

ADEQUATE NOTICE OF THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS IS REQUIRED BY CHAPTER 231, PUBLIC LAW 1975 AND BY RESOLUTION 2008-14 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 April 21, 2008 and was called to order by Mayor Raymond T. Eppinger at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber in the Criminal Justice Building at 61 Main Street in South River, New Jersey with the following Councilmembers in attendance:

Councilmembers Buffalino, Hutchison, Krenzel, Razzano, Trenga, Trzeciak

Also attending this meeting was Andrew J. Salerno, Borough Administrator.

Andrew Salerno, Borough Administrator requested that the following notice be made part of the Minute record.

April 18, 2008

On Monday April 21, 2008, the South River Borough Council will hold a Special Meeting to address the trash collection situation. The meeting will take place at the Criminal Justice Building at 7:00 p.m.

The only item on the agenda will be a discussion and possible award (only a vote by the Council can actually award the contract) of the base bid and the rejection of the contract add on/addendum.

The base bid would continue the trash pick up in the South end of the borough by a private hauler. This action is required as the Director of Public Works has indicated we cannot secure some of the necessary equipment by May 1, 2008 in order to service the area properly.

The contract add on/addendum would have provided for a private hauler to collect trash for the entire Borough.

Therefore, there will be no change in existing service.

Over the next few weeks the administration will meet with the sanitation workers and their union representatives to insure that the service which residents want and appreciate is continued to be delivered in the most effective and cost efficient manner possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Raymond T. Eppinger
Mayor

RESOLUTION

RES:2008-264

APRIL 21, 2008

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the governing body of the Borough of South River, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey had previously authorized and directed the Borough Clerk to advertise for the receipt of sealed bids for solid waste collection service in accordance with specifications approved and filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, said bids were received on April 1, 2008 and opened and read aloud in public and an examination thereof shows that Central Jersey Waste and Recycling, Inc. was the lowest and most responsible bidder thereon with a bid of \$226,982.43 for the base bid as noted in the report of the borough engineer dated April 7, 2008 and the opinion letter of the borough attorney dated April 15, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough has certified in writing that funds are available for the above purpose and are contained in the Operating Budget; and

WHEREAS, the award of this contract is contingent upon the contractor fully complying, if applicable, with the requirements of Public Law 1975, Chapter 127, known as the "Affirmative Action Law."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South River, in the County of Middlesex, the State of New Jersey that the above recited bid be and the same is hereby accepted and that a contract be and the same is hereby awarded to Central Jersey Waste and Recycling, Inc. for the base bid per the bid so submitted on condition that the bidder shall provide a performance bond and meet all other requirements of the instructions to bidders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of South River reject the alternate bid submitted by Central Jersey Waste and Recycling Inc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate officers of the Borough be and they are hereby authorized and directed to execute all instruments necessary to complete the above stated transaction but only upon submission of the above as well as approval of same by the appropriate borough officials.

DATED: APRIL 21, 2008

/s/ John Krenzel
Councilman

/s/ Suzanne Buffalino
Councilwoman

Councilman Razzano made a motion to divide the question and remove the South section of town. There was no second to this motion. Councilman Krenzel stated that there was no need to divide the resolution. We accept the base bid and reject the alternate.

Councilman Razzano questioned whether or not there were any other bids. Mayor Eppinger stated there are no other bids being entertained. The low bidder is Central Jersey Waste for the base bid to do South end of town. We reject the alternate bid for the entire borough. Councilman Razzano commented that the contract with Central Jersey Waste is for five years. We should look into other options like renting or borrowing dumpsters from other towns. Councilman Razzano asked if we could opt out of the contract. Administrator Andrew Salerno stated that we could not opt out.

Councilman Krenzel motioned to award the solid waste collection services base bid to Central Jersey Waste for the South end of town and to continue with the Borough employees picking up the remainder of the town.

ROLL CALL VOTE

YEAS: Buffalino, Hutchison, Krenzel, Razzano, Trenga, Trzeciak
NAYS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS-(agenda items only)

Ed Kahn, Union President

- Thanked the Borough Council for voting to reject the alternate bid.

- He would have liked to see us take over South end of town.
- Thanked the residents for their support of the employees.

Sally Dlugozimski, Prentice Ave.

- Asked why we have to hire other people outside of town to tell us what to do with our tax money
- Use our own residents and make South River proud of South River again

Jim Mail (Address inaudible)

- Commented about webpage stating that we do not take gratuities. Why print it, unless you are guilty of it.
- Saw borough truck at a convenience store on Sunday and asked what right an employee has to bring truck home. What happens when fuels costs go up.
- Mayor commented that the Code Enforcement Officer is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week and he is a Borough resident.
- Asked if Leonardine Gardens is included in base bid.
- Mayor said no.
- Razzano stated that webpage states “we do not accept gratuities”.

Steve Janasko, 33 Sunset St.

- Stated that there is not enough time for the town to purchase dumpsters for the apartment complexes.
- Asked why the apartment complexes do not supply own dumpsters.
- Salerno explained that there is a statute called the Municipal Services Act which requires municipalities to provide the same level of service to apartment dwellers as it would for other residential areas.

Brad Shultz, 41 Willett Ave.

- You can get containers very quickly.
- You don't have to buy a front end truck.
- Not enough research was done.
- Salerno stated he does not dispute that dumpsters could be gotten quickly, but the town has to follow the Local Public Contracts Law.

Joe Manzo, Willett Ave.

