

ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS IS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 231, PUBLIC LAW 1975 AND BY RESOLUTION 2009-6 WITH THE REQUEST OF THE HOME NEWS TRIBUNE AND THE SENTINEL NEWSPAPERS TO PUBLISH SAME AND THIS ANNOUNCEMENT MUST BE ENTERED INTO THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING

A Special Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of South River, in the County of Middlesex and the State of New Jersey was held August 31, 2009 and was called to order by Mayor Raymond T. Eppinger at 6:00 PM in the Cafetorium of the Elementary/Middle School at 3 Montgomery Street, in South River, New Jersey with the following Councilmembers in attendance:

Councilmembers Almeida, Guindi, Hutchison, Razzano, Trenga, and Trzeciak  
Councilman Trenga was absent

Also attending this meeting was Andrew Salerno, Borough Administrator

Mayor Eppinger opened the hearing to the public for comment.

Joe Manzo, Prospect Ave.

- Knows Wes Bomba and John Bouthillette a long time. Good luck and God Bless to both. Does not know two people who deserve this recognition more.

No further comments were made. Councilman Razzano moved that the public hearing be closed. Councilman Guindi seconded the motion. So carried.

Opening Remarks, Raymond T. Eppinger, Mayor

Mayor Eppinger stated:

“On behalf of the entire Borough of South River, I would like to welcome you to this Special Meeting of the Borough Council.

Tonight, we are here to celebrate, honor and thank West Bomba and John Bouthillette for their over 65 years of combined service as members of the South River Police Department.

I hope people do not mind, but I am going to borrow some of the comments made over the past few weeks in describing these gentlemen: Wes and John have given their hearts and souls to the Borough and as we all know nearly their lives in protecting our residents. I am not sure how we as a people can adequately thank them for their service and bravery, but I do ask you all to join with me in a round of applause to honor them.

But as Wes has reminded me, this is John’s night. We are here to celebrate the appointing of him as our new Chief of Police. I have had the opportunity over the four

years as a Councilman and as Mayor to work with John. I can best describe him as intense, focused, intense, prepared, intense, attentive to detail, intense and community oriented – did I mention intense?

With his experience, street smarts and most recently FBI training, I know the south River Police Department is in good hands. I have had the opportunity to ride on several weekend nights with John to get a true feel for what goes on in the wee hours of a hot weekend night. Now I may be the Mayor but when John says Ray stay in the car, trust me, Ray stays in the car.

He is quite proud of his department and we are quite proud of him and the South River Police force as well. He is equipped to lead the Department in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Wes Bomba took a good Police Department and made it great. We have the faith in John Bouthillette that under his leadership, a great department will be even better.

To Wes and John: God bless the both of you and your families. And may the Good Lord watch over and protect all the members of our Public Safety Department who protect and serve South River every day.

Thank you.”

Mayor Eppinger presented Chief Bomba with a retirement badge on behalf of a grateful Borough.

Chief Bomba stated that he is very proud of John Bouthillette. They looked out for each other. John was a great help to him. The Borough could not have chosen anyone better to serve as Police Chief. John is an outstanding person. He wished him continued health, happiness and success in his new position. He has earned it and no one deserves this appointment more.

Mayor Eppinger read the Resolution appointing John Bouthillette as Police Chief into the record.

Res: 2009-315

August 31, 2009

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, John P. Bouthillette was sworn in as a Police Officer in the Borough of South River on January 30, 1986 ; and

WHEREAS, John P. Bouthillette while serving as a member of the Borough of South River Police Department consecutively for the past twenty-three (23) years was promoted through the rank to Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Deputy Chief; and

WHEREAS, John P. Bouthillette was named Acting Chief of Police in the Borough of South River on April 3, 2009; and

WHEREAS, because of his hard work, dedication and commitment to the residents of the Borough of South River, John P. Bouthillette has been chosen to be Police Chief in the Borough of South River.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that I, Raymond T. Eppinger, Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Council of the Borough of South River, do hereby appoint John Paul Bouthillette as South River's Chief of Police this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August in the year 2009, effective September 1, 2009 and wish him continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk is authorized to prepare an appropriate embossed or other form of this resolution to be signed by the Mayor and all Council members.

/s/ Raymond T. Eppinger  
Mayor

/s/ Anthony Razzano  
Councilmember

/s/ John Trzeciak  
Councilmember

ROLL CALL VOTE

YEAS: Almeida, Guindi, Hutchison, Razzano, Trzeciak  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Trenga

Remarks by Chief John Bouthillette

Chief Bouthillette stated:

“Thank you Mayor Eppinger, Members of the Borough Council, Borough Administrator Andrew Salerno.

