

January 24, 2017

**BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 24, 2017**

Mayor Robert Fazen called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with a reading of the Open Public Meetings Law Statement followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and an opening prayer.

Roll Call

Mayor Robert Fazen –	present
C. Vinnie Petti	present
C. Abel Gomez	present
C. Philip Fiadino	present
C. David Rosario	present
C. President Anthony Pranzatelli	present
C. Diana Manahan	present

Also Present:

Hector Herrera-Borough Administrator  
Borough Clerk – Donna Marie Godleski  
Borough Attorney- Frank Regan, Esq.  
Police Chief Michael Jannone

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting December 27, 2016; Reorganization January 3, 2017; Agenda Meeting January 3, 2017; January 6, 2017 Special Meeting – Executive Session For Content Only

Motion: Pranzatelli Second: Fiadino All in favor: Aye

C. Pranzatelli offered a suggestion to move the order of business for the holiday awards announcement to the beginning of the meeting.  
Consensus of council agreed.

Presentation of communications, petitions, etc.

>Festival of Lights –Holiday Decorating Contest Awards

C. Fiadino announced that it was very successful and the second holiday contest for the town.

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The first award was presented to Kenneth and Vickey Hopkins. They were not present. They won first place for their door on Encampment Drive.

The Lasko Family- second place door winner for house on Church Street.

Aura Miquez- won two years in a row; second place house winner on West High Street.

Frank Northrup- first place for overall decorations on house on Franklin Street.

Kenneth and Vickey Hopkins won second place for their yard on Encampment Drive.

The recipients were awarded gift certificates to Shop Rite.

Brad Higginbottom- Giles Biondi Post 63 –

He asked for the governing body's permission and support for the Memorial Day Parade May 29, 2017. He advised a Special Event Permit Application will be submitted.

Presentation-

Technical Assistant Ruth Ann Seyffart introduced herself to the public.

She was hired for the borough clerk's office to work on the website.

She gave a demonstration of the borough's new website launched on January 3, 2017. [www.boundbrook-nj.org](http://www.boundbrook-nj.org)

She designed the new logo. There are five (5) pictures of locations in Bound Brook she photographed and posted to the face page. The site is user and mobile friendly.

She reviewed all the new features stating "it is still a work in progress". She will be meeting with all departments to review their pages for any additions/corrections.

The new website design has –

>Left side- Bound Brook News and Announcements- The Nixle Link

>Center- Quick Links- Municipal Code Book; OPRA form and refuse collection information

>Right side- Calendar of Events – All meetings and events will be posted to the calendar. Also, all boards, committees and commissions will have their own page.

Coming soon in February you will see a link on the face page for on-line payments for taxes, parking permits and animal licensing.

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Questions were taken from the public and addressed.  
Residents advised “great job” and it seems much easier to use.

Paul Lasko, OEM Coordinator offered a suggestion. He advised he has extensive IT experience. He reviewed the new website and noted that when you scroll down there is transparency where words are on top of each other. It needs less opacity. He also suggested moving the “News” section to the center for information residents could get right away in case of emergency.

Question portion closed.

The Mayor and Council informed Ruth Ann she did a great job!  
Presentation closed.

### Public Hearing- Submission of Grant Application to NJDEP

Administrator Hector Herrera advised that the public hearing is part of the grant requirements. The public notice was published in the Courier News.

Purpose: To obtain public comment on a grant application to be submitted to the NJDEP Green Acres Land Acquisition and Park Development Program – Development projects at Billian Legion Park and the Municipal Pool.

Mayor Fazen gave a brief summary stating the application is for the playground area equipment and a rubberized surface on the ground that is more durable and user friendly.

Administrator Hector Herrera advised that the application also includes pool filters.

C. Gomez reported that Mrs. Billian pledged \$40,000 toward the playground and is willing to match any funds provided by an additional grant.

Public comment:

### Stacey Pilato -121 Agnes Place

She asked if plantings for Billian Park were part of the grant. The Mayor advised plantings were not. The administrator Hector Herrera advised he would look into a grant for plantings. She addressed the plantings as you come down East High Street/Veterans Memorial Parkway

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to the entrance to the park. The plantings there are not consistent. There should be no trees, just plants.

C. Pranzatelli offered a suggestion to work with the Special Improvement District for the plantings. The SID last year took care of the plantings on the rotary circle median and in front of Meridia and the flower boxes downtown.

