

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Council Chambers**  
**Monday, May 8, 2017**  
**8:00pm**

**CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER**

Council President Bromberg called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm in the Council Chambers located at 406 Rivervale Road, River Vale, New Jersey 07675.

**SALUTE TO FLAG**

Council President Bromberg asked all in attendance to rise and join him in a Salute to the Flag.

**SUNSHINE LAW STATEMENT**

Council President Bromberg read the Sunshine Statement into the record, as follows:

*“In accordance with the provisions set forth in the Open Public Meetings Law, notification of this meeting has been sent to all officially appointed Township newspapers and notice is posted at the Municipal Office.”*

**ROLL CALL**

Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Councilman Criscuolo, and Council President Bromberg were present. Councilwoman Sieg was absent

**Also present:** Mayor Glen Jasionowski, Business Administrator/CFO Gennaro Rotella, Township Attorney Silvana Raso, Lisa Neiman, Township Engineer’s office and Township Clerk Karen Campanelli.

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**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Mayor Jasionowski is reserving his comments till after this evening’s special presentation. The Mayor expressed how much he enjoys bringing the youth of the community to Town Hall to be recognized for an outstanding achievement. The Mayor explained that they are very fortunate to have two tremendous team present this evening; a 4<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team and 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team. Mayor Jasionowski next asked the coaches of the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys team to come forward and talk about the accomplishments of the team.

Coach Jeff Shiffman explained that he and Coach Wolf are very proud of the boys. He’s watched this team come together and make championship runs every year consistently. Coach Wolf added that he can’t wait to see how the boys do in High School.

Mayor Jasionowski distributed the certificates to the team.

**“2017 BTBL Army Division Basketball Champions”**

**Thomas Dean, Daniel Haag, Willy Higgins, William Kim, Austin Koolery, Sean Lyons, Steven Marada, Jared Shiffman, Aiden Ward, Jake Wolf**

**Coach:** Jeff Shiffman    **Assistant Coach:** Eric Wolf

Mayor Jasionowski next invited the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls team coaches to comment on the teams’ accomplishment.

Coach Pelisson commented that this a great team that not only won the championship this year they also won last year and went undefeated this year. He added that this team has been together since kindergarten and they knew then that this team was going to be something special. Coach Pelisson is looking forward to coaching the girls in the future and he also thanked the parents for supporting him and Coach Val. Coach Mattessich added that she can’t wait to see the girls at PV and hopes they’ll stay together.

Mayor Jasionowski distributed the certificates to the team.

**“2017 NWPB Girls Basketball League Champions”**

**Jordyn Ban, Ava Burke, Clarissa Field, Maddie Gibbs, Ada Kesselman, Julia Mattessich, Marina Moscatello, Triyanna Nilaweera, Courtney Pelisson, Alessandra Sanelli, Jessica Supple, Shoshanna Weiss**

**Coach:** Andy Pelisson    **Assistant Coach:** Val Mattessich

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**Council President Bromberg called for a brief recess at 8:20pm**

**ROLL CALL**

Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Councilman Criscuolo and Council President Bromberg were present.

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**Mayor’s Comments**

Mayor Jasionowski reported that he attended the Reorganization and first meeting of the Joint Planning Board. The Board had 100% participation for their first meeting and they will keep the old Planning Board schedule. The Mayor reported that Mr. Lippert was elected Chairman, Mr. Adamo was elected Vice-Chair and Mr. Fortsch was elected Secretary.

The Mayor next gave an update on the complaints they received at the previous meeting regarding Edgewood Country Club. He first stated that sometime during the week of April 10<sup>th</sup> Edgewood Country Club moved a significant amount of soil to an area of their property adjacent to Green and Patriot Lane. Shortly thereafter the residents brought their concerns to the Mayor’s attention; he then instructed the Township Officials as well as reaching out the County to make certain that everyone that was looking at the property was working in coordination with one another. Between the dates of April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> the Bergen County Health department was at the property, both the Township Engineer and Code Official have been at the property daily, all work has been stopped and they have been instructed that they don’t have a permit to move soil. The Mayor continued that on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup> Edgewood applied for a soil moving permit and on April 21<sup>st</sup> they informed the Town that their tree company would be removing any dead wood and underbrush along the property that was deemed unsightly. On April 25<sup>th</sup> the tree company continued removing additional dead wood and underbrush. On the 26<sup>th</sup> Mike Sartori was at the property to discuss what their goals were and before any permits were issued to make certain the site was not going to be used as anything other than a clear field. Mayor Jasionowski further explained that on April 27<sup>th</sup> per this request the permit was amended and reviewed by the Township Engineer. On Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> both Mike Sartori and Chris Statile spoke to the tree company and the company that would be moving the soil and advised them as to what they could and could not do. Next, on April 29<sup>th</sup> they started to remove the berm with the goal being to flatten the soil and plant grass seed.

