

**BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS**

**MINUTES**

**February 25, 2014**

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Thursday, February 25, 2014 at 8:05 p.m. at Borough Hall, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

**RESOLUTION:** 48. Authorizing the Appointment of Michael Kronyak as Acting Borough Clerk

Mayor Heck requested a motion to appoint Michael Kronyak as Acting Borough Clerk in Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees' absence which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Link and unanimously carried.

Acting Borough Clerk Kronyak stated that the meeting complied with the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting having been made to all members of the Council by personal service on January 2, 2014 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 2, 2014.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Mayor Rose Heck, Councilman Justin A. DiPisa, Councilwoman Sonya Buckman, Councilman David Gonzalez, Councilman Russell A. Lipari, Councilwoman Pamela J. Link, Councilman Christian Semenez

Absent: None

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Heck led in the Salute to the Flag and Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION:**

Councilwoman Link gave the Invocation as follows:

“As we gather here to make decisions for our community tonight, may we use only our best skills and judgment, keeping ourselves impartial and neutral as we consider the merits and pitfalls of each matter that is placed before us.”

**COMMUNICATIONS:** 1) Mayors Advisory from NJLM re: BPU Order on Opportunity NJ Broadband

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**COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):**

2) Notice from PSEG of extension of gas credit in March

3) Request from HH Little League for permission to hang a banner across the Boulevard from March 18 through April 7 promoting their pancake breakfast on April 6.

Mayor Heck asked if anyone wished to have any item read into the record. Item #3 was requested (copy attached). Mayor Heck requested a motion to accept the correspondence which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried.

Mayor Heck then requested a motion regarding Item #3 which was made by Councilman Semencz, seconded by Councilwoman Link and unanimously carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**       *(January 28, 2014 Regular Meeting, February 11, 2014 Regular Meeting)*

Mayor Heck requested a motion to accept the foregoing Minutes which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Semencz, with Councilman Lipari abstaining from the minutes of February 11, 2014 as he was absent, and otherwise unanimously carried.

**BILLS:**

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$747,753.82 specified in the Schedule hereto annexed, have been examined and approved by the Finance Commissioner, or his Deputy; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available in the accounts listed for payment of the claims;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the claims be paid and checks be issued on the funds and accounts indicated on the attached schedule.

Signed Pamela J. Link  
Commissioner of Finance

On a motion by Councilwoman Link, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried, the foregoing Resolution was adopted.

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**REPORTS:**

**POLICE:** Under Police, Commissioner DiPisa reported the Department would like to wish good luck and health to Sgt. Mike Vargo who retired February 1, 2014. New Department Rules and Regulations were approved by the Police Committee and issued to all Members of the Department.

Parking Enforcement Officer/EMT Jeff Rubino started on February 10, 2014.

Police Chief Michael J. Colaneri would like to commend his Department for their outstanding service and dedication to the residents of Hasbrouck Heights by making our Boro #5 on the 10 Safest Places to live in New Jersey. He added his congratulations. This list was compiled by MOVOTO Real Estate. Movoto conducted the study by looking at violent crime, property crime and the chance a resident will be the victim of crime. The report states that Hasbrouck Heights has all the benefits of being just 10 miles northwest of Midtown without any crime. Chief Colaneri would also like to take this opportunity to thank his Department for their hard work and commitment to the Boro of Hasbrouck Heights and its residents.

**RECREATION AND PARKS:** Under Recreation, Commissioner Buckman reported Recreation Basketball will be finishing their season this Saturday. Registration for Softball took place this week and so far there are three teams in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade division, two teams each in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade divisions. Track's second registration will take place Feb. 27 and is open to boys and girls grades 3 through 8. The Special Needs Recreation is into the indoor activities portion of the schedule. There are five children meeting once a week at the Library. The Wrestling team finished their regular season and held the District 5 Championship this past Sunday. The Senior Center has a new 55" flat screen Plasma TV and were waiting for the high definition cable box.

Under **Parks**, Commissioner Buckman reported the Department of Public Works has been performing snow removal in several areas throughout the town. Large amounts of snow are stockpiled at Woodland Park in rear parking lot and wooded area. The remaining accumulation is being stored at the DPW facility on Plant Road. Due to the heavy amounts of snow both temporary storage areas are near capacity. After numerous calls, United Water Company repaired the water leak at the curb line located in front of the Firemen's Memorial.

