

**BOROUGH OF HASBROUCK HEIGHTS**

**MINUTES**

**December 27, 2016**

A Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Hasbrouck Heights was held on Tuesday, December 27, 2016 at 8:08 p.m. at Borough Hall, 320 Boulevard, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

Borough Clerk Rose Marie Sees 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 4, 2016 and transmitted to The Observer, The Record and The Herald News on January 4, 2016.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Mayor John DeLorenzo, Councilman Justin A. DiPisa, Councilwoman Sonya Buckman, Councilman David Gonzalez, Councilwoman Pamela J. Link, Councilman Russell A. Lipari, Councilman Peter Traina

Absent: None

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

**INVOCATION:** Councilman Gonzalez gave the Invocation as follows:

**A Soldier's Silent Night**

Words: James M. Schmidt, 1986, alt.

Vocal Recording: [MP3](#) / [WMA](#)

Reading by Father Ted Berndt, 2003

T'was the night before Christmas

He lived all alone,

in a one bedroom house

made of plaster and stone.

I had come down the chimney  
with presents to give

To see just who,  
in this dwelling did live.

I looked all around  
A strange sight to see

**A SOLDIER'S SILENT NIGHT (cont'd):**

No tinsel, no presents,  
Not even a tree.  
On the wall hung pictures  
of far distant lands.  
Medals 'n badges, awards of every kind;  
A sobering thought came alive in my mind.

This house was different...  
it was dark, it was dreary.  
I had found the home of a soldier,  
I could see that most clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping,  
Silent, Alone;  
Curled up on the floor  
In this one bedroom home.

His face was so gentle,  
The room in such disorder;  
Not at all how I pictured  
a United States' soldier.

Was this the hero  
of whom I'd just read;  
Curled up on a poncho,  
the floor for a bed?

Then I realized the other families  
I saw this night,  
Owed their lives to soldiers  
Who were willing to fight.

In the morning, round the world,  
Children would play;  
Grown-ups would celebrate  
A bright Christmas Day.

But they all enjoy freedom  
Each month of the year,  
Because of soldiers  
Like the one lying here.

I couldn't help but wonder  
How many lay alone,  
On a cold Christmas Eve  
In lands far from home.

The very thought

**A SOLDIER'S SILENT NIGHT (cont'd):**

Brought a tear to my eyes;  
I dropped to my knees,  
I started to cry.  
The soldier awakened  
I heard his rough voice,  
"Santa don't cry,  
This life is MY choice.

I fight for freedom,  
I don't ask for more;  
My life is my God,  
My country, My corps."

The soldier rolled over,  
and drifted to sleep.  
But, I couldn't control it,  
I continued to weep.

I kept watch for hours,  
So silent and still;  
As both of us shivered  
From the cold night's chill.

I didn't want to leave him  
On that cold, dark night;  
This guardian of honor,  
So willing to fight.

Then, the soldier rolled over,  
In a voice soft and pure,  
He whispered, "Carry on Santa,  
It's Christmas Day, all is secure."

One look at my watch,  
I knew he was right.  
Merry Christmas my friend,  
May God bless you this night.

Mayor DeLorenzo said he knew that Councilman Gonzalez meant every word he read, and asked that for Christmas and New Year's everyone take a minute to remember our soldiers and police and firefighters who are working on the holidays to protect us.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

1) Letter from Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney re: Senate Bill 2254 and Assembly Bill 3821, which would clarify scope of affordable housing obligations for

**COMMUNICATIONS (cont'd):** municipalities

2) Memo from Mathew McCarter, Acting Treasurer, BCUA with Authority's 2017 Water Pollution Control and Solid Waste Management Budgets introduced on October 27, 2016, with public hearing on rates December 22, 2016

3) Thank you letter from Allison Aurigemma of HHJFL

4) Memo from Fire Chief-Elect Angelo Roccamo announcing Fire Department Appointments for 2017

5) Letter from Hasbrouck Heights Police Department which includes list of approved 2017 Towing Applications

Mayor DeLorenzo asked if anyone wished to have any item read into the record. Item. There being none, Mayor DeLorenzo then requested a motion to accept the Communications which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman DiPisa, and unanimously carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**       *(December 13, 2016 Regular Meeting)*

Mayor DeLorenzo requested a motion to approve the foregoing Minutes which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and otherwise unanimously carried.

**BILLS:**

WHEREAS, claims and accounts amounting to \$212,918,31 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 Sonya Buckman  
Dep. Commissioner of Finance

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

**2016 END OF YEAR REPORTS:**

**FINANCE:** Finance Commissioner DiPisa reported the following:

Tax Collections, Tax Rates and Assessed Values

The 2016 tax collection rate should remain stable at approximately 98%. The Borough continues to address tax appeals with the work of the Tax Settlement Committee comprised of the Borough Attorney, Assessor, Tax Collector and CFO. Aggressively addressing Tax Appeals as well as following up on added assessments for new construction help preserve the tax rateable base of the Borough. We also started a new annual reassessment program in 2016, this program has two goals; assessments that represent 100% of true market value and uniformity among all properties.

