



**TOWNSHIP OF ROCHELLE PARK
151 WEST PASSAIC STREET
ROCHELLE PARK, NEW JERSEY 07662**

MINUTES – PUBLIC MEETING – March 16, 2011

Call to Order 7:35 PM

According to the Open Public Meetings Act, this meeting of March 16, 2011 was advertised in the notice sent to the “Our Town” and “The Record” and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on January 3, 2011 and has remained continuously posted as the required notice under the Statute and is being taped. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

Roll Call: Comm. R. Davidson
 Comm. K. J. Kovalcik
 Comm. F. Valenzuela
 Comm. J. Ouellette
 Mayor J. Scarpa

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Police Chief Richard Zavinsky

Mayor Scarpa asked that everyone remain standing for a moment of silence remembering those in the Japan suffering through the earthquake and tsunami.

A motion was offered by Comm. Valenzuela and seconded by Comm. Davidson to approve the agenda. Motion carried on a voice vote – all voting “Aye”.

A motion was offered by Comm. Kovalcik and seconded by Comm. Valenzuela to approve the Minutes of the Board of Health Meeting and the Public Meeting held on February 16, 2011. Motion carried on a voice vote – all voting “Aye”.

Reports:

Health Department - February 2011
Municipal Court - February 2011
Attendance Report - February 2011
Building Department - February 2011

Swearing in of Committeewoman Jayme Ouellette – This has been postponed due to an illness in Comm. Ouellette’s family.

Presentation Honoring Police Officers:

Ptl. John Cassidy
Ptl. Kenneth Stapleton
Ptl. Stephen Zuretti

Police Chief Zavinsky addressed the audience specifically an 8th grade class from Midland School experiencing local government first hand. He advised that Rochelle Park is a safe community thanks to the Police Department. It is a dangerous job. Zavinsky commended the above officers for their actions, preventing a bad situation from becoming tragic. Comm. Davidson, police liaison, thanked the officers for their diligence on the job.

Proclamation MS Awareness Week - March 14-20

Mayor Scarpa advised that Comm. Valenzuela had been diagnosed with MS in 2010. Comm. Valenzuela read the above proclamation.

At the Work Session held on March 9, 2011 the following resolutions were adopted - unanimous roll call vote:

Resolution#2011 - 64

A Resolution Introduction Capital Budget

Resolution#2011 – 65

A Resolution Authorizing the CY2011 Budget Be Read by Title Only

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-8 provides that the budget be read by title only at the time of the public hearing is a resolution is passed by not less that a majority of the full governing body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of hearing a complete copy of the approved municipal budget as advertised has been posted in the municipal building and copies have been made available by the clerk to persons requiring them; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the CY2011 municipal budget shall be read by title only.

Attest: Virginia De Maria

Resolution#2011 – 66

A Resolution Authorizing an Alternate Calculation for CY2011 Budget

Be it resolved, by the Township Committee of the Township of Rochelle Park that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-41, the Township reserves the right to prepare an alternate calculation for the purpose of computing the reserve for uncollected taxes.

Attest: Virginia De Maria

Resolution#2011 – 67

A Resolution Authorizing Self Examination of CY 2011 Budget

Whereas, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-78b has authorized the Local Finance Board to adopt rules that permit municipalities in sound fiscal condition to assume the responsibility, normally granted to the director of the division of Local Government Services, of conducting the annual budget examination; and

Whereas, N.J.A.C. 5:30-7 was adopted by the Local Finance Board of February 11, 1997; and

Whereas, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.2 through 7.5, the Township of Rochelle Park has been declared eligible to participate in the program by the Division of Local Government Services, and the Chief Financial officer has determined that the local government meets the necessary conditions to participate in the program for the 2011 budget year.

Now, therefore be it resolved by the governing body of the Township of Rochelle Park that in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:30-7.6a & 7.6b and based upon the Chief financial Officer's certification, the governing body has found the budget has met the following requirements:

1. That with reference to the following items, the amount have been calculated pursuant to law and appropriated as such in the budget:
 - a. Payment of interest and debt redemption charges
 - b. Deferred charges and statutory expenditures
 - c. Cash deficit of preceding year
 - d. Reserve for uncollected taxes
 - e. Other reserves and non-disbursement items
 - f. Any inclusions of amounts required for school purposes
2. That the provisions relating to limitation on increases of appropriations pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.2 and appropriations for exceptions to limits on appropriations found at N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.3 et seq., are fully met (complies with CAP law).
3. That the budget is in such form, arrangement, and content as required by the Local Budget Law and N.J.A.C. 5:30-4 and 5:30-5.
4. That pursuant to the Local Budget Law:
 - a. All estimates of revenue are reasonable, accurate and correctly stated,
 - b. Items of appropriation are properly set forth
 - c. In itemization, form , arrangement and content, the budget will permit the exercise of the comptroller function within the municipality
5. The budget and associated amendments have been introduced and publicly advertised in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Budget Law, except that failure to meet the deadlines of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 shall not prevent such certification.
6. That all other applicable statutory requirements have been fulfilled.

Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution will be forwarded to the Director of the division of Local Government Services upon adoption.

Attest: Virginia De Maria

Resolution #2011 – 68

Introduction 2011 Municipal Budget

Resolutions:

A motion was offered by Comm. Valenzuela and seconded by Comm. Davidson to adopt the resignation by dispatcher Adam Hall. Motion carried on a voice vote – all voting “Aye”.

The Consent Agenda was offered by Comm. Valenzuela seconded by Comm. Davidson and reads:

Resolution #2011 – 68A

A Resolution – Payment of Bills – March 2011

Be it resolved, by the Township Committee of the Township of Rochelle Park, Bergen County, that the following bills be turned over to the Treasurer, and if found to be correct, be paid provided there is sufficient funds in the various accounts. (see attached)

Attest: Virginia De Maria

Resolution #2011 - 69

A Resolution – Settlement of Tax Appeal – PSAF

Whereas, Real Property Tax Appeals have been filed as follows:

Property Owner:	PSAF Development Partners
Address:	165 Route 17 North
Lot:	2
Block:	34
Docket Nos:	006137-2009

and

Whereas, this property is owned by PSAF Development Partners.; and

Whereas, this matter has been reviewed, in detail, by the Tax Assessor and Township Attorney and a settlement has been recommended; and

Whereas, the 2009 assessment of the subject property is as follows:

Original Assessment

Land:	\$1,020,600.00
Improvements:	<u>4,629,200.00</u>
Total:	\$5,650,000.00

and

Whereas, in accordance with the recommendation of the Tax Assessor and Tax Appraisal expert, the following settlement has been recommended:

2009
Requested Tax
<u>Court Judgment</u>

Land:	\$1,020,600.00
Improvements:	<u>3,733,300.00</u>
Total:	\$4,753,900.00

Whereas, the Township Committee has now authorized the acceptance of this proposed settlement.

Now therefore be it resolved by the Township Committee of the Township of Rochelle Park, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The settlement of the Real Property Tax Appeal described in this Resolution be and is hereby authorized
2. The terms of the settlement shall be as set forth within this Resolution and the Township Attorney is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Stipulation of Settlement on behalf of the Municipality.
3. Any interest on refunds will be waived provided that the refund is paid within sixty (60) days of receipt of a final judgment. All refunds shall be made payable to “CARLET, GARRISON, KLEIN & ZARETSKY, LLP, Trustee” and shall be sent to the law offices of:

Carlet, Garrison, Klein & Zawretsky
1135 Clifton Avenue
Suite 104
Clifton, New Jersey 07013

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on March 16, 2011 cont.

Now, therefore, be it further resolved, that the Township Clerk be and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward certified copies of the within Resolution to the Office of the Tax Assessor, the Office of the Township Attorney and the Law Firm of Carlet, Garrison, Klein & Zaretsky, LLP, 1135 Clifton Avenue, Suite 104, Clifton, New Jersey 07013.

Attest: Virginia De Maria

Resolution #2011 – 70

A Resolution – Emergency to the Temporary Budget #1

Whereas an emergency condition has arisen with respect to VARIOUS LINE ITEMS (see attached) and no adequate provisions have been make in the 2011 temporary budget for the purpose above mentioned, and

Whereas, the total emergency temporary resolution adopted in the year 2011 pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 (Chapter 96, O.L. 1951 as amended) including this resolution total \$6,527,619.00.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Township Committee of the Township of Rochelle Park (not less than two thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-20,

See Attachments

The Clerk is authorized and directed to send certified copies of this resolution to the Division of Government Services.

