

**BOROUGH OF INTERLAKEN
WORKSHOP MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 30, 2015
7:00 P.M. AT BOROUGH HALL**

The workshop meeting of the Borough of Interlaken was called to order at 7:00 p.m., by Mayor Nohilly. Sunshine Statement was read by Borough Clerk Reibrich. "The notice of the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act has been satisfied by forwarding annual notice to the Coaster and Asbury Park Press. A copy of the annual notice is posted on the Borough bulletin board and is on file in the Borough Clerk's office."

Present: Mayor Nohilly, Council President White, Council members: Franks, Gunn, Handerhan, Horowitz

Also Present: Borough Attorney Richard Shaklee, Borough Administrator/Clerk Lori Reibrich, Deal Police Chief Ronen Neuman, Allenhurst Fire and First Aid EMS Captain John Hansen, Allenhurst Fire and First Aid EMS Lieutenant Sue Borden, Deal Police Traffic Officer Nick Vacarro

1. OEM, SPEED REDUCTION ON GRASMERE AVENUE, WEIGHT LIMIT RESTRICTIONS

Mayor Nohilly introduced Deal Police Chief Ronen Neuman stating that there has been a significant amount of resident concern about the increase in traffic and the perception of increased speeds on Grassmere Avenue and throughout the Borough.

Chief Neuman stated that the construction closing of the Sunset Avenue bridge resulted in traffic being diverted through Interlaken. He contacted the County and requests for assistance with the diverted traffic went unanswered. The recent closing of the second bridge at Crawford's Circle area prompted response after the Chief's request for assistance. Chief Neuman met with County officials on September 24, 2015. The County offered traffic boards and they are conducting a traffic study. Traffic tubes on Westra Street and Grassmere Avenue count cars and register speed.

Councilman Franks stated that Bridlemere Avenue was another hot spot and speeding should be monitored on that street, as well. Councilman Franks asked, if additional patrols in Interlaken have been considered. Councilman Franks stated that several streets in the Borough had increased speeding. Councilman Franks asked about the number of patrols in the Borough.

Chief Neuman stated that a decoy car has been stationed on Grassmere Avenue and a Special Officer has been scheduled in the Borough to perform traffic enforcement. The on duty Sargent has been instructed to schedule the Special Officer to monitor traffic in Interlaken when not in service at Deal School. Chief Neuman stated that higher ranking officers also patrol Interlaken.

Chief Neuman said that, during the meeting, County officials stated that they believe that traffic will actually decrease with the limited access to Grassmere Avenue caused by the closing of Crawford Circle. Only vehicles heading west will come over the bridge and head down Grassmere Avenue. With only one access, there will be reduced traffic.

Captain John Hansen stated that the department has been proactive regarding the bridge closings. They have been aware of the closings for some time and have made preparations in advance. An engine will be stationed in Interlaken. The engine has 150 gallons of water and is fully capable. Captain Hansen stated that an engine had previously been stationed in Interlaken, during the construction of the new fire house. Captain Hansen stated that drivers have been set up to go directly to that truck and others will report to the firehouse. Captain Hansen stated that response times will not be effected. There are alternate routes. The difference in the length of the routes is .1 miles.

Captain Hansen stated that all EMS personnel has equipment in their cars and will go directly to the scene. There will be no difference in response time on the scene. The personnel on the scene have good communication with the house and the rig. Everyone is aware of the situation, as it is happening. Captain Hansen stated that plans are in place, so there is no difference in response time for fire or first aid.

Captain Hansen referenced impending Hurricane Joaquin stating that the department is always ready for this type of event and everything is in place with generators and shelter supplies should the situation dictate an emergency response.

Councilman Franks asked if a satellite shelter would be set up in Interlaken. Captain Hansen stated that the department could assist with the set-up of satellite shelter if required, but the main shelter would be the fire house.

Mayor Nohilly stated that during Superstorm Sandy resident's main need was to charge phones. The Borough had charging capabilities set up at Borough Hall.

Captain Hansen introduced Lieutenant Sue Borden and stated the Fire Department is ready for any emergency caused by the storm.

Chief Neuman stated that Police officers have emergency equipment. All vehicles have oxygen and fire equipment.

Chief Neuman stated that he was in contact with Mike Oppengard from Monmouth County OEM. Seven inches of rain and 45 mile an hour winds are expected even before the storm hits. Heavy rains are expected. It looks like the storm is moving out toward the ocean. The County shelter will be open tomorrow at 1pm. Chief Neuman stated that the Deal Police equipment is ready to go including hummers, SUVs and a 5 ton truck. Communication with the County will remain open and a NIXLE will be sent out, if necessary. The police will be updating their Facebook page and if an emergency situation warrants, a Code Red message will be sent to residents.

