

A REGULAR PUBLIC WORK SESSION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD HELD IN THE SYDNEY V. STOLDT, JR. COURT ROOM OF THE RIDGEWOOD VILLAGE HALL, 131 NORTH MAPLE AVENUE, RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY, ON MARCH 26, 2025 AT 7:30 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER – OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT – ROLL CALL – FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Vagianos called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and read the Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. At roll call, the following were present: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd, and Mayor Vagianos. Also present were Keith Kazmark, Village Manager; Heather Mailander, Village Clerk; Jennifer Natoli, Deputy Village Clerk; and Matthew Rogers, Village Attorney.

Mayor Vagianos led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Boyd A. Loving, a resident of Ridgewood, asked if Mr. Kazmark could provide an update this evening regarding the bus station in Ridgewood. He recalled that New Jersey Transit was planning to donate two pre-fabricated shelters to replace the bus station structure that was recently razed. Mr. Loving also recalled that a couple of weeks ago, someone had mentioned that the structure near Village Hall, that is used as a smoking station, will take the place of the razed bus station structure. However, Mr. Loving believes that this structure is not big enough to accommodate the number of commuters at the bus station. Mr. Loving also asked for an update regarding the proposed bus shelter near Ridgewood High School.

Nancy Brennan-Hill, a resident of Ridgewood, expressed her appreciation to Stacey Antine, owner of HealthBarn, for all of her contributions to the Village over the past ten years. To celebrate HealthBarn's tenth anniversary of operating their business in Ridgewood, Ms. Antine is proposing to plant ten trees at Habernickel Park, at her own expense (\$3,500.00). Ms. Brennan-Hill said that it makes her heart sing when she hears that more trees will be planted. She said that she drove around the parking lot on Cottage Place and noticed all of the trees lining the drive aisles in the lot. She thanked Adam Brown, Co-Chair of the Shade Tree Commission, and Christopher Rutishauser, Village Engineer, for their efforts in this regard. She said that this will prevent another hot spot from forming in Ridgewood.

Ms. Brennan-Hill said that she looks forward to the planned replacement of the flower planters in the Central Business District (CBD), spearheaded by the Ridgewood Beautification Team (formerly Project Pride). She urged the Village Council to keep thinking about grass rather than plastic turf for the field at the Schedler property. Ms. Brennan-Hill said that she pictures a

beautiful garden being planted on Franklin Avenue, where the former Town Garage building was demolished, so that people can stroll through the area and breathe a sigh of relief. She feels that this will increase foot traffic for local businesses.

There were no further comments from the public.

Mayor Vagianos assured Mr. Loving that Mr. Kazmark will be giving an update regarding the bus station in his Manager's Report. He thanked Ms. Brennan-Hill for her positive comments. Deputy Mayor Perron thanked Ms. Brennan-Hill for her service as Co-Chair of the Shade Tree Commission. Councilmember Winograd also thanked Ms. Brennan-Hill for all of her meaningful recommendations.

3. VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Kazmark began his Village Manager's report by announcing that the bus station structure was demolished this morning. This structure has been closed since approximately 2017, due to its deteriorated condition, as determined by multiple architects and structural engineers who inspected it. A final decision was made to raze the structure, despite its historic and nostalgic value. Mr. Kazmark thanked Mr. Rutishauser and Richard Tarlton, Supervisor of the Signal Division, along with Mr. Tarlton's staff, for their efforts this morning while the bus station was razed. Tomorrow morning, the shelter behind Village Hall will be relocated to the bus station by Van Neste Square on a temporary basis, to protect commuters from inclement weather.

Mr. Kazmark indicated that, together with Councilmember Winograd, he met with representatives from the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and personnel from both the Engineering Department and Police Department, to discuss the long-term solution for the bus station. They are reviewing multiple replacement structures. Some of the structures are manufactured by Polygon, the same company that provided the pavilion at Habernickel Park. At the meeting of the HPC on May 12, 2025, the proposed replacement structure for the bus station will be placed on the agenda for discussion. Mr. Kazmark will be attending the meeting, along with Councilmembers Weitz and Winograd, to discuss the permanent bus station structure and, most importantly, to determine whether the proposed structure will fit in with the aesthetics, character, and historic nature of the CBD.

Councilmember Winograd thanked everyone involved in the endeavor to revitalize the bus station area. She said that this matter has not only been discussed with the HPC, but also with the Green Team and the Shade Tree Commission. She stated that there is clamoring to add "elements of green" to the bus station location, with a proposal to add some plantings along the buffer strip by the bus station, similar to what was done at the Cottage Place parking lot. The proposal will need to be approved by the HPC, and then by the Village Council. Councilmember Winograd

stated that the Village has sought available grants for the replacement of the bus station, from the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Kazmark added that he spoke with representatives from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) today, about possibly using some available grant monies to offset the cost of the replacement bus station structure. Councilmember Weitz thanked the members of the HPC for their valuable input regarding this matter. Deputy Mayor Perron asked Mr. Kazmark to keep the Central Business District Advisory Committee (CBDAC) apprised of all developments regarding the proposed bus station structure, and Mr. Kazmark assured her that he would do so.

Councilmember Winograd added that before the bus station structure was demolished, they reclaimed some historic elements of the structure. There was slate at the bottom of the bus station, and it has been put into storage for later use, perhaps as stepping stones in Memorial Park at Van Neste Square. She stated that the original floor of the bus station structure is still present at that location. Mr. Kazmark clarified that possible funding would come from the NJDOT and not from New Jersey Transit.

Mayor Vagianos emphasized that great care was taken to have the bus station structure inspected by various professionals at least three times, before the decision was made that the structure was not salvageable and must be razed. He thanked Mr. Kazmark, Councilmember Winograd, and all Village staff who assisted in this endeavor.

Mr. Kazmark said that budget discussions are continuing, with the final budget meeting scheduled for April 1, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. He indicated that the 2025 Operating Budget should be introduced at the April 9, 2025 Village Council meeting.

Mr. Kazmark stated that the Residential Advisory Flood Committee met this afternoon at 4:00 p.m., during which time the committee members were briefed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He stated that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently going through a transition, with the change of administration in Washington, DC, and different funding bills that are being considered. Mr. Kazmark said that the amount of funding available for this project will probably not be determined until mid-year. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were advised of the funding set aside by the Village in the 2025 Capital Budget for this project, as well as capital funds available from prior years that can be used towards this flood mitigation endeavor. Mr. Kazmark said that there will be some opportunities in 2025 to share a 50/50 cost responsibility with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, so that some of the short-term initiatives for flood mitigation can be completed.