Mayor Jasionowski added that the final resolution from Edgewood’s standpoint is that all the dirt will be leveled out and grass seed will be planted. The Mayor noted that the day after the last Council meeting the Township issued Edgewood a summons. He also stated that the County is handling their part and from what he’s heard the County has had no issues.

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**Councilwoman Sieg arrived at 8:23pm**

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**Council Comments**

Councilman Ben-Yishay had no comments this evening.

Councilman Donovan commented how much he always enjoys seeing the chambers full with young people. He added that he’s had the opportunity coach soccer for the same age group as the girl’s team. Councilman Donovan is amazed to see how much they’ve grown and how successful they continue to be. Councilman Donovan feels this is a testament to the parents and the volunteers who coach them. He’s very proud of their accomplishment.

Councilwoman Sieg apologized for being late and was sorry she missed both the girls and the boys’ basketball team recognition.

Councilman Criscuolo had no comments this evening.

Council President Bromberg commented how nice it was to see our youth progressing. Council President Bromberg next reported that he attended the Reorganization meeting of the Joint Planning Board. He was very pleased to see people step and that the Mayor has put together a great Board. Council President Bromberg is also looking forward to the Board being more efficient and doing a great job with regard to any new development or any zoning issues.

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**Business Administrator's Report**

Mr. Rotella reported that today he received an email from safewise.com who release a report each year of the safest cities in New Jersey. He was pleased to report that River Vale was ranked #2 in the State; he will forward the email. He also reported that Washington Township in Morris County was # 1 and Hillsdale was #6.

He also reported that he received an email from Ann McCarthy who informed him of a website called Journeythroughnewjersey.com which is about sites of interested in New Jersey. On the site River Vale is listed for the Enterprise; he added that this too is a great accomplishment.

**Engineer's Report**

Ms. Neiman first reported that the 2017 Road Program is out to bid with a receipt date of May 18<sup>th</sup> with a potential award date at the May 22<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting. She added that they are still waiting to hear about NJDOT funding for Poplar Road and they will also be performing some minor culvert repairs as part of this year's Road Program. Ms. Neiman next reported that the updating of the sewer maps is continuing and they are waiting on the Community Development Block Grants. Mr. Rotella added that this Wednesday he has a CDBC meeting for ADA bathroom updates for the Ambulance Corps.

Council President Bromberg commented on the Road Improvement Program and that Poplar Road is at the top of the list; adding that the paving of Poplar Road is tied to a grant. Ms. Neiman explained that they have submitted a grant application to the NJDOT for Poplar Road several times; either way it is being paved as part of the Township Road Program or supplemented with the grant funds if awarded. The Mayor clarified that the list of roads changes every Spring. Council President Bromberg noted that Poplar Road accounts for a third of the Road Program budget.

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**1<sup>st</sup> Hearing of the Public**

Motion by Councilwoman Sieg; second by Councilman Donovan to open the meeting to the public.

Robert Relay—211 Patriot Lane—Mr. Relay appreciates the opportunity to speak and stated that their purpose is to voice their concerns regarding the activities being conducted by the management of the Edgewood Country club; more specifically the northeast corner adjacent to Patriot Lane. Mr. Relay also provided the Mayor and Council with photos of the site and he also briefly recapped the communications they have had with the Club and the County. On April 17<sup>th</sup> Mr. Relay visited Town hall and spoke to Mr. Rotella about the situation and how a tractor was putting large mounds of material at the site, he also sent information to Lisa Hoiem who informed him that there was no permit on file. Also, on the 17<sup>th</sup> a group of residents attended the Town meeting and expressed their concerns stating that the Country Club had a total disregard for the community and the situation was causing health issues for a nearby resident. He continued that on April 20<sup>th</sup> the Mayor indicated that the Town officials had visited the site and shut them down; the Club had to either remove the soil or apply for a permit and a summons was issued. Mr. Relay commented that they appreciated their actions; and they further implied to the Mayor that they were appalled by the Club's breach of any trust in creating a garbage dump in their back yards. Mr. Relay also stated that they believe the site could be a health issue and environmental hazard and demanded that it be cleaned up at once.