The 100% ratio ensures that property taxes are allocated correctly and fairly and is critical in our defense of tax appeals, especially for large appeals such as apartment complexes and hotels. The only way to maintain a constant 100% ratio is to conduct an annual reassessment. Conducting a full revaluation or reassessment every 5 to 10 years produces a 100% ratio that lasts generally for only one year. Also, the long time periods between the programs tends to produce drastic changes.

The uniformity issue is a bit harder to understand in my view. In order to have a uniform reassessment there will naturally be instances where there will be like properties that sell for a bit more or less than the assessed values. The assessments should be developed based on overall market conditions and not just single sales.

Borough Debt

As of the end of 2016, the Borough's Net Debt is \$9,436,498.00, or approximately 0.544% of Net Assessed Valuation, well below the allowable limit of 3.5% of Net Assessed Valuation.

Budget and Finance Committee

Formulation of the 2016 Municipal Budget was typically challenging. The Budget and Finance Committee worked very hard to formulate a Budget that both met the needs of the residents and minimized the impact on taxes. As required by State Statute, the 2016 Municipal Budget was required to comply with both the 2% Tax Levy Cap and the zero % Budget Appropriation Cap, our budget met both requirements.

The Budget is comprised of two parts, revenues and appropriations. Total 2016 anticipated revenues, those are the revenues other than taxes, increased by approximately \$174,000.00 and included \$1,275,000.00 in Anticipated Surplus. State

**FINANCE (cont'd):**

Aid remained unchanged from the previous year. Total appropriations, which represents the spending portion of the budget, increased by approximately \$344,000.00. The final budget as adopted resulted in an increase in the total Local Municipal Taxes in the amount of \$165,181.00, an amount which equated to an increase of one half of one percent. The Local Municipal Tax Rate increased by one half of one tax point for 2016.

The finance committee will continue to work with the same dedication as in the past in an effort to formulate a 2017 budget that continues to meet the needs of the residents with a watchful eye on the tax rate.

**LAND USE:** Commissioner Buckman gave the following report:

The statistics for the Building Department continue to be impressive for a town with little vacant land. The income for Building Permits for the past twelve months was \$233,907. This amounts to over 609 UCC permits and 151 Local Permits.

The inspectors are vigilant about keeping our residents safe. The total number of inspections was 1,439. The passing rate continues to hover around 85%. Joe Carridi, Fire Inspector did 102 inspections; Frank Recanati, Plumbing Inspector, accounted for 353; Electrical Inspector, Scott Pomarico did 439 inspections and the Building Inspector did 545 inspections. Interestingly, 152 residential Certificates of Occupancy were issued this year, 4 businesses changed owners and 31 new Used Car Dealers applied for Zoning Approval. The Property Maintenance Inspector continues to respond to complaints. He made 334 site reviews this past year. Thus far only two vacant properties have been licensed under the new ordinance. One property that has been an ongoing problem is now in the process of being sold and we are looking forward to the new owner cleaning up what has become an eyesore.

This past month we were happy to issue a Certificate of Occupancy to the Home2Suites project that has been ongoing in this department for about 5 years. We were also able to issue Certificates of Occupancy to the Heights Cliff townhouse project that has been in the department for over 10 years. Both projects were stalled by litigation by residents who did not look favorably on the concepts. The Platinum Auto Sale project at 380 Terrace Avenue is almost completed and the building which had been neglected is looking very nice.

Our goal that we set for ourselves of processing permits within a week has been accomplished. The re-organization of the filing system which we had hoped to accomplish by the end of this year is still not achieved but we hope to finish it within the next few months.

The Inspectors and the office staff continually go to workshops and seminars to keep up to date on all changes in regulations and court cases which might affect the way we handle situations.

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

In addition to working with the all the departments of Hasbrouck Heights, this office has built relationships and works closely with Rebuilding Together (a nonprofit which assists the elderly and those in need of assistance to keep their homes in repair), FEMA, OSHA, the New Jersey Department of Motor Vehicles, the New Jersey Highway Department and county departments to keep Hasbrouck Heights compliant and up to date on the changes in regulations.

**Library/Chamber:** As liaison, Councilwoman Buckman reported:

The Free Public Library of Hasbrouck Heights strives to serve and meet the needs of a dynamic community. Y2016 marked the resource sharing, collaboration, and service among 77 member libraries of the Bergen County Cooperative Library System (BCCLS). Our residents have access to over 11.5 million plus items with a library card.

Annual Circulation Stats (as of December 21)

- \* 123,361 items circulated to date.
- \* 14,543 people use the computers each week.
- \* 104,450 people walked through the doors of our library.
- \* 5,986 residents have a Hasbrouck Heights library card.
- \* 8,079 reference questions were answered.