Mr. Kazmark said that he was pleased to report that the new field lighting for the girls' softball field at Veterans Field was delivered last week. The light poles will be erected during the week of May 12, 2025. Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) is in the process of completing the

service connections, in collaboration with the Village's Signal Division. Mr. Kazmark thanked the staff of the Parks and Recreation Department, Signal Division and Engineering Department for their assistance in completing Phase 2 of this lighting project. He expects that the project will be completed by the end of May 2025.

Mr. Kazmark announced that the Age-Friendly Transportation and Community Programming Survey has been posted online today. This information will be distributed to the senior community in Ridgewood through a variety of means, but primarily via email. He said that anyone wishing to complete this survey may access it through the Village website home page, in the Spotlight section. The most recent post in that section has a link that can be clicked to access the survey. Mr. Kazmark thanked Carol Bialkowski, Director of Communications and Special Projects, as well as Sheila Brogan, Beth Abbott, and the staff at the Community Center and Parks and Recreation Department, for their assistance in this regard. He hopes that useful information can be gleaned from the survey, to assist in developing future senior programming and transportation.

The Ridgewood Arts Council will be hosting "Children in the Arts" on Sunday, March 30, 2025, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lester Stable. At that time, children will share their interests, talents, and involvement in their chosen art forms. All ages are welcome to attend.

Village offices will be closed on Friday, April 18, 2025 in observance of Good Friday. There will be no garbage or recycling pickups on that date. The Recycling Center will also be closed on that date.

The Chamber of Commerce will be hosting "Easter in the Park" in Memorial Park at Van Neste Square on Saturday, April 19, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be an Easter egg hunt, picture opportunities with the Easter bunny, musical entertainment, and games and activities for the children. Any questions regarding this event should be directed to the Chamber of Commerce.

The Ridgewood Baseball and Softball Association opening day parade will take place on Saturday, April 26, 2025, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Train Station. The parade route will go along East Ridgewood Avenue and Maple Avenue, and end up at Veterans Field.

The 2025 Daffodil Festival and Earth Day Fair will take place on Sunday, April 27, 2025, in Memorial Park at Van Neste Square, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Activities include goat yoga, a petting zoo, musical entertainment, educational displays, demonstrations and crafts, as well as vendors specializing in sustainability and natural products. The highlight of the event will be the Daffy Dog Parade, which will commence at 12:30 p.m. Registration for the parade begins at 12:00 p.m., at the Ridgewood Veterinary Hospital booth.

Upcoming Village Council meetings are as follows: Final Budget Meeting on April 1, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.; Work Sessions on April 2 and April 23, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.; and Public Meeting on April 9, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

Regarding the lighting project at Veterans Field, Mayor Vagianos again thanked all of the organizations that enabled this project to come to fruition through their financial contributions, including the Ridgewood Soccer Association, Ridgewood Baseball and Softball Association, Ridgewood Lacrosse Association, and Ridgewood Junior Football Association, as well as the Ridgewood Board of Education and Bergen County (through a grant).

4. VILLAGE COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilmember Mortimer said that he and Councilmember Weitz will be attending the Daffodil Festival and Earth Day Fair on April 27th and participating in goat yoga.

Councilmember Mortimer stated that the Open Space Committee met on March 13, 2025. Topics discussed included the Green Acres diversion and the fact that once the diversion is cleared, the Village will become eligible to receive more grants. They discussed the future dates for Park Walks and who will lead the walks, as well as future uses for the former Town Garage property. The Open Space Committee will have a table set up at the Daffodil Festival, so that they may educate the public on the value of open space in the Village. The dedicated Open Space Tax was also discussed during the meeting, which is currently one-half of one cent per every \$100 of assessed property value. With current property values rising, they discussed whether the revenue generated through this tax will be enough to sustain the Village's mission of purchasing properties for open space purposes.

Councilmember Mortimer stated that the Citizens Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC) met on March 20, 2025. He said that representatives from the Engineering Department and Police Department who were at the meeting did an excellent job addressing safety concerns of Village residents. He urged the public to attend these CSAC meetings to express their concerns. During the meeting, two residents spoke about speeding issues on North Monroe Avenue, near Fairmount Road, which is used frequently by schoolchildren. The Police Department will be sending out surveys this week to residents who live near West Saddle River Road, to obtain feedback on the possible installation of rumble strips on West Saddle River Road by Bergen County, since these rumble strips will create noise when vehicles pass over them. Councilmember Mortimer indicated that in the past month, 11 property owners have brought their properties into compliance regarding sight triangle obstructions. He said that the summonses issued recently have been effective in convincing property owners to bring their properties into compliance. Regarding the sidewalk construction on West Glen Avenue, the Engineering Department has submitted plans to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for approval.

Councilmember Mortimer said that during the most recent meeting of CSAC, they discussed the new E-bike ordinance, which prohibits E-bikes in the Central Business District. They also discussed the fact that a thermoplastic stop sign will be imbedded on Laurel Road, at its intersection with Kenilworth Road, to enhance safety in that location. Councilmember Mortimer said that when such a sign was imbedded on Spring Avenue, there was a decrease in motor vehicle accidents at that location. A sign warning of “Stop Ahead” will be installed on Kenilworth Road as well, so that vehicles can slow down before approaching the intersection near Laurel Road.

Councilmember Mortimer stated that the Parks, Recreation and Conservation (PRC) Board met last night. During the meeting, they discussed the successful Seasonal Summer Job Fair that was held recently on March 12th, at which time over 100 job applications were submitted. They discussed the Daffodil Festival being held this year, with the theme of “H2Optimize: Protecting Our Water.” Councilmember Mortimer said that the pavilion at Habernickel Park is almost completely erected. The field at Hawes School will be re-opened in late April. Councilmember Mortimer indicated that there is a New York/New Jersey trail proposal, wherein trails at Grove Park, Kings Pond and Habernickel Park will be refurbished. There will be a new event at the Community Center called “Lunch and Learn,” where once a month, 75 seniors will be hosted for lunch and informative instruction on different topics. The first one will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2025, and registration is required.

