



**Florham Park Borough Council**  
**Thursday, February 4, 2021**  
**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 Santoro	X	
Councilman Germershausen	X	
Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane	X	
Councilman Carpenter	X	
Councilman Malone	X	
Councilwoman Zuckerman	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.

**COUNCIL PORTFOLIO UPDATES:**

Council President Santoro provided the following report:

**Water Utility:**

- Well Rehabilitation and Transmission Project- Awaiting the NJDEP Wetland Permit paperwork which is moving through the system. We have been told that it has been approved. We are coordinating pressure testing with NJAW of the 10" DIP pipe that the Borough will be purchasing the rights from NJAW. This pipe runs from Ridgedale Avenue to the south side of the ASCO building.
- Water Meter replacement project- Notification Letters ready to go out once Reference # and PIN # are submitted by National Water Meter. The AMI antenna has been installed at the Tower Lane Standpipe, and power has been connected by the Borough Electrician.
- Water Personnel adding information to GIS system.

- Submitted Quarterly DEP Water Diversion Report.
- Water Tank Rehabilitation Design Project- Nothing new.
- Daily and Weekly Duties completed.

### Sewer Utility:

NJDEP Wetland Permit was received for the Carriagan Lane/Burnet Road Sewer and Sewer Pump Station project. Notification Letters to residents mailed out this week. Engineering Department will be helping out the Design Engineer to obtain sewer invert elevations at each home so that they can finalize their design.

The SCADA upgrade project continues. It is in the final stages of completion.

Sewer Staff did the following over the past two weeks:

- -Serviced all four hypo pumps. Replaced all suction and discharge hoses
- -Repaired the cracked PVC fill line to sodium hypochlorite tank #3
- -Repaired the cracked PVC suction line on sodium hypochlorite tank #2
- -Removed grit and debris from influent channel
- -Pulled and performed maintenance on submersible pump at Brooklake Pump Station
- -Continued daily site inspections on 64 Ridgedale Ave project
- -Hosed and performed preventive maintenance on clarifiers #1 and #2
- -Pumped out water from all electrical vaults at sewer plant
- -Blew out filter and final sodium hypochlorite lines with air compressor
- -Staffed with personnel to maintain the sewer plant and pump stations due to Noreaster

Daily and Weekly Duties completed.

### Library Board of Trustees:

A virtual meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2021

### **Board of Health:**

A virtual meeting is scheduled to be held on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

Councilman Carpenter asked Council President Santoro if there have been any discussions on what is going to happen with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July this year.

Council President Santoro stated there was recently an email indicating that the committee would meet at the end of February.

Councilman Carpenter stated he thinks we need to be proactive and the Borough needs to be protected a bit more with regard to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Councilman Germershausen provided the following report:

Gazebo Committee:

- The first meeting of the year will be tonight at 7:00. Mr. Germershausen stated he didn't think he got a Zoom invite for that so is not sure if it has been changed.
- Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane indicated that he should check his email. Jenn Pulice sent out a Zoom invite.

Morris County Board of Commissioners:

Nothing to Report.

Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane provided the following report:

Planning Board:

- The Planning Board meeting for February 8<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled as there is no new business. The meeting scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup> is still on; possibly two items on the agenda.

Senior Citizens:

- AARP is still holding Zoom meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.
- Senior Citizens are not holding meetings. They are not going to have any meetings until further notice. They do not have a location to hold the meetings.
- Seniors have contacted me regarding the vaccine. It is a problem because sign up is electronic, although the call center is up and running it is still automated. John Timmons posted on the sign board of the Community TV. The Call Center was supposed to eventually have a live person answering the phone at some point, but that has not happened yet.

Council President Santoro stated that it was her understanding that the call center will have live people answering at the call centers by next Wednesday.

Councilman Malone stated that he listened to Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill's Town Hall that Sheila had passed around. I listened to the first 30 minutes of it. I guess everyone on the call was looking for answers. There were 700 questions submitted in advance, so I believe everyone is in the same boat; looking for guidance. He thinks more things can be communicated locally.

Mr Malone says it is confusing because once you register with the State you still have to look for a place to register for the actual vaccine. Council discussed ways to get various information out to the Public. Its very confusing because they shut down

Mayor Taylor said his most recent post on Facebook Florham Park Community provides links, etc.

