

**BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK  
AGENDA MEETING MINUTES - APRIL 8, 2014**

Mayor Mark Hasting called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with a reading of the Open Public Meetings Law Statement,  
A moment of silence for the recent passing of Councilman Peter Lazzaro's father. Opening Prayer read by the Borough Clerk followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Mark Hasting	present
Councilman John Paul Levin	present
Councilman Daniel Wright	present
Councilman Vinnie Petti	present
Councilwoman Lisa Bogart	present
Councilwoman Beverly Pranzatelli	present
Councilman Peter Lazzaro	present

Also Present:

Donna Marie Godleski, Borough Clerk  
Randy Bahr, Administrator  
Judy Verrone, Esq. DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick, Cole, LLP, Borough Attorney  
Police Chief Michael Jannone  
Dale Leubner-T&M Associates-Borough Engineer

Approval of Minutes:

Special Meeting March 17, 2014-Executive Session  
Regular Meeting March 25, 2014;  
Motion moved by C. Bogart; second by C. Pranzatelli; All in favor: Ayes

Engineers Report – T&M Associates – March 1-March 31, 2014

Mr. Leubner reported: Greenbrook Flood Control

NJ Transit Closure Gate- The Army Corp is reviewing the revised as-builts.

Segment T repairs- behind Shop-Rite-May completion and as-builts in June.  
Segment R-2 Levee Tie-Off- met with contractor and Army Corp.

Conrail-no permits; they have not returned phone calls. NJ Transit has been cooperative. It will not hurt to reach out to the Congressman Office to help us move this toward completion.

Other Items-

The Army Corp is working with a private property owner for a material staging area near the Rock Machine Park. The contractor and ACOE requested a stockpile location for potentially contaminated material. That request was denied. Repair work to the pedestrian tunnel at the train station has been added to the contract. The flow of pedestrian traffic to be maintained.

This will begin in the summer.

2013 road improvement program- north part of church street- the design completed- final review- plans to the DOT-project will be on the street soon. Replacement of the Church Street Culvert has been installed.

Presentation of communications, petitions, etc.

Proclamations recognizing service were presented :

Former Mayor Carey A. Pilato- Mayor Hasting stated that Mr. Pilato was not able to attend. He thanked the borough for honoring his service.

Former Councilman- Anthony Pranzatelli. Mr. Pranzatelli thanked everyone and also for those persons volunteering their time that are not on the governing body.

Proclamations were presented to Former Councilman Howard Wagner, John Buckley, Hal Dietrich and John Miller.

Mr. Wagner, Mr. Buckley and Mr. Dietrich stated that it was a privilege to serve the town and thanked the town for their proclamation.

Former Councilman John Miller was not present.

Greetings for comments and invitation for discussion

Robert Fazen- 571 Watchung Road-

Mr. Fazen asked for a status on the East Bound Train Station Waiting Room. Mr. Bahr provided a status. He stated that it is pretty much dead. The town cannot move forward without federal grant money. The town is looking at other options.

Mr. Fazen stated "this is not good", with the new development coming into the downtown and the Raritan Valley one seat ride. It is terrible for the commuters to be standing outside in the wintertime. The roof leaks. He did not know why commuters use it without a waiting room.

Andrew Rehm-Massachusetts

Mr. Rehm stated that he owns property in Bound Brook. He asked when the Greenbrook Flood Control Project would be completed.

Mayor Hasting stated that FEMA has not redrawn the flood maps yet.

Mr. Rehm advised that there was a strong hydrogen sulfite smell coming out of the drain at Drake and Main Street. Mr. Bahr noted this and will address.

The metal grate also keeps on breaking. Mayor Hasting advised that the town is pursuing this. It is the responsibility of Public Service Electric & Gas. Mr. Rehm complained about a home on Somerset and Mountain Avenue. The front of the property looks like a junk pile. Councilman Levin advised that it has been taken care of. A violation was issued this week.

Roseann Short- 169 Cherry Avenue

Ms. Short asked why the renovation of the train station is not being pursued. The town needs a decent train station with the Meridia Development Project coming in. She suggested a committee be formed to work on this. The town should persevere and do not leave to another council.

Mayor Hasting stated that we are looking into all options.

She brought a complaint from persons traveling the roundabout by the Meridia project. The traffic has been closed off at 8 a.m. when persons are traveling to work. The traffic should be closed off at a later time, not when people are trying to get to work. Mr. Bahr advised that a letter was hand delivered to the project manager citing various violations. If he does not comply, the project will be shut down.

She also advised that there has been garbage in back of the high school for a week. Councilman Levin advised that was taken care of.