Attest: Virginia De Maria

Resolution #2011 – 71

A Resolution – Approving Transfers within the 2010 Budget Appropriations

Whereas, there are certain appropriations which unexpended balances and certain accounts on which commitments to be entered into which possibly exceed the amount of the original 2011 appropriations; and

Whereas, under Title 40A:4-58 Revised Statutes of New Jersey permission is given to transfer from one budget account into another during the last two months of the fiscal year.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Finance Officer, Roy Riggitano of the Township of Rochelle Park be and is hereby authorized and directed to transfer as follows:

		<u>Inside CAP</u>	
26-2902	FROM:	Streets & Roads O/E	\$ 750.00
20-1001	FROM:	General Admin S/W	<u>5,000.00</u>
		Total	\$ 5,750.00
		<u>Outside CAP</u>	
28-3702	TO:	Recreation	\$ 750.00
25-2401	TO	Police S/W	<u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
		Total	\$ 5,750.00

Attest: Virginia De Maria

Resolution #2011 – 72

A Resolution – Settlement of Tax Appeal – 120 Passaic Street

Whereas, a tax court judgment has been received for the years 2008 and 2009 for Blocks 91 Lot 1 and Block 92 Lot 2, Block 93 Lot 1, known as 96 west Passaic Street and 120 West Passaic Street and;

Whereas, these tax court judgments require checks to be issued to “The Irwin Law Firm, P.A., 80 Main Street, Suite 410, West Orange, NJ 07052 and;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the following checks be issued to the above as follows:

Block	Lot	2009	2008	Total
92	1	\$1,504	\$37,358.65	\$38,862.65
92	2	\$5,749.78	\$9,561.69	\$15,311.47
93	1	\$11,204.46	\$19,727.54	<u>\$30,932.00</u>
				\$85,106.12

Attest: Virginia De Maria

Resolution #2011 – 73

A Resolution – Calling on the State Legislature and the Governor To Exempt the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes for the 2% CAP

Whereas, on July 13, 2010, Governor Christie signed into law P.L. 2010, c. 44, which reduced the cap on the property tax levy from 4% to 2% and limited the number of exemptions; and

Whereas, when the property tax levy was reduced, the exemption for the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes was removed; and

Whereas, in addition to collecting property taxes for its own operations, the municipality also serves as the collection agent for the county, school districts, fire districts and other special local entities; and

Whereas, the municipality must provide those entities with the full amount they deem necessary for their operations, regardless of the actual collection rate; and

Whereas, due to myriad factors beyond local control, the actual collection rate never equals the total local levy, especially during an economic downturn, when unemployment soars and property values plummet, causing an increase in tax appeals, which the municipality must defend and which subject the municipal budget to further losses, when successful; and

Whereas, to account for the shortfall and potential losses, State law requires the municipality to budget an appropriation in a line item known as the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes, which is generally determined through a formula driven calculation in which the variables change year to year; and

Whereas, without a levy cap exemption, municipalities will be forced to further cut their own operations, in order to meet the 2% tax levy cap to provide the county, school districts, fire districts and other special local entities the full amount they deem necessary for their operations; and

Whereas, those other local entities, which do not have to budget for collection rate short-falls or the impact of declining property values, have been granted levy cap exceptions to address factors beyond their control; and

Whereas, Assemblymen McKeon and Burzichelli has recently introduced A-3603, which excludes increases in appropriations to the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes in excess of two percent, from calculations of the municipal adjusted tax levy;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Township Committee of the Township of Rochelle Park hereby urge the swift passage and signing of A-3603;

Be it further resolved, that consideration also be given to providing a levy cap exception to account for the impact of tax appeals on local operations; and

Be it further resolved, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to New Jersey Governor Christopher Christie, to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, to Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, to our State Senator, to our two Representatives in the General Assembly, and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Attest: Virginia De Maria

Resolution #2011 –74

A Resolution – Rescinding Resolution #2011-67 Authorizing Self Examination of CY 2011 Budget

Be it resolved by the Township Committee of the Township of Rochelle Park, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that Resolution #2011 entitled “A Resolution – Rescinding Resolution #2011-67 Authorizing Self Examination of CY 2011 Budget adopted on March 9, 2011 at the Work Session held at 151 West Passaic Street is hereby rescinded.

Attest: Virginia De Maria

Resolution #2011 – 79

A Resolution – Authorizing Release of Closed Session Minutes – March 9, 2011

Whereas, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 et seq.) certain issues may be discussed by the Township Committee in a session which excludes the public; and

Whereas, the aforementioned law requires that the minutes of said closed sessions be released as soon as practicable after the meeting and so long as the release of the minutes will not be adverse to the interests of the public and/or the Township; and

Whereas, pursuant to statute, the purpose of this Resolution is to disclose the information which was discussed in closed session on March 9, 2011 to the extent that said information can be disclosed without adversely affecting the Township or the public interest.

