

**BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK-  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES –MARCH 23, 2010**

Mayor Carey Pilato called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a reading of the Open Public Meetings Law Statement, Opening Prayer read by the Borough Clerk and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Pilato	present
Council President Pranzatelli	present
Council Dietrich	present
Council Petti	present
Council Buckley	present
Council Wagner	present
Council Hasting	absent -arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Present:

Randy Bahr, Administrator, Donna Marie Godleski, Borough Clerk;  
Borough Attorney Associate Daniel Zwillenberg, Esq.

Attendees:

Deputy Police Chief Michael Jannone  
Lt. David Czarcinski

Approval of Minutes: Agenda/Workshop Meeting March 9, 2010

Motion moved by C. Pranzatelli; second by C. Dietrich; unanimously adopted.

Mayor Pilato expressed comments on the NorEaster Storm of March 13, 2010. This caused flooding to many downtown businesses and borough residents. He commended the Office of Emergency Management, Police, Fire and Public Works Department for their collective disaster response. The flood relief efforts were very well managed by Department Heads.

Mayor ran through several basics from the storm, citing that 400 to 500 homes were impacted as well as 100 businesses. The Red Cross and the Bound Brook High School were very good partners. We served 600 residents into two Shelters; one at the High School and one at the Presbyterian Church. We are down to 50 residents at this time in shelter. Mayor noted that 217 in terms of properties would have been impacted without the wall and bridge on Talmage Avenue. We are still awaiting determination from FEMA and a Presidential Declaration. We are hopeful it will not be long for this framework.

The Somerset County Business Partnership is providing assistance to business needs. This will begin in one week or so. If those needs are successful, will reconvene moving forward.

Borough Hall is starting a list of the businesses reopening in the area.

The Tuesday following the storm, the Somerset County Freeholder Board dispersed emergency funds for Bound Brook and Manville. The County helped haul away 600 tons of refuse. This will all have an impact on the budget.

Page Two

Meeting Minutes March 23, 2010

Mr. Bahr reported that Bound Brook received assistance from South Bound Brook, Warren and Bridgewater.

Council President Pranzatelli reported Mr. Jim Suk, OEM Coordinator for the first time was operating from the seat of his pants. He handled the whole operation professionally.

Greetings of the Public

Roseanne Short-169 Cherry-

Ms. Short stated that for the first time in 57 years her sister got water in her basement. She expressed a thank you to the Office of Emergency Management.

Andrew Rehm-Massachusetts Residence

Mr. Rehm asked when the borough can expect to prevent water from coming up storm sewer pipes. Mayor Pilato stated that it is a part of the Greenbrook Flood Control Project package. Mr. Rehm stated that this could be a simple fix. This should have been done forty years ago. Nobody cares about the West End.

Mayor Pilato went over what was done with the project and what is waiting to be done. C. Buckley stated that four councilmember's live in the West End. To say that we do not care is inappropriate. C. Pranzatelli stated that the extreme West End was spared. What has been completed with the project helped those businesses and residents in the area.

Deputy Police Chief Michael Jannone

This is the first time that Police, Fire and Rescue have worked very tight with each other. We had the involvement of Mayor and councilmember's supported with the failure of the Somerset County Agency within 36 hours. The efforts of his department were supported by his lieutenants.

338 West Main Street

Resident expressed his appreciation of every person in the borough. Everyone worked together as a team. The people felt a level of comfort. He was proud to be in Bound Brook and would never doubt again.

Jim Suk -28 West High Street-OEM Coordinator

If it was not the support of Department Heads, it would not have gone so smoothly. He thanked all the officials. We were able to get people out of the High School in one day. The office has started up the CERT program. This is free. He encouraged all to go on to the government website for program information.

Page Three

Meeting Minutes March 23, 2010

Linda Brnicevic- 20 Talmage Avenue

She thanked everyone. She asked why the NOAH site went down.

Mayor stated that when it went down we were watching. We were prepared for the worst. Mr. Suk , OEM Coordinator stated it just crashed.

Proclamation-Honoring the Service of Richard Shive

Mayor Pilato presented a proclamation to Mr. Shive honoring his years of service on the Planning Board as Chairperson. His wife was present.

Proclamation-Red Cross

Mayor Pilato waived the proclamation over to the next meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

Economic Development-C. Pranzatelli

Mr. Pranzatelli reported on the progress of the Train Station and the Bolmer Building Site.

