

## REGULAR MEETING

Oceanport, New Jersey  
December 17, 1992

**REGULAR MEETING:** The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Oceanport was called to order on December 17, 1992 at 8:00 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilpersons Clark, Terra, Filippone, Miller, Taylor, Wolfe and Mayor Cavanagh.

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:** Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca and Borough Attorney, Francis A. Margalotti.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Cavanagh led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

**CLERK'S REPORTS:**

1. Police report for the month of NOVEMBER, 1992 and a copy of same will be posted on the Bulletin Board.
2. Taxi renewal application made by Chris Amecangelo t/a CHRIS'S TAXI.

The Clerk reported that the required fees had been paid and the vehicle had been inspected and approved by the Police Department, after which Councilman Miller moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Clark and unanimously approved by Council.

**COMMITTEES:**

**COUNCILMAN CLARK:** Councilman Clark commented that he always hesitates to about saying thank you to people in a situation as we had last weekend because we always tend to mention the people who run the organizations and forget many of the others who help and he thanked the OEM people, the Fire Department and First Aid Squad, Police Department and Health Department did a magnificent job and there are a few people who should be singled out. He continued he wanted to mention Richard Gruskos and his son John who went out on a leaky boat and rescued 12-15 people from their homes and they are not members of any organization that would normally be dedicated to those kinds of things. Councilman Clark also stated that he has heard so many marvelous comments over the last few days about how great it is to live in Oceanport because of how wonderful the people have responded during this emergency disaster situation.

Councilman Clark stated that living on the water and having water in his house, he had received many calls offering assistance and they are still coming in and he is very appreciative of everyone's concerns.

Councilman Clark reported the 1991 DEPE initial desk review for the 1991 tonnage grant for recycling has been received by them and we have been advised that the average amount disallowed across the Board by the County and the State was 50%, but Oceanport's was accepted 100% and thanked Councilman Terra for his work last year with this Department.

Councilman Clark advised that there are several areas around the Borough where there are stacks and stacks of garbage and we are working on clearing the debris away, but it takes time and we ask the residents to please be patient and we have hired special contractors through Councilman Wolfe who

are bringing in extra dumpsters and larger equipment to speed up the clean up process. He asked the residents when they are placing debris at the curb to please separate the items from their normal trash.

Councilman Clark stated he has requested an additional toxic disposal day for paint cans because we are anticipating there will be many from getting water all around, but he is not meeting with a lot of good favor from the County and they have checked with the other municipalities that are affected and they are not getting any interest in this type of program other than Oceanport and they are presently still reviewing this situation and something will be in the newspapers advising residents when the next hazardous waste day will be conducted, which will most likely be held in April and residents will be asked to store their materials until that time. Councilman Clark advised if anyone has a situation where they feel it is a serious problem, he recommended they contact the County Board of Health and advise them of what their problem is with whatever material.

COUNCILMAN TERRA: Councilman Terra wanted to report some of the statistics as far as we have with regard to the recent storm and advised the population affected involved 778 people who were officially evacuated; 300 were displaced from their homes and 150 were sheltered; there were 4 single family homes which were completely destroyed; 28 had major damage; 160 homes had minor damage; 202 homes were affected; total estimated loss at this point in time is \$8,691,000. He continued in the business sector, 3 major losses; 9 minor losses; estimated damage of \$300,000.

Councilman Terra also wanted to speak about the human factor involved with the storm and commented that sometimes you don't truly realize or understand the quality of the people who work and volunteer in this community. He stated this storm has brought out something we all knew was always there; it brought out the best in all of our people--the Police, Fire Department, First Aid Squad and the Emergency Management personnel who all did an outstanding, first class, top of the line job. He commented that it was recognized by many people in the Borough and by many people outside of Oceanport. Councilman Terra continued that the Borough's reputation for efficiency and thoroughness goes well beyond the confines of this community, but not only are our professional people top notch, there are many private citizens who went out of their way to help their neighbors and still are by donating food and helping with clean up, etc. He thinks that this is certainly a credit to us as a people, as a nation and he feels that everyone should be commended for this.

Councilman Terra stated that he is not sure if this is the way it is in all other towns and quoted the Mayor as saying half of Oceanport residents are related and the other half are friends, so we are like a family in this Borough.

Councilman Terra commented lastly he wanted to say how much he appreciated the efforts and how proud he is to be associated with the members of the Police, Fire, First Aid and Emergency Management, and he realizes that these volunteers are perfectionists and he knows like most perfectionists they are not thinking about the 99 out of 100 people who you helped, but are thinking about the one that you didn't and he wanted them all to know that no one could have done a better job; no one could have gotten to that one family that needed help and didn't get and get to the fire to save that one home. He stated they should stand tall, heads high because they all did a terrific job and no one could have done it better and everyone is very proud of all of the volunteers.

