

December 26, 2008
Hawthorne, New Jersey

A Special Meeting of the Municipal Council of the Borough of Hawthorne was held on the above date at 5:00 p.m., in the Auditorium of the Municipal Building, 445 Lafayette Avenue, Hawthorne, New Jersey. Present were Councilmembers Bertollo, Bennett, English, Matthews, Mele, and Wojtecki. Also present were Mayor Goldberg, Borough Administrator Maurer, Borough Attorney Pasquale, and Borough Clerk Witkowski. Councilman Sinning, Director of Finance Hewitt and Borough Engineer Boswell were not present.

FLAG SALUTE

Council President Bennett invited all present to join him in the flag salute.

STATEMENT

Council President Bennett stated that adequate notice of this meeting was given by the posting of the same on the Public Bulletin Board at the Municipal Building, on Tuesday, December 23, 2008 and by delivering such notices to the Hawthorne Press, The Herald News, The Record and The Gazette and all persons who have requested the mailing of such schedule, and a copy of said schedule has remained on file in the office of the Borough Clerk from and since December 17, 2008.

RESOLUTIONS

R-1 Authorize the Treasurer to transfer funds to purchase more salt.

Council President Bennett entertained a motion to approve Resolution R1, moved by Councilman Bertollo, seconded by Councilwoman English.

Council President asked for discussion, Councilman Wojtecki asked administration why the salt was not ordered earlier, was it a lack of funds? And why was the salt bin so low. Administrator Maurer explained that the capacity prior to the first storm of the month was at 90% in the dome. Since there is no door on the shed, if it rained, there would be a good chance it would wash into the brook nearby. The shed was as full as it would be on the off season. We were then hit with three storms and went from 450 tons to 40 tons. When questioned, we were at 80% on December 17th. Administrator Maurer explained that we started with 450 tons, after the first storm we were down to 420, about 80% capacity. In knowing two more storms were approaching, we transferred funds and purchased more salt. Between the last two storms, 170 tons more were used. We ordered salt and was delivered 200 tons today. After tonight, an additional 200 tons will be ordered bringing us back to 440 tons, or 90% capacity.

At the last meeting, the transfer approved used the balance of the funds budgeted. Councilman Matthews asked what was budgeted in 2007 as he spoke to Director Hewitt who stated that this year's budget was \$20,000. less than last year's expenditure. Councilman Bertollo said that last year \$25,000. was budgeted and we spent approximately \$40,000. Councilman Matthews said that last year we appropriated an additional \$25,000. above what was budgeted. Administrator Maurer explained that last summer the cost of salt increased, and if not, we would be spending more. Year 2007 budgeted amount was higher than the previous couple years, and at the end of 2007 salt was ordered to begin the 2008 storm season with full capacity. Councilman Wojtecki stated that the management of the salt situation is poor and that the orders should have been placed in a timelier manner.

Councilman Wojtecki reiterated how important is it to have a DPW Director in place to handle these types of situations. He has never received complaints as such with regard to the salting issues of these storms. He called the Mayor, who had received calls from four other councilmembers and in turn called the Administrator. Administrator Maurer explained that the usual protocol was followed, except the snow events were followed by ice events and a deep freeze. Councilman Wojtecki stated that the storms were mismanaged, and Councilman Matthews was concerned about an email he received and forwarded to administration on Van Winkle. Mayor Goldberg said that he too received some emails and replied that if the residents did not hear back from administration shortly to contact him again, and he will get a response. This is one of the reasons a candidate for the DPW Director's position is being interviewed this evening.

Councilman Bennett asked who oversaw operations while the Supervisor was out ill during these storms. Administrator Maurer said there were two alternating foreman taking charge. Mayor Goldberg explained which neither one was at a comfort level to make decisions using the salt costing the Borough money. Trucks were sent out. Councilman Wojtecki also received complaints regarding the speed the trucks were driving while plowing the snow. Administrator Maurer explained that some of the trucks are contracted to plow in the Borough and they are smaller and not able to move the snow the same as some of the larger trucks. The issue of the plow being lower to the ground is a concern of the council.

Councilman Matthews asked if there were Standard Operating Procedures in place for snow plowing. If the Superintendent is out, there needs to be a guide as to how to operate in each situation. Councilman Bertollo said that this has been ongoing for five years and in the past the candidates did not meet the council's standards. It should be asked of the new Director for a snow emergency plan to be developed and implemented. Councilman Bertollo also commented on the good job the DPW did in different locations. Administrator Maurer suggested that that next time snow plowing services are put out to bid,

that it is considered revising the specs to reflect the use of larger trucks in certain areas. Councilman Bertollo questioned the snow emergency ordinance, do we change to off street parking, alternate side of the street parking, etc. as after the streets are plowed, residents cleaning off their cars and sidewalks toss the snow back in to the streets. Councilman Bennett said that there is an ordinance prohibiting such situations, but they need to be seen doing such in order to enforce.

Councilman Bertollo said that \$34,000. total was spent in 2007, budgeted \$25,000, and transferred \$18,000. and only \$9,000. was used, and in 2006 the total was \$17,000.

Council President called the roll. On a roll call, all voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President opened the meeting to the public. He stated if anyone desires to be heard, please raise your hand to be recognized, come forward to the microphone and state your name and address for the record.

Being none, Council President Bennett entertained a motion to close the public portion, moved by Councilman Matthews, seconded by Councilwoman English. On a roll call, all voted yes

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 and Attorney General's Formal Opinion 29-1976, I move that the public be excluded from this portion of the meeting in order that the Council may discuss items of personnel. Items to be discussed in the Closed Session can be disclosed to the public when a course of action is determined, or a decision has been reached.

At 5:23 p.m., a motion was made by Council President Bennett to go into Closed Session in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act to discuss matters of personnel, moved by Councilman Matthews, seconded by Councilwoman English. On a roll call, all voted yes.

MOTION TO ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION

Council President Bennett entertained a motion to adjourn closed session at 6:30 p.m. to reconvene to the Special Public Meeting, moved by Councilwoman English, seconded by Councilman Bertollo. On a roll call, all voted yes.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Bennett entertained a motion to adjourn the Special Public Meeting at 6:24 p.m., moved by Councilman Bertollo, seconded by Councilwoman English. On a roll call, all voted yes.

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WILL BE ON **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2009**. THE WORKSESSION WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 P.M. AND THE REGULAR MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 8:00 P.M.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES REQUIRING AIDES SUCH AS: SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER, TELECOMMUNICATION, BRAILLE, TAPES OR LARGE PRINT, THE BOROUGH CLERK'S OFFICE SHOULD BE NOTIFIED TEN DAYS PRIOR TO ATTENDANCE AT A MEETING SO ACCOMMODATIONS MAY BE MADE.



Bruce Bennett
Council President

Susan Witkowski
Borough Clerk



**Borough of
Hawthorne**

VACATION DAY REQUEST

To: Administration

From: Christine Oravetz

Date: July 16, 2009

**Dates Requested: Monday, July 27, 2009 Tuesday, July 28,
2009 Wednesday, July 29, 2009 Thursday, July 30, 2009
Friday, July 31, 2009**

Departmental Approval

Christine Oravetz

Administration Approval

[Signature]



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