The EDAC committee has scheduled a presentation for the April 13 council meeting. Regional Plan Association will present final plans for the downtown transit area.

Received a status Report from the Downtown Business Manager. The report will be e-mailed to the governing body. The committee reviewed the downtown business manager goals and a progress report was read as to what has been done so far.

The Brook Arts Center had no water in the lobby area. The boiler was affected and they hope to open soon. An update was given on the drawings for the Recreation Center which include design changes.

Mayor suggested that the Army Corp and the Flood Control Commission take the lead on the flood control communications. The Army Corp is in the process of updating their website. Mayor recommended the Downtown Business Manager focus on the businesses getting back on their feet.

Finance-C. Wagner

Mr. Wagner reported that there was no Finance Meeting since the last council meeting.

No reports back from other committees. The last two weeks have been focused on the flood. We will start meeting on the cost actions to be taken. The deadline is coming forward. He spoke on the economic impacts.

During the flood, the cooperation of the Board of Education was excellent. The cooperation of everyone was excellent and so deserving of that credit.

Page Four

March 23, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Mayor Pilato spoke on the Governor's Budget. A proposed 2.5% cap with reduction in aid. We have to take this on in light of all. This really has to move front and center. Mr. Bahr has already prepared budget numbers. We have pertinent information to share with the State. Our intention is to get a letter out and then a second letter. The Governor did not totally do away with extraordinary aid.

Mr. Bahr gave an overview of the budget. Last years aid was cut. This year's aid is cut which results in 10% of last years budget revenue lost.

C. Pranzatelli noted that we are making every attempt to lower costs. We are discussing shared services with South Bound Brook. Mr. Bahr stated to be fair with South Bound Brook he did talk with them last week. Due to the circumstances of the flood we will meet next week to continue talks on shared services.

Personnel, Administration & Ordinances –C. Hasting

Mr. Hasting did not have a Personnel meeting. He reported that the Personnel Policy has issues of duplication. He will be working on that. The Ordinance needs to be updated.

Public Safety- Police, Fire & Rescue - C. Dietrich

Mr. Dietrich read the February Police Report into the record. Next meeting he will have extensive reports for Fire, OEM and Police.

Public Works, Bldgs, Grounds & Utilities - C. Petti

Mr. Petti read the February report into the record. He thanked everyone for their help. He could not thank everyone enough. Council Petti resides on the west end of town.

Zoning, Construction & Code Enforcement- C. Buckley

Mr. Buckley expressed his appreciation to the Police, Fire and OEM personnel. It was a very smooth transition. The Inspection Department went very rapidly. Eight-Five percent of affected properties are fully restored. The February Monthly Report was read into the record.

Introduction- First Reading

Ordinance No. 10-07-  
AN ORDINANCE WAIVING BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION CODE FEES FOR  
FLOOD DAMAGED PROPERTIES

Motion moved by C. Wagner second by C. Pranzatelli; unanimous.

Resolutions:

10-50-  
Authorize Finance Officer to release balance of escrow funds-Hot Designs Printing LLC  
Motion moved by C. Pranzatelli, second by C. Wagner; unanimous.

10-51-  
Authorize Budget Transfer  
Motion moved by C. Pranzatelli, second by C. Hasting; unanimous.

10-52-  
Authorize Emergency Appropriations 2010 Temporary Budget  
Motion moved by C. Pranzatelli, second by C. Dietrich; unanimous.

10-53-  
Approve Superior Officers Association Contract  
Motion moved by C. Dietrich; second by C. Buckley.  
Discussion: C. Wagner offered his comments as to why he could not vote in favor of the contract.  
C. Buckley offered his comments. C. Hasting offered his comments. C. Petti offered his comments. C. Pranzatelli offered his comments.

Roll Call:

Council Pranzatelli	yes
Council Dietrich	yes
Council Petti	yes
Council Buckley	yes
Council Wagner	no
Council Hasting	no

Resolution adopted.

Page Six

March 23, 2010 Meeting Minutes

10-54-

Approval of Vouchers

Motion moved by C. Wagner; second by C. Pranzatelli; unanimously adopted.

Old /Unfinished Business

- Bid Award- Triple Combination Pumper-Fire Company No. 2 and
- Watchung Fire Company No. 3 –
- Attorney advised council this item of business is on the agenda for discussion in executive session.
  
