

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale
Sine Die Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2020

PRESENT: Mayor Ari Bernstein and Councilmembers Liz Homan, Edward O’Connell, Matthew O’Toole, Steve Sasso (7:03pm), Jim Strauch and Amy Wilczynski

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Attorney Raymond Wiss
Municipal Clerk Anne Dodd

A Sine Die Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale was held in the Municipal Building at 500 West Crescent Avenue, Allendale, NJ on January 6, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Ari Bernstein who asked that the Municipal Clerk read the open public meetings statement: “In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting by Resolution #19-246 was sent to The Record, Ridgewood News and Star Ledger and has been posted on the public bulletin board in the Municipal Building and Borough website.”

The Mayor led those present in a salute to the flag.

Mayor Bernstein explained that the Sine Die was a continuation of the last meeting and the conclusion of 2019 business. At 7:30pm, Reorganization, the 1st meeting of 2020, will begin. Mayor Bernstein noted that he had spoken with Councilman Sasso who was moments away from arrival.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Councilwoman Homan, second by Councilman O’Connell, that the Minutes of December 19, 2019 Work Session and December 19, 2019 Regular Session are approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Homan:	aye	Councilman Sasso:	absent
Councilman O’Connell:	aye	Councilman Strauch:	aye
Councilman O’Toole:	abstain	Councilwoman Wilczynski:	abstain

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

No public came forward to comment on agenda items.

Consent Agenda:

Mayor Bernstein provided a brief explanation of each resolution. As there were no questions from the governing body, Mayor Bernstein requested a motion on the Consent Agenda items.

- A. **19-261**/Approval of Bill List
- B. **19-262**/Authorize Cancellation of Taxes, Uncollectible Properties – Block 301, Lot 45 and Block 2204, Lot 15
- C. **19-263**/Authorize Budget Transfers

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- D. **19-264**/Authorize Tax Appeal Settlement – Boyle v. Borough of Allendale – 81 Bonnie Way, Block 303, Lot 4
- E. **19-265**/Authorize Cancellation of Unexpended Balances – Water Utility Operating Fund
- F. **19-266**/Authorize Cancellation of Unexpended Balances – Current Operating Fund

Motion by Councilman Strauch, second by Councilwoman Homan, that the Consent Agenda be approved.

On a roll call, the vote on the Consent Agenda was recorded as follows:

Councilwoman Homan:	aye	Councilman Sasso:	aye
Councilman O’Connell:	aye	Councilman Strauch:	aye
Councilman O’Toole:	aye	Councilwoman Wilczynski:	aye

All members present voting in favor, the Consent Agenda was approved.

Resolution 19-261

LIST OF BILLS

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, that it hereby approves the Bill List dated December 31, 2019 in the amounts of:

Bill List Numbers	December 31, 2019
Current Fund	\$39,253.42
Payroll Account	\$200,664.24
General Capital	\$0.00
Animal Fund	\$0.00
Grant Fund	\$0.00
COAH/Housing Trust	\$0.00
Improvement & Beautification	\$0.00
Unemployment Fund	\$0.00
Trust Fund	\$62.50
Water Operating	\$0.00
Water Capital	\$0.00
Total	\$239,980.16

Resolution 19-262

**AUTHORIZE CANCELLATION OF TAXES –
UNCOLLECTIBLE PROPERTIES**

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BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Allendale that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to cancel the taxes owed on the following list of uncollectible properties for 2019. The properties are as follows:

<u>BLOCK / LOT</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
301 / 45	Rear Farley Place	\$206.71
2204 / 15	New Street	\$35.24

Resolution 19-263

BUDGET TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, Budget Transfers are permitted during the last two months of the current year and the first three months of the following year;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Allendale that the following transfers be made between the following 2019 Budget Appropriations:

DEPARTMENT	ACCOUNT	FROM	TO
CURRENT FUND			
Administration, S&W	9-01-20-100-012		\$1,700
Finance, S&W	9-01-20-130-011	\$190.73	
Other Insurance, O.E.	9-01-23-210-220	\$9,900	
Health Benefits, O.E.	9-01-23-220-227		\$11,200
Worker's Compensation	9-01-23-215-000	\$14,000	
Planning & Zoning, S&W	9-01-21-180-011	\$4,781.73	
Property Maintenance, O.E.	9-01-22-198-154	\$1,500	
Salary & Wage Adjustment, S&W	9-01-30-411-012	\$17,330	
Police, S&W	9-01-25-240-012		\$38,354.40
Emergency Management, S&W	9-01-25-252-012	\$85.91	
Municipal Prosecutor, S&W	9-01-25-275-012	\$73.98	