Library services include circulating a variety of books and media to the public, educational programs, professional research help, out-of-state interlibrary loans, free internet access, delivery to the homebound, notary public service, proctoring of exams and computer training classes. We keep abreast of current trends and cutting edge technology. We offer free downloading of e-books and e-magazines and free streaming of audiobooks, music and movies for smartphones, e-readers, and tablets.

Programming

Our library programs draw in people of all ages. To date, 6,242 people attended 353 library sponsored activities. We have book discussion groups for children, teens, and adults. We offer a variety of self-help and educational seminars, music concerts, job search assistance, and cross generational craft programs throughout the year.

Our popular Crafts-to-Share Club draws a dedicated following under the direction of Head of Reference Melissa Singlevich. The attendees continued to donate their time, materials, and talent to knit and crochet blankets, hats and other apparels to Tomorrow's Children's Fund at Hackensack Medical Center. A total of 2,100 hours of donated time was given in 2016.

**Library (cont'd):**

Our children's activities draw in high attendance year round. The Library sponsors programs in the Children's Area starting at birth through 6th grade. Our Children's Librarian Kate Senedzuk is hard at work trying to cultivate the love of reading. She has given class tours, made visits to the elementary public schools and Corpus Christi, promoted summer reading at school assemblies, at summer camp in Woodland Park, has done story time down by the town pool, visited the students in the Keys Program over the summer and has cultivated partnerships with local organizations such as the Junior Woman's Club to offer additional programming.

In one year, the Library has supervised and helped 51 students complete 1,075 community service hours.

The Library facilities continue to offer a haven for local organizations to meet – 140 groups used the meeting rooms this year. A total of 1,822 people met at the Library for meetings.

The public can register for various library programs from the comfort of their homes by going to the library's website – <http://hasbrouckheights.bccls.org>. Get the latest up-to-date news when you follow the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

2016 Milestone Accomplishments

In April, our library was the recipient of the 3rd Annual Multicultural Program Award from the NJ State Library. We were one of three libraries selected to receive a \$1,000 honorarium and statewide recognition to be used as a model program for other libraries to increase their understanding and promotion of multiculturalism through creative and sustainable cultural programming.

In August, the Library held its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Summer Bash. This year's theme was called *All Trails Lead to a Camp-In @ the Hasbrouck Heights Public Library*. Special thanks to all the borough agencies and individuals involved in making it a success. 300+ people were in attendance. A great line-up of family friendly activities was planned throughout the evening building up to a sleepover for 30 families staying overnight in the library.

In November, in collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, the Library hosted its third annual Taste of Hasbrouck Heights & Friends. Twenty-nine eateries located under one roof donated their signature dishes. Over 200 people were in attendance. Our

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heartfelt appreciation and thanks to our major sponsors and donors for making this event possible.

### Friends Of The Library

The Library receives steadfast support from the Friends of the Library, presided over by Judy Mascis. The Friends help finance all programs (including the summer bash), and pay for all the refreshments and prizes. About \$ 20,000 has been donated to support ongoing programs this year.

Thirty-four local businesses have signed up for the Friends Merchant Program for 2017. All have agreed to offer discounts when an individual presents his/her Friends membership card. This is the ninth year the Friends has been able to develop a solid and growing collaboration with our business community. It is deeply appreciated.

### Funding

The Library received monies used for operating expenses from per capita state aid -- \$5,152.

In conclusion, the Library continues to offer a wealth of resources for the whole family and an opportunity for lifelong learning. Throughout the coming year, the Library will be celebrating 100 years of outstanding dedicated public service. Please join us as we commemorate this milestone. Thank you for your ongoing support. You help to make this Library what it is today, as submitted by Mimi Hui, Library Director.

Councilwoman Buckman then read her report:

“Nine years have gone quickly, I visited the Council even before my first term in 2008 starting with questioning the timetables and construction of this building in 2000. My kids who were in grade school at the time came with me doing their homework in the back of the Council Chambers. My son, Joe, is a graduate of University of Scranton and Bridget is in her third year of the University of Pittsburgh and today is her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. I have learned a lot in the last nine years, not just how a town is run but also how to convey this knowledge to the residents when they have questions about a concern. I want to thank Mike Kronyak, our Borough Administrator, and Rose Sees our Borough Clerk, and Ralph Chandless, our Borough Attorney for sharing their knowledge with me. Every question was always answered promptly and thoroughly. I also want to thank all the Borough Employees for all their help over the years and their professionalism. As Recreation Commissioner for eight years, I want to also thank Rob Brady for developing safe and inclusive programs for all the Hasbrouck Heights children. I am looking forward to seeing the completion of the new Woodland Park Playground with its new equipment available to children of all abilities. As liaison to the Library for many years, I want to thank Mimi Hui for not just for her dedication to our wonderful library and the many

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**Library (cont'd):** programs she coordinates, but all the time she volunteered to quarterback outside of the library for the Taste of Hasbrouck Heights. It is with a heavy heart that I leave the Council but it was time for me. I am grateful that two long-time community dedicated Hasbrouck Heights residents will be sitting on this dais next year. Again, thank you to all.”