Stacey asked if the council could give a history on Billian Park and the funding.

Mayor Fazen gave a brief summary.

#### Bonnie Crew- 305 Park Place

She asked if the (4) four benches that divide the pools can be removed. The benches are actually outside of the pool area in the playground area. She stated that no one sits on them and they are in the way. The children trip and fall over them.

C. Gomez advised as liaison to the Recreation Commission he would bring this up at their next meeting.

Mayor Fazen asked Bonnie if she would be interested in serving on the commission. Bonnie gave consideration and was encouraged to attend the commission meetings.

#### Paul Lasko- 410 Church Street

He asked when the filters were last changed at the pool.

C. Gomez advised not since the actual physical filter was put in forty-fifty years ago. He noted that they are sand filters; you just change the sand. The filters will be upgraded to a six hour cycle to conform to state regulations.

#### Greetings for comments and invitation for discussion

#### Michele DeFazio -603 Church

She stated in the past month it has been contentious with regards to the governing body receiving a salary. The newspaper article covering this gave what the surrounding towns were paying.

Based on argument, she noted that Bound Brook is one of the smallest towns and pays their council more than other towns. She was advised by a councilman that the firemen receive a stipend of \$700. She asked the fire chief what they are required to do to receive this. She was told they must receive 75 points. A minimum of 50 calls of services; trainings; meetings. If they fail, they do not receive.

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Also, in comparison to that and also felt unfair was even if council did everything they were asking to get paid for, the most you would have to do is twenty-four (24) meetings.

She also said the article stated council does not get compensated for attending their committee meetings. She noted that whoever was the liaison last year for the board of education never attended meetings. She stated that she asked at a prior meeting as to what the municipal surplus was.

Administrator stated he was expecting to receive an e-mail from Michele from the last meeting. He did not have the information.

C. Gomez advised the municipal surplus is just of \$300,000. Also, C. Pranzatelli advised the 2016 adopted budget is on the website.

C. Pranzatelli responded to what other towns receive. He noted that the article failed to say that if council does not attend a meeting, they do not receive a compensation. The council is now responsible for their education.

We cannot deduct any costs; other towns do. If you weight all that in, we probably get less than other towns.

Michele stated she would rather prefer council put in a voucher for reimbursement for classes to become a better public servant than anything else.

C. Pranzatelli agreed that every new councilperson should take the courses necessary to make us better. Our political party will pay for those classes to make sure those persons are well educated.

C. Rosario noted that a resolution was added and adopted at the last council meeting regarding council reimbursements.

Stacey Pilato-121 Agnes Place-

She stated that council is now saying political parties will pay for their classes and council is also being paid for attending a meeting.

The councilperson that does not want their party to pay for their attendance will now have to come before council.

The resolution you adopted says you can place your voucher on the dais for pre-approval. She asked what the "utility" of the resolution is.

She stated at the last council meeting she suggested the borough attorney come up with a definition for an ordinary expense/extraordinary expense.

Then give that job to the borough administrator, so you as a council do not have to vote on them for approval.

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She noted that former councilwoman Beverly Pranzatelli stated that it was her idea for council to receive a stipend.

Stacey felt you all ran for office knowing it would be hard work and not a paid position.

She wanted to know how much the council approved in vouchers last year and if that information can be brought to the next council meeting. If it was less than \$22, 500 she did not see the “utility” in it.

She felt there was no logical argument behind the stipend and did not think it was thought through. The council now has to report their stipend for a meeting on their income taxes.

She felt Mayor Fazen should be entitled to attend state and county events. He is the “face” of Bound Brook. He needs to get Bound Brook out there. She felt his expenditures are appropriate.

Mayor Fazen announced that he will have a resolution for the next meeting addressing his expenses more clearly. He advised he attended the U.S. Conference of Mayors last week. He felt he did a lot of great work for the town. He noted he would talk more about the conference next meeting.

#### Stacey Pilato- 121 Agnes Place

She asked why the administrator cannot approve those resolutions on the agenda for overpayment of parking fees.

What is the state ordinance that says you cannot do it?

Mayor Fazen offered his comments on Michael Deak’s article that was in the newspaper. He stated other councils are paid more than what Bound Brook voted on.

C. Pranzatelli did not disagree with Mrs. Pilato suggestion. It would be more efficient, but we always did it this way. We should look into this. He did not think council would be arguing that much about vouchers.

