

Work Session  
Mayor and Council  
December 13, 2012

A Work Session of the Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:31 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 LaMonica, McSwiggan, White, Wilczynski and Mayor Barra. Mr. Bernstein and Mr. Strauch were absent. Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Bole were also present.

*Public Comments*

Boy Scouts Kyle Alward and John Kelley were present from Troop 59. They were in attendance as part of the requirements of their Citizenship and the Community Merit Badge.

Mr. Keenen, Superintendent of Northern Highlands was present. He thanked the town for the leadership that was provided during Hurricane Sandy. Being included in the conversations that went on in the town was extremely helpful for him as the school made decisions on how to proceed. He has been with Northern Highlands for seventeen years and he has never been more proud to be a part of the Allendale community has he was during this situation.

Mr. Keenan particularly thanked Mayor Barra and Chief Scherb for the help they offered him.

*Agenda Review*

Resolution 12-308

Mr. Barra noted that in October, Mr. Keith Cauwenberghs retired from the position of Director of Operations for Allendale. Previously Allendale has hired an outside firm to serve as our Municipal Engineer. It was decided upon the retirement of Mr. Cauwenberghs to combine the jobs of Municipal Engineer and Director of Operations.

This evening Mr. John Yakimik will be appointed to that position. Following an extensive search, twelve resumes were received for this job, and three interviews were conducted. Mr. Yakimik who is currently serving as Allendale's Municipal Engineer was selected. Mayor Barra complimented Mr. Yakimik on his professionalism. He said he was thrilled to offer Mr. Yakimik the position and he was thrilled that he accepted.

Mr. Barra said the creation of a new position was primarily made for the residents. It will offer them better service when they have engineering questions and it will make construction applications more cost efficient. It is anticipated that the municipality will also save money on Engineering fees. Mr. Barra complimented the town's Committees on thinking "outside the box" as they have done successfully many times before.

Mr. Barra noted there will be a reorganization of the Department of Public Works.

Mrs. McSwiggan said she worked with Mr. Yakimik when she was on the Planning Board and was consistently impressed with his preparedness and thoughtful responses.

Mrs. White said she has worked with Mr. Yakimik for six years and the Borough is fortunate to have his expertise which will be a big advantage to the town. He has been a part of monthly DPW meetings and he has always been a positive force. She is thrilled he said “yes”.

Mrs. Wilczynski said she has worked with Mr. Yakimik for years also. She looks forward to working with him in the future. She knows he has a special place in his heart for Allendale and she congratulated him on his selection as Engineer and Director of Operations.

#### Resolution 12-306 – Authorization to Hire Two Police Officers

Mayor Barra said there have been several Police Officers who have retired in the last few years and another officer will be retiring in the Spring. He added that there will be probably be two additional retirements in 2014 – one in January and one in July. The Department will have changed significantly over a period of four years.

Two officers began earlier in 2012, Officer Rizzo and Officer Rosendahl. They will both be working by January.

Mr. Bernstein who is the head of the Public Safety Committee sent his apologies for not attending the meeting this evening. Mr. Barra has spent a lot of time with Mr. Bernstein and members of the Police Department for the past few months discussing the issue of staffing.

The Council has been concerned about the amount of Police overtime in the past years. An agreement has been worked out with the Chief and the Department is to add two entry level Police Academy cadets who will enter the Academy in January and come out of the Academy on the first of July. That will bring the number of Police Officers to fourteen including the Chief and the Detective.

Three, four man shifts will be set up with a shift commander and two patrol officers in each shift. The policy will be that no two men on a shift will take a planned vacation or time off at the same time. That will reduce the overtime needed to cover those shifts. The only time there will be overtime to cover a shift is when there are only two people on a shift and one of them becomes ill or injured. If there are three officers and one officer becomes sick or injured, another officer will not be put on that shift for overtime.

Other overtime that cannot be avoided will include such things as transportation for Court, the Fourth of July and Festival Day. Events such as Hurricane Sandy will be the exception and will have to be dealt with as they arise. In those instances we are able to receive Federal reimbursement.

The bottom line is that there will be a change in the nature of overtime. Mayor Barra has said to the Chief that once the Police Department is at full staff they expect the policy mentioned above will be adhered to. The year 2013 will be a hybrid year because full staffing will not occur until summer. Beginning in 2014 this policy will also be reflected in the budget and overtime is expected to be under \$100,000 annually. Going forward, more detailed reports will be provided to the Council on a monthly basis.

Mrs. White said one of the Council's major concerns is the overtime budget. There isn't enough "wiggle room" for the overtime budgets and these policies are something Allendale desperately needs. She applauds the Committee, the Police Department and the Police Chief for dealing with this issue.

Chief Scherb said the Department is excited to get the changes underway.

Mrs. Wilczynski said that the overtime numbers began to increase significantly once the Police Department was down three officers.

#### *Mayor's Report*

There was a three hour public hearing concerning Hurricane Sandy on December 12<sup>th</sup> in Ramsey. Robert Hanna, the President of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities held a hearing and several mayors testified including Mayor Barra. Franklin Lakes and Wyckoff were very critical about how events were handled during the Hurricane.

Mayor Barra encouraged all towns to implement a communication system such as SwiftReach so they can stay in close contact with their residents.

Mr. Barra thanked a couple in town, the Voorhis, who continually walk in Allendale and pick up trash while they are walking. Mr. Barra will be sending them a letter of thanks for their efforts.

On a motion by Mrs. White, seconded by Mrs. McSwiggan, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn to Regular Session at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen McCarthy  
Municipal Clerk