**SOCIAL SERVICES:** Commissioner Link reported as follows:

The Hasbrouck Heights Food Pantry is open every Monday morning (Tuesday, if Monday is a holiday) from 9 to 11 a.m. The pantry has helped over 90 families totaling 1,443 visits through December 19, 2016.

This year was again an exceptional year for donations which were received on a continuing basis from the local churches, civic organizations, Scout troops, School and PTA food drives and the many, many generous residents. The shelves were never empty with bags being dropped off daily to the Borough Clerk’s office. Corpus Christi held two food drives which brought in over 300 bags of food each time, the Rosary Society, Rosemary Smith and Kathy Van Jura brought gifts for all the children for the holidays. Maria Wojciechowski organized the Corpus Christi giving tree which provided many gifts for all ages. Monetary donations were received from Euclid Masonic Lodge, over 100 Shop-Rite gift cards from BPO Elks #1962 and many residents who dropped off Shop-Rite cards, Stop-n-Shop of Carlstadt who donated toys and food. Meals with a Mission brought frozen meals each week. If we forgot anyone, please accept our apologies, but know we are most grateful – but especially those who come to the Pantry are even more grateful.

Thank you to the 16 volunteers who supervise the food pantry on a rotating basis. Warren Nelson has been coming into stock the shelves when he can, and the Over 21 Program from Felician School comes on Fridays.

This joint effort of the Hasbrouck Heights Community can definitely feel proud for how they have helped their friends in need during 2016.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES:** Commissioner Link read the following report: The Municipal Building continues to be very well utilized by many organizations for various meetings and gatherings. Very often every available room is occupied with several requests for the same room taking place in one day at different times. In 2016 the Caucus Room was used for 80 events; there were 152 events in the Community Room; there were 13 events in the Recreation Center; the Council Chambers was used for 60 meetings, the first floor Hallway was used for 5 sign-up events and the Senior Center 86 events. This was in addition to the regular Senior events that occur on a daily basis, and does not take into account the Recreation Center/Community Room nights. The Borough Clerk’s office keeps a calendar to insure that each event is recorded and there is no double booking.

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**FIRE:** Commissioner Gonzalez read the following report:

The Hasbrouck Heights Fire Department is staffed by 52 members/supported by 4 Associates and 9 Juniors. Two members have retired this year.

The Department, through Fire Prevention, held Open House during Fire Prevention Week.

HHFD participated in a drill with Teterboro AARF crews supplying water.

Multiple drills in house training.

The new ladder/quint should be delivered by the end of the year.

The HHFD attended all Borough events, including the Easter Egg Hunt, 5K Run, Recreation Department Track Meet, Street Fair, Memorial Day Parade, Fireworks, Halloween in the Park, and the football games, Town Day, Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting, and Santa Around Town. They also participated in the Regional Salute to Veterans Ceremony at the Aviation Hall of Fame & Museum at Teterboro Airport.

All pumps, hose and ladders have been tested.

Fit testing is complete.

Total calls – 1,552 - 1,205 EMS and 347 Fire

1,096 hours of man-hour training

11,147 man-hours in service

Equipment purchased: 5 Motorola VI Pagers and 19 sets of Turnout Gear

**STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION:** Commissioner Gonzalez read the following report:

A major overhaul to aging equipment was completed by Steve Daus, the DPW Diesel mechanic. The Roll-off Cab received a new nose, fenders, radiator frame, and fuel tank straps along with refurbishing the interior as well as completely painting the exterior. He also rebuilt the entire 1970 loader bucket and replaced hydraulic lines in time for leave season.

All of Franklin Avenue has been resurfaced along with Division Avenue from Boulevard to Woodside Avenue and Raymond Avenue from Boulevard to Burton Avenue. The

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**STREETS AND TRANSPORTATION (cont'd):** entire block of Stanley Avenue was totally reconstructed with new sidewalks, driveway aprons, curbs and resurfacing to the roadway.

Streets on the list for Spring Resurfacing Program are as follows:

STREET	FROM	TO
Alger Avenue	Terrace Avenue	Hasbrouck Avenue
Columbus Avenue	Summit Avenue	Terrace Avenue
Hasbrouck Avenue	Washington Place	Madison Avenue
Lincoln Avenue	Boulevard	West to End
Madison Avenue	Terrace Avenue	Hasbrouck Avenue
Michigan Avenue	Terrace Avenue	Hasbrouck Avenue
Roosevelt Avenue	Entire Length	Entire Length
Washington Place	Entire Length	Terrace Avenue
Washington Place	Terrace Avenue	Hasbrouck Avenue

The Borough has co-sponsored with Atlantic Coast Fibers and the Bergen County Utilities Authority (BCUA) 16 Free Shredding Events. Our Spring Shredding Event produced 10,465 lbs. (5.23 tons), a *record breaking amount*, of shredded sensitive paper documents - enough to fill a sanitation truck! In total the events have yielded 90,365 lbs. of shredded paper equal to 45.18 tons.