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on March 16, 2011 cont.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Township Committee of the Township of Rochelle Park, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey that the attached closed session minutes may be released to the public in accordance with the requirements of New Jersey State Law; and

Be it further resolved, that any minutes which have not been released pursuant to this Resolution shall be reviewed periodically by the Township Attorney and further recommendation shall be made for the release of additional minutes as the release of same is deemed to be proper.

Attest: Virginia De Maria

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES – March 9, 2011

A motion was made for the Township Committee to go into closed or executive session to discuss matters of personnel, litigation and negotiations. The following represents the minutes of that closed session to the extent that those minutes may be released at this time:

1. DPW Superintendent – The Township Committee discusses the appointment of the new DPW Superintendent as well as any salary adjustments which have to be made.
2. Litigation Update – The Township Attorney provided updates regarding all pending litigation.
3. DPW Garage – As a result of significant issues which are still outstanding, the Township Attorney was asked to review the entire matter and determine legal options in connection with this project against the contractor.
4. 151 West Passaic Street – The Township Administrator provided the Township Committee with an update regarding the status of rental payments for the second floor of the Municipal Complex.

Attest: Virginia De Maria

Resolution #2011-80

A Resolution – Authorizing Convention Expenses

Conventions:

The Township shall cover expenses in 2011 related to in-state conventions or conferences including:

- Registration fees
- Two nights hotel at up to \$150 per night
- Tolls
- Mileage at ½ the standard IRS rate

No meals, alcohol or entertainment expenses shall be reimbursed.

Eligible personnel includes Township Committee members and any full-time employees who need to fulfill CEU requirements and receive prior approval from the Township Administrator.

Attest: Virginia De Maria

A motion was offered by Comm. Valenzuela and seconded by Comm. Kovalcik to adopt the Consent Agenda. Motion carried on a roll call vote – all present voting “Aye”.

The following resolution was offered by Comm. Davidson and seconded by Comm. Valenzuela and reads:

Resolution #2011 – 75

A Resolution Appointing James Schmunk DPW Superintendent

Whereas, the Township of Rochelle Park has withdrawn from an agreement with the Borough of Paramus

Whereas, as a result of the foregoing action, it has become necessary to appoint a Department of Public Works Superintendent in accordance with the requirements of State law; and

Whereas, James Schmunk has served in the capacity as laborer, and thereafter, lead worker for the Department of Public Works for several years; and

Whereas, recently, James Schmunk has secured all necessary certifications which will enable him to serve in the capacity of Superintendent of the Department of Public Works; and

Whereas, during the years of James Schmunk’s employment with the Township, he has demonstrated that he is a diligent, hardworking individual who possesses the character and qualities necessary to perform in the aforesaid position; and

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on March 16, 2011 cont.

Whereas, James Schmunk has, in fact, performed the duties and obligations of Superintendent for several months on an acting basis;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Township Committee of the Township of Rochelle Park, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. James Schmunk be and is hereby appointed Superintendent of the Department of Public Works.
2. This appointment shall be effective as of March 15th, 2011.
3. The salary for this position shall be \$15,000 per year which shall be for all services rendered by this management level employee.
4. James Schmunk shall also receive all other benefits to which other employees are entitled within the Municipality.
5. The obligations of the aforesaid position shall be as set forth in the personnel manual, Township Ordinance and applicable State law.

Now therefore be it further resolved that the Township Clerk be and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward certified copies of the within Resolution to the James Schmunk, the Chief Financial Officer for the Township of Rochelle Park and the Personnel Department.

Attest: Virginia De Maria

A motion was offered by Comm. Davidson and seconded by Comm. Valenzuela to adopt the above resolution. Motion carried on a roll call vote – all voting “Aye”.

The following resolution was offered by Comm. Davidson and seconded by Comm. Valenzuela and reads:

Resolution #2011 – 78

A Resolution – Authorizing the Hiring of a Full-Time Police Dispatcher – Michael LaFalce

Whereas, the Township of Rochelle Park hires civilian police dispatchers to work within the Police Department; and

Whereas, pursuant to a prior Resolution, the Township Committee determined that civilian police dispatchers will now be paid pursuant to the established salary guide which will include salary steps providing for annual increases; and

Whereas, the Township Committee has agreed with the recommendations made by the Chief of Police with regard to the individual to be rehired.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Township Committee of the Township of Rochelle Park, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey that the following individual shall be hired as a full-time civilian Police Dispatcher for the Township of Rochelle Park:

Michael LaFalce
508 Oak Street
Ridgefield, N.J. 07657
Starting Salary: \$29,422.00 per year

Be it further resolved, that the civilian Police Dispatcher shall be paid pursuant to the Salary Ordinance of the Township of Rochelle Park; and

Be it further resolved, that employment for this individual shall commence as of March 28, 2011; and

Be it further resolved, that the Township Clerk be and she is hereby authorized to forward a certified copy of the within Resolution to the Township Administrator, the Rochelle Park Chief of Police, Michael LaFalce and the Township Attorney.