Attorney Frank Regan advised by resolution/ordinance the borough may designate the administrator to approve certain payments that do not need to go on the bill list for council approval.

#### Beverly Pranzatelli-108 East Maple Avenue

Former councilwoman Pranzatelli stated yes she was the first person to bring up a stipend for the council.

Why? It is very difficult finding people to serve knowing that you spend the fall campaigning and attending meetings.

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We take on a lot of responsibility and council should receive some sort of compensation. We want to get good people to serve. We respect the work that you are doing.

You say that the public has spoken and that they do not want the council to get a stipend. This is not the entire public. There are 10,000 people in the borough. This matter has been out in the newspaper and up on the website for the public to know.

This council used to receive a compensation, but when the town was in serious financial, it was decided to give up. We are not in that situation. We want to get good people on council and she thought it was very appropriate.

Lynn Fazen-571 Watchung Road –

Mrs. Fazen felt the only fair thing for the residents was to place a resolution on the ballot.

For this to be decided by persons elected as volunteers, is a great injustice to the residents.

Patricia O'Reilly-745 Schoolhouse Lane

She supported Mrs. Fazen's opinion.

A lot of residents had no idea about this.

Paul Lasko-410 Church Street

He agreed gaining confidence in our politicians comes with campaigning and we show that in the voting booth.

Paul is the OEM Coordinator for the borough. He referenced the National Incident Management System and understanding roles in disaster recovery. There are three (3) on-line based required courses for elected officials. They are thirty to forty-five minutes each. These courses help to understand the incident command system. Also the administrator is required to take these courses. His office is focused on getting everyone to take these courses so they know their roles and functions.

He will send the information along to the administrator and the council's primary e-mails. This will also enable us to apply for FEMA funding.

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Bonnie- 305 Park Place-

She was not sure if the amount of stipend was good or bad. She thought it was a good idea that councilmembers receive some sort of stipend. This opens it up to persons that may need to take on a second job.

It would allow more people to run that cannot afford to run.

Not just the well off, but persons just on that borderline.

She reported the Tea Street ballfield there used to be a very nice walking path. Along the retaining wall there are now signs for "Do Not Trespass". C. Pranzatelli advised it has to do with getting easements. We want to be able to walk along paths. The council is working on this.

C. Fiadino thanked everyone for their comments that he agreed and disagreed with.

The input from citizens is good and healthy. He had hoped in last two years this would have happened.

He welcomed everyone to come back and bring your neighbors.

Public comment closed.

Committee reports

Finance: C. David Rosario

Council reported he met with several departments on the 2017 budgets. The next finance meeting is Thursday and every week thereafter.

Public Works, Bldgs., Grounds & Utilities-C. Diana Manahan

Council reported the department collected a lot of yard debris and metal. No street sweeping, eleven (11) sewer jobs, repairs at the library and borough hall.

Total man-hours 1,608.

The monthly activity report is posted to the website.

Public Safety (Police & Fire)- C. Vinnie Petti

Council reported the Rescue Squad had 42 calls, 173 man-hours and 742 miles traveled. He gave the Police Department activity report for December and for the year end. Calls for service 1,548; total 20, 021.

The reports are posted to the website.

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Police Chief Jannone advised that the department is in the final two interviews for a new police officer to be sworn in on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Personnel, Administration & Ordinances- C. Philip Fiadino

Council advised he continues to meet with the Administrator every week on the personnel handbook.

He thanked the administrator for his efforts to make meetings run more efficiently and moving the borough in the right direction.

Council President Pranzatelli announced that the professionals held the line with their contracts. They are on the agenda for approval this evening.

Administrator announced that Randy Bahr Finance Officer and Tax Collector for the borough will be retiring March 31, 2017.

Also Ronald Christy, Public Works employee submitted his resignation. A motion was moved by C. Pranzatelli; second by C. Rosario to accept his resignation. All in favor: Aye

Mayor Fazen announced that Police Chief Jannone is also retiring from the borough March 31, 2017.

Economic Development- C. Anthony Pranzatelli

Council reported:

507 East Main Street- Bound Brook Hotel- site plan approved by planning board; redevelopment agreement completed; waiting for pilot application and impact study.

Lou Reynolds, former (Ooh La La's – site plan approved by planning board; parking agreement for additional 30 cars has been made; developer agreed 30 spots for commuter tenants only; will pay current rate \$90.00/month; if approved will add up to \$32,400 for the town; help with maintenance of lot and improvement of transit area.

