

Work Session
Mayor and Council
December 29, 2011

A Work Session of the Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:35 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, LaMonica, Schoepflin, White, Wilczynski and Mayor Barra. Mr. Strauch was absent. Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Bole were also present.

Public Comments

Mr. Barra opened the meeting to the public for comments. There were none.

Agenda Review

Resolution 11-344. Mrs. Wilczynski asked for this resolution to be moved from the consent agenda to the Resolution section of the Regular Agenda.

Mrs. White said she and Mrs. Wilczynski had a discussion when they saw this item on the agenda. They will be voting against approving a contract with the County Health Department. She said they were upset with the way the Crestwood Lake issue was handled over Labor Day weekend after Hurricane Irene. They were disappointed with the communications between the County Health Department and the Recreation Committee.

Mrs. Wilczynski said after Hurricane Irene there was damage to the Lake and they asked the County Board of Health for guidance. The Board called the State and asked if there was anything that needed to be done to reopen the Lake. The State said regular testing had to be done. A new lab was called in to do emergency testing because the lab generally used by Allendale was under water. Testing was conducted in two separate areas. A lot of documentation exists that states if the tests were passed, the Lake could reopen on Labor Day weekend.

The tests were passed and the Lake was prepared to be opened. Fifteen hundred dollars was spent on chlorine and additional sand was ordered. The concessionaire bought thousands of dollars worth of food and employees of the Lake were counting on working on Labor Day weekend. At the last minute the County Board of Health said the Lake could not be open because of the possibility of contaminants from the overflow at the upper pond. It was also said that debris could be present although the Borough offered to drag the Lake to clear the debris out.

Many emails were sent to residents stating that the Lake would be open on Labor Day weekend, but then they had to tell everyone that the Lake was closed. It was not a good situation to first say the Lake was safe and then to say it wasn't. The Committee feels they received misinformation and Mrs. Wilczynski also noted that Brookside Swim Club was open. Mrs.

Wilczynski said first they were given information which was followed but then the information was changed.

Ms. LaMonica asked if there are other Health Department options besides the County.

Mr. Barra responded there are very few and that Allendale needs a Health Department in place by January 1st.

Mrs. Wilczynski said a positive meeting was held with Ridgewood and there will be further discussions with them.

Mr. Barra said his biggest problem with the situation was that they should have been told that there was a possibility the Lake could not open before all of the preparations that went into getting it ready for Labor Day weekend. He is concerned about the County's indecisiveness and their inability to make a decision earlier in the week.

Mrs. Wilczynski said she believes the County doesn't realize that Crestwood is a contained lake that is filled at the beginning of the season with water from the Upper Pond but then that inlet is closed. After it is closed, only well water is added. The Lake has overflowed many times before without a problem. She believes the County thought contaminants were flowing in constantly when that only happened for a couple hours. Also the presence of weeds and debris actually clears water. She believes if the County had done more research the outcome would have been different.

Mr. Barra added that the Holiday Observers had to cancel their Water Festival as well.

Mr. Barra said there is a provision in the contract which states that either party can cancel the contract with ninety days notice. There will be a meeting with the County to ensure that this problem with the Lake doesn't happen again.

Mrs. Wilczynski said that chlorine cannot be saved so the \$1500 purchase of extra chlorine had to be dumped.

Mr. Barra reiterated that a separate vote will be taken on this issue.

Resolution 11-349. Mr. Barra stated that this resolution is with respect to a property agreement between two neighbors on Donnybrook Drive. He stated that this issue took a lot of time and effort on the part of the Borough and the Borough cannot get as involved in issues such as this going forward.

Allendale became involved because we do not want people dumping into our wastewater system.

Mr. Barra said the Borough can't continue to get involved in such sophisticated drainage issues as it is not an effective policy for Allendale to have.

Mr. Barra said the Land Use Committee will examine what occurred and come up with a policy for the future.

Mayor's Report

Allendale closed with the State on the Crescent Commons site and we received \$3.35 million toward the cost of construction. Demolition has been completed and construction should begin during the week of January 9th.

On a motion by Mrs. White, seconded by Ms. LaMonica, the Council voted to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen McCarthy
Municipal Clerk