

MEETING TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Kinnelon Borough Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Robert W. Collins at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, January 17, 2011 in the Kinnelon Municipal Building.

There was a Salute to the Flag, after which the Clerk stated this meeting is being held pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act. Adequate notice of this meeting was given by advertising in the January 12, 2011 edition of the Trends and was provided to the Star Ledger, Daily Record and the North Jersey Herald News on January 10, 2011. Adequate notice was also posted on the municipal building bulletin board, filed with the Borough Clerk and provided to those persons or entities requesting notification.

Mayor Collins asked for a moment of silence in honor of our troops serving for their country.

The roll was called and present and answering were Councilmen James Freda, Daniel O'Dougherty, Gary Moleta, Stephen Cobell, Andrew SanFilippo and Ronald Mondello.

Mayor Collins announced that the purpose of this special meeting is to interview the three candidates recommended by the Republican County Committee for Council Member to fill the vacant council seat caused when he become Mayor. He said the three candidates are John Carpenter, Gary Moleta and Carol Sventy. Mr. Collins asked that the two candidates not being interviewed step out into the hall while each interview is being held. After the interviews the meeting will be opened to the public. The governing body will then go into closed session to deliberate. The meeting will then go back into open session and the decision will take place at that time. Mayor Collins stated he would like to administer the oath of office at the regular meeting to be held this Thursday night. The candidate will then be able to invite his family and friends to be there.

Mayor Collins said the interviews will be done alphabetically. The first candidate to be interviewed will be John Carpenter.

Mr. Carpenter said he is a forty-three year resident and a Kinnelon High School graduate with a BA degree. He has worked with several businesses in the area and now works with a merchandising group with Home Depot. He serves on the Lake & Environmental Committee with Smoke Rise Board of Governors for sixteen years. He became a Board of Governor Member in 2003. Mr. Carpenter said he went to Rutgers to continue education in lake and reservoir management. John ran several renovation projects in Smoke Rise. He worked with Chief Finkle on the Drive 25 campaign. Mr. Carpenter said he has been on the Board of Adjustment for last 10 years and is currently vice chairman. He also said he has prepared and reviewed the Summary Statements for the Condo Reimbursements.

Councilman O'Dougherty asked him why he wants to be a councilman. John said it is the next logical step; he likes public service, has no special interests or agendas and is an independent thinking person. He said he always gathers as much information on any subject he has to vote on, since he has to look neighbors in the eye after he votes. Mr. O'Dougherty asked if his work with the Smoke Rise Board would influence his decisions. Mr. Carpenter answered that most decisions are for general problems that affect the entire community. He said he has family in Fayson Lakes and friends that live throughout the borough. Councilman Cobell asked if he will stay on the Smoke Rise Board. John said he would like to stay on Environmental. He gets to stock the fish twice a year. Councilman Cobell asked what he thinks the biggest problem facing the council will be this year. John answered it's got to be the budget. There is a lot going on that's not good. You have to be prudent in where to spend the money. Councilman Mondello asked if he has any experience working with budgets. Mr. Carpenter said he worked with Smoke Rise budget which was difficult because they are not for profit. Councilman SanFilippo asked if

he had any experience with grant writing. Mr. Carpenter said he did not. Councilman Freda said let's say you're a realtor, I'm a home owner who wants to move into Kinnelon – why would I want to move here. What are Kinnelon's three greatest assets”?

Mr. Carpenter said it is a safe town with low crime, the school system is very good and it is like an oasis you come back to after going elsewhere. Kinnelon is a relaxing, good place to raise a family. Councilman SanFilippo asked if he thinks the Police Department is lacking in any way. Mr. Carpenter said it seems like it's well run. The Chief seems to be up on notifying the public on the latest things.

Councilman SanFilippo asked where he stands on recreation fields, our needs and how we take care of them. Mr. Carpenter said he did a massive recreation project for Smoke Rise swim docks bringing them up to swim team standards but as far as the borough fields he is unaware of conditions. Are they overplayed? He said he would rather see money spent on recreation than rehabilitation. He would need all the facts to make a decision. Since there are few ratables in town his decisions will take into account many people in town have fixed incomes. He has to be able to look people in the eye after any decision to spend money.

Councilman O'Dougherty asked his availability of time with his job. Mr. Carpenter said he is usually done by two o'clock.