The Borough Clerk stated there is information on the current Borough website that was provided by the Health Department and she will be happy to put anything else there. There are currently links, but that is not the problem.

Mr. Huyler stated we have information on the website, but the problem is the people that don't have electronic access to anything; they are falling through the cracks.

Councilwoman Santoro stated that she had spoken to Mark about this and they are going to try and get a weekly report from the Board of Health on any new updates or information.

### Historic Preservation Commission

- The Commission recently had their first meeting of the year. They held their elections.
- The Commission is looking for Council approval of a Resolution for a grant for interior renovations of the Little Red Schoolhouse. The cost for the renovations are estimated at between \$200,000 and \$300,000 in total. It will be done in phases. For this year we would need \$150,000. The municipal contribution would be \$31,000 in order for them to move ahead and potentially qualify for the grant. Next year would probably be the same, but if we get the grant this year we would be in a better position to qualify next year. I am bringing this to the Council to see what your feelings are about it. If the Council agrees to move ahead with it, there would be a Resolution on the next meeting agenda. It's a timing issue for them, which I why I had to bring it to Council today. I am trying to get a handle on if the Council would be in favor of this, and if so work from there.

Administrator Huyler stated that he believes the money was included in our Capital Plan already. Patrice Visco indicated that the Budget Committee was going to discuss it at the next meeting on Wednesday.

Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane asked if they could get the Council's sentiment on it.

Mr. Huyler stated there is a small window to apply for the grant; that is the issue here. We can appl, then pull it if we cannot fund it.

Councilman Carpenter stated they should go ahead with the Grant process and if we come up short we can pull it.

Councilman Malone stated that directionally we are in favor of it, subject to coming up with the money.

### Construction:

Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane asked Mr. Guilfoyle to provide a construction update.

Mr. Guilfoyle stated that the Borough did 73 permits this month. We took in \$100,000 this year, compared to \$45,000 from last year at the same time. Some from Pultee and Vreeland. Mostly one family renovations and new homes. We had 624 inspections. We also hired a temporary fire sub-code official. Paul McCann will be taking that over March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilman Carpenter provided the following report:

### Department of Public Works:

- The Department are the heroes of the week. Councilman Carpenter thanked Mike Smith and all the men.
- A total 22 inches of snow fell in FP; about 15 inches came in over an 8 hour period. The Department had 22 men working for 42 hours straight. They utilized every piece of equipment they had, except for one which they kept in reserve. They utilized approximately 200 tons of rock salt and 1,150 lbs of calcium chloride. If you drive out of Florham Park there is a significant difference in the quality of the roads and how they have been taken care of.
- They are in the process of clearing hydrants and knocking down piles on the corners.
- They are working on getting heat in Garage B
- Work at the compactor site has been done and they are awaiting delivery of the new hopper, which is about 4-6 weeks out.

### Police Department

- No significant events or occurrences during the snowstorm
- Fleet upgrade program has been slowed due to component parts for the vehicles. They may not get 2021 cars until 2022.

## Fire Department:

- Nothing to report.
- Residents can clean out hydrants near their homes; some residents do this regularly

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## Engineering:

- Columbia/Hanover Intersection: Traffic Signal equipment has arrived and was being assembled on the ground prior to snowstorm. Actual installation will be done weather permitting. Once installed, JCP&L will install power to system, then the existing equipment may be removed.
- Columbia/Park Street Intersection Improvement Project- Final comments submitted to County. This project is slated to start in late Spring or Summer.
- Park Street (north)- Contractor was present past two weeks to remove stumps, install curb, and perform some grading behind curbs. Project suspended for the near future.
- Engineering Department working on completing scope of work and plans along Briarwood Road which will also include intersection improvements at Briarwood/Ridgedale. This project is scheduled to start late Spring or Summer with cost sharing from County and a grant from NJDOT.
- Submitted 5 year Capital Road Improvement Project Forecast for review by Finance Committee and Council. This year's projects include:
  - Briarwood/Ridgedale Intersection Improvements with Briarwood Road Improvements to Cathedral. County cost share and NJDOT Grant.
  - Columbia/Park Street Intersection Improvement project. County cost share.
  - Design of Elm Street Improvements from Pool to Columbia Turnpike.
  - Milling and paving of Deerfield, Forrest, Sutton, Kice, Spring Valley, Harvale, Smithfield, and Crane Lane.

