

**BOROUGH OF WOODCLIFF LAKE  
SPECIAL MAYOR AND COUNCIL MINTUES**

November 19, 2012

7:00 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER.**

Notice of this special meeting, in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Law, 1975, C. "231", has been posted and The Record, the Community Life and the Pascack Press have been notified.

**ROLL CALL.**

Mayor Jeffrey Goldsmith asked for a roll call. Councilwoman Abene, Councilman Bader, Councilwoman Bae, Councilman Glaser and Councilman Rosenblatt were present. Councilman Struk was absent. Borough Administrator Albrecht and Borough Clerk Sciara were also present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Amy Goldsmith.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that three ((3) ago at 6:40 p.m., the Goldsmith residence lost power. Some residents lost their electric services earlier. There were trees down, wires in trees and there were some streets that were impassable. Tonight is about what Mayor Goldsmith began on 1/1/12, it is about building community. The Mayor is grateful for what we have and especially that we have each other.

From this disaster, the municipality has learned much. NIXLE is a very effective tool in keeping residents informed during emergencies. Not all residents have been receiving both police and municipal texts however. Mayor Goldsmith suggested that written directions be made available to residents. Eighty-eight homes in Woodcliff Lake sustained damage, two streets, Deerfield and Carnot were deemed impassable by the all Borough officials.

Mayor Goldsmith thanked the Borough Administrator, Wolfgang Albrecht, for his dedication and hard work for the residents of Woodcliff Lake during Hurricane Sandy. During one of the update sessions, the generator at the Tice Center went down. The Mayor and the administrator worked by flashlight to update the website with information for the residents. Mrs. Siegel was at the Tice Center at this time. She asked, "What can I do to help?" "Power to the People" was born that night. The efforts of Mrs. Siegel, Mrs. Sirlin and Councilwoman Abene raised over \$12,000 and received donations of over 200 boxes of goods in just three days. The supplies were brought to the areas most affected by the hurricane.

**Gary Tucker, the General Manager of the Hilton Hotel**, was presented with a plaque thanking him for his assistance during the Hurricane. The Hilton lost power and could not sustain their operation on generator. They were forced to shut down. PSE&G, JP&L, Rockland Electric as well as hundreds of utility workers from all over the country were in need of housing while working to restore power in the area. Mr. Tucker stated that The Hilton would accommodate all in need of housing as long as electric was restored to their facility. Electric service was restored to BMW, Mack Cali, the Hilton and Eisai by Friday night. This was due to the hard work and diligence of Mr. Tucker.

Although not present, **Shaji Pocida of Eisai Corporation** was presented with a plaque thanking her for assistance during the Hurricane. Eisai Corporation made a corporate match to the funds raised and their CFO helped at the donation drive with her child in tow.

A new commercial resident in Woodcliff Lake asked Mayor Goldsmith what they could do to help the community. Mayor Goldsmith answered, "Write a check". A check in the amount of \$1,000 was donated to the Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund which is being headed by Mary Pat Christie, wife of the Governor. Politics aside, Governor Christie put New Jersey first and did a phenomenal job of leading the residents of NJ during this crisis.

The Mayor continued with accolades to the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Department of Public Works, the CERT team, Tri-Boro EMTs, and Borough staff.

#### **Police Department:**

Chief Jannicelli, Lieutenant. Garcia, Sergeants Foley and Uhl, Officers Powers, Greve and Malloy were in attendance. Officer Greve reported that the donations collected through "Power to the People" were personally delivered from Woodcliff Lake to the Police Departments at Seaside Heights and Toms River. Many of these officers were affected themselves by the Hurricane. Officer Greve thanked all those involved with this project.

Chief Jannicelli stated that the Police Department are sworn officers. It is their job to protect and serve the residents of Woodcliff Lake. The police do this type of work every day and are paid to do so. They are the first responders. After initial assessment, the police call for help from the many volunteers here tonight. The Police Department could not do their jobs without them.

#### **The Fire Department**

Chief Jared Shapiro was in attendance. His department responds to approximately 300 calls per year. During Hurricane Sandy the Fire Department responded to approximately 100 calls over a 6 day period. This is one call every 1 ½ hours. Enough could not be said about the professionalism, the dedication and the hard work of this department. The Mayor stated that he could not wish for a greater group of men. They are great volunteers and the backbone of the community. The Mayor thanked Chief Shapiro for all he and his department had done.