Councilmember Winograd stated that there was a meeting of the Stigma-Free Committee held recently. Ridgewood has been honored to receive the “Healthy Town” award this year. A first aid toolkit for mental health has been developed by the committee, wherein residents, especially caregivers and members of the special needs community, can learn coping mechanisms. This toolkit has been posted online. Councilmember Winograd congratulated students who entered the sticker contest for the Stigma-Free Committee, and she is hopeful that a Ridgewood student will win the contest. She reminded everyone that May is “Mental Health Awareness Month.” She encouraged residents to let the committee know if there are certain topics which they feel should be discussed by the committee members. Councilmember Winograd thanked Dawn Cetrulo, of the Health Department, for her assistance in developing programming for the committee.

Councilmember Winograd said that the monthly meeting of the ACCESS Committee was held recently. Katie Frey, from the Parks and Recreation Department, attended the meeting and spoke about the new playground structure at Habernickel Park. Councilmember Winograd said that work is being done in Ridgewood parks to make them more inclusive. A field trip is being planned by the ACCESS Committee to tour other parks and facilities which offer accessible amenities. They are considering a “feeling board,” which can be used by nonverbal children to indicate their emotions and feelings. During the meeting, they had a long discussion about swings. Councilmember Winograd said that none of the parks owned by Ridgewood have swings. She said that they plan to install four swings at the playground at Habernickel Park, with

two traditional swings, a bucket swing for toddlers, and a swing that can be used by handicapped individuals. The members of the ACCESS Committee would like to give their input regarding the proposed playground at Schedler Park.

Councilmember Winograd said that the sensory-friendly dinner held at MacMurphy's on Monday, March 24, 2025 was very successful. She indicated that she will work with members of the ACCESS Committee to improve the sensory-friendly dinners in the future. Councilmember Winograd thanked all Village officials and personnel who attended the dinner.

Regarding the Fields Committee, Councilmember Winograd congratulated the Ridgewood Adult Soccer Association (RASA) for receiving their 501(c)(3) status. She said that this was a great step towards allowing older adults in Ridgewood to age and play in place.

On March 8, 2025, Councilmember Winograd and Councilmember Mortimer met with some Ridgewood residents at Council Chat. She said that this was a good opportunity for residents to express their concerns to the Village Councilmembers, especially if they do not feel comfortable speaking at Village Council meetings.

Regarding the Ridgewood Beautification Team (formerly Project Pride), Councilmember Winograd said that new flower planters were purchased for the CBD. All of the old damaged pots will be removed from the CBD. The new planters have a larger surface area, which will lessen the need for constant watering. On May 17, 2025, flowers will be planted in the new planters. Councilmember Winograd encouraged residents to volunteer in this effort. This effort will lend itself to enhancing the vibrancy and welcoming nature of the CBD. Councilmember Winograd said that rather than give the award for most attractive landscaping to residents this year, she would like to give awards to business owners in the CBD who keep an attractive curbside appearance in front of their business or store. She mentioned that the new drought-resistant pots were expensive, so improvement of the holiday decorations may have to wait until next year.

Councilmember Winograd stated that the Shade Tree Commission will have a table at the Daffodil Festival and Earth Day celebration this year, and they will be giving away "whips," which are small, underdeveloped trees. The whips this year will consist of redbuds and dogwoods. Saplings will be offered for adoption and planting in the Willard School area. She thanked the members of the Shade Tree Commission for their planning and organization in this regard.

Councilmember Winograd said that she attended a productive meeting today with the Residential Flood Advisory Committee. Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the Village website. She stated that some real estate companies, such as Redfin and Zillow, are now calculating flood

risks and other climate risk changes in their online reports. She encouraged all residents to check out the information on their own property on one of these websites.

Councilmember Weitz said that there was a Ridgewood Library Board of Trustees meeting held last night. They are eagerly awaiting the adoption of the 2025 Capital Budget, so that needed improvements can be made. Some of these improvements are being funded through private donations. He stated that over 4,000 people attended programs at the Ridgewood Library last month, not including visitors who are taking out or returning books. He encouraged everyone to look at the programs offered by the Ridgewood Library on their website.

Deputy Mayor Perron stated that the Central Business District Advisory Committee (CBDAC) met recently, during which time the topic of parking was discussed. Their next meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2025, at which time Jeff Bueller, from the Business Action Center (BAC), will be speaking about how the Village can apply for Main Street status and Transit Village status. He will also explain the goals and objectives of the BAC. At the May CBDAC meeting, representatives from ParkMobile will be attending, to speak about parking.

Mayor Vagianos indicated that he has nothing to report.

5. DISCUSSION

A. BUDGET

1. AUTHORIZE CHANGE ORDER – CONSULTANT FOR SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT – PHASE 2 FEASIBILITY STUDY

Mr. Kazmark indicated that this matter pertains to the authorization of a Change Order for the consultant, Economic Development Strategists, LLC, for Phase 2 of the feasibility study regarding the possible Special Improvement District in the Village.

Deputy Mayor Perron indicated that the Steering Committee that is studying the feasibility of forming a Special Improvement District in the Village made a presentation at Village Hall to the business community. Surveys were filled out by business owners in attendance at the presentation, so that feedback could be obtained from them. The consultant is analyzing the results of the survey. Preliminarily, the recommendations from the Steering Committee appear to be in line with what the business owners in Ridgewood would like to see occur in the CBD. The consultant will be rendering a report shortly. Deputy Mayor Perron said that this has been a long, difficult process, and the consultant has asked for additional compensation due to extenuating circumstances. The Change Order is in the amount of \$2,000.00. Mayor Vagianos added that the members of the Steering Committee voted unanimously in favor of this Change Order.

B. OPERATIONS

1. ENDORSE BERGEN COUNTY HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS APPLICATION – BELLAGIO PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC, FOR HUDSON HILL

Mr. Kazmark explained that this item pertains to endorsement by the Village Council of an application to the Bergen County Community Development Home Investment Partnership in the amount of \$669,000.00. This application will be submitted by Bellagio Property Management, LLC, for Hudson Hill, regarding property located at 304 Lakeview Drive in Ridgewood. A resolution is required from the Village Council endorsing this application. Hudson Hill Group is an organization dedicated to providing services and housing for developmentally disabled adults in New Jersey. The Village will not be financially obligated in any way by this endorsement.