Chief Neuman stated that unbeknownst to the Borough, his department was able to borrow an Armadillo Traffic Monitoring System from a neighboring town. The Chief of that town was very generous in loaning the equipment. Chief Neuman introduced Traffic Officer Nick Vaccaro.

Traffic Officer Vaccaro stated that the small black box of the monitoring unit was attached to a small pole between the 400-500 blocks of Grassmere Avenue. Traffic was monitored on both sides of the street.

Chief Neuman stated that traffic was monitored on September 23rd, 24th and 25th. The town that the equipment was borrowed from received the data and forwarded it to Chief Neuman.

Chief Neuman presented additional details regarding the collected data stating that an average total of 3,000 cars traveled Grassmere Avenue in either direction during the time period it was installed and an average speed of 25.5mph was reported.

Council discussed the data details.

Councilwoman Horowitz questioned the timing of the closing of both bridges. Mayor Nohilly stated that one project was supposed to be complete before the second one started. Councilman Horowitz questioned the timing of the complete closure of Grassmere Avenue. Borough Administrator Reibrich stated that the closings are being done in phases but the timing of the complete closure is unknown. At pre construction meetings, it was explained that the full bridge closure will be towards the end of the project.

Chief Neuman stated that officers are stationed on Grassmere Avenue all of the time.

Chief Neuman stated that he did an analysis of the calls over a three month period from June 1 to August 31. There were 736 calls. 280 motor vehicle stops and 164 summons. 34 were issued for speeding.

Chief Neuman and Council discussed the placement of the signs borrowed from the County to deter speeding.

Chief Neuman stated that the Borough of Deal has made the investment to purchase a \$16,000 speed monitoring sign that also has some traffic study capabilities. The sign will arrive in about 4 weeks.

Chief Neuman stated that he consulted Guy Beaver of the County about the 4 ton weight limit that Council was investigating. Chief Neuman said that Mr. Beaver explained that trucks cannot be denied access into the town. Trucks could be told that they must use a certain roadway, but they cannot be denied access. They would have to be permitted down another road, if not Grassmere Avenue. Bridlemere Avenue might be another option.

Mayor Nohilly stated that there is concrete under the roadway on Grassmere Avenue. The side streets are only asphalt.

Chief Neuman stated that his officers have not seen a lot of heavy equipment traffic.

Traffic Officer Vaccaro stated that construction vehicles involved in the Crawford's Circle project will not be traveling down Grassmere Avenue, but will be taking a route to Asbury Avenue.

Borough Engineer Avakian stated that he observed a specific demolition project in Asbury Park where construction vehicles were traveling down Grassmere Avenue. That project is complete.

Borough Engineer Avakian stated that he has seen weight limits regulated but they are a difficult thing to monitor and enforce. Borough Engineer Avakian stated that half of Grassmere Avenue is a county road. The only road in the Borough the trucks could traverse is Grassmere Avenue, the one with the concrete base and two layers of asphalt.

Mayor Nohilly stated that the increased heavy vehicle traffic is temporary. Other Councilmembers agreed.

Borough Engineer Avakian agreed, once the work on the bridges is complete, the traffic will decrease. Borough Engineer Avakian stated that once the data is received by the County, it could be looked at further.

2. PROJECT UPDATES – *Peter Avakian to provide update regarding ongoing Borough Engineering projects*

Borough Engineer Avakian stated that there are several projects starting soon. A significant trust fund grant was secured for the Buttermere Avenue project. The entire length of the roadway would be completed with a significant contribution from the Borough. Earle Asphalt Company gave a tentative construction schedule to start the project on October 12, 2015 which begins before the Interlaken 5K race on October 17, 2015. The contractor is aware of the race and Borough Engineer Avakian's Chief Inspector will be on the job to monitor any conflicts. An alternate route was discussed, if necessary. The conditions will be evaluated closer to the race.

Borough Engineer Avakian stated that the work includes concrete curbing, concrete driveway aprons and handicapped ramps. There will be some spot repairs to sanitary sewers and some drainage improvements. As with other projects, residential sump pump discharge lines will be collected and tied into the Borough's drainage system. The surface will be milled and a new 1 ½ to 2 inch surface will be put on the roadway. It will be typical 5 to 6 inches of asphalt over a hard packed gravel. Stop lines and traffic striping will be put at all intersections. Administrative staff is aware that residents have been asked, if they want their sidewalks to be included in the project. The contract for homeowner sidewalks will be between the homeowner and the contractor directly.

Councilman Franks asked if Borough Engineer Avakian would monitor future road projects to be sure all street markings are put back and that work is done correctly.

