

Work Session  
Mayor and Council  
August 9, 2012

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, McSwiggan, Strauch, White and Mayor Barra. Ms. LaMonica and Mrs. Wilczynski were absent. Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Bole were also present.

*Public Comments*

Mayor Barra opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Chief Scherb and Officer Dillon from the Allendale Police Department asked to speak to the Council about 9-1-1 services.

Officer Dillon said the Police Department currently has a third party that receives Allendale's 9-1-1 calls and transfers them to Allendale. Mahwah is the department that provides that service but after December 31, 2012 it will no longer be available. Saddle River, Upper Saddle River and Ho-Ho-Kus used Mahwah's 9-1-1 until December 31, 2011, and they are now having that service provided by Paramus.

Mahwah currently bills \$4200 for this service per year and that fee is based on a per capita cost. Other agencies which provide 9-1-1 dispatching charge from 50 cents per capita to \$1 per capita. Those fees prompted Office Dillon to explore other possibilities and he believes answering calls in Allendale would be the best option. That way when Allendale residents dial 9-1-1 they would get an Allendale dispatcher who would know our streets and families.

To implement this change would require having our dispatchers certified by taking a basic class. After Officer Dillon takes the instructor class he will teach the dispatchers in order to avoid overtime costs. After certification Allendale could answer its own 9-1-1 calls. In addition he would like to make a three year commitment to Mycom which is a medical answering group based out of Hackensack Medical Center. Mycom will be forwarded medical 9-1-1 calls and will provide hospital pre-arrival instructions. They can help the lay person to handle such situations as CPR and childbirth over the phone. They are an accredited organization and they offer this service for many municipalities including Fair Lawn and Hackensack.

For 2013 the cost for this change in service would be less than what we are currently paying Mahwah. The cost would be as follows:

- Emergency Medical Answering      \$2850
- Instructor Training                      \$ 495
- Equipment Upgrades                    \$ 294



the green signal for a longer time. That eased the congestion for a time but the traffic continued to build up again right away. He stated that many forms of communication have been used to inform the residents about this closure and the majority of people who are having problems are from out of town. Since this is a long term closure people will begin to learn other ways around town.

Mayor Barra said he is concerned because there will be increased traffic in a few weeks with the start of school. Last night he called the Police Department at 5:20 when there was a backup at Park and Orchard went all the way to Franklin Turnpike. Traffic was also backed up the entire length of DeMercurio and from Allendale Avenue almost all the way to Crescent. He said that today the backup wasn't nearly as bad.

Mr. Barra suggested the possibility of not allowing a left turn off of Park. That way traffic can go onto Park and then down Allendale Avenue all the way to Crescent. Mayor Barra suggested making changes sooner rather than having no left turn allowed between the hours of 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. White suggested adding no left turn hours of 7:00 to 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Bernstein said wasn't in favor of detouring traffic onto the smaller roads that is not suited for the heavy traffic.

There was further discussion and Chief Scherb said he would speak to the Municipal Engineer about this topic.

Mr. Bara reiterated that it would be good to get an alternate traffic pattern established by the end of August.

### *Agenda Review*

#### Introduction of Ordinance 12-15

Mr. Bole said he has spoken to Tom Smith who approved of this ordinance. Mr. Smith will attend the Council meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup> when the Ordinance is scheduled to be adopted.

### *Water Department Operations*

Mr. Barra said the Water Committee has made a recommendation that the Borough potentially go out to bid to outsource the operations of the Water Department. He noted that Council members have received a PDF file of the bid specifications.

This is being evaluated as a possible option because this has become more difficult with all of the DEP regulations such as testing, certifications and licensing. The Water Department will not be sold but outsourcing the operations of the Water Department will be explored in its entirety. Allendale will maintain ownership of the Water Department and will continue to set rates.

The operation of the department (such as the wells, the treatment plant and the pipes) will be sent out for bid. The issue will be presented to the Council at the next meeting. Some of the issues such as billing and customer relations may be sensitive to residents and he encouraged the input of the Council members.

Mr. Barra said at the next meeting there will be a resolution authorizing going out for a Request for Proposals. It is likely the Water Superintendent and Water Engineer will be at that meeting. He noted that the Water Committee has spent a great deal of time on this issue.