I would also like to thank the many Honored Guests, Fellow Members of the Law Enforcement Community, Fellow Members of the of the Borough of South River Public Safety Community, Borough Employees, Borough Residents, Friends and of course my family for attending this ceremony today.

Special Attention to:

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan, Deputy Chief Robert Trivisano, East Brunswick Mayor David Stahl, Superior Court Judge James Hyland, Chiefs of Police, Retired Chief of Police, Retired members of the Police Department, Fire Chiefs, Squad Captain, OEM Coordinator, Superintendent of Public Schools Ronald Grygo, any other possible dignitaries in attendance, my family members. Apologize for missing any names.

As your new Chief of Police I am both honored and humbled by the great responsibility that has been conferred upon me today. It is with a great sense of organizational pride that I accept this leadership role and pledge to all of you that it will be my goal to make the South River Police Department one of the finest law enforcement organizations in the county and state.

I promise you all that I will never take this responsibility lightly and I will constantly strive to insure that this department provides the highest levels of public safety and community service to all of the residents of the Borough of South River.

I will also promise you that one of my main goals will be to continue to improve our relationship with the community and embark on a new philosophy of community orientated policing.

I plan on accomplishing this task by building on our core community policing efforts such as DARE, our annual Bicycle Rodeo and Bike Safety Program, Halloween Safety Program, Senior Citizen Police Academy, Junior Police Academy, and our National Night Out Program.

We will also be increasing our visibility on the street by continuing to implement and enhance special details such as our park and walk, bicycle patrol programs, and targeted enforcement details that are designed to augment our "Slow Down in our Town" campaign.

Before I go any further with this speech I must take this opportunity to acknowledge the work, sacrifice and commitment of Chief Wesley J. Bomba, and personally thank him for his 42 years of dedicated service to the Borough of South River.

Thank you for making me the police officer that stands before you today. And trust me, I know that it was not easy.....

I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank you for not only saving my life but my family's life on that cold winter's day back in December of 2000. Chief Bomba does not like me to publicly comment about his actions on that date, but if it were not for him and the actions of other dedicated members of this department I would not be standing in front of you today.

Wes, you have been a true friend, confidant and mentor throughout my entire law enforcement career. I wish you much success and happiness in the years to come. And I challenge you to take the time to enjoy your retirement with your wife and family, you have truly earned the time off.

I would also like to thank the everyday heroes of the South River Department. Those dedicated young men and women who comprise this outstanding police department.

These fine officers have chosen a calling in their lives that requires them to make a tremendous amount of sacrifice and who are all motivated by the need to help and protect others.

The many fine police officers of this department truly represent the best that law enforcement has to offer and I could not ask for a better group of dedicated police officers to lead in my new role of Chief of Police. I promise you all that I will never forget that you are my greatest resource.

Tomorrow we will be turning the page together and starting a new Chapter in the history of the South River Police Department.

I stand before you today and publicly pledge to support and stand by each and every one of you as you perform this dangerous and difficult task of protecting the community that we serve.

I would also like to publicly thank your families for supporting you throughout your careers in law enforcement. We often forget the vital role that they play in our lives and the sacrifices that make being members of a law enforcement family.

I therefore pledge to your families that I will make every effort possible to provide each and every one of you with the training, equipment and leadership that you need to insure that you come home safe to them at the end of your tour of duty.

I know that even though I have been a police officer with this department more than 23 years I am fully aware of the fact that Leadership and Respect are earned not given. It will therefore be my job to earn this respect and prove my leadership abilities, not just through words but by actions. And this task of earning that respect begins today.

Make no mistake, I am not seeking perfection. Perfection is a term that lacks practical application in the real world. What I do expect from officers who work for this great department is the constant pursuit of excellence.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those dedicated men and women who we often forget to thank for their dedicated service to the Borough of South River.

These people include but are not limited to our police dispatchers, civilian employees, Class I Special Police Officers, Domestic Violence Response Team Members, Adult School Crossing Guards, Volunteer Members of the Fire Department and Rescue Squad, our Office of Emergency Management, Fire Prevention and the dedicated members of the South River Municipal Alliance.

These dedicated men and women work closely with my department to provide the highest levels of public safety to all the residents of the Borough of South River.

These individuals truly comprise the Borough's public safety team. Without their continued help and support our mission would fail.

I must also commend the dedicated employees of the Department of Public Works (Water, Roads, Electric, Sewer and Sanitation), we may be the first agency to respond to a crisis or disaster in the Borough, but I am fully aware that you are the people who put the borough back together again. Thank you all for a job well done.