As Library Liaison, she reported that for the month of January circulation numbers were down due to the weather. Approximately 9,100 people visited, 30 library cards were issued, 20 adult and 10 children. Total library cards to date are 6,500. The burst sprinkler pipe issues have been resolved. Residents were asked to check the library's

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**Library (cont'd):** website [hasbrouckheights.bccls.org](http://hasbrouckheights.bccls.org) for a list of upcoming events. The upcoming Book and Bake Sale will be the only one to be held this year.

**FIRE, STREETS & SANITATION:** Under Fire, Commissioner Gonzalez reported there were a total of 83 EMS calls, 58 Fire and non-fire calls. At the February 11 council meeting Certificates of Appreciation and Recognition were given Fire Chief Patrick Hayes, Firefighters Lawrence Donohue and Al Saulnier, former Fire Chief Kevin Todd, 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Fire Chief Angelo Roccamo, Fire Captains Peter Kolodziej and Robert Knobloch, Firefighters Greg Rubino, David Ebert, Patrick Mucha and Andrew Waring and Fire Lt. David Gumbrecht. He requested that any Hasbrouck Heights resident who has a fire hydrant in front or adjacent to their home try to keep the snow cleared from the hydrant area. Residents were also advised to check the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Under **Streets & Sanitation**, Commissioner Gonzalez gave the following report: On January's report there were seven (7) snow related events discussed and as of this report there have been eight (8) additional events for a total of 15 storms thus far this season.

January 25 - brought out the salt trucks as two inches of snow fell.

January 27 - Snow removal of all corners along Burton Avenue.

January 28 – A list of pot holes were sent to Bergen County Roads Division requesting repairs on all County roads (Boulevard, Terrace, Passaic and Williams) that transverse our Borough.

January 29 - Salt trucks were dispatched at 2:00am as another inch and a half of snow covered our roadways.

January 30 – The HHDPW repairs potholes on local streets using four tons of Winter Mix asphalt.

February 3 – Salt trucks were dispatched at 4:00am followed by plowing as the storm progressed. After a 28-hour shift a total of eight (8) inches of snow fell.

February 5 – Again salt trucks went out at 2:00am plowing another eight (8) inches before it turned to ice.

February 6 – Snow removal began from Borough Hall and Public Safety Building parking lots, and Burton Avenue corners to accommodate the Walking School Bus route. Snow removal from the Boulevard commenced the night.

February 9 – An accumulation of another two (2) inches brought out the salt trucks.

February 12 – In anticipation of storm salt brine was applied to roadways.

February 13 – All salt trucks were out early as was the Sanitation Department to collect household garbage prior to the storm. As predicted 14 inches of snow fell. It was a 32-hour shift for the DPW Road Crew.

February 14 – Four (4) more inches of snow fell.

February 15 – More snow the evening, more salting.

February 18 – The DPW was out salting and plowing @ 5:00am

**STREETS AND SANITATION (cont'd):**

February 18 – The DPW was nearly out of salt and waited for a large order that was placed three (3) weeks prior.

February 19 – After numerous calls, 25 tons of salt was delivered.

February 19 – Bergen County Road Department repaired some potholes with bagged asphalt.

February 19 – Snow is being removed from the Boulevard corners, Burton corners, Oak Grove corners, all schools drop-off areas and parking lots, Memorial Park, crossing guard areas, bus stops, catch basins, Burr Place & Passaic Avenue, all dead-ends, all cul-de-sacs, Borough Hall, and Public Safety Building. This is on-going and snow accumulations will continue to be removed.

February 20 – 20-75 tons of salt was delivered. DPW repairs potholes with 2.5 tons of Winter Mix asphalt were completed.

Snow removal has been difficult for everyone this winter season. All homeowners and business owner are responsible for clearing their sidewalks and corners. We also ask that all residents adhere to the Ordinances of No-Parking on streets when snow covered and refrain from throwing snow/ice onto the Roadways. Your cooperation will greatly increase the ability of the DPW to clear the roads of snow and ice in a prompt and timely manner.

**FINANCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES:**

Under **Finance**, Commissioner Link gave the following report:

The Current Fund cash balance at January 31<sup>st</sup> was \$4,095,572.61 and at December 31<sup>st</sup> was \$3,259,736.76 which represents an increase of \$835,835.85. The entire balance was invested and earning approximately 0.25%.

Cash receipts for the month of January totaled \$4,277,267.37 of which \$3,929,798.12 was for Current Taxes, \$62,407.76 was for delinquent 2013 taxes and \$285,061.49 was Miscellaneous Revenues.

Cash disbursements for the month of January totaled \$3,441,431.52 of which \$2,139,527.00 was for Local School Taxes, \$588,309.23 was for Salaries and \$713,595.29 was for Other Expenses.