Meridia self-storage- The planner is working on amending the redevelopment plan and awaiting information for billboards and proposed cell tower.

Plan B for property across the street. Old Stone Bridge; county comes to an agreement with property owner to purchase the property; excavate and put it back to original condition; hopeful a park to connect with the marina/boat line proposed on other side of the tracks.

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Last year council reported Pennsylvania College using the site for a landscape design project which is now complete.

The Planning Board Planner is getting the design and students will present the project. Hopefully we will get some good ideas.

Talmadge Commons- Draft development agreement is complete. Awaiting developer's comments. The developer's architect preparing site plans for submission to the planning board. Awaiting impact study.

NJT Lot- Request for Proposals issued on or about February 1<sup>st</sup>. A pre-proposal meeting with respondents to be held in March with the borough.

Green Acres – in order to prove eligibility we need to update our ROSSI. Once we accept money from Green Acres, we will be limited as to what we can do with these properties.

Committee looking at sending out “Letters of Interest” for the West End of town.

COAH- affordable housing; towns are required to build a certain percentage. At this time, we are alright with our recent developments Meridia and Queens Gate. According to state inventory regulations our obligation is zero at this time. It may change as we grow.

Bound Brook Hotel- At planning board meeting Mayor Fazen discussed architecture deviating from our history. The Hotel is an iconic building and to try and keep the architecture which reflects the history. The cabinets behind the bar are from the Waldorf Astoria.

#### Zoning, Construction & Code Enforcement- C. Abel Gomez

Council reported –

Annual housing inspections – end of 2016 at 50% looking to bring this up to 100% this year.

Units inspected in town- 1,141 end of 2016

Inspections- 1,684

Numbers have tripled since 2014.

Mayor Fazen announced the code enforcement officer has moved forward with a citizen complaint app on the borough website. This should be launched very soon.

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Introduction of ordinances -First Reading –

ORDINANCE NO. 2017:01

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, CHAPTER 7, TRAFFIC, TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL RESTRICTED PARKING AT CERTAIN AREAS ON CERTAIN STREETS

Summary:

Thompson Avenue	East	Between West Union Avenue and William Street
	East	Between Grove Avenue and Evergreen Avenue
	West	<b><u>Insert-Between West Union Avenue and the southern-most exit portion of Crescent Drive</u></b> <b><u>Delete[From the southerly curb line of Crescent Drive to a point 200 feet south thereof]</u></b>

Motion: Pranzatelli

Movant: I move that ordinance be approved on first reading, advertised according to law, and a public hearing be held on February 14, 2017

Second: Gomez

Roll Call:

C. Vinnie Petti \_Y\_ C. Abel Gomez \_\_Y\_ C. Philip Fiadino \_Y\_

C. David Rosario \_Y\_ C. John Buckley \_Y\_

C. Anthony Pranzatelli \_Y\_ C. Diana Manahan \_Y\_

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Ordinance on Final Reading and Consideration-Second Reading

None

Resolutions for final reading and final consideration:

R2017:17

Approve professional services contracts-

Municipal Attorney – Decotiis, FitzPatrick & Cole, LLP

Not to exceed: \$100,000

Municipal Auditor-Hodulik & Morrison, P.A.

Not to exceed: \$34,000

Municipal Bond Counsel-McManimon, Scotland,Bauman, Roseland

Not to exceed: \$20,000

Municipal Engineer-T&M Associates

Not to exceed: \$100,000

Municipal Grant Writer-Millennium Strategies

Not to exceed: \$30,000

Municipal Prosecutor-John E. Bruder, Esq.

Not to exceed: \$38,000

Municipal Public Defender- Robert D. Spengler, Esq.

