

**MINUTES
BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD
6:00 PM SPECIAL WORK SESSION
Tuesday, July 15, 2014**



WORK SESSION:

Mayor Subrizi read the Open Public Meeting and Mission Statements.

Councilman Diego Robalino	Present
Councilman Austin Ashley	Present
Council President Randi Duffie	Present
Councilman Dominic Colucci	Present
Councilwoman Hedy Grant	Present
Councilman Michael Putrino	Present
Mayor Ann Subrizi	Present

Also Present: M. Leibman, Borough Attorney; C. Demiris, Administrator/ Borough Clerk

OPEN SESSION:

1. Green Acres – 2014 Land Acquisition and Park Development Program

Marlene Casey and Len Carney appeared on behalf of Capital Alternatives Corporation (CAC). Mayor Subrizi summarized the events that led up to this discussion; a conversation with Council President Duffie regarding the Green Acres grant opportunity with a July 31st deadline and subsequent conversations with the Administrator, the Recreation Director and the Ms. Casey. She said in order to meet 7/31 application deadline, a public meeting has been scheduled for 7/21.

Ms. Casey referenced a handout that summarizes everything that needs to be included in the application and who would be responsible for each part. She said the Green Acres applications is completely different this year; there are new regulations and requirements. She said in previous rounds the Borough was eligible for significant funds because we have planning incentive status. She said this grant is different; New Milford would get 25% in grant money towards construction and some of the soft costs. The Borough has to match 25% for which Ms. Casey suggested applying to Bergen County Open Space. The balance would be in the form of a low interest loan.

Ms. Casey said the advertisement for the public hearing must be fifteen days prior to the date of the hearing. In addition, Ms. Casey said the engineer must complete the checklist included in the packet, do an environmental assessment, and draft a conceptual design prior to the 7/31 date.

The Mayor said the purpose of meeting tonight is to determine if we have a worthy application. The Mayor said an application for field rehabilitation would not compete with the Green Acres application for the acquisition of a historic home. The Mayor said the Council had discussed previously, the possible collaboration with the BOE for the Berkley

Street School field. She said she contacted Superintendent Polizzi who indicated he would be willing to submit a letter indicating the BOE would be willing to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding for the lease of the field in accordance with Green Acres requirements. The Mayor said she also discussed the possibility of turf at Williams field but this is not eligible.

The Administrator said the information provided by CAC says we would need a lease in hand by 7/31. Ms. Casey asked if it would be possible to get a lease prior to 7/31. All agreed this would not be possible. She suggested the Council may wish to consider improvements at Williams instead. She said it would need to be an application for a multi-purpose field with as many different venues as possible. Councilman Colucci said Williams is probably the Borough's best field currently. She said it wouldn't pay to do any fields at the lower end of the Borough complex because they flood. Ms. Casey said the application would have to be for a minimum of \$200,000; a full redevelopment. Council President Duffie asked the Recreation Director, John Bigger for his opinion. He said he would not touch Williams field; it is the best field in town.

Councilman Colucci said we need to start working on an agreement with the BOE for future grant opportunities. Ms. Casey said this is the end of Green Acres as we know it; there is no next year.

Council President Duffie said in considering all of the potential opportunities she thought of the Sarna property just south of Canterbury. Councilman Colucci said that would be another acquisition. It was noted earlier that the Borough already has an application in for acquisition. Council President Duffie said she called Mr. Sarna because she thought we could do a land acquisition. She told Mr. Sarna there were rumors that he had sold the property. He said that he had not. Council President Duffie asked him if the Borough could find the funding would he be amenable to the Borough purchasing the property. Mr. Sarna said he would be interested with two conditions, a strong appraisal and a good offer. Ms. Casey said the Borough can submit as many applications as they want for acquisition but they would have to be prioritized. Ms. Casey said the Bergen County Open Space grant is coming as well. She said we usually take advantage of the park development portion but that pot of money has gotten very small. She said however, there is a ton of money in County acquisition, which does not require a match. The Mayor asked how much money is available. Ms. Casey said approximately eight million dollars. Ms. Casey said the application will likely be announced in August and be due back after Labor Day. Councilman Colucci said he thinks it would be better to look to the County for the acquisition of the school fields. Council President Duffie suggested the Sarna property could serve as an interactive/interpretive park to connect it to the historic home acquisition. Council President Duffie asked to have it listed for discussion on the next agenda.