Councilman Terra moved to withdraw the ordinance previously introduced regarding the amendment to the vehicle and traffic ordinance. It was seconded by Councilman Clark and unanimously approved by Council.

Mayor Cavanagh explained that was the ordinance regarding parking and there have been some on going discussions between the business community and the Chief of Police and after the first of the year we will put together a type of compromise ordinance that will be satisfactory to everyone involved.

**COUNCILWOMAN FILIPPONE:** Councilwoman Filippone reported that the Oceanport First Aid Squad for November had 16 calls for a total of 92 man/woman hours and she is sure that in the month of December there will be many more calls because they were part of the entire emergency situation.

Councilwoman Filippone commended Jim Slattery, Emergency Management Coordinator, on a super job getting reports ready and helping everyone in the Community.

Councilwoman Filippone also acknowledged Stuart Briskey of Port-au-Peck and the fine job the Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Company firemen did and she also commented that she had spent some time with Stu yesterday and stated that one of the nice things about him is that he never minds giving credit where credit is due and the one thing he singled out was the assistance given by the Hook & Ladder volunteers, since most of the men in Port-au-Peck were involved with their own homes and she commended Chief Rick Sweger for his excellent job supervising the men.

Councilwoman Filippone commended the Mayor who was out of town and returned immediately from Virginia when he learned of the storm and she was very appreciative of his efforts. She also commended the job done by the Acting Mayor, Council President Miller during Mayor Cavanagh's absence and he took control and helped out as much as he could until the Mayor was back in town. Councilwoman Filippone also commented that this Borough owes a great deal to Councilman Wolfe who gave up going to work in his own business for 3 full days to work the streets of this town with the Road Department employees and she is very appreciate of his efforts and felt that we all owe him a debt of gratitude.

**COUNCILMAN MILLER:** Councilman Miller stated that he just wanted to ditto all the compliments made to all the people involved with the storm and all the help that was given.

Councilman Miller advised that the final fireworks accounting has been completed and again it shows what type of people we have in this Borough. He continued we are in a recession and we have seed money of \$5,000 going for next year's display and if we can just keep this going we will continue to be ahead each year.

Councilman Miller reported on December 5 the Water Watch Committee decided that they wanted to conduct winter sampling in order to compare the numbers from the summer time and had it not been for the storm last week, we could have said that the river was in great shape, because the six sites tested had coliform counts that went from 1 up to 42 at the intersection of Troutman's Creek and the water quality index went from 61 to 77.15 which is high average to good.

**COUNCILMAN TAYLOR:** Councilman Taylor also thanked all the members of the various volunteer organizations as well as the Police Department for all their efforts during and after the storm.

**32** Councilman Taylor reported the Drug Alliance Committee will be meeting on January 13, 1993 at the Maple Place School at 7:30 P.M. He also advised that the Committee has officially been notified that they have received a grant in the amount of \$4,800 and we will be preparing our various programs for 1993..

**COUNCILMAN WOLFE:** Councilman Wolfe stated there really is no where to begin to thank all the people who were involved helping out in the disaster which took place, since that is really what took place. He wanted to say on a personal note there was not one moment during the storm that he did not feel secure that the Borough was being taken care of and the volunteerism, not only from this town, but throughout the State was just great. He continued that we had fire companies coming from as far away as Trenton with rescue vehicles and boats. He commented that it was a very moving experience to see the faces on the people after the storm had passed as we were trying to help clean up the streets and made all of his efforts worthwhile knowing he was helping his neighbors.

**R-92-73** Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution R-92-73 transferring funds, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Taylor and unanimously approved by Council.

**R-92-74** Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution R-92-74 authorizing emergency appropriations for the storm damage, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and unanimously approved by Council.

**R-92-75** Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution R-92-75 authorizing the award of contracts for clean up of storm damage without bidding, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Filippone and unanimously approved by Council.

**R-92-76** Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution R-92-76 waiving building permit fees for storm damage related repairs, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Terra and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe then moved to return a portion of a performance bond to Leeward Cove, Inc. for Block 97, Lots 2, 3 and 4 and Block 98, Lots 1, 3, 4 and 5 to be made in accordance with the Borough Engineer's recommendation as follows: cash portion--\$6,281.03 and paper portion--\$56,529.30. It was seconded by Councilman Terra and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe commented that he finally left the Borough after 5-6 days of being here and headed down to the Bayshore area and driving through Little Silver as well as towns along the coast, he saw major destruction in many towns and in speaking with several of the Public Officials in those towns, it concurs with what we had discussed on Monday, in that this is going to be an on going clean up process and it might take two months before we see an end to the debris that is being brought out to the curbs.