In conclusion, I am going to challenge not only myself, but each and every member of the South River Police Department to rededicate themselves to the new core values of the South River Police Department. These simple core values encompass the ideals of duty, honor, and courage.

Duty, Honor, Courage:

These three words will be used by this department to dictate to each and every officer;

- **what you ought to be**
- **what you can be**
- **what you will be**

These three core values will also be used as our rallying points during times of adversity:

- **to build courage when courage seems to fail;**
- **to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith;**
- **And to create hope when hope becomes forlorn.**

I also understand that as a department we cannot successfully complete our mission alone. I am looking forward to working with Mayor and Council and the community that we serve in improving the quality of life to every resident of the Borough of South River.

I this point in my speech I would be remiss not to mention the fact that the road that I have traveled to reach this point and time in my life has not been easy and not without controversy. I have endured challenges throughout the course of my law enforcement career that have truly tested my resolve.

I am a firm believer that in every challenge lies an opportunity to grow and I know that together we will overcome all adversity through:

- mission driven hard work,
- professional excellence at all levels,
- and our unwavering adherence to our new core values of Duty, Honor and Courage.

I will add that I have proven throughout my career that it is not about how many times you get knocked down in your life that defines who you are as person; it is whether you chose to get back up again that really counts.

I carry four medals of Honor to work with me each day; they are the remnants of a horrific chapter in my life. These four small pieces of metal that I carry in my body help remind me of how dangerous this job can be and how important it is that I demand that my officers be the best that they can be.

Before I end this speech I must thank my family, specifically my wife Donna and my daughter Ashley. You have stood by me and supported me during some of the most difficult times in my life. I know that I have often placed this job before all things in my life and that includes the two of you, and for this I am truly sorry.

Ashley, I am so proud of you. You have no idea what you mean to me, I am the proudest father in the world and you are the best daughter a father could ever ask for.

Donna, you continue to be my biggest supporter. You complain the least and hope the most. You have also supported and tolerated my commitment to law enforcement through the best and worst of times.

For me you epitomize the terms courage, loyalty and compassion. You had the courage to literally stand vigil at my bed side when many thought I would not survive. You have also shown great loyalty and overwhelming compassion by standing by my side with your head held high even though many questioned my integrity.

I will never forget that day, at one of the lowest points in my life, when you picked me up and reminded me who I was and that by having faith in God and my family that everything would be fine. "Jesus take the wheel". I do not show or state this enough, but I love you both and I am very fortunate to have both of you in my life.

I would like to end my speech with a quote from Winston Churchill;

**"Success is never final. Failure is never fatal. It is courage that counts."**

And it is with this courage that we begin the next chapter in the history of the South River Police Department. Together as a team.

Again, I would like to thank the Mayor and Council for having faith in my abilities and providing me with the opportunity.

Thank you all for coming and may God bless you all and keep you and your families safe.”

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

#### Councilman Almeida

- Thanked Wes Bomba for his 42 years of service. Congratulated John Bouthillette on his appointment

#### Councilman Guindi

- Congratulations to John Bouthillette; thanked his family; he has done a remarkable job
- Will miss Wes Bomba very much; he has done so much for the community; words cannot express what he means to this community

#### Councilman Hutchison

- Thanked Wes Bomba for all the years of service as Chief of the Police; thanked his family
- Congratulations to Chief Bouthillette; has been a totally smooth transition; wished him success; wants to spend time going around town in a car with the Chief

#### Councilman Razzano

- Thanked Chief Bomba for taking a good Police Department and making it an outstanding Police Department; thanked him for his leadership; has been a positive individual for the town; wished him all the best in his retirement
- Chief Bouthillette – has complete confidence in his abilities; has seen dedication, sensitivity and compassion in him. He is an exceptional leader and we are fortunate to have him; could not be a better person to lead the South River Police Department
- Both men were shot and were close to death; they chose to come back; thanked them for their dedication

#### Councilman Trzeciak

- Thanked Chief Bomba for the many years of service.
- Congratulated Chief Bouthillette and is looking forward to his tenure
- Acknowledged friends and family who have joined us this evening – great testament to both men

#### Mayor's Comments

- Thanked Wes Bomba and John Bouthillette for their dedication and hard work
- Thanked everyone for coming out tonight; shows a great tribute to both men

#### Benediction

Father Dave Garretson gave Benediction.

Adjournment

Councilman Razzano moved that this meeting be adjourned at 6:55 p.m.  
Councilman Guindi seconded the motion. So carried.

Respectfully submitted on  
September 11, 2009.

Patricia O'Connor, RMC  
Borough Clerk

Approved at the regular meeting  
held on September 14, 2009