. Capitalizing on their innovative technology we will see cost savings in the near future. A few people have expressed concerns that we are selling off pieces of our town or that we are losing our identity. The challenges we now face are greater, requiring the courage to do what is necessary to overcome those obstacles. People do not move into Riverdale because of who runs our building department and

who collects our taxes or sends out our utility bills. We have heard it said time and again that people come here because the taxes are among the lowest in the area, the good school system, the essential services and the quality of life amenities available. When residents have an emergency they need to know that their police, fire, first aid squad will be there for them. When it snows they can be assured that our DPW is out there maintaining their roads. When they send their children to our school, they need to know that they will be getting a first rate education in a safe environment. We have excellent recreation programs, a community center the envy of many, Historic Glenburn, parks, concerts and so on. On top of all that is good in our community, the people have to be able to afford to live here. While striving to reduce the cost of providing local government service, I am going to establish a committee to study

REMARKS BY MAYOR BUDESHEIM (continued):

the feasibility of energy aggregation for Riverdale. New Jersey, one of the few states, passed the Government Energy Aggregation Act of 2003 which authorized municipalities to establish government energy aggregation (GEA) programs which allow such municipalities to aggregate the energy requirements of residential, commercial and municipal accounts so that the GEA program can purchase energy supply from third party suppliers at prices lower than the average utility price. So far only a small handful of towns have implemented this non-mandatory program. If implemented, we can save our residents and small businesses anywhere from 10% to 15% on their energy bills. Hopefully this program proves worthy and we are able to implement it. We lead the way for adjoining towns to implement their own GEA programs. Once that is done, we will enjoy advantage when bidding on utility rates. This is a tool being made available to the local government. It is not something we should ignore. Working together, I believe we can lower and stabilize the cost of local government and be in the forefront in lowering the community's energy cost. This could be a great year for Riverdale. I think I speak for everyone when I say we are looking forward to it. Thank you.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 1:

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 7:55 p.m.

APPROVED:

Respectfully Submitted:

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