Deputy Mayor Perron said that she had a few discussions with Bellagio Property Management, LLC, regarding whether or not they were properly licensed to run a group home, such as the one they are proposing in Ridgewood. She stated that she is satisfied with the paperwork submitted to her substantiating that they are properly licensed and are experienced in this field. The home on Lakeview Drive would accommodate four developmentally disabled adults who would be monitored 24/7. Deputy Mayor Perron indicated that this project may help Ridgewood to fulfill its affordable housing requirements, and that she was in favor of this endorsement. Mr. Kazmark said that this information will be shared with Beth McManus, the Village's Affordable Housing Planner.

Mayor Vagianos added that he attended the opening of a group home on Prospect Street, which can accommodate four to six residents. He stated that group homes do not present issues for neighbors or the community at large, so he was also in favor of this endorsement. There was a consensus among the Village Councilmembers that they would approve of endorsing this application.

2. ACCEPT DONATION – COMMUNITY FRUIT AND NUT ORCHARD – HABERNICKEL PARK

Mr. Kazmark indicated that this item pertains to the acceptance of a donation from HealthBarn, located at Habernickel Park, for the design, installation and maintenance of a community fruit and nut orchard, to be located adjacent to the organic vegetable garden site. The value of this donation is \$3,500.00. The organic orchard will consist of ten trees (two each of Asian Pear, Sour Cherry, Chestnut, Plum and Pomegranate), to be planted within the area north of the HealthBarn teaching garden. All trees will be identified and labeled for public educational awareness. Last year, the HealthBarn donated the design and installation of a pollinator garden, and donated a new awning for the back patio the year before that.

Councilmember Mortimer stated that this orchard is for the public to enjoy, not just for the clientele of HealthBarn. Once the trees start bearing fruit, any member of the public is welcome to pick the fruit and enjoy it. He added that HealthBarn has contributed greatly to the Village, since beginning its operations in the Village ten years ago. Mayor Vagianos agreed that HealthBarn is a great member of the community. Councilmember Winograd reminded the public that the planting of a tree is a wonderful way to honor a loved one. She said that fruit trees can also help with food insecurity.

Deputy Mayor Perron made a motion to suspend the Work Session and convene a Special Public Meeting, seconded by Councilmember Mortimer.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: Councilmembers Mortimer, Winograd, Perron, Weitz and Vagianos

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The Regular Public Work Session was reconvened and the discussion items were continued.

6. DISCUSSION:

A. RIDGEWOOD WATER

1. AWARD EMERGENCY CONTRACT – REPACKING AND RESTORATION OF AIR STRIPPING TOWER – WORTENDYKE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

Richard Calbi, Director of Ridgewood Water, stated that this matter pertains to the award of an emergency contract to provide media/materials to the Village for the emergency repacking and restoration of the air stripping tower at the Wortendyke Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Treatment Facility. This tower is used to remove all VOCs from the drinking water. The emergency was declared in early 2025, due to a significant water leak at the top of the air stripping facility. This emergency declaration was approved by the Village Manager and Robert Rooney, Chief Financial Officer, in early February 2025. It is recommended that PACT TWO, LLC, of Ringoes, New Jersey, be awarded a contract in an amount not to exceed \$113,818.00. This would be funded through the Water Capital Budget.

This qualified contractor will inspect the tower, provide a list of necessary repairs, order the media, and perform emergency services which will result in the restoration of the air stripping tower. This work is being quoted with the understanding that the media can be removed without excessive mechanical means. If the media is in such a condition as to require additional effort

and time to remove, Ridgewood Water will be notified of same, and additional time and material cost would apply. This restoration will increase the value of the asset by way of installing media, with an estimated 25-year lifespan, and replacing all leaking gaskets, with similar longevity.

Mayor Vagianos asked what type of media will be used. Mr. Calbi replied that the media consists of hundreds of plastic balls (similar to whiffle balls). He explained the process by which VOCs are stripped from the water at this facility. Mayor Vagianos asked why this media is so expensive, and Mr. Calbi replied that the cost includes not only the balls, but also a distribution tray and the column used to distribute the balls, as well as the labor involved to install the appurtenances and repack the tower.

2. AUTHORIZE CHANGE ORDER – ASPHALT TRENCH PATCHING

Mr. Calbi explained that this item pertains to the authorization of a Change Order for asphalt trench patching. On January 15, 2025, the Village awarded an annual asphalt trench patching contract to ConQuest Construction, of Hackensack, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00. At this time, an estimated additional \$100,000.00 is needed for the remainder of the year. The original amount awarded was expended within the first two months of 2025, due to the large number of water main breaks that occurred. Asphalt trench patching is needed each time the road is opened for a water main repair, and there have been 30 water main breaks so far in 2025. It is recommended that this Change Order be awarded to the original vendor, ConQuest Construction, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. Funding is contained in the Water Utility Operating Budget.

Councilmember Mortimer asked how the 30 water main breaks experienced thus far in 2025 compared to the number of water main breaks experienced during the same time period in 2024. Mr. Calbi replied that he was not sure of the exact number, but there were many more water main breaks experienced in 2025 to date, than were experienced in 2024 during the same time period. The severe cold temperatures this past winter, along with temperature fluctuations, played a significant role in causing these water main breaks.

Deputy Mayor Perron asked if water mains are replaced when there is a water main leak, or if the leak is just patched. Mr. Calbi said that the repair work involved depends upon the type of water main break. Sometimes patching, in the form of a pair coupling (plastic or rubber gasket with bolts) that goes around the main, is sufficient to repair the leak. If the water leak is more extensive, then the section of leaking pipe will be cut out, and a new piece of pipe will be installed.

B. PARKING

1. RESTORATION OF NORTH WALNUT STREET PARKING LOT

Mr. Kazmark explained that when the remediation of the North Walnut Street parking lot was originally discussed by the Village Councilmembers, the topic of how to permanently restore the parking lot was also discussed. Within the past 24 hours, during excavation of the soil at the North Walnut Street parking lot, two additional underground tanks have been discovered, bringing the total to 11 tanks being found in that location. Additional contaminated soil has been found near these two additional tanks, which will need to be excavated from the site.

Christopher Rutishauser, Village Engineer, and Mr. Kazmark are both recommending that the restoration portion of the bid award be reallocated towards continued removal of contaminated soil at the parking lot. Once the paving bids have been received by April 9, 2025, for road resurfacing projects throughout the Village, including Village-owned parking lots, a more definitive calculation of the costs to repave the North Walnut Street parking lot can be determined.