Mr. Relay also reported that on April 24<sup>th</sup> he sent an email and photos of the site to Lisa Hoiem and on April 28<sup>th</sup> and email was sent to both the Mayor and Mr. Rotella requesting a cleanup time table. One April 30<sup>th</sup> a formal letter was sent to the Mayor and Mr. Rotella describing the site and reiterating their concerns and need for a cleanup. Mr. Relay reported in their letter that a tractor has been raising the mounds of dirt to the ground and the material has not been removed. Mr. Relay feels that flattening out the waste is not

the solution and that the residents of their community demand that the waste be removed and taken to the original area it was taken from. He also stated that the material contains leaves, plugs and industrial waste.

Mr. Relay reported that he received a letter from Ms. Raso indicating that the Township is doing everything they can within their legal means to resolve this matter. He would like to know where they are at now, what the Town has agreed to with the Club and what they can and can't do with the space. Mr. Relay stated that they have spoken with the Bergen County Health and Environmental Services who stated that they are very concerned that there are leaves underneath the dirt and it needs to be removed.

Mayor Jasionowski commented that they have been told the opposite from the Bergen County Board of Health and that there are no issues. The Mayor explained that they are limited as to what they can do and there are things the Club is permitted to do legally that the resident will not like and we cannot act upon. He added that their experts have been at the site and reported that there is no toxic waste; the County has also said there is no toxic waste. The Mayor stated that all their experts independent of the Township have advised that there is nothing wrong with leveling the soil and planting grass. He further stated he has done everything legally he can as Mayor to the Edgewood County Club. Ms. Raso confirmed they have done everything that they are legally permitted to do in order to enforce the ordinances of the Township.

Thomas Slattery—575 Forest Drive—Mr. Slattery also attended and spoke at the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. His reason for being here it to keep River Vale safe. He also does not want to see River Vale become another Shamrock Creek in Paramus. Mr. Slattery wants assurance that the soil is clean. He also referenced the Township's storm water ordinances and expressed his concerns that there could be runoff into our streams.

Mr. Slattery is also not confident that the Town has done enough to make absolute assurances of what is in the soil and they would like to see the results of the tests.

Michael Jafar—574 Green Lane—Mr. Jafar is concerned about the safety of off gassing and the safety of the fertilizers being composted underneath the dirt and debris. The grass clippings are being composted and with the heat it causes off gassing and an odor in the neighborhood. He is also concerned about the safety of his kids. Mr. Jafar moved to River Vale because of the environment it would provide to his children, safety and the schools. Mr. Jafar also reported that this issues has also brought insects to the neighborhood including horse flies and mosquitoes.

Carla Murphy—Rolling Hill Drive—Ms. Murphy commented on the deer population and that the deer have destroyed her entire yard. She is also concerned about ticks and Lyme disease.

Mayor Jasionowski commented that the deer issues has been a top priority for the Town. He explained that they had a meeting with Fish, Game & Wildlife to discuss various recommendations that the Town can do with regard to the deer problem. The Mayor also cited the different options discussed. He also noted that they have a work session tonight regarding deer management. Mayor Jasionowski is also working with the Pascack Valley Mayor's Association as to what the other Towns are doing and that they do recognize it as a problem that has gotten exponentially worse. The Mayor assured that they will do something about the deer; what that answer is will be a decision based on what they feel is best for the community.

Council President Bromberg clarified that they are in the process of coming up with the best solution for not only River Vale but the Pascack Valley because it really has to be coordinated. He added that this is a very complex issues that brings out very strong emotions from both sides. Council President Bromberg invited Ms. Murphy to stay until this evenings public Work Session.

Todd Zorn—Edgewood Country Club—Mr. Zorn relayed some facts regarding the yard noting that it has been there since 2000. Mr. Zorn stated that there are no grass clipping; they have a machine that cuts the grass and puts it back on the golf course. He also stated that there is no other material being put into the dirt. Mr. Zorn reported that they flattened the berms and they are working with Town.

There being no further questions or comments motion by Councilman Criscuolo; seconded by Councilwoman Sieg to close the meeting to the public.

Mayor Jasionowski wanted to make it clear that he cares very much for the kids and residents of the Township. The Mayor explained that he really takes it to heart whether veiled or unveiled when people accuse him of not doing the right thing. Mayor Jasionowski stressed that he cannot legally make Edgewood test the soil and the only people that can is the County. He further explained that the County doesn't have a problem therefor he is uncertain as to what more he can do.

Ms. Raso reported that the Township has done everything that it could do and it is allowed to do in order to investigate the site. The County and all of their various agencies have been on site, have looked into the issue, they have done whatever they felt was appropriate and so far no action has been taken by the County.

