

The Special Meeting of the Borough of Riverdale Mayor and Council opened on the above date at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor William Budesheim presiding.

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

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

**THE PURPOSE OF THIS SPECIAL MEETING IS TO FINALIZE ANY MATTERS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL BEFORE YEAR END.**

**RESOLUTIONS:**

Brenda Saleh spoke regarding their request for a curb cut to extend the exit of their driveway. It has become extremely inconvenient to move cars around to comply with the overnight parking restrictions. She asked that the request be reconsidered. Mayor Budesheim stated the request had been rejected by the Borough Engineer but I think this is a special hardship. It was decided to discuss the matter with the Borough Engineer and postpone a decision until the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Borough Clerk Talerico stated that the Finance Officer determined a transfer resolution was not necessary.

Councilman Guis stated he wished to discuss the Shared Services Agreement for Construction Department Services. I am disheartened to hear what went on when I was away and that this happened so quickly. It looks like it may be a very good deal but as of yesterday nobody in the Building Department has even been informed officially or unofficially of what's going on. Are they working or are they not. There are no details put forth as to how this transfer is taking place or transferring of files. To start this on January 1<sup>st</sup> I am totally against 100 percent. Nobody has even talked to our Construction Department to look at alternatives. It seems this has been a goal to just get this as a shared service, period, without even looking at alternatives. I talked to the Building Department prior to the last one and they already agreed to a cut. Paul has done an analysis as to the various cuts that would be required to come close to this plan. We need a little time on this. To try and run this through this quickly without even giving the department a chance – financially, first glance, it looks pretty good but there is going to be a reduction in service. A decision of this nature needs to be looked at a little bit more and at least give the department the right of first refusal on the offer that's being offered to us.

Mayor Budesheim stated that this has been discussed for over a year. I've been bringing this up since September that I've been working on this. The fact that you weren't at the last meeting wasn't my fault. We have to move forward. We don't have a T.A.C.O. anymore. My plan was to keep our department around for two to four weeks to close out all existing permits but any new ones that come on as of January 1<sup>st</sup> would go to the shared services. I don't see anybody from the department. I'm here every day and I don't know when they're here. We're spending a lot of money and you're talking about personal service. There isn't any. There is no personal service here. You can talk about it all you want. To get an inspection you call another town and they come down. It's the same thing we're going to have here.

Councilman Guis and Mayor Budesheim continued to disagree about how the matter should be handled.

**RESOLUTIONS (continued):**

Councilman Carelli stated that we're going to vote on something that hopefully will have some transition period. This whole thing is unprofessional. You've been talking about it for a year – first it was Lincoln Park, then it was Bloomingdale and now it's Wanaque. The deal looks pretty good and I have no problem endorsing something if it's for the benefit of the town but you should at least give the guys the right of first refusal. If they're able to match the offer then what would you do?

Mayor Budesheim stated if they match the offer that is fine.

Councilman Carelli stated that we should have a conversation with them. That should be done out of respect for these guys who have worked here for many years. That they have to hear through the grapevine that their jobs are going to be gone is just not right. We should at least follow a process and be respectful to the parties that are involved in it. You should look at some alternatives. Maybe there's a way to keep the department.

Councilwoman Wetzel stated that if the department wasn't given the opportunity we don't know if that is an alternative.

Councilman Carelli presented several scenarios he prepared with the cost to run the department.

Councilman Guis stated that he would like to sit down with John Sciala and see if he can agree to the 33%. Then we can propose it to the Council and vote on whether it's worth \$10,000 a year to keep our own department as opposed to giving away another part of the town. Then let the Council vote.

Councilman Falkoski stated that we have to look at what we're doing with shared service very carefully. We're giving the town away. If I'm a resident and I come down to the Borough hall, after March there's only going to be two people in this building – maybe. If I say I want to pay my taxes or sewer bill or get a building permit, I have to go here and there and there's nothing here. I'm a citizen and I'm paying my taxes and I'm getting nothing for it. We have to remember that we're here to serve the citizens of Riverdale – not Wanaque or Butler or Pequannock or anybody else. Even if we have to make a sacrifice someplace financially we have to keep that in mind.

Councilman Mastrangelo stated that if they're willing to take a 50% pay cut then he has no problem keeping them but 33% is a \$10,000 difference.

Councilwoman Wetzel stated that we don't know whether this department is willing to stay intact under any of these offerings unless we offer it to them. I think it's premature to vote on the other proposal today based on this new information and we should at least offer these considerations to the department.

Thereupon, Councilwoman Wetzel set forth the motion, seconded by Councilman Guis, to table resolution No. 3 listed on the agenda until the January 6, 2014 workshop meeting.

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

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

- 1) Payment of Claims. (including the following)
  - a. Mayor Budesheim - Reimburse for Furnace Motor at Glenburn - \$591.71

**RESOLUTIONS (continued):**

- 2) **Resolution No. 87-2013;** Agreement for Riverdale to continue membership in the "Fund" (New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund) for a period commencing January 1, 2014 terminating on December 31, 2016. (held from the December 16, 2013 meeting)
- 3) **Tabled**

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

**COPY OF BILLS LIST AND RESOLUTIONS IN FULL ON PAGE NO. 155 A AND B.**

**MAYOR REPORT:**

Mayor Budesheim stated that in the spirit of shared services he is speaking to Butler about doing our sewer and water billing. The readings start on Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. I'm trying to work out an agreement.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

**ALL IN FAVOR**

Adjourned: 9:30 a.m.

**APPROVED:**

Respectfully Submitted:

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