Mr. Rutishauser explained that there is some water that needs to be pumped out of the excavation site at the North Walnut Street parking lot. A frac tank was found in the far right back corner of the lot, which needs to be removed. A frac tank is a large, portable steel container used in the oil and gas industry, particularly for hydraulic fracturing (fracking), to store fluids like water, chemicals, and oil. The foundation of a prior building that was buried on the site also has to be removed. Mr. Rutishauser described the heavy equipment being used at the site and explained that certified clean backfill from a quarry will be used to fill in the excavated areas. The quarry provides documentation that is required by the Village's Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) to submit to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).

Mr. Rutishauser indicated that a 330-gallon tank was also discovered during excavation, which appeared to be a waste oil tank. This tank and the frac tank were not anticipated, and the discovery of these two additional unknown tanks brings the total to 11 tanks found on the property, thus far. Mr. Rutishauser indicated that both he and the environmental contractor are cautiously optimistic that no more tanks will be found on the site.

Mr. Rutishauser stated that in the bid package for this project, there were line items and unit prices for restoration of the parking lot, including paving, base materials, curbs and sidewalks. Mr. Rutishauser stated that the unit prices received from the UST (underground storage tank) removal contractor are significantly higher, when compared to the unit prices which are usually received from the Village's paving contractor. The UST removal contractor quoted \$200.00 per ton for restoration asphalt (4-inch base course and 2-inch top course), whereas the prices quoted in the paving bid are usually below \$80.00 per ton. Similarly, the UST removal contractor quoted \$50.00 per linear foot for curbs, and the prices quoted in the paving bid are usually \$35.00 per

linear foot. Mr. Rutishauser said that he strongly supports redirecting the value of those line items (for pavement and curb restoration) in the bid to address the newly found soil contamination and removal of additional tanks.

Councilmember Weitz said that additional funds will be needed for the resurfacing portion of the North Walnut Street parking lot, if the funds allocated for that resurfacing are repurposed towards the soil remediation aspect of the project.

Mr. Kazmark said that more discussion by the Village Councilmembers will be needed about what they would like to do to finish off this project. He will be able to make a better determination of the costs (unit pricing) involved, once the paving bid packages are received by April 9, 2025. A determination will be made regarding what it would cost to restore the site to an asphalt-paved parking lot (as previously); the costs of using topsoil, if the Village Councilmembers want to seed that area; and the costs of using crushed stone aggregate for the area. Councilmember Weitz said that he was in favor of the recommendations made by Mr. Rutishauser and Mr. Kazmark.

Mr. Kazmark added that there is additional funding available for this project, which was allocated by a prior Village Council. He cautioned the Village Councilmembers that there will be significant Change Orders coming before the Village Council in the future, regarding this project.

Councilmember Weitz asked the amount of the reallocation from the resurfacing portion of the bond to the soil remediation. Mr. Rutishauser said that there are two accounts containing approximately \$800,000.00 in total, and all of these funds may have to be reallocated to address the additional tanks and contaminated soil found on the site. Mr. Kazmark asked Mr. Rutishauser the amount of additional soil tonnage that will have to be removed from the site. Mr. Rutishauser replied that there were approximately another 1,000 tons of soil that had to be removed, before the second additional tank was found. He said that there is a strong smell of gasoline on the site. Mr. Rutishauser indicated that there will most likely be another Change Order for the environmental consultant, since more soil samples than originally anticipated have been taken, including field confirmation samples to guide the excavator as to how deep down he would need to dig. Mr. Rutishauser described the scope of the excavation to date, with soil at depths of up to 12 feet showing contamination.

Mayor Vagianos asked what is being done, if anything, to confirm that there are no further tanks at the site, such as metal detection devices. Councilmember Mortimer asked how the tanks are even being found. Mr. Rutishauser stated that the excavator is a very skilled operator and is able to recognize when the heavy equipment encounters something other than soil. He explained how some of the other tanks were found after discovering some underground conduits, which were examined by PSE&G personnel. PSE&G confirmed that the conduits were not electrical in

nature. The conduits were subsequently removed. Mayor Vagianos again asked if devices such as metal detectors might be used to search for any further tanks. Mr. Rutishauser replied that metal detectors are “hit or miss” because there is so much steel in the ground anyway, such as abandoned piping. He said that they will be pretty sure there are no additional tanks, because the entire parcel will end up being excavated.

Councilmember Mortimer asked if a similar scenario (finding tanks and contaminated soil) will be encountered on the former Town Garage property, acknowledging that the remediation work for this site will be borne by the former owner of the property. Mr. Rutishauser replied that he is not exactly sure what has been found to date, but a massive excavation has been performed and the parcel has been backfilled. Post-excavation monitoring wells will have to be installed to determine what effects, if any, the contamination has had on the groundwater in that area.

Councilmember Winograd asked at what depth the discovered waste oil tank was found. Mr. Rutishauser replied that most of the tanks were only a couple of feet below grade, and one was approximately 16 inches below the surface. He indicated that the tanks found on the property were abandoned in the late 1970s, in a manner consistent with what was required at that time but which is not acceptable currently. He estimated that the tanks were installed in the late 1950s. None of the tanks removed are riveted tanks, which were manufactured and used earlier than the 1940s. Mayor Vagianos asked Mr. Rutishauser if he thought there would be any tanks deeper than 12 feet underground, and Mr. Rutishauser replied that he did not think so. He said that the capacity of the tanks removed so far has ranged from 330 gallons up to approximately 4,000 gallons. He added that the capacity of the tanks removed near the Village’s Fleet Services fuel station were approximately 12,000 gallons each.

Deputy Mayor Perron asked Mr. Rutishauser if the foundation and low wall found during excavation were going to be removed. Mr. Rutishauser said that the foundation will be removed, and there are concerns that the contamination has gone underneath the slab that the low wall sits on. The decision of whether or not to excavate the wall and slab will be made within the next couple of days.

Mr. Kazmark summarized by stating that the paving bid is due on April 9, 2025, and the final determination about future plans for the project and approximate costs to complete the project will be made during the Village Council Work Session scheduled for April 23, 2025. Similarly, an analysis will be done for 120 Franklin Avenue regarding costs for various options (grass and/or crushed stone) to finish off that property. Mr. Rutishauser indicated that all of the options, for both properties, will be discussed with the environmental consultant, to make sure that all materials used are in accordance with NJDEP regulations.