Not to exceed: \$17,500

Municipal Labor Counsel-DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP

Not to exceed: \$25,000

Municipal Tax Appeal Counsel-Shain, Schaffer & Rafanello

Not to exceed: \$25,000

Motion to approve professional contracts-

Gomez Second: Pranzatelli

All in favor: Aye

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R2017:18

Authorize Finance Officer to issue a \$50.00 refund to Sandra Cayon for overpayment of parking permit fee

Motion: Gomez                      Second: Pranzatelli                      All in favor: Aye

R2017:19

Approve a cancellation of a maintenance billing to John Marshall for property Block 30, Lot 25 (214 West Second Street) in the amount of \$87.50

Motion: Pranzatelli                      Second: Gomez                      All in favor: Aye

R2017:20

Approve a property tax exemption for totally disabled veteran in the amount of \$5,286.00 effective January 1-2017

Motion: Fiadino                      Second: Pranzatelli                      All in favor: Aye

R2017:21

ACKNOWLEDGING THE FORMATION OF A CHIEF OF POLICE APPOINTMENT COMMITTEE BY THE MAYOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF EVALUATING CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF POLICE AND RECOMMENDING ANY APPOINTEES BY THE MAYOR FOR THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION 2-21.11, "APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OF POLICE," OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK

Motion: Petti                      Second: Fiadino                      All in favor: Aye

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R2017:22

Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Bound Brook Historic Train Station Rehabilitation Project.

Motion: Rosario                      Second: Pranzatelli                      All in favor: Aye

R2017:23

Authorize agreement with the NJDEP Green Acres Program to provide loans and/or grants to fund the Billian Legion Park and Municipal Pool Improvement Project

Motion: Fiadino                      Second: Gomez                      All in favor: Aye

Unfinished Business – None

New Business

>For Discussion:

Council President Pranzatelli advised he sent an e-mail to the governing body about a pet store in East Hanover which was caught importing dogs out of state that were unhealthy and did not have proper licenses.

The town was able to close them down. To prevent these shops from coming into our town we need to adopt an ordinance which would regulate what they can sell.

He asked for council consideration if we do get a pet shop in town, that we have an ordinance in place. It will restrict the sale of animals from a pet shop to only those sourced from shelters or rescue organizations.

Not bred in puppy and kitten mills.

Consensus of council agreed to introduce ordinance at the next meeting.

Council President Pranzatelli advised the borough wants to move forward with on-line payments in February. In order to process credit cards, a small fee is involved. This requires an ordinance to be created to offset credit card processing fees.

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Administrator Hector Herrera recommended a “Special Meeting” just to introduce the ordinance.

The consensus of council agreed to a “Special Meeting” scheduled for Friday, January 27, 2017 at 10: 00 a.m.

Council will advise administrator as to who is able to attend.

The Clerk was instructed to advertise and post the notice.

#### Appointments:

##### Historic Preservation Commission

Kevin A. Sullivan- Class B- 3 year term

C. Pranzatelli advised of a correction to his middle initial; should be M.

Motion: Fiadino Second: Gomez All in favor: Aye

##### Moved to the beginning of the meeting

>Festival of Lights –Holiday Decorating Contest-

>Winners announced and prizes awarded

##### Special Event Permit

Relief Fire Co. No. 4-Coin Toss

Location: Route 28 (Union Avenue) at Vosseller

Dates: April 1, 2017; April 16, 2017

Rain Date: April 8, 2017

Time: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Motion: Petti Second: Gomez All in favor: Aye

##### Approval of Vouchers

##### R2017: 24

Motion: Gomez Second: Rosario All in favor: Aye

##### Open meeting to the public for comments

##### Paul Lasko, Sr. 410 Church Street

He asked if the town conducts a thorough research on the height of the new buildings relative to police and traffic control.

Mayor Fazen advised there is a thorough analysis of new development coming into the borough. All applications go through the planning board process.

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Mr. Lasko suggested more signs to be placed at the base of Watchung Road and Piedmont Drive to pick up after your dogs.

Bonnie 305 Park Place

She inquired about paying fees on-line. Council advised it will improve efficiencies, cycles and reduce paper. You also have the convenience of paying on-line by credit card.

She asked what businesses are coming into town. Council provided a summary.

Paul Lasko, Jr. 410 Church Street

As OEM Coordinator, he advised the importance of including police, fire and emergency management in all new construction.

He asked that OEM be included overall.

He requested the current occupancies of all new buildings and if there was access on all sides of the buildings.

In an evacuation, it is important to have this information.

He asked the council for an estimate of what is expected to go up in town.

Council advised that the Planning Board will provide plans to OEM for their comments.

Paul encouraged historic preservation along with the new construction.

R2017: 25

Authorize executive session for (Anticipated Litigation) @ 9:50 p.m.

Motion: Petti Second: Rosario

All in favor: Aye

Regular meeting opened at 10:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion: Gomez Second: Petti

Respectfully submitted by,

Donna Marie Godleski, Borough Clerk