

Work Session  
Mayor and Council  
November 14, 2013

A Work Session of the Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:33 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, McSwiggan, Strauch, White, Wilczynski and Mayor Barra. Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Bole were also present.

*Public Comments*

Mayor Barra opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Mr. George Stafford of Wharton, New Jersey was present to speak to the Council.

Mr. Stafford was present on behalf of the New Jersey Highlands Coalition to speak the communities who receive water from the New Jersey Highlands. Two hundred forty four towns and five million people receive some or all of their water from the New Jersey Highlands. Allendale is one of those towns and we receive over 25% of our water from the Highlands.

The New Jersey Highlands Council is currently under a great deal of pressure from developers. They claim that Highlands residents are not receiving the appropriate equity on their properties due to the Highlands Act which they believe has lowered property values.

The Highlands Council did a study comparing ratables from 2006 to 2012. As in other locations across New Jersey, property values skyrocketed around 2006 and decreased in 2008. Mr. Stafford stated that those increases and decreases were not due to the New Jersey Highlands Act.

Mr. Stafford asked the Council to pass a resolution in support of the New Jersey Highland Council which balances the interests of the property owners in the Highlands with the interests of the people who receive water from the Highlands.

Franklin Lakes has endorsed the resolution already and Ramsey is considering it.

*Mayor's Report*

Mayor Barra stated that the Northwest Bergen County Mayor's group met on Saturday and they had a speaker about the new Supreme Court decision on COAH. The Supreme Court has mandated that the Governor and the legislature come up with new COAH rules in the next four months.

It is possible that Allendale will have even more of a COAH obligation but no one knows at this time. Allendale is so far ahead of everyone else, that if there is an issue, ours will be relatively modest in comparison to our neighbors.

The Bergen County Mayors hope to become part of the process and Mayor Barra may become part of a subcommittee to meet with our legislators to draw up the proposed rules.

Mayor Barra said there is a lot of discussion about bringing Regional Contribution Agreements back because there are other towns like Allendale that don't have space for additional construction.

The Mayor will give the members of the Council a synopsis that was distributed to the Mayor's group on Saturday.

On a motion by Mrs. White, seconded by Mrs. Wilczynski, the Council adjourned to Regular Session at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen McCarthy  
Municipal Clerk