**MAYOR CAVANAGH:** Mayor Cavanagh announced that Saturday there will be another emergency meeting of the Two Rivers Council of Mayors and we had one on Tuesday in an attempt to coordinate our problems and work with each other to see what we could do for each other and with each other. He stated they had an opportunity to meet with soon to be Congressman Zimmer and he brought us assurances that in his opinion, the FEMA problem would resolve itself and we would be declared a disaster area and there would be assistance available.

Mayor Cavanagh also advised Jim Slattery that on Monday in Red Bank there will be a FEMA type meeting with our current Congressman, Frank Pallone.

Mayor Cavanagh stated at the meeting with the Two Rivers Council of Mayors we were privileged to have as a Guest on Tuesday, the President of JCP & L in response to many requests from Mayors. He continued as a Mayor who was in and out of the Borough Hall during the storm, one of the most frustrating things we had to deal with is the people who don't have power and have no heat and we don't know any more than they do and it makes for a very difficult situation when you cannot reassure people as to what is going on. He communicated this to the President and it appeared somewhat hard to believe that out of some 11 Mayors and over 180,000 people represented, there was no way to get any answers and some type of communication system must be developed at least available to the Emergency Management personnel and/or Mayor where you can get through on a number and get an answer in order to have information to give out to the residents and he accepted that criticism with a good attitude and commented that they had tried that system some years back, but everyone began giving out the number to everyone else and it became like the 800 number. He stated that the President advised them that he would be back in about two months to attend another meeting and would try and have some type of a plan to discuss with them. Mayor Cavanagh commented that he also suggested at the meeting that it made no sense to send crews from town to town when everyone has problems and thought what should happen is to have a geographical assignment where the crew would come to Oceanport and stay until all the work required is done.

Mayor Cavanagh stated in terms of this past week end, much has been said about all that went on, but he wanted to say as everyone else has, that he is always impressed with what people are willing to do in difficult situations; Jim Slattery did everything he was supposed to do and got back up that he was looking for; the Fire Police were out with sleet on their faces on Saturday and it was tough being out there directing traffic and we went out of our way to cordon off traffic, because Mr. Slattery felt it would improve the situation if we denied access and would also guarantee some safety and he agreed with the plan. Mayor Cavanagh stated that many of the residents, including the Borough Clerk, commented to him that it was very nice to feel safe and know that people were just not wandering around the town.

Mayor Cavanagh extended his gratitude to everyone involved with the storm and the effort everyone put forth.

Mayor Cavanagh then opened the meeting to the public for any comments.

#### PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Mrs. Karen Hansen, Monmouth Boulevard stated she has lived in the Borough for over 40 years and she is here tonight to tell the Mayor and Council that she couldn't be more proud to be a resident of this town and does not think there is any town quite like Oceanport. She wanted to publicly thank Jim Slattery, Kerin, and all the people who volunteered with the Emergency Management Officials, all the firemen and police who made us feel safe, unlike other communities where there were some incredible problems with looting. She also wanted to point out that she came down to Borough Hall on Monday morning and complimented Patti Varca for her grace under pressure in answering the phones, complaints, etc. while having her own problems with the storm. She also noticed how many of the members of Council, through their own very difficult circumstances, were right out and

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 visible in this community and particularly Council President Miller who was very much apart of the volunteer effort and he was answering phones at Borough Hall; Councilman Wolfe who was out on Sunday as well working with the Road Department on Monmouth Boulevard in the cold and she truly believes that the example of the Council's volunteer efforts and their commitment to others is truly what spurs this town on and makes it like no other.

Jim Slattery, Comanche Drive stated for the record that the Borough of Oceanport is still under a State of Emergency and will remain for some time to come until we have everything back to normal. He also stated that they have created a disaster directory that we have given to the Clerk's Office, the Police Dispatcher, all Police Officers and have been passing them out to people who have questions and included the numbers for the Red Cross, insurance information, food safety, construction, Oceanport Offices such as the Construction Official, Emergency Management, Fire Official and Borough Offices and we have done this in an effort to make it a little easier for people because many have lost phone books and directories.

Mr. Slattery continued that he has noticed that the recovery within the Borough is moving forward every well and you see carpenters, electricians, etc. working and people cleaning up their property even though in some instances, their property was practically destroyed and it shows a lot of pride and it is very evident.

Mr. Slattery wanted to extend his thanks to the members of the Governing Body and especially to Mayor Cavanagh, as well as the support of the Fire and First Aid Departments, Police Department, Road Department, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hook & Ladder Fire Company and everyone who came out did an excellent job and he has heard that from all the services.