Mayor Barra said the process will take a couple of months. The proposals will be back at the end of October or early November. The time frame for implementation will be the beginning of next year.

### *Sump Pump Ordinance*

Mrs. McSwiggan said a Sump Pump Ordinance has been drafted. It will be introduced on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and information about it will be posted on the website and in the newsletter.

The Water Committee is hoping for the public's cooperation on this issue with the understanding that this ordinance will bring down costs significantly.

Mr. Barra explained that there are three ways in which water could get into the sewer system. There are chambers at the borders of the town to measure the flow at the northern and southern ends of the system. People have suggested that these meters are not accurate. The Northwest Bergen County Sewer Authority has investigated this issue and Allendale independently investigated it with our engineers. The decision was that there were not significant errors in the metering of the sewage. That was eliminated as a significant cause of the problem.

Another potential source was infiltration through cracks or leaks in the sewer line. There has been an ongoing program for several years to find leakage, but no significant leaks have been discovered. In addition to that, at our request, the Northwest Bergen Sewer Authority will do another study at their expense. Soon they will start to double check the infiltration to be sure that is not a major source of sewage.

The third possibility is sump pumps. We know that when there are significant rains there are huge spikes into the sewage system. That can only happen from sump pumps but the extent of this problem isn't known. Waldwick has also had sump pump issues and they don't know the extent of their problem either. Allendale has a higher per capita sewer usage than most of the other towns in Northwest Bergen. We also have one of the highest water tables in Northwest Bergen. When you put the two issues together you realize that sump pumps must be a significant part of the problem. How extensive the issue is will not be known until the study is done.

Mrs. McSwiggan under this new ordinance a permit will be required in order to have a sump pump. She has spoken to many people who don't know if their sump pump is connected properly and are willing to cooperate if they have an issue that needs to be corrected. She noted

that whatever amount of money can be saved by making these corrections it will be a welcome savings.

Mayor Barra noted that sewer expenses are Allendale's second largest expenditure and is roughly \$1.8 million dollars.

Mr. Barra commented that Waldwick has said they have saved \$100,000 at least part of which is from sump pumps.

#### *County Projects Update*

Mrs. White said construction has started at Myrtle and West Crescent and the contractor has ninety days to complete it.

Mrs. White was able to find out that the Brookside bridge construction is not imminent. The Borough should be notified in the next two weeks about when the pre-construction meeting will be held. After the pre-construction meeting there will be more information about the work schedule for that project.

The Safe Routes to School packet is being hand delivered to Trenton tomorrow. Hopefully the approval to go out to bid will follow shortly thereafter.

Mayor Barra commented that this project started in the Fall of 2006 before either of them were elected. This has been difficult for her but she has done a great job

#### *Resolution to Adjourn to Executive Session*

**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:

#### Personnel

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.

#### *Return to Public Session after Executive Session*

Mayor Barra announced that the Council was back in open public session after meeting in Executive Session.

Mr. Cauwenberghs received a grievance from a Teamsters employee. Pursuant to advice of Counsel and in reviewing the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the grievance was denied by the Director of Operations on June 30, 2012.

The Collective Bargaining Agreement provided that an appeal from that decision should be made within ten days. On July 30, 2012 a written notice from the Teamsters Union advised that the Union was requesting a meeting with the Council to appeal Mr. Cauwenbergh's response to grievance B35237. Pursuant to advice from Counsel this appeal was not timely with regard to the collective bargaining agreement and should be dismissed.

Mrs. White moved, seconded by Mr. Strauch, to endorse the recommendation of Counsel on this issue.

On roll call Mrs. McSwiggan, Mr. Bernstein, Mr. Strauch and Mrs. White voted in favor.

Mr. Barra said the Union requested a meeting with respect to this grievance. As a courtesy to the Union, a meeting may be scheduled to discuss this issue informally with the Public Works Committee although the grievance is considered dismissed.

Mrs. White moved, seconded by Mrs. McSwiggan, to authorize the Public Works Committee to meet with the Union for discussions on this topic.

On roll call, Mr. Bernstein, Mr. Strauch, Mrs. White and Mrs. McSwiggan voted in favor.

Mrs. White moved, seconded by Mr. Bernstein, to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen McCarthy  
Municipal Clerk