



**Florham Park Borough Council**  
**Thursday, October 8, 2020**  
**Work Session Minutes**

Mayor Taylor called the Work Session to order at 6:30 p.m. He asked the Borough Clerk for a roll call:

Governing Body	Present	Absent
Mayor Taylor	X	
Council President Carpenter	X	
Councilman Germershausen	X	
Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane		X
Councilman Malone	X	
Councilman Zuckerman	X	
Councilwoman Santoro		X

Mayor Taylor asked the Clerk to enter into the minutes that the statutory requirements of RS 10:4-1, Open Public Meetings Act have been met.

Mayor Taylor indicated that Connor Bender would be calling in to discuss his Eagle Scout Project.

Mayor Taylor stated that Connor Bender and Jim Bender as well as Brian Bill were on the call.

Connor Bender explained the project that he had in mind. He stated that he is currently a life scout which is one rank under Eagle Scout. He is working his way toward earning his Eagle Scout Award. He would like to install a walking trail on the Fish tract on Brooklake Road. The walking trail is going to be a loop on Brooklake Road near the barn near Chapel Hill. The trail will allow people to explore nature and add another nice aspect to our Community. There is an area near this new land that is kind of open. It is like a mini parking lot. The first part of my project is to clean up the area. It is pretty dirty and there is a pile of mulch sitting there. He would also like to put an information board up there as well which will have information on things like wildlife in the area. The circle will be about ½ mile long which will go out and around. I walked the area myself and it is all clear. I also mapped the area out. I am planning on

clearing out the trail, mulching it and including trail markers which are wooden with a white line painted down them. So, the first week will be cleaning up the area. The second week will be the actual installation of the trail. The final week will include installation of the information board.

Connor asked the Council if they had any questions.

Councilman Carpenter stated he knows the property he is talking about and believes there are a few layers of barbed wire there.

Mayor Taylor stated that about five years ago there was another project there and they took down almost all of the wire except what was grown into the trees so he doesn't think that is an issue anymore.

Councilman Carpenter stated there is a significant amount of the lower side as well which is a huge concern for him. I believe it presents a hazard there.

Council President Malone stated that he thinks the parking area might be an issue. Also, there isn't a lot of room to turn there. I think the project is great and ambitious I just want to make sure that we do things in a safe manner.

Mayor Taylor stated he thinks there is a grassy area in the back that approximately 16 cars can park on. We can get some wood chips and put them over there.

Council President Malone stated it is more about the accelerating and decelerating there. That is dangerous in an "S" turn.

Councilman Carpenter echoed Council President Malone's thoughts and said that was a challenge when they were looking at the property. He stated that he thinks we should ask the Borough Engineer to take a look at it and clear the site lines for traffic.

Councilman Zuckerman stated he would like the Environmental Commission to be involved and possibly provide some funding.

Brian Bill asked to be heard regarding the issue. He stated he has known Connor since he was a Cub Scout in First Grade. He is now the Assistant Scout Master of his troop now. Connor has had a huge impact on the Community. He has done a massive clean-up on Brooklake Road, cleaned the frog pond, collected food for the Food Pantry and many other things. Connor has also worked with the Environmental Commission at the Lake; cleaning up the trail. I will be his mentor on this project and will work with the Town, the Environmental Commission and anyone else to make sure this is a successful project. I have no doubt Connor will be able to do it.

Council President Malone said we just want it to be safe. I know it is Connor's project: however, if we can help shape that so it is as safe as possible that would be great.

Borough Attorney Bell stated that we should notify our insurance carrier so that everyone is protected.

Mr. Germershausen stated that signs should be installed there to make it safer so drivers and pedestrians are more cautious.

Council President Malone stated there is also a property across the street the the Board of Education owns that goes through to Lakeview. That area had been considered before. It's a wooded area that has been discussed before as an area for a trail. That maybe something to consider as well.

Councilman Carpenter stated that area was in a plan of the Environment Commission at one point. Good idea; we should look into that.

Connor Bender said he will look into that area also.

Borough Engineer Mike Sgaramella asked Connor to call him next week and they can go out. Mayor Taylor and Council President Malone stated they would like to come as well.

Mayor and Council thanked Connor for a great presentation.

## **COUNCIL PORTFOLIO UPDATES:**

**Council President Malone provided the following report:**

### **Recreation:**

- Fall sports are underway; a busy night tonight at the field and courts with Soccer, Football, Cheerleading and the tennis courts at full occupancy. There was also a yoga class on the lawn as I was driving in.

**Recreation Director John Timmons added the following items for discussion:**

- There will be a Trunk or Treat on October 24th.
- We are also looking at the possibility of another drive-in movie

## Finance:

- I had some good news from the Assessors this week. The added assessments to the town will generate \$485,000 in additional revenue to the Borough alone. Given the pandemic and everything else going on, it is a favorable position to be in. Great job John Murray, Jim Gibbs and Lisa Amato.
- Our 2006 revaluation started with a ratio of 100%. If you get down below 80% you are forced to have a revaluation. In 15 years we are only down 2.7% which is incredible. We are at 87.3 currently.

