

**MINUTES - TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF BELVIDERE
WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
691 Water Street
JULY 21, 2014**

Mayor Stettler opened the regular meeting of the Belvidere Town Council with the Pledge of Allegiance and read the following notice in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act: In accordance with Chapter 231 of the Public Laws of 1975, notice of this meeting was given by way of notice filed with the Star Gazette and/or the Express-Times, filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office and posted in the Belvidere Town Hall, 691 Water Street, Belvidere NJ.

Roll Call:

Present - Mayor Stettler, Councilman Kennedy, Councilman Makatura, Councilwoman Miers, Councilwoman Napolitani, Councilman Viglianco

Absent - Councilman Sebold

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Kennedy, seconded by Councilwoman Miers and carried to adopt the June 30, 2014 special and executive meeting minutes of the Belvidere Town Council.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Miers, seconded by Councilman Makatura and carried to adopt the July 7, 2014 regular and executive meeting minutes of the Belvidere Town Council.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Napolitani, seconded by Councilman Makatura and carried to adopt the July 8, 2014 special and executive meeting minutes of the Belvidere Town Council.

Presentation:

Susan Lennon, Director of the Office on Aging and Disability Services appeared before Council to explain the reasoning and schedule for the closing of the Belvidere Nutrition Center at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Discussion ensued with Ms. Lennon and the Council. There were many senior citizens in attendance to voice their concerns and opposition to the closing of the Belvidere Nutrition Center.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Miers, seconded by Councilman Kennedy and carried to send a letter to the Warren County Freeholders expressing Council's concerns with the closure of the Belvidere Nutrition Center and requesting that they reconsider the closure until more facts can be gathered.

Public Comment:

Members of the audience commented on the following:

Harold Hess - there was no Chief of Police appointment for financial reasons

Anne Fleming - Chief of Police appointment

Debbie Furhmann - supports education requirement for Chief

Des Fitzgerald - appointment of last Sergeant and Chief

Howard Thompson - Chief appointment

Eileen Scott - inquired about the procedure for a Chief appointment moving forward

Debbie Furhmann - not appointing someone to the Chief position is against the majority of Council and not representative of the people

Jamie Tootle - military time should be considered for the education requirement in the Chief's ordinance

Rheva Smickle - police coverage is always available

Peter Butler - age and pension requirements should be considered when choosing a Chief

Committee Reports:

Councilman Makatura attended the Historic Commission meeting where they reviewed the courthouse annex project with Alex Lazorisak.

Councilwoman Napolitani reported on the activities of the DPW and reviewed a schedule of street repairs and milling. The parts to repair the sweeper will cost \$17,637. The Councilwoman suggested that the leaf machine be repaired and the sweeper scrapped. There was discussion of

sewer maintenance. John Snyder advised that Council will need to budget for camera and cleaning of the sewer lines. Mr. Snyder suggested that the sweeper should go to sale and the motor in the leaf machine be replaced.

Mayor Stettler reported that she attended the “Box City” where she presented a proclamation.

Councilwoman Miers reported that the Fire Department has offered to water the Shoe Tree. The Councilwoman met with John Snyder to review the DPW budget and she will be meeting with Teresa DeMont to review the Administration budget.

Councilman Kennedy reported that the coating and painting of the Scout Home has been completed. The Belvidere Pool will host a swim invitational on July 12th. The Recreation Committee has had their first impromptu meeting.

Councilman Viglianco had no report at this time.

Correspondence:

A letter was received from the Oxford Township Committee requesting Council consideration of a shared service for the Municipal Clerk and/or the Supervisor of the Department of Public Works. Discussion ensued. It was agreed that no shared service for these positions would be considered at this time.

Teresa DeMont advised that additional monies are being allocated through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. She is waiting for information from Bill Hunt, Warren County OEM for more information.

Three letters were received supporting the appointment of Frank Tootle to Chief of Police.

Old Business:

Dominick Santini advised that he is waiting for a quote from Eldon Allen for the survey of the Pequest River side of Howell Street.

Mayor Stettler updated Council on the demolition of the buildings at the boat launch.