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Board of Health, S&W	9-01-27-330-011	\$6,888.84	
Crestwood, S&W	9-01-28-371-012	\$122.83	
Electrical Inspector, S&W	9-01-22-196-012		\$510.32
Plumbing Inspector, S&W	9-01-22-197-012		\$536.20
Property Maintenance, S&W	9-01-22-198-012		\$1,000
Fire Subcode, S&W	9-01-22-199-012	\$79.91	
Tax Collection, S&W	9-01-20-145-011	\$2,104.72	
Tax Assessment, S&W	9-01-20-150-012	\$93.08	
Health Benefit Waiver, O.E.	9-01-23-221-000		\$479.92
Municipal Clerk, S&W	9-01-20-120-011		\$3,370.89
Totals		\$57,151.73	\$57,151.73

Resolution 19-264

BOYLE V. ALLENDALE TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT

WHEREAS, the tax payers, Brian and Kristen Anne Boyle, appealed the assessment levied on Block 303, Lot 4 for the tax years 2018 & 2019; and

WHEREAS, the subject property is located at 81 Bonnie Way; and

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff was represented by counsel in this matter; and

WHEREAS, the Assessor has agreed to compromise the appeal as follows: the Plaintiff will withdraw the 2018 appeal and the 2019 Assessed Value will be reduced from \$1,132,700 to \$1,048,000.

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds available in the reserve for tax appeals account to satisfy the 2019 tax refund; and

WHEREAS, the assessor is of the opinion that the valuation of the subject property is consistent with true value of the property.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Allendale, County of Bergen, State of New Jersey that:

The proposed settlement for the tax appeals encaptioned Boyle v. Borough of Allendale as hereinbefore set forth is approved and the Borough Tax Attorney or a member of his firm is authorized to execute all documents necessary to effectuate its terms.

Resolution 19-265

**AUTHORIZE CANCELLATION OF UNEXPENDED BALANCES OF
THE WATER UTILITY OPERATING FUND FOR 2019**

WHEREAS, the following Water Utility Operating Fund budget appropriation balances for 2019 remain unexpended:

Water Purchase	<u>\$35,000</u>
Total Appropriations Cancelled	\$35,000

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said balances so that the unexpended balances may be credited to Surplus;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the council of the Borough of Allendale, that the above listed unexpended balances of the Water Utility Operating Fund be canceled.

Resolution 19-266

**AUTHORIZE CANCELLATION OF UNEXPENDED BALANCES OF
THE CURRENT OPERATING FUND FOR 2019**

WHEREAS, the following Current Operating Fund anticipated revenue for Reserve for Debt Service and the offsetting budget appropriation for Payment of Bond Anticipation Notes in the amount of \$1,000,000 each remains unexpended for 2019;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel said anticipated revenue and budget appropriation balances;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the council of the Borough of Allendale, that the above listed appropriations and anticipated revenue balances of the Current Operating Fund for 2019 be canceled.

Unfinished 2019 Business:

There was no unfinished business.

Council Committee Reports and Comments

Before Council Committee Reports commenced, Mayor Bernstein explained that it would be an appropriate time for Councilmembers to give final, year-end reports or comments on their committees as some members were moving to new committees.

Councilman O'Connell – Land Use

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Councilman O'Connell expressed how he loved being on the Land Use Committee and thanked the members – Mike Vreeland, Ron Kistner, Anthony Hackett and Councilman Jim Strauch, who is a wealth of knowledge. He conveyed his confidence that the committee would be in good hands in 2020.

Councilman Sasso – Administration, Finance and Human Resources

Councilman Sasso enjoyed being on the committee and voiced his solid appreciation for what it takes to put a \$14 million budget together, with a laser focus on delivering services to the residents, all while keeping taxes as low as possible. He shared his gratitude for the opportunity to have chaired the committee.

Councilwoman Homan – Water, Sewer and Public Utilities

Councilwoman Homan acknowledged Councilman O'Toole for hitting the ground running as a new Councilman and for being a wonderful teammate. She welcomed Councilman Sasso to the 2020 committee. She also recognized Layne Simon, Ron Kistner, Alissa Mayer and Mike Vreeland for their hard work. She looked forward to continuing to improve and provide good service.