Mayor Goldsmith thanked Herb Kuehlke, OEM Coordinator, for his fantastic response, professionalism, ability and dedication to the residents of Woodcliff Lake during Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Kuehlke was "On duty" during the entire crisis.

Many members of the **Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT)** were affected by the Hurricane. These great volunteers could be found at the Tice Center which was used as a central location for the Borough during the hurricane. Information, hot coffee and a warm welcome was found at the Tice Center. Marilyn Clark, whose home had a tree fall into it, was at the Tice Center every day making coffee and being the best "Mom" anyone would ever want. The Wednesday after the storm, the nursing home on Chestnut Ridge Road had its generator fail. 97 residents of the nursing home had to be evacuated. Within minutes, all emergency response crews were at the nursing home, assisting to relocate patients to the Tice Center. A modified triage stations was assembled. Within eight (8) hours, all residents had been dispatched to other hospitals and nursing homes. The Tri-Boro EMT volunteers were thanked for their dedication, rapid response, knowledge and professionalism.

**Superintendent of Woodcliff Lake Schools Lauren Barbalet** was thanked by Mayor Goldsmith for her assistance during the hurricane. The Mayor stated that Mrs. Barbalet is an "absolute blessing" to this community. Mrs. Barbalet used the schools e-mail database to help the municipality relay information to the residents of Woodcliff Lake.

Halloween is an important event in the lives of children. The Mayor met with residents and they all agreed that Halloween would be held on Monday, November 5, 2012 this year. The "caramel apple lady" on Old Farms Road handed out approximately 500 apples and began collecting clothing in her garage for victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that his "better half" could be found at the recycling center distributing the Mayor's website updates to residents. Residents were so appreciative that information was being delivered to worried residents. Mrs. Goldsmith and Mrs. Rosenblatt were honored for their help and support.

**The men of the Department of Public Works** were the unsung heroes of this emergency. This department had the most authorized overtime as per Mayor Goldsmith. An OEM meeting was held on October 12, 2012 to ascertain what all would do when the eventual hurricane hit. The DPW has not missed day of leaf, garbage or recycling pick-up. The ecology center was open every day during the storm to aid residents in removing debris from their property. In the middle of hurricane clean up, a snow storm hit the tri-state area. The DPW had to reconfigure equipment to put on snow plows, and hook up the salt brine applicator. This is what makes a top ten town. Superintendent Dave Antoine, Evan Barboni and Dave Linko were present to receive the Mayor's honor.

Mayor Goldsmith thanked the Borough Hall administrative staff. The Mayor stated that generator at the police station is over 25 years old. Borough Hall is not on generator. The administrative staff was displaced for over 5 days, working at the DPW and the Tice Center. The Mayor thanked Joy Sugerman, Kathy Rizza, Fariba Negahban, Debbie Dakin and Lori Sciara.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that he worked on his e-mail updates every day with Administrator Albrecht. They agreed on all information until the very last posting. Mayor Goldsmith stated on his last post that Administrator Albrecht was the force behind our recovery from the storm. Mr. Albrecht was at the Borough every day and most nights. He spoke to the Mayor at least 10 times per day. He rode with the police and the DPW to survey damage and make recommendations/decisions.

Mayor Goldsmith thanked the Council for their support during this crisis. The Council acted as one and did what was best for Woodcliff Lake.

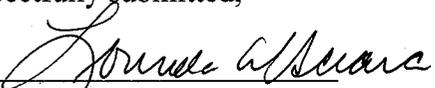
Council President Bader presented the Mayor with a token of the Council's appreciation for his dedication and hard work during this crisis. Mr. Bader stated that although the Mayor was without power himself, he was at the Tice Center every day keeping everyone informed with the latest developments. Mr. Bader stated that the Mayor showed outstanding leadership when the Borough was in need of a leader.

Mayor Goldsmith stated that he knew he could not possibly honor all those who helped during Hurricane Sandy. As he scanned the room, he thanked Fire Official Paul Bechtel, Fire Official, Fire Department Deputy Chief George Lucia Jr., Captain Rob Kuehkle and Firefighter Jim Kuehlke. Mayor Goldsmith stated, "I would also like to thank Deb Kuehlke for without her, we would have three less volunteers!"

**ADJOURNMENT.**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Rosenblatt, second by Mrs. Abene and approved unanimously by voice call vote. The time is 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Lorinda D. Sciara, RMC/CMC  
Borough Clerk