Gary Moleta – thanked the Republican Committee for picking the three candidates. His desire to work with the community began as a former police officer who encourages community service as well as being a former school teacher. As a twenty eight year resident Mr. Moleta said he can appreciate what a gem we have here in Kinnelon after working in an urban environment. He credited Mayor Sisco and the Council for holding our unique character with all the development around us. Mr. Moleta stated he is married 30 years and has a daughter who is 26. He has coached soccer and basketball. Mr. Moleta said he ran in the last election to better serve the community. At that time he told the Mayor, then Councilman Collins, that he may not always agree, in fact he may disagree. Councilman Collins said that's why I want you to run. Mr. Moleta said he knew at that time that this wouldn't be “politics as usual”.

As a retired police officer Mr. Moleta said he started a substance abuse training program for seniors and children and was given a citation from the State of New Jersey for his work in that regard. Mr. Moleta does training for the school resource officers and provides programs for the children to give them alternatives to drugs and alcohol. Having good children completes a community. He chaired Kamelot and thanked Jim Freda and Bob Collins as Finance Chairman for passing an ordinance to provide funding for programs for the children. Mr. Moleta said he has a lot of contacts throughout the state and was able to obtain \$100,000 to shore up the security system for the school. When this town had no website, he bought kinnelon.com and helped the 34 acres campaign, the Webber tract, Pyramid Mountain and the L'Ecole museum. Instead of selling the URL for money he donated it to the borough. If you choose him to serve he will listen and learn from the council and do what is best for the community. After knocking on doors and speaking to the people you get to know their needs.

Dan asked about his job as consultant. Mr. Moleta trains at the police academies throughout the state for three weeks out of the year. He can bring back resources to the town such as homeland security, or sexual predator programs through his connections. He is retired and has time to commit to the town. Councilman Cobell asked if he has any thoughts regarding our police dept. Gary said he would have to learn more about it by looking at statistics as well as call and response data. When asked what he thinks is the biggest hurdle by the council for next year. He answered it has to be the 2% cap with the budget, to maintain the character, safety of the town and to allow the seniors a way to stay in Kinnelon. Councilman SanFilippo asked what the people said when he went around door to door. Mr. Moleta said they love our environment and want to preserve it and to maintain the character of the borough because it gives value to the homes. Seniors want to stay and need more affordable options. We have to show them we are

concerned and realize they are on fixed incomes. The younger crowd wants more recreational activities for the children. When asked what can be done for our senior citizens, Mr. Moleta suggested that businesses could be encouraged to give more senior discounts; more programs could be planned for them. Councilman Jim Freda asked the question what Mr. Moleta would say are reasons someone would want to move to Kinnelon. Mr. Moleta said a good education, the environment and availability for kids to fish and boat in a safe environment. Other towns to the west of us offer nice scenery, but the education and safety are not as good as here.

When asked how he feels about recreation fields, Gary said children need an opportunity to play recreation sports. Maintenance of the fields would be something he would have to investigate before he can answer how they can be maintained. He does know if the fields are not maintained properly children can get hurt. Mr. Mondello asked if he had experience in budgets. He said only through his police budget.

In closing he thanked them for listening to him. He has a strong desire to help the community.

Carol Sventy said she is a 27 year resident of Kinnelon. The reason she would like to become involved in the council is to transition Kinnelon into a new era. For the past thirteen years she's worked with the Friends and Center for Lifelong Learning to help create the Kinnelon Library into one of the best libraries in the state. She was one of the grass roots members to "save 34 acres" and campaigned to get the open space trust fund question on the ballot and approved by our citizens. She currently is on the Environmental Commission and Open Space Public Advisory Committee. She works part time for the Kinnelon after-school enrichment program. She is an instructor for a computer course and a Kiel staff support person. Her strengths are to be able to work with people from all walks of life, to listen to their suggestions, grievances and concerns and offering a voice to the various committees which she is on. Carol said she is an organized person and has the time and passion to make Kinnelon a richer place to live. Although she doesn't enjoy paying taxes, she said she does so willingly to pay for the education of the children in the borough i.e. our future. She has worked diligently to provide the best library available as well as working hard to provide open land for active and passive recreation for all.

Whether or not she is elected to join the council she said she looks forward to working with the governing body to ensure the safety of the children and residents in using these facilities. Carol said she looks forward to working with the Recreation Commission and the Open Space Committee to locate more properties to use for recreational purposes to help alleviate the over use of our current fields and over-scheduled recreation programs. She is not daunted by the unknown. It is another challenge that she looks forward to.

