

The regular 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 Budesheim presiding.

**ROLL CALL:**       **Present:**     **Astarita, Carelli, Loesner, Wetzel, Guis**  
                           **Absent:**       **Falkoski**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES DATED:**

|                  |   |                  |
|------------------|---|------------------|
| Regular Meeting  | - | October 17, 2011 |
| Special Meeting  | - | October 25, 2011 |
| Workshop Meeting | - | November 7, 2011 |

Councilwoman Wetzel set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to approve the above listed minutes as read.

**ROLL CALL:**       **Ayes:**     **Astarita, Carelli, Loesner, Wetzel, Guis**  
                           **Nays:**     **None**  
                           **Abstain:**  **Carelli (10/25 and 11/7 only), Astarita (10/25 only)**  
                           **(5 ayes – 0 nays – motion carried)**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 1:**

Michael Kheypets, 33 Parkway, spoke regarding a problem with skunks in his yard. Councilwoman Wetzel stated that he should call the Board of Health or Bloomingdale Animal Control for guidance.

Dan Sciarra, Munn Avenue, asked for an update regarding the railroad not complying with the court order. Borough Attorney Oostdyk stated that it's been referred to the Planning Board where jurisdiction lies. Mr. Sciarra stated that it is almost a year since the court order and nothing has been done. Mayor Budesheim stated that the concerns were forward to the Planning Board Attorney and their next meeting is December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Police Chief Kevin Smith thanked Dr. Joseph Young for his very generous donation of two CPR mannequins and a defibrillator trainer to the Police Department. The retail value is close to \$1,000 and this is invaluable life saving equipment that we've never had before.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Councilwoman Wetzel asked for clarification of the Armed Forces Donations.

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

- 1)     Payment of Claims, including the following:
  - a.    Pamela Sylvestri - Armed Forces Donations & Postage -   \$271.00

**RESOLUTIONS (continued):**

- 2) **Resolution No. 74-2011;** Refund of Tax Overpayments – Block 18, Lot 26.08 –Geraldo Jiosi - \$1,392.98 – Duplicate Payment.
- 3) Governing Body to declare a Stihl Demo Saw, property tag #000438 as unusable surplus submitted from DPW.
- 4) Mayor to appoint Richard J. Clemack to represent the Borough in the case of Paige vs. Riverdale with consent of Governing Body.
- 5) Authorizing the Borough Clerk to advertise for bids for the Elevator Installation at the Community Center funded from the Community Development Grant to be received Tuesday, December 13, 2011.
- 6) **Resolution No. 75-2011;** Transfer of Appropriations.

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

**COPY OF BILLS LIST AND RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 125-A, B AND C****OTHER BUSINESS:**

- 1) Consideration and approval of applications for extended hours of operation on November 25, 2011 for the following:
  - a. Best Buy has approval to open at 5:00 am on Black Friday and would like to extend that time to open at 12:00 am consistent with other local establishments openings.
  - b. Home Depot requesting waiver to open at 5:00 am on Black Friday \$25.00 fee paid (not according to ordinance).

Borough Clerk Talerico stated that the ordinance specifies a fee of one cent per square foot which is what the other businesses have paid. Mayor Budesheim stated the reasoning is that Home Depot is only requesting 1 additional hour, doesn't have the traffic and requires no police presence. The full fee would have been approximately \$1,100.

Thereupon, Councilman Astarita set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Loesner, to approve the applications for extended hours as requested by Best Buy and Home Depot.

**ROLL CALL:       Ayes:     Astarita, Carelli, Loesner, Guis**  
**Nays:     Wetzel**  
**(4 ayes – 1 nay – motion carried)**

**MAYOR REPORT:**

Mayor Budesheim reported that our custodian, Barbara Shad, will be leaving. Janet Pellet who previously had the position and does the Community Center and Firehouse cleanup would like to take the position but would be looking for full time employment. Councilman Guis is also obtaining a price from an outside vendor.

Councilman Guis stated that there will be several changes in personnel in the DPW over the next several months. It is premature to make a move at this time. We have tried vendors in the past with limited success. There was a discussion regarding the number of hours for the position.