The Council all agreed for the purpose of the Green Acres application due on 7/31 there is no viable project to pursue within that timeframe. It was also agreed the Borough should work toward drafting a lease with the BOE to be prepared for future grant opportunities.

Councilman Putrino made a motion to pursue a lease with the BOE to get plans on the shelf for future opportunities.

Councilman Ashley said we should instruct the attorney to meet with the Board attorney and draft an agreement as soon as possible.

Ms. Casey said we may not make the Green Acres deadline but a new ARRA grant is coming from the Federal government in September.

Councilman Putrino asked if police stations would be eligible under the ARRA grant. Ms. Casey said they would.

Mayor Subrizi said the goal then is to get an application shovel ready.

Mr. Carney suggested someone should speak with the engineer to find out what the engineering fees will be to do everything that would be required. The Administrator will contact the engineer.

Councilman Putrino made a motion for the Borough attorney to speak to the Board attorney to start work on the lease agreement. Councilman Colucci seconded the motion. The motion passed on a roll call vote. All present in favor, none opposed.

Mayor Subrizi asked that when someone is going to initiate a conversation with a landowner about the possible acquisition of his property that it should be brought before the Council prior to the conversation.

Councilman Colucci made a motion to go into closed session. Councilman Putrino seconded the motion. All present in favor, none opposed.

CLOSED SESSION:

1. Personnel – DPW
2. Personnel – Administrative

Councilman Colucci made a motion to reopen the meeting to the public. Council President Duffie seconded the motion. All present in favor, none opposed.

RESOLUTIONS:

2014:164 Closed Session

2014:165 Authorize Borough Attorney to work with BOE Attorney to draft a lease agreement for the field at Berkley Street School

2014:166 Approve Final Disciplinary Action – John Stormer

VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS

Councilman Robalino made a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of resolution 2014:164 through 2014:166. Councilman Colucci seconded the motion. All present in favor, none opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Putrino made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Robalino seconded the motion. All present in favor, none opposed. Time 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine Demiris, RMC, CMC
Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

No. 2014:164

Offered by: Diego Robalino

Seconded by: Dominic Colucci

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent
ROBALINO	✓			
ASHLEY	✓			
DUFFIE	✓			
COLUCCI	✓			
GRANT	✓			
PUTRINO	✓			
MAYOR (tie)				

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body wishes to discuss:

1. Personnel – DPW
2. Personnel - Administrative

WHEREAS, minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the public be excluded from this meeting.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution passed by the Council of the Borough of New Milford at the meeting held on July 15, 2014.

SEAL

Dominic Colucci

BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

No. 2014:165

Offered by: Diego Robalino

Seconded by: Dominic Colucci

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent
ROBALINO	✓			
ASHLEY	✓			
DUFFIE	✓			
COLUCCI	✓			
GRANT	✓			
PUTRINO	✓			
MAYOR (tie)				

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of New Milford wish to enter into an agreement with the New Milford Board of Education to lease the field at Berkley Street School; and

WHEREAS, this agreement would benefit both the Borough and the Board of Education in that it would afford the Board of Education grant opportunities for the development of the field and would afford the Borough additional field space for the recreational benefit of the residents of New Milford.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council hereby authorize the Borough Attorney, Marc Leibman, to contact the Board of Education on behalf of the Borough and to draft a lease agreement for the field at Berkley Street School.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution passed by the Council of the Borough of New Milford at the meeting held on July 15, 2014.

SEAL

Christine Dennis

BOROUGH OF NEW MILFORD
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

No. 2014:166

Offered by: Councilman Robalino

Seconded by: Councilman Colucci

Member	Aye	No	Abstain	Absent
ROBALINO	✓			
ASHLEY	✓			
DUFFIE	✓			
COLUCCI	✓			
GRANT	✓			
PUTRINO	✓			
MAYOR (tie)				

WHEREAS, an Investigation of Work Related Complaints made against DPW Laborer John Stormer was conducted by the Borough Labor Counsel, Chasan Leyner & Lamparello; and

WHEREAS, the investigation was concluded and a report, which included a recommendation for disciplinary action, was issued on July 8, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have reviewed the report and considered the recommendation for disciplinary action.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Mayor and Council hereby approve the disciplinary action as discussed on July 15, 2014 and authorize the Borough Administrator to provide formal written notice of the decision to Mr. Stormer.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution passed by the Council of the Borough of New Milford at the meeting held on July 15, 2014.

SEAL

Christine Demaris