## Florham Park First Aid Squad:

- They had some scheduling issues due to COVID issues.
- Waiting for certification so they can hire and begin billing

Councilman Malone provided the following report:

## Finance:

- The 2021 budget process continues. The Finance Committee meeting from Monday has been rescheduled to next week.

- Councilman Malone asked where we are with tax collection this quarter. Ms. Visco stated that snow probably slowed it down because we are at about 50%. Our biggest taxpayer hasn't paid yet. So I am guessing it will pick up on Monday, Tuesday.

### Recreation:

- Councilman Malone stated that Florham Park baseball has come forward with the possibility of converting Emmett II field into a 50/70 intermediate size baseball field. They are looking to expand that program into older ages.

Councilman Zuckerman provided the following report:

### Board of Education:

- Attended a virtual meeting of the Board of Education.
- There are currently 973 students; some students still only virtually attending school
- Audit report approved for fiscal year ending June 2020

### Environmental Commission:

- I attended a Zoom meeting on the January 26<sup>th</sup>. A new member to the Commission was introduced.
- They reviewed 11 priority items for 2021
- We received an update on the 4 Eagle Scout projects at Spring Garden Lake
- The Commission relected their officers for 2021
- They reviewed the 2020 and 2021
- Approved a \$20,000 stipend for Construction Manager Phil Infantalino

### Municipal Pool:

- We are still looking at two plans for the coming pool season; Plan A and Plan B. We are waiting for state guidelines before making any decisions.
- Pool Fee Ordinance is on for approval at the next meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA - RESOLUTIONS OF APPROVAL:**

Council President Santoro made a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda Resolutions.

- # 21-29 Authorizing the hire of a Part-Time Acting Fire Subcode Official
- # 21-30 Authorizing the hire of a Department of Public Works Assistant

The motion was seconded by Councilman Carpenter

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Comments
Santoro	X				
Germershausen	X				
Cefolo-Pane	X				
Carpenter	X				
Malone	X				
Zuckerman	X				
Total	6				

**PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS:**

Councilman Malone made a motion to pay vouchers in the amount of \$217,207.61. The motion was seconded by Councilman Zuckerman.

Roll Call Vote:

Council Member	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Comments
Santoro	X				
Germershausen	X				
Cefolo-Pane	X				
Carpenter	X				
Malone	X				
Zuckerman	X				
Total	6				

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Mayor Taylor opened the meeting to the public.

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

Mayor Taylor asked if anyone had any other issues to discuss.

Administrator Bill Huyler stated that he received a sign request from Northeast properties, which is the old Bennigans site. They currently have a sign on a pole. They are looking to replace that sign with a double sided sign, which would be 5 x 4 feet. It would say SPACE AVAILABLE, the company name and phone #. It is a large sign. They have been advised about the site line issues. It is up to the Council if they would like to approve it or not.

Councilman Zuckerman asked the Borough Administrator his opinion on the sign. Mr. Huyler stated it is a large sign and we typically don't approve them this large, especially not double sided. He stated he was concerned was the site line. If they abide by the site line rules outlined in the Ordinance, it would be ok. They are currently using the old Bennigans pole; however, that would come down and would be replaced with 3 poles, v-shaped and it would face both directions.

Councilman Malone stated he would be more comfortable with a one sided sign 5 x 4 and make it run parallel to Columbia to prevent any obstruction.

Councilman Carpenter agreed. I would let them have the bigger sign as long as it didn't impede site lines. Councilwoman Cefolo-Pane and Council Present also agreed. Mr. Germershausen abstained from discussion.

Mr. Huyler stated that he thinks that is a great idea and will go back to them with that.

### ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion made by Councilman Carpenter and seconded by Councilman Zuckerman the Work Session was adjourned by a unanimous vote at at 7:10.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila A. Williams, R.M.C.  
Borough Clerk  
February 10, 2021