The process of formulating the 2014 Municipal Budget continues with the Finance Committee meeting regularly, the next meeting is scheduled for next Tuesday at 11:30. As reported at the last meeting, the date for introduction of the 2014 municipal budget has been extended from February 10<sup>th</sup> until March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**FINANCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES (cont'd):**

The Chief Financial Officer completed and submitted the Annual Debt Statement by its January 31, 2014 due date and the Annual Financial Statement which was due by February 10, 2014. The Financial Statement summarizes the financial position of the Borough at the end of the fiscal year. Some key points indicated by the Annual Financial Statement are as follows: 2013 Tax Collection Rate was 99.02%, a small increase 2012's rate of 99.00%.

The 2013 budget anticipated \$1,000,000.00 in surplus as a revenue to offset taxes and cash surplus generated in 2013 was \$1,147,511.28, as compared to \$1,062,571.59 generated in 2012. The 2013 results of financial operations met one of the goals of the Finance Committee by limiting the use of surplus to an amount that may be re-generated. Delinquent Taxes at 12/31/13 were \$382,322.48 as compared to \$407,014.59 at 12/31/12. These are all factors to be considered when formulating the 2014 budget. The ½ % appropriation CAP and 2% levy CAP's are also critical to the formulation of the budget.

Under **Social Services**, Commissioner Link reported there were 57 grateful visitors to the Food Pantry from February 3, 2014 through February 18, 2014 who are invited to come to the Pantry on Monday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who helped stock and supervise the food pantry during these weeks including Marge Heeren, Rosemary Willard, Janice Cooney, Audrey Gall, Vivian Leidenfrost, Madeleine Leddy and Coleen Sarden.

We sincerely thank the following for their generosity: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, St. John the Divine Episcopal Church, United Methodist Church Women, Corpus Christi Brown Bag Sunday, First Reformed Church, Montessori School Food Drive, Meals with a Mission, Donna Boyd, Joe Fazio, Gina DeFlorio, Lynn Petranella, Marilyn McDonall, Cuccio Family, Russ DeNigris, John Opaluch, Ron Ellis, Christine McGurran, Pertuz Family, Mrs. Keil, Gail Olcott, Kathy Van Jura, Mrs. Sproviero, Mr. Juun and Susan Jarocki. During this time of year donations are not as abundant, and anything that is received goes pretty quickly. When available, Food Store gift cards are provided. Any donations are much appreciated and accepted in the Borough Clerk's office from 9 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**HEALTH & LAND USE:** As Commissioner of Health, Councilman Lipari reported the following:

**AARP Safe Driving Program:** The Health Dept. has scheduled another AARP Safe Driving Program to be held on Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> in the Borough Hall. Because of the large turnout from our other driving courses, AARP agreed to come back for another class. The cost for the class is \$15.00 for AARP

**HEALTH AND LAND USE (cont'd):**

member and \$20.00 for non-members. Completion of the course, which is renewable every three years, will allow a two-point reduction from your driver's license and a five percent deduction on car insurance premiums.

**5 K Run/Walk & Health Fair:** The Hasbrouck Heights Board of Health is planning their Second Annual 5K Run and Fun Walk on Sunday, April 27, 2014. Along with our annual Health Fair the members of the Board of Health decided to organize a 5 K Run to help raise scholarship funds for town residents and the N.J. State Seeing Eye Dog Program. The Race and Health Fair will begin at 9 am at Borough Hall on Central Ave. If you or someone you know would like to donate supplies and gifts to the participating runners please contact the Hasbrouck Heights Health Dept. Our goal is to donate 100% of race proceeds to the various programs. If you make a donation by March 21, 2014 your contribution will be acknowledged on T-shirts provided to runners along with other event-related printed material.

**Dog Licenses:** The Board of Health would like to remind all dog owners that their 2013 dog license expired on January 31, 2014 and must be renewed as soon as possible. The Health Dept. has issued over 800 dog licenses and reminder letters will be mailed out during the last week of February.

As Commissioner of **Land Use** he reported the unusually cold weather and the snow have prevented many homeowners from beginning new projects. Total receipts for permits for the month were \$4,750. 2 Certificates of Occupancy were issued on the sale of homes. No new businesses opened on the Boulevard this month. Although not many permits were issued work continued and the inspectors made 106 initial UCC inspections were done during the past month with a passing rate of 98%.

The property maintenance inspector made 16 inspections. He followed up 26 times and issued 2 summonses for non-removal of snow.