Council President Malone stated he had some other items that were brought to his attention that may or may not be in his portfolio as follows:

- Spring Garden Lake; the area on the right sign when you come in from East Madison needs attention. Bill Huyler and myself independently went there to look and were are going to be doing some things there.
- Discussed the mold growing on Beacon Hill tower; I think Councilwoman Santoro was going to have an update on this. Its problematic. We had assigned the Planning Board to look at it as an area of redevelopment. I know Mike has looked at it and I know it was expensive.
- Some people in my area have indicated they haven't heard from Neighborhood Watch in a while. I spoke to Chief Orlando and that is still in place, although most communications over the past months have been regarding the Pandemic and Executive Orders of the Governor.
- Residents mentioned that the dog park at Volunteer's Field is becoming well utilized, even with out of town residents. I guess it shows how we have nice amenities for our residents.
- A resident in the Minnesink/Delaware Avenue had some concerns about golf balls from the Morris County Country Club. They are trying to resolve that issue as well.

CFO Patrice Visco added the following items for discussion:

- We received our 3<sup>rd</sup> aid payment from the State; we have received 90% of monies. The last payment will be in the spring of 2021.

Councilman Germershausen provided the following report:

- Nothing to report tonight.

Councilman Carpenter provided the following report:

Florham Park First Aid Squad:

- The Squad is looking for help in advertising for new members. John Timmons will provide advertising on the electronic sign board.
- They have some traffic issues that Mike Sgaramella is assisting them with.

Engineering:

- Columbia/Hanover Intersection Project- Still waiting for new powder coated posts and traffic signal equipment. We are told that it's weeks away and not months.
- County Contractor has completed milling and paving of Columbia from James Street to Livingston town line. They were striping the roadway this week.
- Contracts have been sent out to the awarded Contractor, and a Pre-Construction Meeting has been scheduled for next week.
- Received request from the Ambulance Squad for solar powered warning beacons on Felch Road in front of the Squad building. Will be getting prices for beacons and will locate them within the Felch Road right-of-way. It is anticipated that DPW will construct footings as per previous installations.
- On 9/25, I attended a Virtual meeting with NJDOT, Morris County, Morris Twp., Chatham Twp., and Hanover Twp. to review a revised Preliminary two-way Ramp Alternative from Route 24 to Park Avenue. The ramp will now intersect with Park Avenue approximately 350' south of the original Preliminary Plan since a Hotel was approved by Hanover Twp. at the original intersection location. The ramp will now be located along the north property line of the 200-230 Park Avenue office complex. It will be a two-way surface ramp and the County would have to be deeded right-of-way and compensate the private property owner if they agree to it. NJDOT is responsible for Concept Development only, then it will be turned over to the County to complete the design. A NJDOT Public Information virtual center will be created this fall, then the project will be turned

over to the County early next year. Estimated time to beginning of construction was stated to be 6-7 years.

### Fire Department:

- One new firefighter has rescinded his application and we have another new member.

### Police Department:

- Moving forward with Safe Night out on Mischief Night; instead will have age appropriate movies.
- Also reviewing CDC and other guidelines regarding trick-or-treating safety. Department of Health will distribute guidelines to Mayor and Council shortly.

Councilman Zuckerman provided the following report:

### Board of Education:

- At the last Board of Education meeting I asked if there were any reports of teachers or students who had contracted the virus. He stated that none had been reported.

### Environmental Commission:

- The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 27 @ 7:00 p.m.
- We have been talking with Princeton Hydro regarding getting the vegetation under control. We discussed getting some type of weed killer that will permanently eliminate some of that vegetation.

### Municipal Pool:

- As of October 5, 2020 the Pool is showing a profit of a little over \$8,000. There may be a few more bills coming in.
- John Timmons stated he believes there will be only one more bill for the dumpster from Pryor Disposal.

**PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS:**

Councilman Malone made a motion to pay vouchers in the amount of \$291.212.04. The motion was seconded by Councilman Carpenter

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Comments
Malone	X				
Germershausen	X				
Cefolo-Pane				X	
Carpenter	X				
Zuckerman	X				
Santoro				X	
Total	4			2	

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**John Winters, 32 Brooklake Road**

Mr. Winters stated it was nice to hear that something will be done with the Fish property that we purchased years ago and also consideration of the Board of Education property. It sounds like an excellent project although I am glad the Council is aware of the safety issues there. Its nice to see some passive recreation instead of only sports.

Councilman Carpenter stated the Council did something good when they purchased the land so it woudn't be developed.

Seeing no more members of the public who wished to be heard, Mayor Taylor closed the meeting to the Public.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

On a motion made by Council President Malone and seconded by Councilman Zuckerman , the work session was adjourned by a unanimous vote at at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila A. Williams, R.M.C.  
Borough Clerk  
October 14, 2020