

Work Session
Mayor and Council
February 24, 2011

A Work Session of the Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Mayor Barra who announced that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act were met by the required posting and notice to publications.

The following individuals answered roll call: Council members Bernstein, Strauch, Schoepflin, White, Wilczynski and Mayor Barra. Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Bole were also present.

Mrs. McCarthy read the following resolution into the record:

Whereas, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

Whereas, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; and

Whereas, the Governing Body wishes to discuss:

Sanitation Bids
Tax Appeal: Novak v. Allendale

Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the public be excluded from this meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Schoepflin, seconded by Mr. Bernstein, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:48 p.m. On voice vote, all Council members voted in favor.

Administration

Agenda Review

Resolution 11-93

The Council previously amended the municipal ordinance with regard to unresolved zoning and maintenance issues. Now when a homeowner refuses to cut their lawn or shovel their sidewalks, a lien is put on their property and a contractor is hired to do the work. This resolution will approve a contractor to perform this work for the remainder of 2011. After discussion it was decided to award the resolution to two contractors, Borst Landscaping and Jacobsen Landscaping.

Crestwood Rates

Mrs. Wilczynski announced that the rates that are being presented this evening will serve as a starting point for further discussion.

It was decided at the last meeting of the Committee to do away with the Early Bird rate in order to simplify the rate structure. Previously the Early Bird rate for Allendale residents was \$145 for the first member, \$45 for the second member, then \$20, \$20, \$20 and \$10 for each additional member. The regular rate was \$175 for the first member, \$55 for the second member, then \$25, \$25, \$25 and \$25 for each additional member. Proposed rates for this year are \$165 for the first member, \$55 for the second member, and \$25 for each additional member. For a family of seven, the maximum cost would be \$345.

When compared to the other lakes and pools in the area, the only town that is less in price is Waldwick. Ridgewood is less money for two people to join, but then the price goes up considerably after that. Allendale is also one of the few towns that allow non-residents to join.

The Early Bird rate will also be eliminated for non-residents. Previously for non-residents, the Early Bird rate was \$225 for the first member, \$55 for the second member and \$30 for each additional member. The regular season rate was \$325 for the first member, \$75 for the second member and \$50 for each additional member. Proposed rates for this year are \$275 for the first member with increasing increments after that.

For Allendale residents the price will increase approximately 12 to 14% from last year's early bird rates. Allendale residents have not had an increase for two years.

Mr. Schoepflin complimented Mrs. Wilczynski on getting people to join the Lake. He asked if she thought the membership would remain high if the price was increased. Mrs. Wilczynski said in spite of the proposed increases, Crestwood's pricing remains very competitive.

Mr. Bernstein asked if Crestwood would bring in enough revenue with a higher rate structure.

Mrs. Wilczynski said approximately \$280,000 was brought in last year compared to \$245,000 the year before. She is still waiting for numbers for the DPW but \$165,000 was spent for salaries, equipment, sand and chemicals. There are other plans under discussion for ways to increase membership.

Mrs. White said a Crestwood Advisory Committee has been appointed to assist in Crestwood promotional work. She added that the non-resident rates for Ridgewood, Woodcliff Lake, Haworth and Bergenfield range from \$600 to \$800. Allendale's rates will remain extremely competitive.

Mrs. Wilczynski said the guest fee which has been \$8 per adult and \$6 per child will be changed to \$10 for everyone. Instead of selling tickets at the gate, a ticket booth has been proposed.

Mrs. Wilczynski said today she had interview two companies that would do registration on line. They would be able to generate data which would provide information on who is using the Lake at any given time. That way we could increase programs for children or seniors if we know

which days they use the Lake most frequently. This program will be modeled after the Allendale Recreation Commission website that allows for all registration to be done on line. One of the companies Mrs. White and Mrs. Wilczynski met with today handles registration for Ridgewood, Summit, Chatham and other municipalities. The Lake enrollment process will be made easier for our office staff because they will only have to take photographs and make badges which will be scanned when a member enters the Lake.

Mrs. White said an incentive for earlier registration will be to give out five guest passes to anyone who registers by June 1st.

Mrs. Wilczynski said the party rental fees for Crestwood Lake will be restructured. The West Beach will become a party area with hibachis. The entire beach could be rented for three hours with supervision by two lifeguards and a party area for a set fee.

Mr. Viscardi has been working to try to get better docks for the swim teams.

Mrs. White suggested that the Council members consider the proposed rate structure with approval at a meeting in March.

Mayor's Report

Governor Christie's budget was introduced on Tuesday. Our state funding will be kept level.

We have SwiftReach in Allendale and we have been very successful in getting the schools to participate. Kevin Alward is the individual who has the SwiftReach Company. He and his family live in Allendale and they will be donating their services to the town going forward.

Mayor Barra thanked the Alward family for this generous donation to Allendale.

Our Director of Operations sent a note out to all our departments because gasoline has increased in price to \$2.75 wholesale when it was \$2.00 previously. Mayor Barra is asking each of the Department heads to respond to their Committee Chair as to how they will reduce gasoline consumption by 10 to 15 percent.

The sanitation bids were received on February 15th. Mr. Barra urged the press to report on this issue because Allendale is repeatedly used as an example of a town where people want their property taxes reduced without wanting to give up services. The bid specifications asked for a variety of options in order to see how we could keep costs down. There were four bidders and the price for curbside collection was dramatically lower.

Mr. Cauwenberghs stated there were numerous options to the bid including driveway service, curbside collection, once a week collection at driveway and curbside, and once a week collection for nine months with twice a week collection during the summer and holidays.

When the bids were received, all the options were lower than what we are paying. Curbside collection including twice a week collection for the summer and holidays would save \$725,000

over five years. Additional money could also be saved for disposal costs lowering from \$75 a ton to \$67 a ton for a total a savings of \$938,413.75 over a five year period.

Mr. Cauwenberghs estimated that 30-40 percent of our residents are bringing their garbage to the curb currently. He added that the contractor will be willing to offer driveway service to individual residents for a set fee. Our current contractor is the lowest bidder. We have had no problems with this contractor.

Mrs. White asked for information on having recycling collected by a contractor or by our Department of Public Works.

Mr. Cauwenberghs responded that a five year contract for recycling would cost \$490,000 vs. \$276,000 to have our Department of Public Works employees doing the same work. Fifty tons of commingled recycling was picked up in Allendale in January.

Mr. Strauch asked how much the contractor would charge for driveway service.

Mr. Cauwenberghs said he had spoken to the contractor about this service, but a set price has not been established. The contractor will be responsible for these arrangements.

Mr. Schoepflin asked if this information will be passed on to the schools.

Mr. Cauwenberghs said he has encouraged shared services with the schools. All the schools use a compacting system without barrels.

Mr. Barra said this item will be on the next meeting agenda for the Council and it will also be reviewed with the Citizens Advisory Finance Committee. One of the individuals who spoke previously about his opposition to curbside collection will be asked to attend the meeting of that committee and hear the presentation. The annual savings will be \$187,000 a year which is 1 ½ percent of our budget. That is ¾ of the 2% cap. One percent is \$130,000.

Mr. Cauwenberghs said the service will be quicker if solid waste is collected curbside.

Mrs. White complimented Mr. Cauwenberghs on putting the bids together in the middle of a snowstorm.

Mr. Barra added his compliments to those of Mrs. White.

On a motion by Mr. Strauch, seconded by Mr. Schoepflin, to adjourn to Regular Session at 8:50 p.m. On voice vote all members voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen McCarthy
Municipal Clerk