Homeowners are reminded that snow must be removed from the sidewalks 12 hours after the snow ceases and a summons may be issued without a prior warning at that time.

The Zoning Board has one application for a non-conforming lot to build a one family house lot to be heard on Thursday, February 27th. The Planning Board has a soil movement permit application which was carried from last month due to snow.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION:** Commissioner Semencz offered the following report: At the DPW garage a heater exhaust pipe was replaced due to erosion along with service to the unit which included a new ignition switch and air filters.

Due to a leak from the HVAC system in the men's locker room at the Police Department, sheetrock was replaced. Also at the Police Department, painting was

**PUBLIC FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION (cont'd):**

completed and floors were waxed through the Bergen County Work Release Program. This program provides assistance in carpeting cleaning, painting, and floor waxing in all Borough facilities.

The DPW assisted the Hasbrouck Heights Board of Education with the use of the Tree Truck to repair the flag pole at Lincoln School. A new pulley and rope was installed.

Schedule of Meeting Rooms: Community Room, 9; Caucus Room, 7; Council Chambers, 4; Senior Center, 4 (not including Senior Activities).

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

I would like a moment's silence in memory of three members of our community: former Councilman George Jackson. He lived a long productive life and left behind to carry on his wonderful family. We also lost a very dear longtime friend of Hasbrouck Heights; Ed Hart will long be remembered for his warm smile, his gentle nature and willingness to help his community in so many ways. We will miss you Ed. The third loss will impact not only her family but the children of Lincoln School and all of our schools. Kathy DiGuglielmo left this world yesterday. She was a warm, giving and intelligent woman who shared all of her knowledge and goodness with everyone who knew her.

We do not have to be reminded of the heavy snows, the extreme cold and icy sidewalks and roads we have been experiencing. I mention it because the remains of those snowstorms still remain and it gives me the opportunity to thank all of our Borough's employees for their outstanding performance during these trying days. Our Police Dept. was always on the job keeping us safe. Our exceptional Dept. of Public Works continues to keep its great reputation for doing the best job possible. And let's not forget how quickly they filled the potholes left during the storms. Our Fire Dept. and Ambulance Squad for their most valuable volunteer efforts and all of our staff members who worked above and beyond, especially our Borough Administrator who is appears to always to be on the job, day and night. We are blessed to have such dedicated people here in our town. On behalf of the people of Hasbrouck Heights I say Thank You!

On Wednesday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, at noon I performed a wedding in the Council Chamber and then met with Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees and Michael Kronyak.

**MAYOR'S REPORT (cont'd):**

7 pm I met informally with the members of the Board of Health to plan some joint projects for 2014 and beyond. As part of the Mayor's Wellness Project, supported by the League of Municipalities, I am supporting the Second 5K Run sponsored by the Board of Health that is set for April. I also suggested that we jointly sponsor an Adult Healthy Recipe Contest along with a Children's Healthy Recipe Contest. I also suggested a monthly series of pertinent Lectures to be held in the Library Meeting Room. The ideas were met with enthusiasm and we will meet again to further discuss the timing and lecture subjects to be arranged.

I stayed to attend the regular Board Meeting which followed.

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> I attended the Wake of former Councilman George Jackson.

Feb. 20, Thursday at 8:30 am, I chaired the Mayor's Business Community Committee Street Fair meeting. We determined the date to be Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Ro Sees and I worked on the sponsorship letters that would be sent forthwith since the date was set. A number of changes were discussed and will be made public shortly.

Feb. 22, after my regular time at the Library, from 10 am till noon, I officiated at the Grand Opening of a new business at the north-end of the Boulevard that featured Eyebrow Threading. The young women who are experts at this are pleased to announce this is their third Salon.

Feb. 23, Sunday, I attended the Wake for my longtime family friend Ed Hart. He lived a long and productive life and was one of the biggest supporters of our town Library and of our community in general. He will be missed. I also attended his Requiem Mass the next day.

Feb. 25, as I was shopping at the Shop Rite this morning I was stopped by a number of Heights residents to compliment the work being done in town. In particular one woman praised the efforts of the Dept. of Public Works on their outstanding work of snow removal and how much she appreciated their hard work. She spoke of the tree problem she had and reiterated the story of having come to speak about it at a meeting when she was told the PSE&G had to take care of the wires first. She was then to notify the DPW, but was pleasantly surprised that as soon as PSE&G completed their work, the men of the DPW were right there to take care of the tree. I have received numerous messages of

**MAYOR’S REPORT (cont’d):**

praise for our town’s employees and want to convey to them my thanks, because I keep getting their compliments. Once in a great while, we hit a glitch, but that gets straightened out quickly. Thanks to all.