- Borough Clerk –Information Technology Report -Televising council meetings –  
Clerk advised that the borough's information technology report was not finalized. Item was carried over to the next meeting month.
  
- C. Petti- Elevator Installation/Bound Brook Library –
- Mr. Petti advised the governing body he was not prepared to report on this item of business.
- Mayor Pilato provided a brief update as to where the borough is with the current contract with Somerset County. Mayor advised Mr. Bahr to reach out to Somerset County Library Commission. Mayor recommended further discussion in executive session.
  
- Borough Clerk -2010 Recommended Polling Locations to Somerset County Election Board Administrator –Request Letter of Support from the Governing Body-
- The Governing Body requested a letter from the Board of Education stating that election related cost for all elections are to be waived for the borough. The Bound Brook High School and Lafayette School are proposed polling places for the 2010 Primary and General Election.

New Business

- State Aid Cut – Mr. Bahr offered his comments. C. Wagner offered his comments stating that the school is faced with cutting Middle School Sports. One person in six will be a layoff. A 3.3 reduction in aid. The school is making dramatic cuts. This is a difficult time for Bound Brook. We need to petition the State.

- Approve Special Event Permit-Bound Brook Recreation-Bicycle Races-
- May 25, 2010-
- Motion to approve subject to departmental approvals moved by C. Pranzatelli; second by C. Hasting; All in favor: Ayes
- Mayor stated he spoke with Mr. Longo and Mr. Puntillo and their suggestion was to keep the course at Cherry and Maple.
  
- C. Pranzatelli stated that a presentation will be given by Regional Plan Association at the April 13<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. Final plans for the Downtown Transit Area.
  
- C. Pranzatelli stated that a presentation will be given by Metro Energy Solutions regarding the Energy Audit Report that was performed. Somerset County has secured these services as part of an initiative to reduce energy cost and consumption.

Approve Battle of Bound Brook- Special Event- April 10, 2010

Mayor Pilato stated South Bound Brook is asking for a decision from Bound Brook regarding participation events.

A suggestion was to have Mama Rosinas's Restaurant at the Train Station Plaza be the host, which reduces the footprint. C. Dietrich stated that from a Police and OEM view he was not in favor of changing the footprint.

Deputy Chief Jannone stated that this event does cost money. We are looking at downsizing the Police Department presence at this event and the Bike Race. The cost for the Battle Event is \$3,500.00.

A motion to approve subject to department approvals was moved by C. Pranzatelli; second by C. Wagner.

All in favor: Ayes except for C. Dietrich stating he was not in favor.

C. Wagner commented that the flooding in the Metape Area has gotten worse. He cited Bridgewater Township contributes to this problem. They do not control the runoff.

C. Dietrich brought up an old business item. He asked about the Little League Parade. Mr. Dietrich asked Mr. Bahr what the status was on the specifications for solid waste collection. Mr. Bahr stated he is drawing up the specifications. He has a printout of homes eligible for collection. He will have this ready for the April 13 council meeting.

Deputy Chief Jannone asked for the assistance from the Office of Emergency Management for the upcoming Community Special Events.

Page Eight

March 23, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Open to Public on Agendized Matters Only

R. Short- 169 Cherry Avenue-

She asked if it was public information as to what is in an employee's contract.

Mr. Bahr responded.

Jim Suk- Resident/28 West High Street / OEM Coordinator

Mr. Suk reported that there was great flooding in the North End of town. He witnessed so much water in the sewers lifting manhole covers.

Mr. Suk stated that he could help the police department with special events. He can help coordinate but the Office of Emergency Management members cannot take over these events.

Tom Ruscetta-Resident/640 Watchung Rd/Borough Fire Chief

Mr. Ruscetta offered his comments as to the water problem on Winsor Street. He believes this is due to a collapse; Maple and Hayward. The blockage needs to be cleaned out. He asked if there was a problem with the bid award for the fire truck. The department has been discussing this purchase need for five years now.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

Motion moved by C. Dietrich; second by C. Pranzatelli; all in favor-eyes.

Matters : Contract Litigation; Personnel; Action will be taken after executive.

Regular Meeting convened at 9:45 p.m.

Motion to award bid to Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. for the sale and delivery to the borough a Pumper for use by the America Hose Co. 2 and a Pumper for use by the Watchung Fire Co. 3-

Motion moved by C. Dietrich; second by C. Pranzatelli; All in favor-Ayes

Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

  
Donna Marie Godleski, Borough Clerk