

Work Session Meeting
Mayor and Council
September 8, 2014

A Work Session Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale was called to order on September 8, 2014 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: Councilmembers Bernstein, McSwiggan, Sasso, Strauch, White, Wilczynski and Mayor Barra. Mr. Valenzuela Mr. Bole, and Mrs. Mattiace were also present.

Public Comments

Mayor Barra opened the meeting to the public for comments.

There were none.

- Mayor Barra was happy to recognize the long time service of Steve Cameron, who has been employed by the Borough of Allendale for 25 years. Steve has also been an Allendale Volunteer Fireman for 25 years.

Agenda Review

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 26, 2014 Work Session & Regular Meeting
July 10, 2014 Work Session & Regular Meeting

RESOLUTIONS OFF CONSENT

Resolution 14-266 Approval of Part-time Hourly employee for Administration Office
Web Design

- Councilwoman McSwiggan and Acting Municipal Clerk Valenzuela praised Deb Gravina as an important resource for the Borough.

Consent Agenda

Resolution 14-263 Approval for participation in the Bergen County Cooperative Pricing
System

- Mayor Barra reminded the council that this is the resolution needed for the Borough of Allendale to join a shared services energy coop that is projected to save to Borough between \$80,000 and \$100,000.

Resolution 14-267 Rejection of Bid for George St. and Wehner Place Drainage
Improvements

- Mayor Barra - The bids came in much higher than our engineer's estimates. We rejected the bids and will modify it to hopefully attract other contractors to submit more competitive bids. This will also authorize the Borough to go out to bid again.

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The Mayor asked the Tax Assessor Angela Mattiace to address the council.

- Angela Mattiace – The Borough implemented a revaluation of the town in 2012. Since then, there has been an increase in value in the market affecting some neighborhoods in town. There are two methods to correct this, compliance plan or a reassessment. With the compliance plan the properties can be brought up to the common level. With reassessment, the properties the properties can be brought up to 100 percent. The common level is 93 percent. When looking at current sales, both residential and commercial, the overall ratio is 85 percent.

The last revaluation cost between \$170,000 & \$180,000, this reassessment will cost \$40,000. Appraisal Systems, the reassessment company, will defend the appeals with the Borough for two years. If we do nothing and go under 85 percent ratio, the County can force us to do a complete revaluation at \$180,000.

Mayor Barra - The Committee recommends the reassessment for three reasons, it would bring us to 100 percent; the cost is modest next to a revaluation; and it is more equitable to everyone because it impacts the whole town and not just individual neighborhoods.

Angela - This reassessment is a leveler; some people will have a slight increase, but some will have a decrease.

Public Comments: There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Councilwoman McSwiggan, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn to Regular Session at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Valenzuela
Acting Municipal Clerk