Councilmember Winograd asked Mr. Rutishauser to make sure that whatever materials are used would not create problems for people with disabilities. She also asked if she could be furnished

with the amount of revenue generated from the North Walnut Street parking lot prior to it being excavated. Deputy Mayor Perron added that there were 26 parking spaces in the lot prior to its excavation. Mr. Kazmark stated that Mr. Rooney will be available to discuss the parking revenue generated at that parking lot.

C. BUDGET

1. AWARD CONTRACT – INSECTICIDE INJECTION FOR EMERALD ASH BORER

Mr. Kazmark explained that this matter pertains to the award of a contract to provide systemic insecticide injections to ash trees in the Village. The Emerald Ash Borer is a highly invasive species and highly destructive. Several hundred of the 650 ash trees in the Village were inspected by Declan Madden, Village Arborist, in 2020, and evidence of the Emerald Ash Borer was observed. Systemic insecticide injections were applied in 2021 and 2023, and this matter pertains to the request for a third round of the insecticide injections. It is recommended that this contract be awarded to Bartlett Tree Experts, of Waldwick, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$13,446.00.

2. AWARD CONTRACT – DISPOSAL OF GROUND YARD WASTE AND GRASS CLIPPINGS

Mr. Kazmark indicated that this matter pertains to the award of a contract for disposal of ground yard waste and grass clippings from the Lakeview Compost Facility. Quotes were received from two vendors. RER Supply's facility was inspected and found to be unacceptable, since it was rutted and muddy. In addition, the NJDEP permit for RER Supply expires on May 7, 2025, just at the start of the collection season. It is recommended that this contract be awarded to RVH Mulch Supply, LLC, of Wyckoff, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00. RVH Mulch Supply, LLC, has been the Village's vendor for yard waste for the past two years, and their quote is \$23.00 per cubic yard (an increase of \$1.00 per cubic yard over last year). RVH accepts both yard waste and grass clippings, thereby avoiding having to use two vendors as in years past. The yard waste material must be trucked by Ridgewood to the RVH facility.

Upon questioning by Deputy Mayor Perron, Mr. Rutishauser explained that Village personnel collect the yard waste and grass clippings and bring the materials to the Lakeview Compost Facility. The materials are run through the tub grinder and deposited into large trucks, which haul the material to the RVH facility in West Milford. The Wyckoff address for RVH is their business address, but their facility is located in West Milford.

3. AWARD CONTRACT -BILLING OF BASIC LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES

Mr. Kazmark indicated that this matter pertains to the award of year two of a three-year billing contract for basic life support services (ambulance response billing services) for the Village to Coronis Health RCM, LLC, of Morganville, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed 7% of the billing collected. The original contract was awarded on March 13, 2024, via Resolution No. 24-95.

4. AWARD SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT – PROGRAMMING UPDATES TO SCADA SYSTEM – WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY

Mr. Kazmark indicated that this matter pertains to the award of a Sole Source contract for programming updates to the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for the Water Pollution Control Facility. This system is used to operate the wastewater treatment plant. The current SCADA system is almost 20 years old, last upgraded in 2005, and is failing. It is recommended that this contract be awarded to Emerson Process Management Power and Water Solutions, Inc., of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in an amount not to exceed \$11,271.48. Emerson Process Management Power and Water Solutions, Inc., is a sole source vendor for supplying SCADA components. This system is also used by Ridgewood Water. Funding is available in the WPCF Capital Account.

5. AWARD SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT – SOFTWARE SUPPORT FOR SCADA SYSTEM – WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY

Mr. Kazmark explained that this matter involves an award of a Sole Source contract for software support for the SCADA system at the Water Pollution Control Facility. It is recommended that this contract be awarded to Emerson Process Management Power and Water Solutions, Inc., of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in an amount not to exceed \$44,352.96. Emerson Process Management Power and Water Solutions, Inc., is a sole source vendor for supplying SCADA components. This contract would provide software support services for three years and will minimize the Village's reliance upon Keystone Engineering for help. Funding is available in the WPCF Capital Account.

6. AWARD CONTRACT UNDER COUNTY CONTRACT – UNTREATED ROCK SALT

Mr. Kazmark indicated that this matter deals with the award of a contract for the bulk purchase of untreated rock salt, through the Bergen County Cooperative Purchasing Program. The Village

has purchased \$48,897.89 of rock salt this past winter season, which exceeds the initial award of \$40,000.00. There are outstanding bills for the salt which has already been used by the Village. This year's quote for untreated rock salt is \$74.74 per ton, a decrease of \$4.01 per ton. It is recommended that this contract be awarded to Atlantic Salt, Inc., of Lowell, Massachusetts, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00.

**7. AWARD CONTRACT UNDER COUNTY CONTRACT – 2024
FORD F-350 SUPER CAB**

Mr. Kazmark indicated that this matter deals with the award of a contract, under the Bergen County Cooperative Purchasing Program, for the purchase of a 2024 Ford F-350 4X4 SD Super Cab Truck for the Parks and Recreation Department. This truck is needed by the department to properly maintain the municipal park properties. It is recommended that this contract be awarded to Route 23 Auto Mall, LLC, of Butler, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$61,513.40. Funding is contained in old capital accounts.

**8. AWARD CONTRACT UNDER STATE CONTRACT – CAMERA
SYSTEM FOR POLICE DETECTIVE BUREAU INTERVIEW
ROOM**

Mr. Kazmark explained that this item pertains to the award of a contract, under State contract, for the purchase of updates to the camera system used in the Detective Bureau Interview Room at the Police Department. It is recommended by Police Chief Forest Lyons that this contract be awarded to Axon Enterprise, Inc., of Scottsdale, Arizona, in an amount not to exceed \$26,026.80. This update will incorporate the camera system into Axon, which will centralize and streamline evidence, and will enable all interview rooms to be on the same system as police vehicles and body cameras. Funding is contained in old capital accounts. Deputy Mayor Perron said that this camera system is critical to preservation of evidence for the Police Department.