The Borough has held ten Clean Community Litter Free Events. Each year, this event brings out over 100 volunteers committed to keeping Hasbrouck Heights debris and litter free.

The Department of Public Works provides assistance to the Board of Education. This year, they contacted the vendor to help with their purchase of several large trash containers. The containers were shipped to the DPW Recycling facility along with DPW containers to offset the shipping costs. The DPW then delivered the new containers and disposed of the old. The Department of Public Works aided the Board of Education by attaining the Goose Sweeper to be used behind the High School. The DPW trained the BOE personnel on how to operate the machine. The DPW assisted the Board of Education by providing a dump truck to haul away grass and clay from Hitchcock Field. Upon completion, four truck loads were removed.

Councilman Gonzalez first thanked everybody in Hasbrouck Heights who supported him over the years and allowed him the opportunity to sit here for nine years. He said It has been an honor and a privilege, something that he never thought would have happened when he first into town. He thanked people he got to work with closely – Mike Kronyak, Bill Spindler, Chief Colaneri, Ro Sees, Ralph Chandless and all the Councilmembers.

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Being part of the Police Committee and having an opportunity to hire some of the young kids we have patrolling our streets today, some of them I taught Religious Ed to, and one day he asked Joe Olivo was I your Religious Ed teacher, and without thinking he said oh yeah. He told John Cambridge when he went into the Academy last year, "20 years from now when you respond to my house and I'm outside in my boxer shorts yelling get off the lawn, and there's nobody there, go easy on me." He thanked Bill Spindler, working with him and accomplishing everything we were able to do down at the DPW, acquiring new equipment. He said how he worries about the new kids when they are patrolling, when there is a bad storm, he worries about the guys working on the truck. There were a couple of times when we had to cancel garbage pickup because the roads were too dangerous. He appreciates the effort that everybody gives day in and day out, a small town like this, many of the employees live in town and they care about what they do, because they're representing the town. The Fire Department – said his father is a retired police officer who said all the time he was born to be a cop, but in Englewood there was a paid fire department, he could never understand how somebody would run into a burning building. Telling him that our department here is volunteer, he said he would never do this. He has had family members who have been on various fire departments. Watching them fighting a fire for six hours in below freezing temperatures and to see the fight they will put up to put a burning house and neighboring buildings out, and to know that if somebody gets injured they need to check out, but they don't want to leave the scene. I made the choice a few years ago that this was my last round and when January came up this year, December 2016 seemed like a very long time away and now that it is here, I came in tonight with a lot of mixed emotions and in a lot of ways I wish this was my first time because I truly enjoy walking side by side with the council. He thanked everybody for the opportunity, it is something he will cherish for the rest of his life. Thank you.

Mayor Delorenzo said to Dave and Sonya he will be asking them to serve on committees, so they are not totally off the hook.

**HEALTH:** Councilman Lipari gave the following Health report submitted by Lori French:

Services provided by Hasbrouck Heights Health Department for the year 2016:

Fees Collected for 2016: \$79,592.00

Health Inspections: 522 of various nature, by Mid-Bergen Health Commission

Dog Licenses: 1284 licenses

Animal Control Services: 817 responses of various nature

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**HEALTH (cont'd):** Town Resident Deaths: 98 residents

Total Deaths Recorded: 999 Deaths

Marriage Licenses issued: 46 Couples Applied

Certified Transcripts: 18,879 issued (Death, Marriage & Birth)

The Board of Health continues to sponsor many programs, which are designed to educate the public. The AARP Safe Driver Program offers a refresher course teaching safe driving techniques and is open to all ages. The Blood Screening Program, is offered twice a year and is an excellent opportunity to check on your body's internal wellness. Our Family & Friends CPR Course helps families learn specific CPR skills for an adult/child and infant. The Annual Senior Wellness Luncheon is always a well informative event. After a delicious lunch donated by CareOne of Wellington of Hackensack, the Nurses from H.A.R.P. spoke about health topics.

This year the Board of Health sponsored its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Run & Fun Walk, which was held on Sunday, April 24, 2016. Over 118 people registered to run in the face. George Veliky of Hasbrouck heights was the first male runner in with a time of 18:36 and Barbara Willock was the first female runner in with a time of 22.20. Proceeds collected were donated to the participating organizations for scholarships to high school seniors and for the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Our Public Nursing Staff from H.A.R.P. provides residents with preventive health programs. The programs conducted during the year were our annual Senior & Child Flu Program, Monthly Health Consultations and the Child Health Conference. These programs continue to be very popular with providing immunizations for children up to age 18 for preventable diseases and the health consultations, which focus on preventing and managing high blood pressure, managing stress and weight control and lifestyle changes.

The Registered Environmental Health Specialist provided by Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission continued to provide many inspections of various nature of food surveillance to assure that wholesome foods are being prepared and sold in Hasbrouck Heights.

