

BOROUGH OF WENONAH
www.boroughofwenonah.com
COUNCIL MINUTES
ANNUAL REORGANIZATION MEETING
January 5, 2017

Wenonah Municipal Building
7:00 PM

Mayor John R. Dominy called the meeting to order and welcomed guests and officials.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Dominy called incumbents Philipp Kaeferle and William Norris to be sworn in.

Roll Call: Present: Dominy, Cox, Hausman, Kaeferle, Lader, Norris, Sheppard,
 Solicitor Brian J. Duffield
 Absent: None

Open Public Meetings Act

Pastor, Tim Nessler, offered the invocation.

Councilman Sheppard motioned to do a consent agenda approving the confirmation of Employees/Appointments/Boards & Commissions, Resolution 1- 21 and Salary Ordinance O-2017-1. Councilman Hausman seconded.

Roll Call:
Ayes: Cox, Hausman, Kaeferle, Lader, Norris, Sheppard
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None
Motion Approved

Mayor welcomed Nilsa I. Cruz-Perez Senator, Fifth Legislative District and Olga R. El District Representative from Congressman Donald Norcross First District Assemblywoman

Presentation of the Wenonah Fire Company Line Officers:

- Chief Drew Sole introduced the Line Officers in attendance.
- Fire Chief Drew Sole and the Fire Company Line Officers were sworn in by Mayor Dominy.

Volunteer of the Year Award:

- Mayor Dominy recognized Pat Sole and Tom Curry as the volunteer of the year award. Mayor Dominy read and presented proclamations to Pat Sole and Tom Curry for their efforts serving on the Wenonah Public Library for many years.

Reorganization Meeting Minutes – January 7, 2017 (cont'd)

Presentation of Reports by various Boards & Commissions:

Mayor Dominy asked if there were any attendees with End-of-Year Reports covering various organization activities in 2016.

- Gary Odenbrett, Chair of the Shade Tree Commission gave his report (see attached)
- Scott Barnes, Chair of the Environmental Commission gave his report (see attached)
- Anne Zuber, Wenonah Library see attached report
- Police Chief Rogers gave a brief report. He also thanked everyone for their support.
- Fire Chief Drew Sole gave his report (see attached) and thanked everyone for their support.
- Jonathan Funk gave a report from the Lions Club

Mayor Dominy then thanked everyone for their reports and acknowledged them for their good work in our community. He had a special thanks to Ken Trovarelli and Public Works crew, Rob Cureton from Logan Township providing our trash collection. He recognized and thanked Dave Kreck, John Zupko, Brian Slauch, COAH planner, and Carol McAllister, our auditor. He gave a special thanks to Ken Trovarelli, Public Works Superintendent and DPW employees, Clerk Karen, and the office staff, Laurie and Kathy.

Mayor Dominy swore in new Library Board members Tom Myers and Suzy Lang and also Richard Dilks, back on to the Environmental Commission

Open to public PL/CH

Mayor Dominy recognized Joe Buono, Fire Official and Joe gave a brief end of year report.

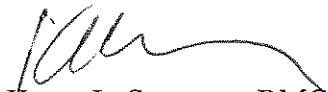
Close to public JS/PL All in Favor

Mayor Dominy closed the meeting by thanking all in attendance and our volunteers. He acknowledged they were the backbone of the community.

The Mayor then invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

Adjourn CH/PL All in Favor 7:50 pm

Minutes submitted,


Karen L. Sweeney, RMC/Treasurer

Approved: Jan 26, 2017

To: Mayor Dominy and Members of Borough Council
 From: Drew Sole, Fire Chief
 Subject: Fire Chief's Report for the Year 2016
 Date: January 5, 2017

During the year 2016, the Wenonah Fire Company responded to 147 calls for fire or rescue assistance, conducted 49 drills, and performed 23 extra service assignments for a year- end total of 219 times in service. A detailed summary of the alarms follows.

FIRE

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Assist Gloucester County EMS	2
Assist Police	2
Brush Fire	1
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Dwelling	3
Incorrect Dispatch by County Dispatch Center	3
Investigate Fumes	6
Motor Vehicle Crash	2
Rescue Assignment (lift assist)	1
Request for Mutual Aid	80
RIC Assignment	1
Rubbish Fire	1
Service Assignment	1
Structure Fire	2
Tree Removal	3
Vehicle Fire	2
Wires Investigations	17

During the year 2015 the Wenonah Fire Company responded to 147 calls for fire or rescue assistance to our community and our surrounding communities and trained on 49 separate occasions for a year- end total of 2,675.8 staff hours.