**9. AWARD CONTRACT UNDER SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE
PURCHASING SYSTEM – VEHICLE TRACKING
SUBSCRIPTION**

Mr. Kazmark indicated that this matter pertains to the award of a contract, under the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing System, for the purchase of a 12-month subscription for vehicle tracking and engine connect data. The vehicle tracking system is used to maintain location and vehicle data for 121 Village vehicles, and the cost per vehicle is \$18.95 per month. Five additional vehicles will be added to the system in 2025. It is recommended by Mr. Calbi that this contract be awarded to Verizon Connect, of Morristown, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$28,652.40. Funding has been budgeted in various Village Department Operating Budgets.

Upon questioning by Councilmember Mortimer, Mr. Kazmark replied that all Department Directors have the capability of accessing the GPS to see where Village vehicles are located, as well as the speed at which the vehicles are traveling. He added that this has been useful in defending speeding accusations by third parties against Village personnel.

10. AWARD CONTRACT UNDER SOURCEWELL COOPERATIVE PURCHASING SYSTEM – LIFTGATE FOR FORD F-350 SD SUPER CAB – PARKS DEPARTMENT

Mr. Kazmark stated that this item deals with the award of a contract, under the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing System, for the purchase of a Tommy Gate (liftgate) for the 2024 Ford F-350 SD Super Cab Truck being purchased for the Parks Department. It is recommended that this contract be awarded to FDR Hitches, of Hawthorne, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$4,650.00. Funding is contained in the Capital Account (previous budget request).

11. AWARD CONTRACT UNDER EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NJ COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM – PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT, SERVICE, AND LICENSES FOR ACCESS CONTROL AND CCTV – 33 DOUGLAS PLACE

Mr. Kazmark indicated that this matter pertains to the award of a contract, under the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Cooperative Pricing System, for the purchase of equipment, service, and licenses for Access Control and CCTV for 33 Douglas Place (Emergency Medical Services building). The current system in the building is in a state of disrepair. Most of the cameras are not working, the server is failing, and access control stations are breaking. Outdated components will be replaced, brought up to current safety codes and standards, and will be connected to the Village network. It is recommended that this contract be awarded to Open Systems Integrators, Inc., of Hamilton, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$90,000.00. The current estimate for the project is \$86,375.00. Funding is contained in the Capital Account (previous budget request).

When Mayor Vagianos asked why this camera system is so expensive, Mr. Kazmark replied that the current camera system at 33 Douglas Place is antiquated and the entire infrastructure needs to be redone. In addition, there is a Capital Budget request for funds to transform part of 33 Douglas Place into a formal Emergency Operations Center, and adequate security measures and communication capabilities are necessary.

12. AWARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT – THIRD PARTY ENGINEERING INSPECTION SERVICES – STRUCTURAL REPAIR OF KINGSBRIDGE LANE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

Mr. Kazmark stated that this matter pertains to the award of a professional services contract for third party engineering inspection services, during construction, for the structural repair of the Kingsbridge Lane Pedestrian Bridge. Mr. Rutishauser is recommending that the Village retain an appropriate professional engineering firm to inspect the structural welds and the concrete work to confirm that it is being done correctly, in accordance with the plans and specifications for the bridge restoration work. He recommends that the Village continue its professional relationship with the firm that designed the bridge repairs and specializes in this field. It is recommended that this contract be awarded to Lahita Engineering, of Hoboken, New Jersey, in an amount not to exceed \$20,910.00.

Deputy Mayor Perron asked if the refurbished bridge will be inspected at the facility where it is being repaired, before it is transported to the Kingsbridge Lane location, or if it will be inspected after it has been delivered to that location. Councilmember Winograd asked if a date has been scheduled for delivery of the repaired bridge. Mr. Rutishauser said that he is going to try to get the welds inspected at the warehouse or facility where the bridge is being restored, since any corrective work could then be done while the bridge is still at the facility. If the necessary corrective action is done after the bridge is installed over the brook, then it will be much more difficult to perform any corrective work to the bridge. Mr. Rutishauser stated that the bridge should be delivered by May or June of this year. He described what type of heavy equipment will be used to transport the bridge (excavator versus a crane, the latter of which would interfere with overhead wires).

Mayor Vagianos asked why it was necessary to have the bridge inspected, and Mr. Rutishauser said that it is important to confirm that the welds have been done properly and that there is no slag in the welding (which makes the connection weak). This is why he is recommending that an unrelated third party inspect the bridge to confirm that the contractor did a proper job.

Councilmember Mortimer asked Mr. Rutishauser how often there is an issue when a refurbishment of this type is inspected. Mr. Rutishauser replied that a few minor issues have been found in the past with other projects, but major issues are seldom found. Mr. Kazmark added that the Village does inspections on all public works jobs, with most inspections being done in-house by Mr. Rutishauser and his staff, including road resurfacing and sidewalks. Councilmember Winograd added that it is important to have the bridge inspected before it is transported to the Kingsbridge Lane site, to avoid any scenarios where there may be damage claims to the bridge after it has been delivered.

Deputy Mayor Perron asked if the State needs to also inspect the bridge before it is opened to the public, and Mr. Rutishauser said that he did not think the State would need to inspect the bridge, since they do not own it and do not need to maintain it. A discussion ensued about the number of bridges in the Village (three) and the sidewalk project near the bridge at Habernickel Park, where the concrete has spalled.

13. AUTHORIZE CANCELLATION OF REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAXES ON TAX-EXEMPT PROPERTY – BLOCK 1411, LOT 13

Mr. Kazmark stated that this item deals with the authorization to cancel real estate property taxes on a tax-exempt church property at 47 Fairmount Road, Ridgewood, New Jersey (Block 1411, Lot 13).

14. AUTHORIZE REFUND OF REAL ESTATE PROPERTY TAXES ON TAX-EXEMPT PROPERTY – BLOCK 1411, LOT 13

Mr. Kazmark stated that this item deals with the authorization to refund real estate property taxes on a tax-exempt property at 47 Fairmount Road, Ridgewood, New Jersey (Block 1411, Lot 13). A portion of the 2024 fourth quarter taxes and first and second quarter preliminary taxes for 2025 will be cancelled, totaling \$9,307.78.

D. POLICY

1. ENDORSE REVOLUTION NJ'S COMMEMORATION OF THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. Kazmark said that this matter deals with an endorsement, via resolution by the Village Council, of RevolutionNJ's Commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America in 2026. This request is being made by Derek Sands, Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of County Executive, James J. Tedesco, III.