7 pm I held a Fire Committee Meeting with Fire Commissioner David Gonzalez and Deputy Fire Commissioner Russell Lipari along with Fire Chief Patrick Hayes, First Asst. Chief Angelo Raccamo and Second Asst. Chief Richard Giarrartana. Under discussion were the future needs of the Ambulance Squad.

Saturdays I will be in the Library from 10 to noon as usual to meet with residents. As always no appointments are needed.

That concludes my report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- CONSENT AGENDA:**
- 49. Authorizing Sale of Central Avenue Property
  - 50. Authorizing Shared Services Contract with Board of Education for Installation of New Synthetic Turf Field at Hitchcock Field
  - 51. Authorizing Participation in the Keystone Purchasing Network Cooperative Purchasing Program
  - 52. Authorizing Approval of 2014/2015 Licenses for Commercial Sale of Certain Motor Vehicle Dealers
  - 53. Authorizing an Agreement with Cliffhanger Productions for the May 18, 2014 Street Fair
  - 54. Authorizing Raffle License for Rotary Club Mid-Bergen County
  - 55. Authorizing an Agreement with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey for the Provision of

**CONSENT AGENDA (cont'd):**

Mutual Aid by the Fire Department to Teterboro Airport

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda which was made by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, with Councilman Semencz voting Nay on Resolutions No. 49 and 50 (noting that residents should have a vote), and otherwise unanimously carried, the foregoing Consent Agenda Resolutions were approved. (Copies attached).

Mayor Heck, as a point of information, said she had no knowledge of the Councilman's objections nor did he ask any opinions to be given of any of the people involved. As far as we are concerned on Item #50, the people and the public will have a voice by coming to the Council meeting when the ordinance is up for public hearing.

**ORDINANCE(S) ON INTRODUCTION:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2321:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that an Ordinance entitled: **"AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$600,000.00 TO PROVIDE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD WITH APPURTENANCES THERETO AT HITCHCOCK FIELD AND FURTHER TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCING OF THE COST THEREOF IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL BOND LAW BY THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OR NOTES NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF \$570,000.00"** as introduced this date be and the same is hereby passed on first reading and the Borough Clerk be directed to advertise notice of public hearing on said Ordinance to be held at the regular meeting of the Borough Council on March 11, 2014.

Mayor Heck requested a motion to approve the introduction of the aforementioned Ordinance which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilwoman Buckman, with Councilman Semencz voting Nay, and otherwise unanimously carried.

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:**

Mayor Heck requested a motion to open the meeting to the public which was made by Councilman Semencz, seconded by Councilwoman Link, and unanimously carried.

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont'd):**

Ronald Ellis, 107 Paterson Avenue, noted that several meetings ago he suggested that the Consent Agenda indicates to him that it was discussed and no members were opposed so the vote should be yes. He requested that there be some way that individual councilmembers indicate to the body prior to a public meeting that they have a concern about a resolution or some action that the Council is going to take in advance of the meeting so that issue is removed from the Consent Agenda and be addressed separately so the public can understand and the Governing Body can discuss the pros and cons that each may have so they can understand what the problem is.

Mayor Heck said the agendas are sent to each of the Councilmembers and the Mayor and it has been in the past if there were any questions it was felt that something was questionable or objections, but when no questions are asked, they have idea that a no vote is coming. She will be discussing with the borough clerk and borough attorney a method by which they place on the agenda a question to that effect, that if indeed there is an objection, it will be placed separately on a resolution to be discussed. In this instance, this was discussed at two work sessions, with Dr. Porto and Dina Messery present, and there was no feeling of any objections. It is a shared services agreement, which will be paid by the Board of Education. Those residents wishing to object or show favor are free to come to the public hearing.

Mr. Ellis said he strongly supports the shared services agreement having been a resident for 30 years, living right across the street from the field, a soccer coach for many years and having the opportunity to use that field even before the turf field, and was in favor of a regulation sized field. He noted the amount of usage by the school and non-BOE activities of that field.

There being no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Heck asked for a motion to close the public portion which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no other business to come before the governing body, at 8:51 p.m., Mayor Heck requested a motion to adjourn which was made by Councilman Lipari, seconded by Councilman Semencz and unanimously carried.

I, ROSE MARIE SEES, Borough Clerk of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights, do hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are to the best of my knowledge a true account of the Regular Meeting held on February 25, 2014.

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**Rose Marie Sees, Borough Clerk**