

April 2, 2014

MEETING TO ORDER

The Special meeting of the Kinnelon Borough Governing Body was called to order by Mayor Robert W. Collins at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday April 2, 2014 in the Kinnelon Municipal Building.

There was a Salute to the Flag, after which the Acting Borough Clerk Karen Iuele 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 March 30, 2014 edition of the Trends and was provided to the Star Ledger, Daily Record and the North Jersey Herald News. Adequate notice was also posted on the municipal building bulletin board, filed with the Acting Borough Clerk and provided to those persons or entities requesting notification.

ROLL CALL:

The roll was called and present and answering were Councilpersons James Freda, Daniel O'Dougherty, Gary Moleta, Stephen Cobell and Carol Sventy.

Mayor Collins announced that the purpose of this special meeting was to interview the three candidates recommended by the Republican County Committee for Council Member to fill the seat vacated by the resignation of Councilman Ronald Mondello. He said the three candidates are Alex Merlucci, Adam Barish and Clifford Giantonio. Mr. Collins asked that the two candidates not being interviewed to 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 deliberate. Mayor Collins stated he would like to administer the oath of office at the workshop meeting held on Thursday April 10th and then on April 17th. The candidate will then be able to invite his family and friends to be there.

Mayor Collins stated the first candidate to be interviewed will be Alex Merlucci. Mayor Collins congratulated Alex Merlucci for being chosen as one of the nominees for the unexpired term. Mayor Collins asked Mr. Merlucci to address the Mayor and Council. Mr. Merlucci stated that he was a lifelong resident of Kinnelon and lived at 18 Dogwood Trail with my wife Hanna. He was interested in the position of councilmember for a number of reasons. For him this was an opportunity to give back to the community and an opportunity to represent a generation that is currently not on the council. Mr. Merlucci stated that he is not coming in with an agenda but with an open mind. Mr. Merlucci said that he is an architect and president of the Kinnelon Volunteer Fire Company and achieved his Eagle Scout.

Councilman Cobell stated that when Alex was working on the plans for the fire house they interacted a lot, and Alex always had a cool head working on that project. Councilman Cobell asked him why he did not file a petition for the next election. Mr. Merlucci said that he did not and if picked he would only be a councilman to the end of this year. Councilman Cobell said that he has done work in the past for the borough and he would not be able to continue for a couple of years after if selected to serve on the council. Mr. Merlucci said that he understood.

Councilman O'Dougherty asked him how he would like to see the borough progress. Alex said that he couldn't say that there was one particular item that he would like to push forward. He would be more concerned about preserving Kinnelon, which is keeping the financials in check so that he can afford to live here as well as his neighbors.

Councilman Moleta asked him what qualities draws him to Kinnelon. Mr. Merlucci answered that number one is that Kinnelon has great schools, and wonderful parks and a recreation.

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Councilwoman Sventy stated that since he mentioned sports and recreation, where did he see our recreation program going in the next five. Mr. Merlucci stated that the experience he had was when he was in the recreation program years ago and thought Kinnelon should maintain a strong program.

Mayor Collins stated that Mr. Merlucci currently has a leadership role as president on the Kinnelon Volunteer Fire Company. He asked him what his greatest challenge was dealing with all types of personalities. Mr. Merlucci said that what he found with the Fire Company is that it has been an intimate exposure to having to deal with unlike minded people. Mayor Collins asked what have you enjoyed the most. Mr. Merlucci said that some of his best memories were of being a boy scout.

Councilman Freda asked what his Eagle Scout project was and Mr. Merlucci replied that the Reform Church on Kinnelon Road needed landscaping and had no money after the addition was added to the church so he raised money to landscape it, bought the materials and built the rock walls. Councilman Freda asked why he wasn't running in June. Mr. Merlucci said he would like to touch on it now and give it a chance in the future. Alex said that he thought the candidates running now were excellent choices. Councilman Freda asked what are the three most important qualities of Kinnelon should be and Mr. Merlucci said the schools, the community and a fiscal responsibility.

Mayor Collins thanked Alex Merlucci and again congratulated him for being chosen as one of the nominees.

Mayor Collins asked Mr. Giantonio to address the council. Mr. Giantonio stated that he lived at,17 Lakeview Drive, he is an attorney and works for the Law Offices of Viscomi & Lyons. His wife is Susan and they have two children. Mr. Giantonio has lived in Kinnelon for 12 years.

Councilman Cobell asked Mr. Giantonio what he felt are the biggest problems facing small towns in municipal governments today and Mr. Giantonio stated that the impression he gets is getting financing for any project.

Councilman O'Dougherty asked if he knew of any way that we could save money with the company that he works for, or assist the council and Mr. Giantonio stated that he is not involved with the communication with where he works but as a lawyer he could help with drafting ordinances and other materials. He stated that if he did get on the council he would like to work on cutting cost with insurance. Councilman O'Dougherty asked if he had any goals for the next 8 months and Mr. Giantonio answered that his number one gold is to see where we could cut costs.

Councilman Freda asked what he thought were the three most important qualities of our community and. Mr. Giantonio stated that education is the most important point. The environment of this town is number two; he loves the restriction on what can be built on individual lots. Third are the people in this town.

Councilman Moleta commented that the school represents the majority of our taxes.

Mayor Collins thanked Mr. Giantonio for his time.

Mayor Collins asked Mr. Barish to address the council. Mr. Barish thanked the council, and stated that he has lived in town for 19 years. He and his wife Kimberly have two children. As a CERT Coordinator he has trained 23 Kinnelon residents. He is the Deputy OEM Coordinator and a firefighter. He is a previous Kinnelon Citizen of the Year, honored by Lakeland YMCA. The Kinnelon Library wanted to add a playground for preschoolers and he answered the call for funding. He thinks this is the right time to run.

Councilwoman Sventy said that Adam mentions how he thinks ahead and takes action. Based on this Carol asked that if there were only two or three things in town he would change or improve, what would they be?

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CLOSED SESSION:

RESOLUTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body wishes to discuss;

Contract Negotiations
Personnel

Minutes will be kept and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the above no longer requires that confidentiality, then the minutes can be made public

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the public be excluded from this meeting.

MOTION: Councilwomen C. Sventy

SECOND: Councilman S. Cobell

Roll Call:	J. Freda, Yes;	S. Cobell, Yes;
	D. O'Dougherty, Yes;	C. Sventy, Yes.
	G. Moleta, Yes;	

Mayor Collins asked for a motion to go back in to open session;

MOTION: Councilman S. Cobell

SECOND: Councilwoman C. Sventy

Roll Call:	J. Freda, Yes;	S. Cobell, Yes;
	D. O'Dougherty, Yes;	C. Sventy, Yes.
	G. Moleta, Yes;	

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ADJOURNMENT

This meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m. on motion by Councilman S. Cobell, with the unanimous affirmative voice vote of all present.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Iuele, Acting Borough Clerk

Robert W. Collins, Mayor

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