In 2016 our call volume remained fairly consistent with the prior year. Alarm system investigations and wires down were yet again our largest categories. Mutual aid continues to be the highest number for dispatches in the year. In 2015 we were dispatched to assist other communities 74 times and in 2016 that number rose to 80 times as more communities request our assistance.

In addition to protecting our residents and weekly training the fire company participated in the following extra service assignments.

1. Conducted 4 hoagie sale fundraisers
2. Attended three viewings and memorial services of fallen members
3. Participated in the Memorial Day parade and provided power at the Wenonah Cemetery
4. Assisted at the Gateway High School graduation
5. Assisted with the spring Athletic Association parade
5. Participated in the July 4th parade and provided fire truck rides as part of the day's events
6. Assisted the Lion's Club with the annual Fun Run
7. Assisted with the fall Athletic Association parade
8. Participated in the Home and School Harvest Fair
9. Provided lighting for the Lake Association's Haunted Trail
10. Participated in the Wenonah Police Community Night Out
11. Participated in the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot
12. Provided a fire truck escort for Santa to visit the town

It is fortunate for our residents that hopefully they will never need to call on us for an emergency however fire company is always involved in helping the town any way they can as illustrated in all the extra service assignments just listed.

In 2016 the fire company was dispatched to three dwelling fires and two structure fires. Fortunately, all minor in nature and no families were displaced due to damage.

Every year our town continues to realize that teamwork keeps us surviving. That being stated I would like to thank Chief Rodgers for the assistance we receive from the police department as well as a thank you to Karen, Laurie and Kathy at the municipal building for their assistance. A special thank you to Ken Troverelli and the public works staff for all the help they provide the fire company each year. Last but certainly not least I want to recognize and personally thank our fire official Joe Buono for his efforts to the town. Our inspections and enforcements are at a 100 % rate due to his hard work.

The residents of Wenonah can continue to be comforted and proud knowing that they are protected and served by one of the most respected, highly trained professional all volunteer fire companies in Gloucester County. The firefighters, although all volunteer maintain the same level of training as career firefighters but also work full time jobs and raise families all while protecting our town.

On behalf of the officers and members of the Wenonah fire Company I would like to wish Mayor Dominy and the members of Council a safe, healthy and happy 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

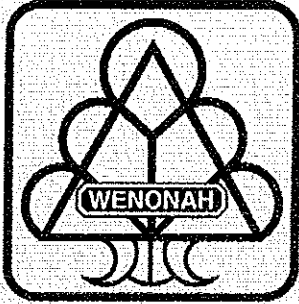
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Drew Sole". The signature is written in black ink and has a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Drew Sole, Fire Chief

The Wenonah Police department in 2016 responded to 6,835 calls for service, we made 1,014 motor vehicle stops and issued 230 summonses. We arrested 64 subjects for criminal violations. This is an increase from 2015 of 1,050 calls for service, 466 motor vehicle stops, 118 summonses issued and 28 subjects arrested for criminal violations.

The Wenonah Police department is a community oriented Police department that provides different types of services and events to the residents of Wenonah. Some of these services and events are teaching DARE in the Wenonah school, holding the community night out, Easter egg hunt in the park, Halloween haunted station.

The Officers of the Wenonah Police department are dedicated to protecting and serving the residents of Wenonah and providing them with the highest quality of service that they are use to receiving.



WENONAH ENVIRONMENTAL
COMMISSION

1 SOUTH WEST AVENUE
WENONAH, NJ 08090

WEB: www.WenonahEnvironmentalCommission.org
E-MAIL: inbox@WenonahEnvironmentalCommission.org

January 5, 2017

Mayor and Council of the Borough of Wenonah
1 South West Avenue
Wenonah, NJ 08090

Dear Mayor and Members of Council:

This letter will serve to summarize the accomplishments of the Environmental Commission during calendar year 2016:

- We have been busy adapting to intense beaver activity at two locations in the conservation area. First, we have attempted to control the lakes they have created by inserting drainage pipes into their dams. Second, we have installed protective wire cages around certain tree trunks. And finally, especially on the popular Eldridge Trail, we have installed raised stepping stones to keep the trail walkable. The situation is still developing; more construction projects may be needed either to control the water level better, or to raise certain parts of the trail higher.
 - On July 4th, we unveiled a trail information kiosk at Wenonah Lake, the first of its kind in town. Creating this kiosk was a team effort between us, the Woman's Club, and Gateway High School. Moving and installation was ably handled by Ken Trovarelli and his Public Works crew. Inside the kiosk is an updated town-wide trail map, which was created digitally so it can be easily maintained and reproduced in the future.
 - In October, we held the fourth edition of the Mad Hatter's Tree Party, attracting 150 people of all ages to Eldridge Trail to learn about the importance of trees, and to see how beavers can quickly reshape a natural landscape.
 - For the fourth year in a row, we engaged a professional firm to chemically treat local ponds against unsightly duckweed and algae plants during the summer months.
 - We continued keeping our trail bridges in good repair: this year, three of them were replaced entirely, our longest 100-foot one was revitalized, and one was added.
 - As always, storms brought down trees in inconvenient places on the trails. We took care of smaller ones ourselves, and brought in professionals for a few monsters.
-

- We sponsored two public hikes, three formal work parties, and fielded teams for both Clean Communities Days. We also presented environmental awards to two graduating 6th graders.

In 2017, the Commission will continue to keep the 135-acre "Ring of Green" healthy and accessible for all to enjoy.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Scott Barnes
WEC Chairman



Report to Borough Council January 5, 2017

In 2016, the Wenonah Library circulated 5709 books, 1678 A/V items, 796 digital downloads, which includes audiobooks and eBooks, and was visited by 8249 patrons. We had 8 open public meetings, 742 participants in 182 fun and educational programs, 54 volunteers helped out and we held 2 used book sales. We also forwarded 96 letters to Santa that were answered by Christmas.

During 2016, the library continued to implement planned measures to preserve this beautiful old building. The library board of trustees contracted to refinish the front door, repair plaster walls, and repaint the stairwell. The downstairs area had a custom workspace installed to assist the librarians with record keeping, book repair, program planning and checkout during children's programming.

One new program this year was our Young Adult Book Club held in June. The Friends of Wenonah Library subsidized the discounted purchase of a highly sought after title by the popular author, Rick Riordan, for each participant. Teens gathered on a Friday evening for a pizza party to discuss the book. The kids had a blast. Timing is everything so we hope to repeat the program again when it will be just as successful.

Another new program this year is the Adult Coloring night. Each Tuesday evening from 6:30-8:00 patrons may gather to color something from our design collection or bring their own. I hear it is a peaceful and relaxing way to spend time with friends away from the hectic pace of life.

In August, local artist Rebekah Cohen directed a program to design and install another beautiful mosaic mural in the library. The mural depicts "Reading for All Seasons" with a tree, leaves, birds, snowflakes, and flowers on the wall of the stairwell. Participants were able to create the pieces and even attach them to the wall. To highlight this work of art, we had new light fixtures installed. All are welcome to the unveiling on Saturday, February 4th - Take Your Child to the Library Day!

This year two young women from Wenonah earned their Girl Scout Silver Award by planning, fundraising, and bringing StoryWalk® to the grounds of the library and the park. Each page of a story is displayed at a storyboard station. These are spaced to provide a leisurely walk while you read a fun story. The story is changed regularly and in future, we hope to expand the offerings to include material interesting to all aged residents.

In addition to our weekly preschool story time program on Wednesday mornings, and Computer Basics on Thursday evenings, twice monthly we offer the S.M.I.L.E. literacy program. On the first and third Monday of each month, the library is visited by a variety of dogs, to provide the opportunity for children to practice their reading in a fun low pressure environment. It has become very popular with several families in town.

Wenonah Library continues to be the place to find tax forms, borough newsletters, July 4th parade registration forms, and voter registration forms. When you need a copy or your printer runs out of ink, we can help. We take donations and collect Boxtops for Education and Campbell Soup labels for the Wenonah Home & School.

As technology changes the methods we use to communicate and access information, the Wenonah Public Library continues to find ways to fulfill our mission statement. "...to provide quality materials and services which fulfill educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the entire community in an atmosphere that is welcoming, respectful, and businesslike."

Wenonah Shade Tree Commission

2016 Report to Council- Reorganization meeting – January 5, 2017

The Wenonah STC is an organization created by a boro ordinance that tasks us with the regulation, planting, care and control of shade trees within the clear zone – commonly known as the area between the curb and sidewalk or up to 12 feet within the curb should there be no sidewalk.