Councilman Donovan questioned whether the County has put anything in writing. Ms. Raso responded they have not. The Mayor felt this was a very good suggestion. He will put in a request because ultimately the County is the only agency with the legal authority to force them to test. Councilman Donovan also supports the Administration as far as the steps they've taken and he has no issue with what we've attempted to do thus far.

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**RESOLUTIONS**

Councilman Donovan commented on the resolution appointing the Firefighters noting that it is always great to see the junior members become full members. He wished them the best.

Motion by Councilman Donovan; seconded by Councilman Criscuolo to approve Resolutions #2017-127 through 2017-132 as a Consent Agenda as follows:

**Resolution #2017-127**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING MINUTES APRIL 17, 2017 REGULAR MEETING**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the minutes of the April 17, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Township Council are hereby approved.

**Resolution #2017-128**

**RESOLUTION**  
(Escrow Refund)

**WHEREAS**, the resident of 605 Blue Hill Road (Bl 102, Lt 8) had posted escrow for a pool demolition; and

**WHEREAS**, both the Township Engineer and Construction Code Official have inspected this project and deemed it complete and therefore the escrow may be released.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Escrow Deposit be released.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that the Treasurer is hereby directed to issue a municipal check as follows:

**Payable to:**

**“Frank Tercovich”**

**Mailing Address:**

605 Blue Hill Road  
River Vale, NJ 07675  
**\$ 67.50**

**Resolution #2017-129**

**REFUND**

(Pre K T-Ball)

**WHEREAS**, the following resident has requested a refund of the Pre K T-Ball registration fee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Treasurer has certified the availability of funds in the Recreation Account.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that said refund is approved and the Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue a municipal check payable as follows:

Jenna Fantauzzi  
604 Florence Road  
River Vale, NJ 07675

**\$ 35.00**

**Resolution #2017-130**

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE RIVER VALE VOLUNTEER FIRE  
DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Fire Officers are recommending the appointment of the following individuals as regular members of the River Vale Volunteer Fire Department:

- Michael P. Velthaus
- Christopher A. Picinic
- Keith Zorn

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Township Council of the Township of River hereby confirms the appointments of the above mentioned as regular members with the River Vale Volunteer Fire Department.

**Resolution #2017-131**

**REFUND**

(Camp Have Some Fun)

**WHEREAS**, the following resident has requested a refund of the Camp Have Some Fun registration fee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Treasurer has certified the availability of funds in the Recreation Account.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that said refund is approved and the Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue a municipal check payable as follows:

Jeremy Keppler  
561 Elizabeth Avenue  
River Vale, NJ 07675

**\$ 350.00**

**Resolution #2017-132**

**RESOLUTION  
REFUND TAX OVERPAYMENT**

**WHEREAS**, a tax overpayment has been received for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2017 and the property owner has requested a refund of said overpayment.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale, that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to issue municipal check as follows:

Block 1301.01, Lot C117A, Qual. C117A  
Mary E. Martin  
521 Piermont Avenue  
River Vale, NJ 07675  
**\$1,340.23**

**Payable to:**  
Mary E. Martin  
521 Piermont Avenue Apt. 117

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Councilman Criscuolo, Councilwoman Sieg and Council President Bromberg voted yes.

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**Ordinances for 1<sup>st</sup> Reading**

**Motion to Introduce:** Councilman Criscuolo

**Second:** Councilman Ben-Yishay

**ORDINANCE #325-2017**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, COUNTY OF BERGEN NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 21 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE ENTITLED, "HEALTH, BOARD OF," TO SET THE MINIMUM NUMBER OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS AND ALTER THE INITIAL TERMS OF APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH**

**WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 26-3-3** provides that a Municipality's Board of Health shall be composed of not less than five nor more than seven members; and

**WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 26:3-6** provides that the terms of not more than three members of a Municipality's Board of Health shall expire in any one year;

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that § 21-2(A) is amended as follows:

- A. Within the Division of Health Services, there shall be an Advisory Health Board, which shall be composed of no less than five and no more than seven members appointed by the Mayor. The members shall serve for staggered terms of four years from the date of their appointment, except that, at the time of their appointment, three shall be appointed for a term of one year, two for a term of two years, one for a term of three years and one for a term of four years. All members shall serve without compensation.

This Ordinance shall take effect following adoption and approval in a time and manner prescribed by law.

**Council Discussion:**

Council President Bromberg had various changes to the terms of the Board members. The Mayor and Township Attorney deemed that these changes were not deminimis and the Ordinance should therefore be tabled.

**Motion by Councilman Donovan seconded by Councilman Ben-Yishay to table Ordinance #325-2017.**

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Councilman Criscuolo, Councilwoman Sieg and Council President Bromberg voted yes.