Councilwoman Wilczynski – Facilities, Parks and Recreation

Councilwoman Wilczynski stated that she will be chairing this committee again and that a lot of exciting plans were in store for Crestwood Lake. She reported that the Borough continues to apply for grants to make it an even more beautiful place. There will be an event at the bandshell for opening day this year. A new playground will be installed and some landscaping will be put around the bandshell. The Borough also received state grants to replace all the pavers and lighting in the downtown area, which will be a fun project. Many residents had reached out regarding the mural so right now they are figuring out how best to preserve Allendale's history. Regarding 220/230 West Crescent, it is about to get very busy with a closing likely in the near future. The Borough will continue to work with everyone to get all the paperwork done and do its due diligence. Councilwoman Wilczynski also expressed her appreciation to Anne Dodd for doing such a wonderful job as Clerk and how much she will miss her. She wished Anne the best in her new position.

Councilman O'Toole – Public Works

Councilman O'Toole thanked the governing body members for imparting their knowledge and giving him support and guidance this past year. He stated that he looked forward to 2020.

Councilman Strauch – Public Safety

Councilman Strauch expressed his deep appreciation for the entire public safety community as he ended his role as Chair of the Public Safety Committee. He thanked the Police Department, the Allendale Volunteer Ambulance Corps., the Allendale Fire Department and C.E.R.T. He recognized them as an integral part of the team and he expressed how the Borough was very lucky to have them. They have his full support.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Bernstein reflected on 2019 accomplishments and those that helped make them possible. He first thanked Steve Sasso and Matt O'Toole for agreeing to serve as councilmembers. He then recognized the team effort that it takes and commended the governing body's character for always doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. He spoke of their collective dedication and mentioned the time commitment alone as an example. Mayor Bernstein then moved on to thanking each department. He thanked Ron Kistner and the DPW for all they have done to keep the town looking clean and beautiful. They kept roadways safe for travel during snow events, patched

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potholes, kept the fields in top playing condition and for the countless other jobs they do. This past year saw completion of the drainage improvements project for which he praised Mayor-Emeritus White and Ron Kistner for their efforts securing the funding and moving the project forward. A lot of paving was done in 2019, and more will be done going forward. Mayor Bernstein expressed to Alissa Mayer and the Finance Department that they are the rock, the north star that keeps the Borough going. Last year the municipal tax rate was kept to under 1% increase, for which he thanked Alissa on behalf of all the taxpayers. To Anne, Mayor Bernstein acknowledged that this was a bittersweet moment as it was Anne's last meeting. He offered that Allendale's loss is Leonia's gain. Anne has been a great asset, one who the governing body knew they could rely on to keep them on the straight and narrow. Anne always watched out for the them and kept them moving forward. Mayor Bernstein presented Anne with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Borough. To Anne, Michelle and Tatiana, Mayor Bernstein expressed his appreciation for putting this meeting together. To Chief Scherb, Chief Rubino, Allendale Volunteer Ambulance Corps. and to C.E.R.T., Mayor Bernstein thanked them for keeping the Borough safe and for always being ready to answer the call at all hours when needed. To Ray Wiss, Tom Bouregy and TJ Wiss, he expressed the Borough's appreciation for their legal expertise. Last, but not least, Mayor Bernstein thanked the residents for their confidence in the governing body's ability and trust and their feedback and input. Hope to continue to serve them well in 2020.

Staff Reports:

Ray Wiss, Municipal Attorney, reported that since the last meeting his office has been working with Ron Kistner on some personnel, contract and property maintenance matters. They have also been working with Anne on OPRA matters that continue to flood the Borough. Regarding 220/230 West Crescent, it will start back up again at 8am tomorrow morning. He wished everyone a Happy New Year and expressed his appreciation to the governing body for his re-appointment. 2019 was a substantively successful year, especially with the COAH certification. It will be minimally impactful, while complying with the law. It is a testament to team effort over extended period of time. No small accomplishment to be where the Borough is at present with 220/230 and though there is some ways to go, it is moving along. Mr. Wiss extended his best wishes to Anne and thanked her for her professionalism.

Anne Dodd, Municipal Clerk, stated that the Clerk's Office finished out 2019 with 503 OPRA requests. Anne thanked everyone for the beautiful flowers presented to her at the meeting. She felt that it was truly a pleasure serving the Borough for the past 4 1/2 years and will miss everyone very much.

Alissa Mayer, CFO, had no report.

Ron Kistner, Administrative Officer/Director of Operations, had no report.

Public Comment on any issue:

No one came forward.

Adjournment:

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There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilwoman Homan, second by Councilman Strauch, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Ryan
Acting Municipal Clerk