Attest: Virginia De Maria

A motion was offered by Comm. Davidson and seconded by Comm. Valenzuela to adopt the above resolution. Motion carried on a roll call vote – all voting “Aye”.

The following resolution was offered by Comm. Valenzuela and seconded by Comm. Kovalcik and reads:

Resolution #2011 – 76

A Resolution – Hearing & Adoption Ord. #1028-11 – Bond Ordinance - \$150,000

Be it resolved, by the Township Committee of the Township of Rochelle Park, Bergen County, New Jersey, that an ordinance entitled “**BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE RESURFACING OF HIGH STREET IN, BY AND FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCHELLE PARK, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$150,000 TO PAY THE COST THEREOF, TO APPROPRIATE A STATE GRANT, TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND**”

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on March 16, 2011 cont.

ANTICIPATION NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS” be and it is hereby passed upon second and final reading and that the Municipal Clerk be and she is hereby authorized and directed to advertise the same according to law.

Attest: Virginia De Maria

A motion was offered by Comm. Valenzuela and seconded by Comm. Kovalcik to open the hearing to the public. Motion carried on a voice vote – all present voting “Aye”.

No comments from the public

A motion was offered by Comm. Valenzuela and seconded by Mayor Scarpa to close the hearing to the public. Motion carried on a voice vote – all present voting “Aye”.

A motion was offered by Comm. Valenzuela and seconded by Comm. Kovalcik to adopt the above resolution. Motion carried on a roll call vote – all present voting “Aye”.

The following resolution was offered by Comm. Davidson and seconded by Comm. Ouellette and reads:

Resolution#2011 – 77

A Resolution – Hearing & Adoption Ord. #1029-11 – Amending Fee Schedule – Building Department

Be it resolved, by the Township Committee of the Township of Rochelle Park, Bergen County, New Jersey, that an ordinance entitled “**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 80 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ROCHELLE PARK TO AMEND CERTAIN FEES**” be and it is hereby passed upon second and final reading and that the Municipal Clerk be and she is hereby authorized and directed to advertise the same according to law.

Attest: Virginia De Maria

A motion was offered by Comm. Davidson and seconded by Comm. Valenzuela to open the hearing to the public. Motion carried on a voice vote – all present voting “Aye”.

No comments from the public

A motion was offered by Comm. Kovalcik and seconded by Mayor Scarpa to close the hearing to the public. Motion carried on a voice vote – all present voting “Aye”.

A motion was offered by Comm. Davidson and seconded by Comm. Ouellette to adopt the above resolution. Motion carried on a roll call vote – all present voting “Aye”.

Committee’s/Administrator’s/Attorney’s Reports

Comm. Kovalcik – Ambulance Corp. February Report – 65 Calls - Kovalcik explained that currently the administrative officers are completing an on-line class regarding entering information onto EMS charts electronically.

Library February Report - Circulated - 1255 items, Loaned – 307, Borrowed – 1,103, New Cards Issued - 5, Computer Usage - 204.

Kovalcik advised that the Municipal Court continues to be busy, with two court sessions a month. Court Administrator Lynda Lasini reminded residents that there is no overnight parking in Rochelle Park and to remember to remove all snow from the top of vehicles before driving. She advised of a recent state mandated security meeting, reviewing safety measures. Kovalcik congratulated Jim Schmunk on his promotion and Michael LaFalce on his rehire.

Comm. Valenzuela – Reported on the ongoing Rt. 17 bottleneck project. He hopes with the new county administration that Rochelle Park’s needs will be taken into consideration. He will continue to work with the county and state to minimize the impact to the Township.

Valenzuela reported on his and Committeewoman Ouellette’s attendance at a Board of Fire Officers meeting. Ms. Ouellette is being brought up to speed on the workings of the volunteer fire department. Valenzuela thanked the Fire Department for their continued hard work.

Comm. Valenzuela addressed the recent potential flooding issues within the Township. He has been contacted by neighboring municipality Lodi regarding the Marsellus Street

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on March 16, 2011 cont.