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**Ordinances for 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading & Public Hearing**

**Motion to Adopt:** Councilman Donovan

**Second:** Councilman Criscuolo

Motion by Councilman Ben-Yishay; seconded by Councilman Donovan to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance #324-2017.

There being no questions or comments. Motion by Councilman Criscuolo; seconded by Councilman Donovan to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance #324-2017.

**ORDINANCE #324-2017**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RIVER VALE, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY AMENDING CHAPTER 105 ARTICLE III OF THE CODE ENTITLED "TOWNSHIP FEE SCHEDULE" SECTION B "RECREATION" CAMP FEES**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Council of the Township of River Vale that Chapter 105 Article III is amended as follows:

**§ 105-5. Fee Schedules.**

**B. Recreation:**

<b><u>Camp</u></b>	<b><u>Fee (per camper)</u></b>
<b>Camp Have Some Fun</b>	
Monday to Friday	\$350
Monday, Wednesday and Friday only	\$310
Tuesday and Thursday only	\$265
<b>Kindergarten Camp</b>	\$265
<b>Safety Town</b>	\$65

This Ordinance shall take effect following adoption and approval in a time and manner prescribed by law.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilman Ben-Yishay, Councilman Donovan, Councilman Criscuolo, Councilwoman Sieg and Council President Bromberg voted yes.

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing of the Public**

Motion by Councilman Criscuolo; second by Councilwoman Sieg to open the meeting to the public.

Tom Slattery -575 Forest Drive—Mr. Slattery commented that he finds it appalling that the Mayor and his Legal Counsel have done all that they can legally do. He added that he would like to see our representatives represent them and be proactive by going to the County and the State.

Mayor Jasionowski responded that Bergen County Hazmat has done a site visit and determined that there is no issue. The Mayor assured that they will be requesting the County’s findings in writing. The Mayor took an oath to uphold the law and despite Mr. Slattery being appalled the Mayor stressed that he swore to follow it.

Council President Bromberg understands their frustrations and that they are living with an issue that is a concern to them. Council President Bromberg assured that for the past month this issue has been consuming quite a bit of time. The Code Enforcement official has been at the site making sure all of our Ordinances are being followed, the Administrator has also been at the site on a near daily basis, the Attorney is looking into the issue and the Mayor has been answering emails on a constant basis since this was brought to their attention. Council President Bromberg added that the Administration and everyone on the dais is confident that the Township is doing everything it can regarding this issue.

Mayor Jasionowski offered that if the written report comes back and the Council and residents are unhappy he will attend a Freeholders meeting with the residents.

Robert Relay—211 Patriot Lane -Mr. Relay commented that the reason this started because there was a visual issue, a stench, mosquitos and health concerns. He added that the mounds are gone but the stench and the mosquitoes are still there. Mr. Relay also made note of the agency being spoken about is the Health



and Environmental Services of the County. Mr. Relay commented on meetings he had with Mr. Rotella stating that Mr. Rotella commented on the work being done at the clubhouse when shown pictures. Mr. Rotella strongly disagreed with Mr. Relay's remarks.

Mr. Relay next commented that he has been in touch with Bergen County Health and Environmental services and this agency felt that the Mayor and Council have been speaking with the agency the gives permission to move soil from one place to another. The Health and Environmental Services role is tell you if you can move soil because of what's in it.

Mr. Relay added that they are still talking to this and he doesn't want it to seem that it's over and he wants a good ending to this issue. He also knows they have done things and feels there is more vetting to do.

Ed Bella—202 Patriot Lane - Mr. Bella thanked the Mayor and Council for the immediate action they took after the last meeting. Mr. Bella explained that he is an Engineer in the Aerospace industry and from his experience if something is built up there must be a plan and then within a week torn down there must have been something wrong. He further explained that as an Engineer he wouldn't build something to then tear it down and he feels there was probably something wrong.

Dan Ames—532 Green Lane - Mr. Ames is here tonight because of the concerns about Edgewood. Mr. Ames has known the Mayor for quite some time and the kind person he is and that he would put his life on the line for this Town. Mr. Ames also stated he knows what kind of father the Mayor is and that he's a man of his word. Mr. Ames wants his neighbors to know the kind of person the Mayor is and that he's going to fight for them and do everything possible to help.

There being no further questions or comments from the public motion by Councilman Criscuolo; second by Councilman Donovan to close the meeting to the public.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Councilman Donovan; second by Councilman Criscuolo to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm.

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ATTEST:  
Karen Campanelli, Township Clerk

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Council President  
Mark Bromberg