E. OPERATIONS

1. ENDORSE SUBMISSION OF RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT

Mr. Kazmark indicated that this matter pertains to the Village Council's endorsement of the submission of a Municipal Recycling Tonnage Grant Application to the NJDEP, and designating Sean Hamlin, Recycling Coordinator, to ensure that the application for same is properly filed. Monies received from the grant will be used solely for the purposes of recycling.

2. AUTHORIZE COMMUNITY ENERGY PLANNING GRANT THROUGH SUSTAINABLE JERSEY / PSE&G – TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR ENERGY CONSUMPTION IN VILLAGE FACILITIES

Mr. Kazmark stated that this item deals with the authorization by the Village Council in support of an application for a Community Energy Planning Grant (\$2,500.00) through Sustainable Jersey/PSE&G, for technical assistance for energy consumption in Village facilities. Mr. Kazmark thanked Deputy Mayor Perron and Carol Bialkowski, Director of Communications and Special Projects, for collaborating in this endeavor. This resolution will authorize staff to provide Sustainable Jersey with one month of energy bills for each municipal building (20 in total). Sustainable Jersey will use the account numbers on the bills to collect two years' worth of comprehensive data from PSE&G on each municipal building's energy usage. The Community Energy Planning grant recently received by the Village will be used to hire a company to analyze the data to come up with a baseline, create a tracking system for the future, and develop a plan to accomplish more efficiency and reduce emissions. Deputy Mayor Perron said that this should make the Village eligible for future grants to implement energy improvements in municipally-owned buildings.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Boyd A. Loving, a resident of Ridgewood, said that it was his understanding that New Jersey Transit was going to provide two bus shelters, free of charge, to the Village. However, Mr. Loving said that the Village has made the decision not to accept the free shelters. He said that someone did a survey to determine how much space would be needed to accommodate commuters at the bus station, and it was determined that two bus shelters would be needed, based upon the number of commuters using the bus station. However, Mr. Loving said that the Village is installing one temporary shelter at the bus station and he is concerned that this will not be big enough to accommodate the number of commuters using the bus station. He asked whether the Village can borrow a bus shelter from New Jersey Transit, until such time as a determination is made for a permanent bus station structure. He asked that the Village Council review this matter to determine what will be needed for a temporary bus shelter. Mr. Loving also asked about the status of the bus shelter to be installed near Ridgewood High School.

Mr. Loving said that he is concerned about the amount of money the Village is spending at the North Walnut Street parking lot. He again asked if there were any prior insurance policies covering the Texaco gas station, which was previously located on that site, or insuring the Village for the soil contamination. Mr. Loving asked Mr. Kazmark to follow up on this matter and let him know what the status of his research has revealed.

Mr. Loving said that some water main work was performed by Ridgewood Water in the vicinity of South Irving Street and Grove Street, and the contractor who repaved the area did a poor job. There is a depressed area where large puddles form after a rain and, when cars drive by, the water is splashed onto pedestrians walking on the sidewalk. He asked that this be remediated by the contractor.

Mr. Loving said that he was told by Mr. Calbi that beginning on April 2, 2025, East Glen Avenue will be closed in front of Glen School. Mr. Calbi told him that nearby residents were notified of the road closure and were told that they could access Glen School from the back entrance. However, Mr. Loving said that he does not believe that such a back entrance exists. He asked the Village Council to figure out how vehicles are going to access the property during the road closure.

There were no further comments from the public.

Regarding the closure of East Glen Avenue near the Glen School, Mr. Kazmark stated that he has engaged in robust conversations with the Ridgewood Board of Education. He confirmed Mr. Loving's comment that there is no vehicular access point at the back of the Glen School; however, there is a pedestrian access point in the back of the school. Information on the road closure will be sent out before the end of this week. He has been assured that the contractor will not be conducting work in front of the school during arrival or dismissal times.

Councilmember Winograd said that there are pickleball courts at the Glen School, which are used by many residents, and many youth recreational sports are played at the school. She thanked Mr. Calbi and his staff for attending a Fields Committee meeting, and communicating with the Parks and Recreation Department, to amplify the message to residents regarding the road closure. She added that the road closure schedule will also be posted on social media.

Mr. Kazmark stated to Mr. Loving that he will defer to Mr. Calbi to speak about the repaving issue at the intersection of South Irving Street and Grove Street. Regarding Mr. Loving's comments regarding the work being performed at the North Walnut Street parking lot, Mr. Kazmark stated that the tanks found on the property were abandoned in the late 1970s. Mr. Kazmark spoke with the Village's Risk Manager approximately a month ago and he believes that "the ship has sailed" with regard to any insurance recovery for the soil contamination. However, the Risk Manager is still reviewing records and discussing with the Joint Insurance Fund whether or not a claim can be filed by the Village regarding this matter.

Regarding Mr. Loving's comment about the bus shelter by Ridgewood High School, Mr. Kazmark stated that the Village is waiting for New Jersey Transit to provide the shelter. The weather needs to get warmer before the Signal Division can lay the necessary concrete slab upon

which the bus shelter will rest. Mr. Kazmark said that the bus shelter should be installed by the end of spring.

Regarding the size of the bus station shelter near Van Neste Square, Mr. Kazmark stated that the bus station structure that was razed today provided very little shelter for commuters, since the actual building was locked and there was only a small overhang. The unit behind Village Hall will be placed as a temporary shelter at the bus station tomorrow. An assessment will be conducted by the Police Department to determine if this unit will provide adequate temporary shelter. If it does not, Mr. Kazmark will contact New Jersey Transit to obtain a bus shelter from them on a temporary basis. The plan right now is to determine what the permanent shelter will be, with input from members of the Historic Preservation Commission and the Central Business District Advisory Committee. Councilmember Winograd added that the original plan for two bus shelters was determined in 2017, and more bus routes have been added since that time. This has resulted in shortened wait times for commuters, and the Police Department felt that only one bus shelter would be needed. She agreed with Mr. Kazmark that the former bus station structure provided limited protection from inclement weather.

8. RESOLUTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Mailander read Resolution #25-183 to go into Closed Session:

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Village Council, on a motion by Councilmember Winograd, seconded by Councilmember Mortimer, and carried unanimously by voice vote, the Village Council's Regular Public Work Session was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Paul Vagianos
Mayor

Heather A. Mailander
Village Clerk