Councilman O'Dougherty asked why she would make the jump from library to the council? Carol said she has worked with the open space committee and she wants to help make it a safer place. Councilman SanFilippo asked how you fix the recreation fields when you have no money. Carol said she would have to look at the budget. She said she was under the impression there used to be money in the budget and would have to find out why it was taken out. She suggested we purchase other parcels of land to let current fields rest.

Councilman Mondello asked if she had any budget experience. Carol said only for the Library and her own. Councilman O'Dougherty asked if she had any feelings about the community in smoke rise as a whole. Carol said smoke rise is a part of the borough no different from Fayson Lakes or Highlands and all are paying the same taxes. Councilman Cobell asked her what the biggest overriding problem over next year will be for the borough. Carol said the immediate problem is recreation fields. Children should be able to enjoy playing sports whether in organized or personal. Councilman SanFilippo said the recreation department is trying to build itself to be a self sufficient budget. He also stated that after looking at her resume, does she see anywhere where we could use open space for equestrian activities to

help support some of the land? Carol said, possibility, but the cost of upkeep, not the cost of the horse that makes it very expensive. Not all people in Kinnelon are interested or can afford horseback riding. She suggested the governing body do another survey to see what the needs and interests are now.

Councilman Freda said he would like to roll play with him being a family man looking to move to Kinnelon and she is the realtor. He asked her what Kinnelon's greatest assets are? Carol answered she would say the ability to pull together as a community to work toward a goal, environmental open space and recreational activities.

The Mayor asked her if she had any closing remarks and Mrs. Sventy thanked the Mayor and Council for their time and consideration.

Mayor Collins asked someone to ask Mr. Moleta to come back in at this time.

HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Collins opened the meeting to the public at this time. No one wished to speak at this time and the Mayor then closed the meeting to the public.

RESOLUTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION:

Motion: Councilman R. Mondello
Second: Councilman D. O'Dougherty

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 - N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 - permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body of the Borough of Kinnelon is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Kinnelon, County of Morris, and State of New Jersey shall now go into closed session for the following reason:

PERSONNEL

Disclosure of said matter will be revealed upon settlement. This meeting went into closed session at 8:05 p.m..

Roll Call: J. Freda, Yes; S. Cobell, Yes;
D. O'Dougherty, Yes A. SanFilippo, Yes;
R. Mondello, Yes.

Upon motion by Councilman R. Mondello, seconded by Councilman A. SanFilippo, the Kinnelon Governing Body went back into open session at 8:35 p.m.

Roll Call: J. Freda, Yes; S. Cobell, Yes;
D. O'Dougherty, Yes A. SanFilippo, Yes;
R. Mondello, Yes.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Collins said the decision was not an easy one since all three candidates were outstanding and would do a fine job. He said it is a win, win situation when you have people who step forward and volunteer their time. He complimented his colleagues for their honest, forthright and frank decision making. Mr. Collins said over and over again tonight it was mentioned that Kinnelon is a jewel and the governing body works very hard to keep it that way.

The Mayor said we have come to a decision. As stated before, the candidate will be sworn in at the January 20th meeting. This will give him time to have his family and friends there to help celebrate with him. He asked if any of the council wanted to make any comments before they vote.

Councilman Cobell said he had volunteered a few years ago but they chose Mr. Collins at that time. He then chose to volunteer for the Board of Adjustment. He then was chosen seven and a half years ago.

Councilman Freda said it is a hard decision because he knows all three of the candidates. He agrees that he would like to serve with all three and hopes there are no hard feelings and that they run at a future time.

At this time Councilman J. Freda offered a motion to propose Gary Moleta to assume the vacant council seat. This motion was seconded by Councilman D. O'Dougherty.

Roll Call: J. Freda, Yes; S. Cobell, Yes;
D. O'Dougherty, Yes; A. SanFilippo, Yes;
R. Mondello, Yes.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m. on motion by Councilman J. Freda and seconded by Councilman D. O'Dougherty with the unanimous affirmative voice vote of all present.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth M. Sebrowski, Borough Clerk

Robert W. Collins, Mayor

cc: Mayor
All Councilmen
Police Dept.
Public Works Dept.
Attorney
Engineer
Auditor