- Biggest problem is picking up the apartments.
- We could not do it, so we privatized.
- Asked why can't we privatize the apartments and let the town take the houses.
- Salerno stated that in 2004 the initial effort was to privatize the apartments. There were no bidders and then the south end was added.

Andy Mattison (Address inaudible)

- How did privatization occur in the south end in the first place?
- Mayor stated that it was the decision of the 2004 Governing Body.

John Scala, 440 Turnpike Road

- Requested copy of ordinance or resolution to go out to bid in 2004. He attends all the council meetings.

Marilyn Meloni, 53 Kamm Avenue

- Asked if Mr. Sliker could give an update on what occurred in 2004.
- Mayor stated that would not be appropriate.

Isabel Costa (Address inaudible)

- Asked why meeting was not at the high school.
- There are over 150 people over at the high school and 100 people in the hallway.

Al Kliger, Willett Ave.

- Weren't Council members aware that the contract was up?
- Should have pursued other avenues to save money.

Joan Petersen, 10 Foothills Drive

- Proud that there is someone on the Council who listens to the people of this community.
- Reasonable motion by Mr. Razzano to divide the question and look into other communities for help.
- Feels strongly that we could have gotten our own trucks.
- Asked that the meeting be moved to the high school where there are 300 people waiting.

Jim Mail (Address inaudible)

- Asked why our trucks were at Spotswood.
- Had concerns about the increase in electric bill.
- Salerno stated that Spotswood is our backup. They issued an emergency response. They help us.
- Stated there was a problem with brown water. Sayreville had to come to assist him.
- Apologized to the Code Enforcement Officer.
- Hutchison stated that electrical outage was associated with a PSEG relay switch. We have one line of service in South River. Bottom line is that when we lose this feed, the entire town is down.

Andy Mattison (Address inaudible)

- Asked when the fire hydrants are going to be flushed. They used to be flushed every year.
- Salerno said they are scheduled to be flushed in the next few weeks.

Mr. Pitello, 36 Garwood St.

- The Borough Council does not care about the community.
- He was in the garbage business. We have equipment to pick up garbage.

Doreen Hamelin, 8 Northern St.

- Asked if there is a statute that gives everyone the opportunity to speak at this meeting.
- Commented on the number of people in the hallway and at the high school.
- Trzeciak stated that he was appalled at the display of the residents and the comments about kickbacks. He serves this town because he loves it. We have the interests of everyone in town.

Councilman Krenzel moved that this part of the meeting be closed. Councilman Hutchison seconded the motion. So carried.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Razzano

- It was a mistake not to look into other alternatives.
- Voted for resolution because we are not doing four-fifths of the town.
- Stated that the Borough Council members are honest people and to make accusations about kickbacks is irresponsible.

Councilwoman Buffalino

- Had questions from last meeting.
- Made multiple phone calls and researched over the past week.
- It was approved at the 11/26/07 Council meeting to go out to bid for the southern portion of town.
- There was plenty of time to ask questions.
- Contractor needs time to gear up. It cannot do it in less than two weeks.
- We would have to go out to public bid for dumpsters.
- We would not have garbage pickup in the south end of town.
- We have to make the best of the situation.
- The bid went out for five years to get the best rate. We cannot change the bid.

Councilman Hutchison

- We don't want an area of town to be without garbage service.
- We are trying to do the best possible job for the town.
- This was not a decision that was made lightly.

Councilman Trenga

- This is a difficult situation.
- Takes it personally that people attack us.
- Trying to make an informed decision on how to move forward.
- We will still continue to look at situations as they come up and do the best we can do with what we were left with from the prior governing body.

Councilman Trzeciak

- Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.
- We have the community's interest in mind.
- We have listened to the people.

Andrew Salerno, Business Administrator stated:

"Mr. Mayor as you know, I never speak during the comments section as I am not an elected official, I am an appointed official.

I want to assure the people of the South River that although I was attacked on a personal basis, that is a very small minority of the people of South River I work for. And I assure you that I will continue in my position and do the best that I can do for the Borough. As the Borough Administrator, it is my responsibility to present alternatives to the governing body for service delivery. I did that, the governing body listened to the people and voted accordingly.

I don't take anything personal out of this, this is my job, I run the business. To think that, as much as I appreciate high school students for their enthusiasm and their commitment, I have a high school student from South River who interns in our office, to believe that that intern can act as the borough's chief officer for the utility, for the current fund, the capital funds, for a budget totaling better than 30 million dollars with 100 employees is incorrect at best.

I enjoy working here. I intend to continue working here if the mayor and governing body want me here. I am a credentialed Manager for the International City Managers Association, I have a degree in Economics and my resume is public knowledge. It's a public document and available to any of you as is my salary and what my duties are.

I look forward to continuing to serve you and thank you. Let's move on and do what's best for the borough."

Councilman Krenzel

- Commented on the bid process.
- Once the contract goes out to bid, that is what has to be bid upon.
- The base bid and alternate bid were put out in November 2007.

Mayor Eppinger

- Commented that last week's meeting could not be on Cable TV-35 because it takes two to three days to set up for a remote location.
- Noted that Mr. Krenzel was away on vacation last week and vote was not put on hold.
- Saddened that things had to degenerate to a personal level
- Borough Council members are part-time people doing the best job they can.
- We will move on and do our best.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Krenzel moved that this meeting be adjourned. Councilman Razzano seconded the motion. So carried.

Respectfully submitted on
May 8, 2008.

Patricia O'Connor, RMC
Borough Clerk