Advertised hearings or special presentations – none

Opening of bids -

Introduction of ordinances -

ORDINANCE NO. 2014: 04

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER III, “POLICE REGULATIONS”, OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BOUND BROOK TO AMEND SECTION 3-24- ACCESS TO LEVEES PROHIBITED

Motion: Councilwoman Bogart

Second: Councilman Petti

Mr. Bahr advised that the Police Chief recommended the amendments.

Roll Call: Unanimous- Second Reading April 22, 2014

ORDINANCE NO. 2014:05

CALENDAR YEAR 2014-ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK

Motion: Councilman Pranzatelli      Second: Councilwoman Bogart

Summary: Mr. Bahr advised that the town may bank the difference between its final budget appropriations and the cost of living adjustment when difference is not appropriated as part of the final budget.

Roll Call: Unanimous – Public Hearing April 22, 2014

Ordinance on Final Reading and Consideration: - none

Introduction/Discussion of Resolutions:

R2014:51

Introduction of the 2014 Municipal Budget

Motion: Councilman Petti      Second: Councilman Levin

Discussion: Councilman Lazzaro, Finance Chair advised that he met with Mr. Bahr and committee over the past weeks and months. We have agreed to present the budget. Revenues and expenditures were reviewed and the department budgets. In order to keep tax at a minimum, the funding of departments will stay at the 2013 level. There are no increases to the operating expenses of any department. The one expense going up consistently year after year is debt service; a significant amount of money. We have to facilitate investment in our downtown redevelopment district to provide tax relief and to initiate new programs to improve quality of life for our residents and to increase revenues. The governing body members were encouraged to be persistent in keeping this goal in mind; working as a team in order to pursue the best interests of the town in terms of its future and financial well being. Also, share positive ideas to attract investment now that flood control is near completion. Future budgets will reflect the result in our future efforts.

Councilwoman Pranzatelli stated with no increases to the department budgets, we still had to cut, even with a flat budget. We had a tax of over \$200.00 per average household. We cut down to a more reasonable level. We are hoping we will not have to this next year and we will have enough revenues to support our departments and bring back services for our residents.

Mr. Bahr stated that the Introduction of the Budget allows us to get it to the public. It will be advertised on May 1 in summary. A public hearing is scheduled for May 13 @ 7:30 p.m. If council is satisfied you have the option of adoption. Also, prior to adoption, amendments to the budget can be made. This may require a second public hearing.

By no means is this a must be final document.

If on May 13 you make adjustments to the budget which would require more review from the state or another hearing, you would not adopt that evening.

Mr. Bahr stated that tough decisions were made by the finance committee. We were at 820 million in assessed value in 2013 and 681 million in 2014 assessed value. The reassessment dropped 150 million in assessed value. The 2014 assessed value of a home class 2 residential- \$227,400. The increase is just under \$168.00 per household with the introduced budget. The percentage of increase in tax is 6.8% increase and it does fall within the cap.

The 2014 Anticipated Budget is 12,757,246.14; a \$100,000 increase in the budget; \$410,000 increase in taxes.

Councilman Levin stated that we all need to look at the due diligence of this budget.

Mayor Hasting asked that the council bring dates to the next council meeting for a special budget workshop meeting.

Roll Call: Introduction of 2014 Municipal Budget

C. John Paul Levin- Aye C. Daniel Wright-Aye

C. Vinnie Petti-Aye; C. Lisa Bogart-Aye; C. Beverly Pranzatelli-Aye

C. Peter Lazzaro-Aye

R2014-52:

Approve the 2013 Somerset County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan –

Motion: C. Petti Second: C. Levin

Mr. Bahr provided a summary. All of Somerset County has exposure to natural hazards and mitigation before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long term risk to life and property.

All in favor: Aye

### Unfinished Business

#### Historic Preservation Ordinance-

Councilwoman Bogart advised that the committee will meet shortly and will have recommendations.

#### NJ Transit bus shelters-

Mr. Bahr advised that he forwarded information to the council on the company that gave a presentation last year to replace bus shelters. We can have him come back in to discuss his proposal. There are other companies out there that replace bus shelters. The borough can certainly look at other ways we can do this.

#### Somerset County Annual Assessment Program

Mr. Bahr advised that we require 25% inspections each and every year to conform to the annual assessment program. The cost is \$18,000. He has been speaking to the tax assessor trying to minimize the cost. We are looking at different options.

#### Discuss Sale of Suburban Vehicle – The Captain of the Rescue Squad was requested to attend.

Councilman Petti advised that Mr. Dietrich could not make the meeting. Mr. Dietrich has asked to have a safety committee meeting to discuss. Mayor Hasting stated that he should have had someone present for this meeting to represent him if he could not make it.

Councilwoman Pranzatelli stated it is hard to discuss this if the captain is not present.