The Health Department continues to conduct "Grease Trap" inspections to specific Food Establishments. The inspections have been periodic and unannounced with the intent of preventing any future buildup and blockages, which may compromise the efficiency of flow through the borough's wastewater disposal system. This program is to educate

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**HEALTH (cont'd):** business owners on the importance of grease traps and ensure a greater consistency in cleaning the unit. The Health Department has conducted 112 grease trap inspections during the course of the year.

The Health Department issued over 1284 dog licenses. The Annual Dog Census Program was very successful. The Corssing Guards reported 111 unlicensed dogs. With Bergen County with the highest number of confirmed cases of rabies in the State it is important that every dog and cat in Hasbrouck Heights receive a Rabies vaccine.

The Board of Health is looking forward to 2017 with some new and exciting programs. These programs would not have been possible without the support of the members of the Board of Health and the Governing Body being so dedicated in promoting a healthier community through valuable services and education.

**POLICE:**

In December 2015, over 3,000 toys were collected locally by the PBA Toy Drive. The toys were delivered to the drop off location and some remained in Hasbrouck Heights to help local families in need.

The Euclid and Lincoln Schools 5<sup>th</sup> grade DARE graduation was held on January 14. Corpus Christi DARE graduation was held on March 15.

On January 15, Chief Colaneri and 12 officers attended the Euclid and Lincoln Anti-Drug Rallies. The children were excited to see so many police officers and were able to get so many police trading cards.

The trading card program has been so successful that many officers have given out most or all of their 500 cards.

35 children have collected the entire set of HHPD trading cards and have come to police headquarters to receive their prize. All who collected the entire set by April 1 were invited to attend the Mayor and Council meeting for certificates on April 12.

The annual beefsteak to benefit Special Olympics was held January 22, 2016 at the Hasbrouck Heights VFW. It was another tremendous even with over 400 attendees. Over \$17,000 profit was raised.

The Department, in partnership with our schools, renewed our commitment to the B.A.D.G.E. Program. Under the new program, 3 officers will be assigned to each grade and will stop in the classrooms during their daily walk through. The schools will also invite the officers to class trips and events.

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**POLICE (cont'd):** DARE night at Space Odyssey was held on March 22 with nearly 200 kids attending.

Sgt. Baker attended the 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington DC.

Dept. BADGE Officers have been attending several school day trips. Sgts. Baker and Werner fingerprinted and photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students in all 3 grammar schools.

Lincoln Schools Kindergarten visited police headquarters on May 10.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Books vs Badges Volleyball game was held on May 20. We would like to thank Mrs. Danielle Kroncke and Ptl. Donohue for coordinating this event.

June 3 was the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Bergen County Chief for a Day. HHPD Chief was Jack Oettinger who had a great day with Chief Colaneri. We would like to thank Chief Oettinger for his service and wish him well in his retirement.

June 10 was the Annual Torch Run for Special Olympics. The HHPD raised \$29,000, the most ever. Nearly 300 children from Euclid and Lincoln Schools ran portions of the run with 14 members of the HHPD. The HHPD Honor Guard along with Chief Colaneri attended the Opening Ceremonies for the Summer Games and the HHPD Honor Guard was selected to be on the main stage.

June 13, Chief Colaneri and Capt. Rinke attended the HHHS Awards Ceremony and presented six scholarships to graduates who will be going to school for a career in criminal justice.

June 15, the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Swim BBQ/Party was held at the HH Swim Club. The kids had a great night of swimming, listening to the DJ and enjoyed burgers, hot dogs and snacks. Chief Colaneri, Capt. Rinke, Lt. Michael Colaneri, Jr., Sgt. Baker, Det. Brad Dussault and Ptl. John Cambridge were the chefs and chaperones.

The Annual Jr. Police Academy was held from June 24 – June 30. This year's class of outgoing 8<sup>th</sup> graders was one of the best. The "recruits" worked hard and had a great time, even with the physical training. They learned defensive tactics, teamwork, a sense of what actual police training is like, and then used that training to make simulated motor vehicle stops. The Regional SWAT Team visited the class and conducted a demonstration. The recruits enjoyed seeing the equipment they use. There were field trips to the Bergen County Jail and the HHPD Firing Range. The graduation ceremony was held at the HHHS Auditorium and the HHPD Honor Guard and Bagpiper were on hand.

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**POLICE (cont'd):** The Department provided traffic and security for the Lions Clubs Annual Fireworks. The HHPD Honor Guard presented the Nation's Colors to start the ceremonies.

### **Equipment / Training**

Four new radar units were received and installed in patrol cars.

NJ Department of Corrections inspected the HHPD holding cells, sally port and processing area and Dept. Detention Policies and found all in compliance with State guidelines.

Annual training days were held on August 15 and 16. This year the focus was on patrol responses to an active shooter situation. D/Lt. Colaneri and Det. John Behr who are members of the BC Regional SWAT Team instructed all members of the Hasbrouck Heights Police Department on the latest techniques that will not only help them in an active shooter scene but assist them in conducting building searches including a warehouse, office building or personal residences.

