

**BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG**  
**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 20, 2019**  
**6:30 PM**

**MAYOR'S STATEMENT:** Mayor Keith S. Balla called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM and made the following statement: Under the provisions of N.J.S.A.10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting was given by way of special notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG and a MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, SERVING HOME AND ABROAD.**

**ROLL CALL**

Gibbs [ P ] Black [ A ] Nehls [ P ] Sopko [ P ] Goodloe [ P ] Eisenberg Knechten [ A ]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, Engineer Tom Herits, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, and Administrative Assistant Regina Angelo. Although not present at Roll Call, Councilman Black arrived at 6:38 P.M.

There were 11 members of the public present.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Johnson Soils Company / Lisa Mahle-Greco PE

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Geotechnical Engineering Report for soil borings taken at the potential library site at the upper gravel parking lot behind the Municipal Building and the Exempt Fire Hall at 15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, New Jersey.

Ms. Mahle-Greco explained that Johnson Soils was retained to perform a geotechnical investigation at the upper lot located between Mountain Boulevard and Scott Drive, and behind the municipal building. She said on May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> the drillers dug the borings to determine the soil types and presence of rock, which they encountered with 3 of the 4 borings. She provided a chart that showed where the four (4) soil borings were completed. She described the equipment used to perform the borings. Ms. Mahle-Greco explained the grading goes up from Mountain Boulevard to Scott Drive and it is typical that rock would be encountered, given the Watchung area. She said in order to build a building, it has to go into the rock. She displayed pictures of the rock that came out of the corer and said the rock was all broken up, it was not solid rock and typically this means it is ripable. She said with no set plans provided to her in regard to elevation for her to look at, the structural engineer and the architect need to find the right grade with the least amount of rock to remove. Ms. Mahle-Greco said it is doable, there will be rock removal, noting that boring #1 went down 25' and found no rock.

Ms. Mahle-Greco answered questions from the Mayor and Council, including one about the ground water. She responded that the ground water is low – 9ft, 6" down, therefore it should not be a concern and in regard to a concern of runoff, she recommended sump-pits or french drains. Another concern was if blasting would be needed and she responded that it shouldn't be based on the facts available at this time.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

Tom Franklin, Wildwood Terrace, asked if the chart gives the dimensions of the property and Ms. Mahle-Greco said they did not. Tom Herits added that it is all one lot.

Cori Haveson, Maple Street, asked what the square footage represented of the proposed foot print and Ms. Mahle-Greco responded 9000' to 9500 sq. feet, noting it was only an estimate as there was no definitive plan right now. Ms. Haveson asked how were the exact locations for the borings decided, and Ms. Mahle-Greco responded they were determined from the map that she was given.

Margaret Ellis, Valley Road, asked if the proposed building was shifted to an area a little to the left, or a little to the right, would the results of the boring samples be the same, and Ms. Mahle-Greco responded they would be similar.

Cori Haveson, Maple Street, asked if there were any other tests that should have been done and Ms. Mahle-Greco said the borings give more detail than a test point, and gives more definitive answers.

Mayor Balla and the Council thanked Ms. Mahle-Greco for coming this evening.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm to the Call of the Chair and to next scheduled Council meeting Thursday June 20, 2019 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle DeRocco, RMC  
Clerk