Mayor Hasting stated that the squad has the vehicle; either we require them to letter the vehicle or pay for the vehicle. Mr. Bahr noted that it is a borough vehicle which can be sold at our cost. Police Chief Jannone suggested since the captain is not present to discuss this matter, the vehicle should be brought to the municipal lot until it is resolved.

Mr. Bahr was directed to contact the captain and have him return the vehicle to the municipal lot.

A resolution was moved by Councilman Lazzaro, second by Councilwoman Bogart to declare the vehicle surplus and authorize Mr. Bahr to place on public auction at fair market value.

Roll Call:

C. John Paul Levin- Aye C. Daniel Wright-Aye  
C. Vinnie Petti-Nay; C. Lisa Bogart-Aye; C. Beverly Pranzatelli-Aye  
C. Peter Lazzaro-Aye

Councilwoman Pranzatelli advised that committee met with six developers and at least two to three have interest in the town. Mr. Frank Regan, Esq. of DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick will call those developers and ask them if they would like to present to the council. They will have thirty (30) days to send a concept.

Ms. Judy Verrone, Esq. advised that Mr. Regan will be sending a letter to all six developers. We will give them an opportunity to propose properties they may have in mind. We will ask them for a concept plan and ask all to respond within 30 days to come before the council to give a presentation.

Motion to authorize Mr. Regan to move forward was moved by Councilwoman Pranzatelli, second by Councilman Levin; All in favor: Ayes

New Business

Accept resignation letter from Maria Strada-Recreation Commission-

Councilwoman Pranzatelli advised the commission has resident Cesar Martinez interested in serving.

Mayor Hasting moved to appoint Mr. Martinez with advice and consent of the governing body.

Motion moved by Councilwoman Pranzatelli; second by Councilwoman Bogart; All in favor: Ayes

Accept resignation letter from Fred Lake and Jim Lefkowitz-

Economic Development Advisory Committee

A request for volunteers has been posted on the website and bulletin board.

Review Car-Fax Agreement for Accident Reports – Police Department

Mr. Bahr advised that Lt. Rivenbark came across an opportunity for the department to generate revenue by using Car-Fax for accident reporting. They came in and gave a demonstration to the department.

Car-Fax processes requests for Bound Brook through their company and the borough would receive a portion of monies.

Mr. Bahr will send the agreement over to the borough attorney for review. Police Chief Jannone stated that this is a scanning issue. Residents will still walk in for reports. This is an avenue for persons that are requesting a lot of information. There are savings on the administrative part. It is worth looking into.

Approve a Special Event Permit Application:

Bound Brook Little League

Event: Little League Opening Day/Parade

Location: West High Street to Tea Street field

Date: Saturday April 12- 9 a.m.-10 a.m.

Motion: Councilman Levin      Second: Councilman Petti

All in favor: Ayes

Bound Brook Fire Department –

Event: Carnival- Rides/Games/Food

Location: Billian Park

Date: May 14- 17-2014 – Time: 5 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Saturday- 3 p.m. – 11 p.m.

Mayor Hasting asked if the town is going to support the carnival this year. Mr. Bahr advised that there is a cost of \$3,500 for police and public works is minimal. Also, there will be a levee renovation which will be fenced off. There are options for additional parking which will be looked at. Mr. Joe Gullia, Deputy Fire Chief advised that he spoke with the Army Corp today. He was informed that there was concern at the bottom of the berm, there will be a construction fence thirty feet out that might take away some space.

Motion to support moved by C. Levin; second by C. Petti

All in favor: Ayes

Motion to approve the carnival moved by C. Bogart; second by C. Petti;

All in favor: Aye

Approve N.J. State Firemen’s Membership Application:

None



Open to the public for comments

Anthony Pranzatelli- 108 East Maple Avenue

Mr. Pranzatelli stated that Mr. Bahr advised that the borough's assessments went down so this should help us out with the county tax portion. He thanked the governing body for being wise enough to do this investment and be given credit for. Mayor Hasting advised that the municipal tax is 1/4<sup>th</sup> of your tax bill. The other impacts are the county and school tax.

Roseann Short-169 Cherry Avenue

Ms. Short suggested that the town look into when we have to pay pensions and sick pay out. No person should be getting their sick payout on the salary they are making now for days that they did not take years ago. The town should be tracking this, so you are not paying huge benefits out.

Mr. Bahr noted that the police department and public works are negotiations and contractual. What the town has done in the past is eliminate end of career payouts. Also, in public works, all new hires receive single health coverage. If you require family coverage, you have to pay for it.

Mr. Bahr noted that each and every opportunity we look at for what is best for the town and the taxpayers.

Executive Session: Matters for discussion – None  
R2014: 53- none

Adjournment @9:40 p.m.

Motion: C. Petti    Second: C. Pranzatelli    All in favor: Ayes

Respectfully submitted by,

Donna Marie Godleski, Municipal Clerk