We received \$2,905 from the State of New Jersey Body Armor Replacement Fund for the year 2016 to replace officers' vests.

Two new Chevy Caprice Police Vehicles have been received. The lights and radios have been installed. Two vehicles have been turned over to the DPW for their use.

### **Personnel / Police Activity**

Sgt. Nick Sisto retired on February 1, we wish Sgt. Sisto and his family good health and good luck in his retirement.

Capt. Rinke, D/Lt. Colaneri and Det. Behr participated as members of the Bergen County SWAT Team in the recent task force that arrested a group that was doing armed robberies and a shooting in Southern Bergen County. During the surveillance it was noted that the suspects never drove through Hasbrouck Heights. They would go around it.

Burglary Arrests: Members of the Detective Bureau were busy solving a commercial burglary at 777 Terrace Avenue. The next day a residential burglary occurred and a suspect was identified. The suspect was charged with the Hasbrouck Heights burglary, possession of CDS and working with other detectives, he was charged in several other jurisdictions.

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**POLICE (cont'd):** July 9, an armed robbery occurred at Heights Specialty Pharmacy. The Detective Bureau worked tirelessly on this and using technology and good old fashioned police work were able to identify two suspects and arrest warrants have been issued.

August 25, a DMV checkpoint was held with 15 summonses issued.

**Miscellaneous**

HHPD Webmaster Ptl. Donohue created a link to our webpage HHPD.COM for residents to request permission for overnight parking. This link will be more convenient for residents who won't have to wait if Desk Officer is busy with an emergency.

A Special Needs Registry has been added to our website HHPD.COM. Anyone who may need special assistance during a storm, power outage, etc., is requested to fill this out so we know where you are and what you might need during an emergency.

We would like to thank the staff and students of Lincoln School for the banner signed by the entire school, in honor of Police Officer Appreciation Day. The banner is proudly hung up at Police Headquarters.

As of December 7, 300 "We Support the HHPD" signs have been distributed to residents. The 300 signs were delivered by Hasbrouck Heights High School Students. There is a waiting list of 75 residents requesting a sign for their lawn. Additional signs have been ordered.

A special thank you to Joe and Vinny Costa, Costa Funeral Home, they were kind enough to sponsor the additional 200 signs for us.

A big thank you also goes out to, Valley National Bank, Exxon Corp. and Fashion Logistics, with their donations we were able to order additional signs.

**PARKS:** Commissioner Traina gave the following report:

The Woodland Park Playground Improvements Project has begun. The playground area is being completely refurbished with all new equipment and a new resilient rubber surface. In the Spring of 2017, the playgrounds at Central Avenue and Miers Parks will also be transformed with new resilient rubber surfaces. Steve Daus, DPW mechanic and Dave Palmieri, Tree Foreman, completely rebuilt the horseshoe pits that were in total disrepair.

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**PARKS (cont'd):** The Department of Public Works moved the playhouse located on the property adjacent to the Circle to Borough property. A Hasbrouck Heights preservation group is undertaking the project to restore the playhouse. A concrete pad was poured next to the “Welcome” sign just off the Circle in the northeast quadrant. Upon completion of the restoration, the playhouse will be moved to that area.

**RECREATION:** Commissioner Traina gave the following report:

In 2016 the recreation department offered 32 year round programs and activities for the residents to enjoy! We have seen our program’s registrations grow to the highest numbers ever in recreation basketball, softball, and summer camp. We also had a great 4th year of our Special Needs Recreation Program.

Our Recreation Softball teams enjoyed a successful 2016 season, with 1 team winning the South Bergen Championship, and our 12U team winning the UGALS Championship. Recreation Wrestling had over 43 wrestlers win medals at various tournaments in 2015 and recreation wrestling standout Connor Sculla placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the NJ State Wrestling Championships. The team as a whole won more than 127 medals last season. Recreation track and field had its largest team ever in 2016 with over 140 boys and girls in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> registering for the program. Track standout Anthony DiLascio became the first ever Heights track athlete to qualify and run at the USATF National Championships in Sacramento California last summer, he qualified in the 100 meter dash. All of our senior activities have seen a rise in attendance. This year we had a holiday party for our senior yoga and chair yoga classes, the class and instructors had a great time. Town Day 2016 enjoyed excellent weather, great music, and participation from many town organizations.

I would like to thank all the residents that help volunteer coach, and participate in our programs to make them the best they can be. I would also like to thank all children, parents, and seniors for participating in our programs, without your involvement our recreation department and senior center would not enjoy the success that it does. Again thank you to everyone for making 2016 a great year in the HH Recreation Department.

### **MAYOR’S END OF YEAR REPORT:**

Mayor DeLorenzo began his report by The Borough Clerk’s/Administration offices are located off the main lobby of the Municipal Building. CFO/Administrator is Michael J. Kronyak who handles budget and finance. Borough Clerk is Rose Marie Sees. In August, Jean Curci after 10 years with the Borough decided to retire. We wish her well. The office staff now includes Pam Grisafe who has been an employee for two years and Candace O’Malley who joined the Borough in August.