Bridge. It seems that debris collectors have been placed under this bridge hindering water flow during heavy rains. It is causing major flooding to municipalities north of this bridge. He has pledged his assistance to rectify this problem hoping to alleviate flooding problems within the Township as well. Valenzuela informed the residents that the Township had been approved for a piece of World Trade Center steel. He advised that currently the committee members were, Mayor Scarpa, Comm. Valenzuela, Teresa Cravello, BOE, Al Carroll, Fire Chief, Roland Jacobsen, Ambulance Corp., Father Norbert Sacred Heart Church, a member of the American Legion, Mr. Cravello. A meeting is scheduled for March 26th at 10:00 AM.

Valenzuela congratulated Jim Schmunk on his promotion and thanked the DPW for their hard work.

Comm. Ouellette – No report at this time

Comm. Davidson –

DPW March Report - Along with the many tasks the DPW completes on a daily basis, I have highlighted a few below:

1. Took delivery of the new sewer truck, and all DPW employees have been trained by an OSHA approved trainer.
2. The sewer truck has already been used to flush approximately ½ mile of sewer line.
3. Due to the flooding in town on Monday, March 7, 2011, the DPW needed to man the pump station due to storm water infiltrating the sanitary sewer system.
4. Due to the additional flooding in town on Friday, March 11, 2011, the DPW had to man the pump station once again as we were inundated with storm water
5. After all the flood water receded, the members of the DPW swept all the town streets that were flooded and were reopened by 8:00 PM that evening.

Davidson thanked OEM Coordinator Pete Donatello and Deputy Coordinator Sal Antista for their assistance during the most recent rain storm. Davidson attended a meeting on Thursday evening to discuss the path of the storm and the ramifications to the Township. Davidson also thanked the Police Department as well. Davidson agreed with Comm. Valenzuela regarding reparation of the Lodi bridge, hopefully bringing some relief to the residents of the township.

Mayor Scarpa – Recognized the first responders of the Township, citing the important and fantastic work they do. He then advised that he attended Midland School's Read Across America Day and read to the young students. Scarpa spoke regarding the Rt. 17 bottleneck project and advised that he had written a letter to Senator Weinberg, asking for her assistance contacting the Department of Transportation and scheduling a meeting to discuss the impact on Rochelle park. Hopefully this meeting will take place shortly. Scarpa will be attending a Community Development meeting in Hackensack on March 24th, hopefully receiving money for a senior grant. He will be attending the DARE graduation on March 25th. He reported on a recent Recreation meeting, they are making plans for the Easter Egg Hunt and Annual Fishing Derby. He congratulated Jim Schmunk on his promotion to Superintendent and congratulated the honored officers. He wished everyone a happy and safe St. Patrick's Day.

Administrator De Maria – Advised that she had held a safety/staff meeting with the employees today. She thanked Jim and the DPW for their assistance during the recent storm. She wished her mother a happy 101st birthday.

A motion was offered by Comm. Valenzuela and seconded by Comm. Kovalcik to open the meeting to the public. Motion carried on a voice vote – all voting "Aye".

Walter Johnson – 54 Rochelle Avenue – Advised that during the recent rain storm, water from the Saddle River was just touching the bottom of the Essex Street bridge. Possibly removal of a debris collector would be warranted at this location as well. Comm. Valenzuela will add this to his list of concerns.

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Joseph Tornello – 235 W. Passaic Street – Advised the Township Committee that the traffic light by Shoprite on W. Passaic Street is only 12 seconds long and not long enough for the disabled or seniors to cross the street. Capt. Flannelly advised that he would look into this situation.

A motion was offered by Comm. Valenzuela and seconded by Mayor Scarpa to close the meeting to the public. Motion carried on a voice vote – all voting “Aye”.

A motion was offered by Comm. Valenzuela and seconded by Comm. Kovalcik to open the closed session. Motion carried on a voice vote – all voting “Aye”.

Closed Session:

Potential Litigation – Police

A motion was offered by Comm. Valenzuela and seconded by Comm. Kovalcik to close the closed session. Motion carried on a voice vote – all voting “Aye”.

A motion was offered by Comm. Davidson and seconded by Comm. Valenzuela to open the meeting. Motion carried on a voice vote – all voting “Aye”.

A motion was offered by Comm. Kovalcik and seconded by Comm. Valenzuela to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried on a voice vote – all voting “Aye”.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia De Maria
Municipal Clerk