During 2016 we planted 40 new trees bringing the total plantings since 2010 to 337. We fully recognize - thanks to social media - that residents express their concerns when a classic oak is being cut down or older trees are removed. We only ask that residents recognize that we conduct due diligence in determining when the lifespan of a tree has peaked and public safety becomes the priority. A classic example would be the tree in front of the old Wenonah Medical building on E. Mantua Ave. That tree has surpassed the lifespan of many of the patients who visited doctors throughout the years. And like us all – trees age out and die – and like us all- we add new generations to this earth. The STC will remove that oak and replant in the spring. 45 new trees are planned for 2017. The circle of life and tress in this community remains vibrant.

A continuing project dedicated to public safety and tree health is our Trimming Program. Whenever budget monies allow we contract out companies to trim dead or broken branches. With an estimated total of 2500 street trees this task will be an ongoing process and we will never know its true outcome in that nobody reports when an accident does not occur – whether it be around our school, library, streets or athletic fields. Our trimming efforts fall under safety and prevention and we will continue the program as budgeting allows.

The STC responded to 52 resident and/or Public Works/Boro staff/ Police and Fire Dept. tree related concerns during 2016. We are conducting a boro wide shade tree inventory to help assist with future tree species diversity plantings. We continue to be sensitive to electric and utility wires as we plant new trees seeking to select species that will not interfere with these power sources in the future.

STC members logged 302 hours in voluntary service to Wenonah during 2016 with time devoted to planting , pruning, tree surveys, supervision of contractors, responding to residents' concerns, training, meetings and administration.

Residents who wish to have major trimming or request removal of a street tree at their own expense must contact the STC for review and approval upon which a no fee permit will be granted. This process protects the interests of the homeowner as we require contractor proof of insurance and agreement on what work is to be done to protect the tree if pruning is all that is required. Full removals are granted upon review of issues like tree health, age, condition and safety.

Wenonah – like many towns in NJ are under watch for the Emerald Ash Borer which have decimated ash trees from Ohio and east. By all predictions it is not a matter of if but when the ash borer arrives. As such we ask all residents with ash trees on their property to remain alert. Further details can be obtained from any STC member.

Our thanks go out to Mayor and council for their support and especially the dedicated boro staff of Karen, Lori and Kathy.

Ken, Brian and Paul along with all Public Works employees deserve great credit in working with the STC throughout the year. – as do the Police and Fire Depts.

Wenonah celebrated a milestone in 2016 as we were awarded 20 year Tree City USA designation by the State of NJ Forestry Service and the Arbor Day Foundation. It is thru the efforts of STC members past and present that Wenonah remains an oasis of greenery. The Wenonah STC is committed to maintaining our trees – a natural resource and point of pride for today and generations to come.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Odenbrett -Chair

Wenonah Shade Tree Commission Members: Pat Ream, Greg Hack, Colleen Moran, Dan Cox, Larry Bacon, Maria Ceravollo and Nicole McVeigh



Jack C. Sheppard Sr. Community Center

Report – Year End 2016

To: Mayor Dominy, Members of Borough Council, & Karen Sweeney

Re: Public Safety & Personnel Committee, (P S & P)

Committee Members: Jack C. Sheppard Jr. – Chair, Bill Norris & Dan Cox - Committee Members

Mayor & Council,

2016 was a very busy and productive year for the PS & P Committee. The bullet items below chronical some of the major efforts,

- Review & Investigation of the Wenonah Fire Company's request for replacement of the 1992 Grumman Fire Truck.
- Development of a Standard of Performance and Evaluation System to be utilized by the Wenonah Chief of Police in the evaluation of officer performance.
- On-going negotiations with the PBA Local 122 for the police contract renewal of 1/1/2017.
- Monthly informal meetings with the Chief of Police and committee members in order to facilitate and foster quality communications between the department and Borough Council.
- Stepped up enforcement on all Wenonah roads with a special enforcement project set for January 2017 implementation. The goal is to lower the overall traffic speeds on Mantua Avenue via community communications and police enforcement.

Respectively submitted,

Jack

Jack Cornell Sheppard Jr., Member of Borough Council

Public Safety and Personnel Committee Chair

To: Mayor Dominy and Members of Borough Council
From: Drew Sole, Fire Chief
Subject: Fire Chief's Report for the Year 2016
Date: January 5, 2017

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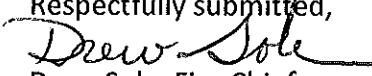
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On behalf of the officers and members of the Wenonah fire Company I would like to wish Mayor Dominy and the members of Council a safe, healthy and happy 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Drew Sole, Fire Chief