

The Annual Re-Organization Meeting of the Borough of Riverdale Mayor and Council opened on the above date at 7:00 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 Abubakar Jalloh read the certification of the determination of the November 4, 2014 General Election as follows:

NAME	OFFICE	TERM
Bradley Clinton	Borough Council	3 Years
Vincent L. Pellegrini	Borough Council	3 Years

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

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

Mayor Budesheim announced that Freeholder Director Kathy DeFillippo was in attendance.

INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND REMARKS BY SAME.

COUNCILMAN BRADLEY CLINTON:

I would like to thank the residents who had the confidence in me to push the button next to my name when they voted. I'd like to thank the people who sacrificed time with their families to allow me to be here tonight. I'd also like to thank my family for their never ending support throughout. I just want to say that I'm going to work hard to represent all of the residents of Riverdale. Thank you.

COUNCILMAN VINCENT L. PELLEGRINI:

I would once again like to thank all the people who supported me in the election. I pledge to do my best with the duties that I have to do for the residents of Riverdale and that I will be able to devote more time and be the best councilperson I can. I'm looking forward to the opportunity and challenges that lie ahead. Thank you and Happy New Year.

**ROLL CALL: Present: Carelli, Clinton, Mastrangelo, Pellegrini, Revis
(Astarita arrived late)
Absent: None**

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

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

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

ALL IN FAVOR.**RESOLUTIONS:**

Councilman Carelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Revis, to approve the following resolutions:

1. **Resolution #1-2015** - LEGAL PAPER.
2. **Resolution #2-2015** - ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE.
3. **Resolution #3-2015** - BANK SIGNATURES AND DEPOSITORIES.
4. **Resolution #4-2015** - DELINQUENT TAXES & INTERESTS.
5. **Resolution #5-2015** - LOCAL PUBLIC CONTRACT LAW.
6. **Resolution #6-2015** - POLICE DEPARTMENT - SETTING WORK SCHEDULES.
7. **Resolution #7-2015** - HOLIDAYS - BOROUGH EMPLOYEES.
8. **Resolution #8-2015** - CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN.
9. **Resolution #9-2015** - TEMPORARY BUDGET - 2015.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Carelli, Clinton, Mastrangelo, Pellegrini, 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 Revis offered the name of Gary Mastrangelo as Council President; motion seconded by Councilman Clinton.

ROLL CALL: **Ayes: Clinton, Mastrangelo, Pellegrini, Revis**
 Nays: Carelli
 (4 ayes – 1 nays - motion carried)

MAYOR BUDESHEIM NAMES COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

Mayor Budesheim announced the 2015 Council Committees:

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

Mayor Budesheim as a third member of all committees.

Councilman Pellegrini objected to his appointment as Chairman of the Finance Committee where he said he has no expertise or experience. He stated it would not be fair to him or the residents of the town for him to be the Finance Chairman at this time. He asked who made the decision and how it was made.

Mayor Budesheim stated that when you run for office you're expected to bring everything to the table. He said he made the decision to shake things up and give somebody different committees and also to give you the opportunity since you are opposed to shared services.

COUNCIL COMMITTEES (continued):

Councilman Carelli stated that part of being a leader is to recognize people's strengths and expertise and put them where they would best serve the public. I don't know how any councilman can support this. Personally, I'm happy where you put me but I would like to see our expertise utilized in an appropriate fashion. This isn't an experiment. I can't support it because I don't think it's in the best interest of Riverdale.

Council President Mastrangelo asked if there was someone else who wanted it and who thinks they can do it better.

It was decided to hold off and continue discussion of the matter.

2015 APPOINTMENTS MADE BY MAYOR BUDESHEIM AND CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL:

Mayor Budesheim stated that there were no real changes to the appointments.

Mayor Budesheim requested Council confirmation of the 2015 Appointments.

Thereupon, Councilman Carelli set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Mastrangelo, for Council confirmation of the 2015 Appointments that the Council has the authority to approve as listed.

ALL IN FAVOR.

COPY OF 2015 BOROUGH OF RIVERDALE APPOINTMENT LIST IN FULL PAGE NO. 3-J**COUNCIL TO APPOINT PLANNING BOARD LIASON:**

Councilman Astarita offered the name of Gary Mastrangelo as Planning Board Liaison, motion seconded by Councilman Clinton

ALL IN FAVOR.

APPOINTMENTS TO H.U.D. COMMITTEE:

Councilman Mastrangelo set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Revis, to appoint Bradley Clinton as council representative to the HUD Committee.

ALL IN FAVOR.

Mayor Budesheim appointed Garrett Astarita as representative to the HUD Committee and Vincent Pellegrini as alternate representative to the HUD Committee.

REMARKS BY MAYOR BUDESHEIM:

I already put my remarks in the newsletter, but for those who haven't seen it I'd just like to say it's been a full year since we entered into shared service agreements with neighboring towns. We have overcome a few road bumps along the way and things are operating smoothly. The Building Department services are being provided by the Borough of Wanaque. Last year under our department we took in about \$37,000 in fees and paid out in salary and benefits \$85,000 for a loss of \$48,000. This year under our shared services we paid Wanaque \$40,000 to run our Building Department and we took in nearly \$46,000 in fees. So rather than losing another \$40,000 we were \$6,000 to the good. Our Water and Sewer Billing is being done through the Borough of Butler as is

REMARKS BY MAYOR BUDESHEIM (continued):

our Tax Collector. Through this arrangement we discovered billing errors which have been corrected. The result is that we have generated \$300,000 in revenues that we would not have realized without having entered into a shared service. The Tax Collector department is in compliance with the state laws and regulations at a savings to the borough of \$50,000. Our Police Department is now up to full strength and organized according to the structure determined by Chief Kevin Smith. As a result, the revenue from summonses issued is up \$70,000 over last year. The morale, according to the Chief, is probably higher than it has been in years – Riverdale’s finest. The Riverdale Volunteer Fire Department has more members now than we’ve had in many years. We amended our ordinance to allow members from other departments to join. This was suggested by Chief Dan Sturm and has worked out as planned – Riverdale’s bravest. We’ve been working on bringing the Riverdale Department of Public Works up to full strength. Our goal is eight workers to take care of the roads, buildings, fields, water and sewer departments and facilities. Much to do with so few, we are very proud of them. The front office has been reorganized and operations are working smoothly at an annual salary savings of \$70,000. Our staff is always available to assist the public with courtesy and professionalism. Our Recreation Department is introducing a Riverdale School Spring Break program this year – a big plus for working parents in town. Our program of sharing non-essential services to maintain essential services is working. This enables us to keep the small town feel that makes Riverdale the special place we all know and appreciate. We are looking forward to serving you in 2015 and, as always, our door is always open to you providing our residents with continued good government.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 1:

Will Felegi, 68 Mountain View Court, pointed out that according to the by-laws the Mayor does have the right to appoint anyone he wants and wished Councilman Pellegrini luck as the new Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Dave Desai, 22 Cotluss Road, stated that the Committee Appointments are upon approval of the Council. He agreed with Councilman Carelli regarding utilizing individual strengths and feels that putting two first year councilmen on the Finance Committee is irresponsible. He said the Mayor’s words, bringing back statements made by Mr. Pellegrini in the campaign, shows that his appointments were spiteful maneuvers and show lack of discipline and responsibility.

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

Councilman Astarita apologized for arriving late to the meeting and congratulated the new councilmen.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

ALL IN FAVOR.

Adjourned: 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

Respectfully Submitted:

Abubakar T. Jalloh, R.M.C.
Municipal Clerk