**MAYOR REPORT (continued):**

Mayor Budesheim stated that we approved a transfer of funds for a payment for medical benefits. Funds came out of three budgets so everyone is advised to watch spending. Councilman Carelli stated that he wanted to double check on whether all the reimbursements were factored in.

**BOROUGH ATTORNEY REPORT:**

Borough Attorney Oostdyk reported on release of a performance guarantee in connection with the Powder Mill development. A motion was passed at the last meeting to release the performance bond contingent upon my discussion with the borough engineer and confirmation. They did review the paperwork and it was clearly posted for one purpose which was to get a DEP permit. That DEP permit was issued and the borough engineer was satisfied that the conditions for that bond have been met. We can't hold the bond for things other than what it was posted for so the borough clerk will be releasing that bond pursuant to the motion made at the last meeting. Mr. Oostdyk also noted for the record that we appointed Richard Clemack to represent the Borough in the case of Paige vs. Riverdale and received confirmation from our insurance company that they will not provide us with an attorney to represent the Borough in this case.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Councilman Carelli asked Borough Clerk Talerico for a printed report of every vendor paid over \$36,000 in the last year.

Councilman Astarita reported that we will be advertising for bids for the Senior Center elevator to be received on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Loesner stated that a few months ago he handed out a policy for CDL and a rewrite of transitional duty for the Employee Handbook. If everyone is in agreement, I would like to make them part of the Employee Handbook for 2012. We should get a compliance policy for CDL drivers soon. Mayor Budesheim stated that there was concern about transitional duty for DPW and the Police. Councilman Loesner stated he is working with Chief Smith to come up with a comprehensive policy specific to the Police Department. DPW should be able to come inside if necessary. Each incident will be unique.

Thereupon, Councilman Loesner set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to incorporate the CDL policy and transitional duty policy into the Employee Handbook for 2012.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 2:**

Glenn Venza asked if we could continue the discussion about possibly hiring a police officer at the next workshop. Mayor Budesheim stated that we hopefully would.

Police Chief Smith spoke regarding a concern with his budget next year for e-training. Mayor Budesheim stated it is a great idea being implemented and the council will support the program.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NO. 2 (continued):**

Councilwoman Wetzel stated there is something she wanted to say for the record:

I'd like to thank the residents for their support and encouragement by re-electing me for another term as their representative. My journey to this point was uncontested but that's not to say it was without controversy. I'd like to address a subject that may make a few people uncomfortable but I feel it's something I have to do. I'm not looking for anyone to agree or disagree with me. I just need to say what I feel and hope that we can continue to move forward from this point. As we all know, not all positions on this year's ballot were uncontested. We had a race for Mayor. As with all contested political races there can only be one winner. The majority vote selected incumbent Mayor Budesheim to continue his role as Mayor of Riverdale. For his supporters this is a positive thing. For his non-supporters, this was not the outcome they were looking for. Regardless of their personal feelings or opinions it's time for everyone - residents, employees and least of all non-residents - to accept the fact that this is the governing body chosen by a majority and it's time for people to take their negative attitudes, false accusations and untruths and put them on a shelf. It's time to allow this governing body to get back to the business of running the town, managing their departments and securing the lifestyle that Riverdale residents deserve and are accustomed to. No individual on this governing body should have to expend any more time or energy defending their reputation or trying to prove itself to be non-corrupt. Employees who are unhappy have the option to leave. Residents who are unhappy have the option to move. Non-residents who insist on fueling the fires they have started should just mind the business of their own towns. We have chosen the option to continue to make Riverdale a successful, happy, healthy place to live and I'd like to achieve this with the support of this entire Mayor and Council as well with our employees and residents. I found myself in a position where I had to confront someone for making a false accusation on a social media page which indirectly involved me. The statement was withdrawn but multiple people continue to comment on freedom of speech, intimidation, and so on. Situations like this do nothing positive, waste precious time and cause hurt feelings. The outcome may not have been the one you wanted, but it is what it is and now it's time to move ahead. I would like to see all of this negative energy stopped. I would like to see our governing body, all of our departments, employees and residents work as a unit and continue to move forward to make Riverdale the great place that it truly is. Thank you.

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

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Loesner set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Carelli to adjourn the meeting.

**ALL IN FAVOR.**

Adjourned: 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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