Mayor Cavanagh thanked Mr. Slattery for his comments and stated that the most important thing to all of us is that with all of what we saw and all that happened, there was no loss of life, which is always the number one goal in all these situations and that is a credit to everyone who helped during the storm.

Stu Briskey, 43 Manitto Place, stated he was speaking in his capacity as Assistant Chief and commented that on behalf of Chief Sweger and himself, they are only as good as their men and he thanked them all for the many hours they worked. Mr. Briskey wanted to mention some fire companies they wanted to thank and apologized for the lengthy list, but wanted to make it part of the record and thanked the following Mutual Aid Companies for their efforts during and after the storm: Hamilton Fire Company, Trenton; Marnsville Township First Aid Squad; Marnsville Northside Tinton Falls; West Belmar #1, Wall Township; Little Silver Fire and First Aid; West Trenton Fire Company, Trenton; Dave Gizzi and his front end loader; Dave and his green boat from Belmar Avenue; the Fire Police who helped direct traffic in the sleet along with the firemen; he stated on Sunday, they cranked up pump out operations, which we are about the only town that did that and he thanked our men along with East Freehold; Freehold Township Independent; Oakhurst Fire Department; West Long Branch Fire Department and Fort Monmouth for their pump; he stated on Monday we did not call the men out, but they volunteered on their own and continued pumping out and from the Oceanport Fire Department he wanted to thank Captain Steve Widmaier for leadership of the men from that fire company and in the absence of a Captain from Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose he wanted to thank Acting Captain Buddy Brocklebank for leading the men from that company and thanked Patrolman Don Ross who is also a volunteer fireman

for leading fellow Oceanport firefighters to the house on Gooseneck Point Road to make sure everyone was out and after speaking with all the firemen from both Houses, the members of the Oceanport Fire Department would like to commend the excellent and outstanding job done by Patrolman Steve Cioffi at the Dispatch Desk during the emergency. Mr. Briskey stated that Patrolman Cioffi never lost command of one radio channel which all emergency services share and on behalf of the members of the Oceanport Fire Department he recommended to the Mayor and Council that Patrolman Cioffi be officially recognized for his outstanding efforts.

Mayor Cavanagh stated he already had that in mind and also requested that Stu leave a copy of that list next week because he would like to send a note to all the companies who helped out and requested that if Jim Slattery has anyone he would like to have thanked as well, to just leave the names and addresses with the Clerk some time next week.

Councilman Clark stated he wanted to request anyone who had photographs of the storm to leave them at Borough Hall to his attention for this Historical Society and if they have negatives, they can just leave them and he will have the photographs made and would like to have a collection of them on display so we can remember what can happen and how fortunate we were.

Councilman Clark also advised anyone who got flooded and who have their air conditioning units located outside, to have them checked because the electrical controls are not in a sealed compartment like the compressors.

Councilman Terra also requested anyone who has video tapes to contact Jim Slattery and they can drop them off at Borough Hall and he will have copies made and return the originals.

As no one else from the public wished to be heard, Mayor Cavanagh closed the public portion of the meeting.

Councilman Wolfe stated he wanted to amend the voucher register to include for payment to the contractor who has been working in the Borough doing storm clean up, D & D Landscaping in the amount of \$3,830 and moved to approve the bills including this amendment as listed on the Voucher Register dated December 17, 1992. Following a brief discussion on this bill it was agreed to hold the bill from D & D until the charges can be reviewed. It was seconded by Councilman Terra and approved by Council with the exceptions of Councilmen Clark and Terra abstaining from the bills due Ed Brister. TOTAL 1992 VOUCHERS \$810,912.94. TOTAL 1992 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$870,813.64. TOTAL 1992 OPERATING FUND \$881,726.58. TOTAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE II ACCOUNT \$469.00. TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNT \$675.00. TOTAL MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT \$250,000.00. TOTAL TRUST ACCOUNT \$7,178.03. TOTAL GENERAL LEDGER-FIRE PREVENTION \$106.95. (SEE VOUCHER REGISTER)

At 8:48 P.M. Councilwoman Filippone moved to adjourn in Executive Session to discuss several personnel matters. It was seconded by Councilman Terra and unanimously approved by Council.

At 10:04 P.M. Mayor Cavanagh reconvened the meeting and stated for the record everyone was present on the dais.

Councilman Miller moved to extend the probationary period for Mr. Anthony Giurlando as Superintendent of Public Works for an additional six

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month period to June 15, 1993. It was seconded by Councilman Terra and unanimously approved by Council.

At 10:06 P.M. Councilman Terra moved to adjourn the meeting until the next regular meeting scheduled to be held on December 28, 1992 at 8:00 P.M. It was seconded by Councilman Clark and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patricia L. Varca*

PATRICIA L. VARCA  
BOROUGH CLERK