Dominick Santini advised on a request to vacate a road right of way that traverses block 44, lot 12.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Miers and seconded by Councilman Makatura to introduce Ordinance No. O2014x07

ORDINANCE NO. O2014x07

TOWN OF BELVIDERE

WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VACATION OF A RIGHT OF WAY WHICH TRAVERSES THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 44, LOT 12

WHEREAS, the Estate of Sadie V. Geis is the owner of property located at 540 Independence Street in the Town of Belvidere, Warren County, New Jersey, said property being located between Fifth Street and Independence Street; and

WHEREAS, there exists an old right of way which traverses the property now known as Block 44, Lot 12. See exhibit A attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, it appears that said right of way is no longer in public use; and

WHEREAS, the Owner has requested the Town of Belvidere vacate any of its right, title and interest in said right of way described in Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, it being the intent of this Ordinance to vacate all of the right, title and interest of the Town of Belvidere in the right of way and vacate the same as a public right of way, but the Town of Belvidere expressly reserves and excepts from this vacation all rights and privileges possessed

at the time of passage of this Ordinance of all existing utility facilities in, adjacent to, over or under the property being vacated;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town of Belvidere that any right, title and interest in the right of way as more particularly described is hereby abandoned and vacated as a right of way.

NOTICE

The foregoing ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Belvidere Town Council held on July 21, 2014 and was read for the first time. This ordinance will be further considered for final adoption by the Belvidere Town Council at a meeting to be held on August 4, 2014 at Belvidere Town Hall, 691 Water Street, Belvidere, NJ at 7:00 P.M. or at any time and place to which said meeting may be adjourned. All interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance at that time. Any member of the general public can obtain a copy of said ordinance at no cost at the Municipal Clerk's Office, 691 Water Street, Belvidere, Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Teresa A. DeMont, RMC/CPM
Municipal Clerk/Administrator

Roll call:

**Ayes - Councilman Kennedy, Councilman Makatura, Councilwoman Miers,
Councilwoman Napolitani, Councilman Viglianco, Mayor Stettler**

Nays - None

Abstentions - None

Absent - Councilman Sebold

Councilman Kennedy initiated a discussion regarding Section 43-3 of the Code of the Town of Belvidere.

A motion was made by Councilman Kennedy and seconded by Councilwoman Miers to introduce an ordinance to amend Section 43-3 of the Code of the Town of Belvidere to reflect the following: If the Mayor fails to recommend an appointment to any available position within thirty days to Council, or fails to get advice and consent from the Town Council, the Town Council may appoint to the vacant position by majority vote a qualified officer as provided by law under N.J.S.A. 40A:14-118.

Roll call:

**Ayes - Councilman Kennedy, Councilman Makatura, Councilwoman Miers,
Councilwoman Napolitani**

Nays - Councilman Viglianco, Mayor Stettler

Abstentions - None

Absent - Councilman Sebold

Councilwoman Miers reported that the Lions Club is looking to discuss with the Town the maintenance of the tennis courts if they proceed with the restoration.

New Business:

A motion was made by Councilman Kennedy and seconded by Councilwoman Napolitani to introduce an ordinance to amend Chapter 5, Section 5-9 of the Code of the Town of Belvidere to reflect the following: all appointments to all committees shall be by a majority vote of the Town Council.

Roll call:

**Ayes - Councilman Kennedy, Councilman Makatura, Councilwoman Miers,
Councilwoman Napolitani**

Nays - Councilman Viglianco, Mayor Stettler

Abstentions - None

Absent - Councilman Sebold

Appointments:

Mayor Stettler had no appointments at this time.

Approval of Purchase Orders:

A **motion** was made by Councilwoman Miers, seconded by Councilman Kennedy and carried to authorize the payment of the purchase orders in the amount of \$184,136.22.

Public Comment:

Debbie Furhmann - constitutional amendments happen all the time, thanked Council for moving matters forward

A **motion** was made by Councilman Kennedy, seconded by Councilman Makatura and carried to adjourn the meeting of the Belvidere Town Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa A. DeMont, RMC/CPM
Municipal Clerk/Administrator