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**MAYOR'S END OF YEAR REPORT (cont'd):** The Borough Clerk's office issues many permits on a daily basis. Here are some of the breakdowns for 2016 through December 13. Garage Sales - 109 permits (not including Town Wide Garage Sales of which there were 99). Woodland Park - 36 permits. Open House: - 8 licenses. New Merchant, Peddler/Solicitor licenses - 57 licenses. Sidewalk Café - 2 licenses. Laundry - 2 licenses. Road Opening Permits - 3. Burglar Alarm - 409 licenses. Raffle - 27 licenses. Hotel - 3 licenses. ABC - 15 licenses. Central Avenue overnight parking - 1 permit issued. Vacant Property Registration - 2.

For the year 2016, there were 175 requests for public records which were processed in the allotted time. Many requests now come via e-mail and are processed at no cost to the requestor. A total of \$64.56 was collected.

In 2016 there were 73 applications totaling \$73,000.00 received for auto wholesaler licenses in the Industrial Zone. Renewal notices for 2017/2018 will go out in January.

Mayor DeLorenzo thanked all the Borough employees for their work this year, especially Mike Kronyak, Ro Sees and Ralph Chandless, not only for their guidance, but their patience, this being his first year. He said it is hard to believe he is completing his first year as Mayor, it has been very busy and very interesting at the same time. He thanked all those who supported him throughout the years, especially so many members of the community with their positive comments and well wishes. The committee chairs and members did a great job. He mentioned the Tree Lighting Ceremony and Holiday Decorating contest in The Record, it was nice to be recognized for community spirit. He said the Council with their experiences were very helpful to him, the Police Department has once again done a great job and he was happy to support them with the blue line and glad to see many of the residents joined us and with the signs out there. He is happy to see they support the Law Enforcement Community. The DPW went above and beyond, especially a great job with Veterans Memorial Park this year. They took on some cleanup work at the State land which really isn't our responsibility but because the residents of Hasbrouck Heights and our community is a top priority. He said the Fire Department did a great job, we have a new piece of equipment they will be training on. Hopefully you will see it around town, that we don't need it, but it is great to know it is there. The Ambulance Squad worked overtime in answering a lot of extra calls. In keeping an open mind while we work together this year to move forward and make some progress. He said Rob Brady in Recreation continues to provide outstanding programs for our community, Councilwoman Buckman and he also attended many Chamber of Commerce meetings and he believes it helped strengthen the relationship and open lines of communication between the Mayor and Council and the business community. Councilwoman Buckman and Councilman Gonzalez have continued to

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**MAYOR'S END OF YEAR REPORT (cont'd):** serve the community with professionalism all the way until today. He thanked them. That concluded his year-end report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- CONSENT AGENDA:**
- 208. Authorizing Purchase of Pick-up Truck for Department of Public Works utilizing State Contract pricing
  - 209. Authorizing Renewal of 2017 Hotel Licenses
  - 210. Authorizing Agreement with Delta Dental Plan of New Jersey
  - 211. Authorizing Contract with Bollinger Fowler Insurance Company for Prescription Drug Program for 2017

Mayor DeLorenzo requested a motion to approve the foregoing Consent Agenda which was made by Councilman Gonzalez, seconded by Councilman Lipari, and unanimously carried.

- RESOLUTIONS:**
- 212. Authorizing Budget Appropriation Transfers
  - 213. Interfund Transfer
  - 214. Authorizing Cancellation of Minimal Credit and Debit Balances on Current Taxes in the Amount of \$10.00 or less

Mayor DeLorenzo requested a motion to approve the foregoing Resolutions which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Buckman, and unanimously carried.

**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC:**

Mayor DeLorenzo requested a motion to open the meeting to the public which was made by Councilman Traina, seconded by Councilman Gonzalez, and unanimously carried.

Patrick McCarthy, 123 Kipp Avenue, was looking for some help for a former resident who lost her house, is currently in a medical facility and about to be discharged on Thursday. He has an appointment with the housing. She is able to pay \$900 and \$950 a month and asked if anyone knew of any place in Hasbrouck Heights in that price range to please contact him.

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**MISCELLANEOUS FROM PUBLIC (cont'd):** There being no one else coming forward, Mayor DeLorenzo asked for a motion to close the public portion which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Traina, and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION TO CLOSE:** 215. Personnel

Mayor DeLorenzo requested a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:26 p.m. which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilman Traina, and unanimously carried. No action would be taken.

Mayor DeLorenzo announced that the Reorganization Meeting is January 3, 2017 at 6 p.m. when Josephine Ciocia and Ron Kistner will be sworn in as Councilpersons. Following the meeting everyone will be invited for refreshments in the Senior Center.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no other business to come before the governing body, at 9:36 p.m., Mayor DeLorenzo requested a motion to adjourn which was made by Councilman DiPisa, seconded by Councilwoman Link, 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 December 27, 2016.

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Rose Marie Sees, Borough Clerk