Borough Engineer Avakian stated that when the project is a utility project he is not always involved. When it is a capital improvement project his office is involved from the beginning. Borough Engineer Avakian helps to generate projects and secure funds from the Department of Transportation, complete applications for the trust fund money and assist in writing any ordinances needed for sidewalk assessments. On roads Borough Engineer Avakian's office does the design and development of the project. His office advertises the bids, receives the bids and recommends the award. Borough Engineer Avakian oversees construction and ensures the project is completed correctly.

Councilman Franks stated that in the spring there will most likely be a project to do traffic striping in the entire town and asked if it would be possible to contract Borough Engineer Avakian's office to monitor street openings to be sure markings are put back in place when the project is complete.

Borough Engineer Avakian stated that he could have someone available to look at it. The street opening permit process could be looked at in reference to there being an escrow set aside to insure the site is restored. A yearly review of the work that was done can be done with DPW and an assessment can be made.

Councilman Franks stated that the projects should be monitored as they happen. Borough Engineer Avakian stated that he will review the process with Borough Administrator Reibrich.

Borough Engineer Avakian stated that notification of fund release is expected soon for the Borough Hall project for handicap accessibility. Once the funds are released the Borough will have 90 days to award the project.

3. NEW BUSINESS –

Councilman Franks stated that he would like commendable incident reports written for the Borough employees for the work done on the Borough picnic and that the employees receive compensated time off for their time and efforts spent outside of office hours. Councilman Franks also asked that letters of appreciation be sent to Deputy Clerk, Gina Kneser’s husband and daughter for their help with the picnic.

Councilman Franks stated he received complaints about a pod being in a resident’s driveway for an extended period of time. In this instance their car cannot be parked in the driveway and is being parked across the sidewalk. Councilman Franks stated that pods should be used for temporary storage during a project and not be used for extended periods. Boats, trailers and unregistered vehicles are not allowed in the driveway. Pods should not be permitted.

Mayor Nohilly asked Councilman Franks to discuss it with his committee, Streets and Roads. If the committee wants to make a recommendation, it could be brought to Council for discussion.

Councilman Gunn asked about the progress of the maintenance of the islands and if DPW had been notified of their newly assigned responsibilities to maintain the landscaped islands in the Borough.

Council President White stated that DPW has been informed that they have been put in charge, but Shade Tree would like input regarding the islands. Council President White will attend the next Shade Tree meeting to discuss the matter.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mayor Nohilly opened the floor for public comment.

Bill Dalton, 419 Grassmere Avenue, stated that more people would have come to the meeting, if the date had not been changed due to a quorum issue. Mr. Dalton stated that a lot of people are concerned about the problem with speeding on Grassmere Avenue. Mr. Dalton thanked Chief Ronen for the comprehensive traffic report, but stated that it does not address the type of vehicles traveling Grassmere Avenue. Mr. Dalton stated that he disagrees with the patrolmen’s opinion that there are not many heavy vehicles traveling down the street. Mr. Dalton stated that he is a photographer, and has photos of seven or eight major vehicles going down the road. Mr. Dalton agrees with Borough Engineer Avakian that it is construction trucks, but it is also garbage trucks. There is an 18 wheeler that goes down the road twice a day. There was an 8,000 gallon tanker truck with hazardous flammable material. Mr. Dalton feels this is unacceptable for a residential area. There are also health risks posed by uncovered dump trucks. Mr. Dalton stated that he would like to see a 3 ton limit throughout the Borough. Mr. Dalton stated that he has worked for Clayton Block and knows that when drivers and dispatchers know of weight limits they are told not to use those roads. Mr. Dalton stated that he can bring support to the next meeting, as well as photos. Mr. Dalton feels the commercial traffic is out of control.

Mr. Keith Miller, former Interlaken Councilman, updated the Council on the plans for the 5K race stating they are at about 50% of previous preregistration totals and have lost 7 of their smaller sponsors. Mr. Miller stated that work is being done to get new sponsors. Mr. Miller stated that the race has lost some long time volunteers and are in need of additional volunteers. Mr. Miller stated that the timer has been ordered and the police and first aid are ready.

With no additional public comment, Mayor Nohilly closed the floor.

5. ADJOURNMENT- With no further comments, Council President White made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Handerhan and unanimously carried.

	Mayor Nohilly	Council President White	Councilman Handerhan	Councilman Franks	Councilman Gunn	Councilwoman Horowitz	Councilman Butler
Motion to Approve		X					
Motion to Second			X				
Approved		X	X	X	X	X	X
Opposed							
Abstain/ Recuse							
Absent/ Excused							

Lori Reibrich, RMC
Borough Administrator/Clerk