

**A REGULAR PUBLIC WORK SESSION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF RIDGEWOOD HELD IN THE SYDNEY V. STOLDT, JR. COURT ROOM OF THE RIDGEWOOD VILLAGE HALL, 131 NORTH MAPLE AVENUE, RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY, ON JANUARY 7, 2026 AT 7:30 P.M.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER – OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT – ROLL CALL – FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Vagianos called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and read the Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. At roll call, the following were present: Councilmembers Mortimer, Perron, Weitz, Winograd, and Mayor Vagianos. Also present were Keith Kazmark, Village Manager; Heather Mailander, Village Clerk; and Matthew Rogers, Village Attorney.

Mayor Vagianos led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Vagianos welcomed Boy Scout Troop 7, who attended to observe the workings of local government. Mayor Vagianos expressed hope that some of the scouts would serve as members of the Village Council in the future.

Mayor Vagianos called for a moment of silence to honor Tony Damiano, a longtime member of the Ridgewood community who recently passed away during the holidays. Mr. Damiano was the Director of the Ridgewood Guild, owner of Mango Jam for 20 years, and a tireless advocate for the betterment of the community. The Village Council recently presented him with the first-ever “Key to the Village” plaque.

**2. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Vagianos stated that now is the time for public comments. Ms. Mailander stated that each person is limited to three minutes, with a bell ringing when one minute remains.

Anne Loving, a resident of Ridgewood, wished the Village Council a Happy New Year. She requested that former Councilwoman Lorraine Reynolds’ photo be placed on the wall with other former Councilmembers, noting it has been a year since she left office. Ms. Loving also expressed concern about the December 17, 2025 Special Public Meeting where the number of public commenters was limited, despite there being no closed session or votes scheduled, and many residents wanted to speak about the rezoning ordinances.

Boyd A. Loving, a Ridgewood resident, stated he recently called the Building Department to make a complaint and was told they could not take his complaint because he did not wish to provide his name and phone number. He expressed concern about this practice and questioned why such information is required for legitimate reports about issues like unshoveled sidewalks or construction without visible permits.

Rurik Halaby, a 56-year Ridgewood resident, spoke via the remote public access line. He requested an updated report from the Village Manager and Chief Financial Officer Robert Rooney on money spent on the Schedler property since acquisition, including estimates for project completion. He commended the Village Council for doing what needs to be done for the good of the community, despite pressure from small vocal groups with vested interests. Mr. Halaby quoted an Indiana farmer's advice: "When driving down a road at night, keep one eye on the ditch and one eye on the stars," encouraging the Village Council to maintain the big picture while handling day-to-day problems. He wished the Village Council, Village Manager, and staff the best of luck for 2026.

There were no further comments from the public.

### **3. VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Kazmark wished everyone a Happy New Year and stated he would look into the Building Department situation raised by Mr. Loving. He noted that departments have been trying to collect information to follow up with residents on complaints requiring additional information.

Mr. Kazmark announced that the Village calendar for 2026 has been mailed out to every residential property owner. Additional calendars are available in his office, by contacting Beth Spinato.

With regard to leadership changes effective January 1, 2026, with the departure of Michael Kohrs as Business Manager at Ridgewood Water, and upon Director Rich Calbi's recommendation, the position has been restructured as Deputy Director of Ridgewood Water. William Bierwas, who has been with the utility for over 10 years, was promoted to this position. Mr. Kazmark congratulated Mr. Bierwas and looked forward to taking advantage of his experience, institutional knowledge, and continued dedicated service.

With the impending retirement of Public Works Director and Village Engineer Christopher Rutishauser, on March 1, 2026, Mr. Kazmark announced the appointment of James McGrath as the new Public Works Director/Village Engineer, effective January 12, 2026. Mr. McGrath brings extensive experience from both the private and public sectors and comes from the City of Paterson where he serves as City Engineer. A transition period will ensure a smooth transfer of responsibilities.

Effective January 1st, the Information Technology Department and the Ridgewood Water GIS Division have been combined into a single department, centralizing all technology-related functions under one organizational structure. Neil Gallone has been appointed as Director of IT and GIS, and Dylan Hansen will serve as Assistant Director for Information Technology and continue as Chief Information Officer for the Village. This consolidation will improve coordination, efficiency, and strategic planning across technology systems and allow staff to be increased, to better serve all Village departments.

Mr. Kazmark stated that at the second Work Session in January, all new appointees will be formally introduced to the Village Council and the public.

The Village is selling 2026 Ridgewood parking permits in the lobby of Village Hall. Residents must bring their driver's license and a copy of the registration for the cars for which they wish to receive permits.

Christmas tree pickup continues on Tuesdays on the east side and Thursdays on the west side through January 30th. Wreaths and garland will be collected with regular garbage. No plastic bags should be placed around trees. Christmas trees may also be dropped off in a section of the Graydon Pool parking lot designated for Christmas trees.

The Ridgewood Chamber of Commerce Restaurant Week starts Sunday, January 11th through the 15th, and continues January 18th through the 22nd. This is a great way to enjoy delicious meals at reduced prices, while supporting Ridgewood businesses.

The Village of Ridgewood and all Village offices will be closed Monday, January 19th for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The recycling center will also be closed, and there will be no curbside bulk pickup and refuse collection dates will change during that week.

Mr. Kazmark reminded residents about snow removal requirements. All sidewalks in residential districts must have snow removed within 24 hours of snowfall. During snow and ice events, residents should place garbage cans at the end of their driveways until there is a clear path, to help keep Village employees safe.

Upcoming Village Council meetings are: January 14th is the public meeting and January 28th is the work session. Both meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

Budget meetings have been scheduled for Wednesday, January 21st, Monday, January 26th, Monday, February 2nd, and Monday, February 9th, all starting at 5:00 p.m. and they will be televised. A snow day makeup is scheduled for Friday, February 6th.

#### **4. VILLAGE COUNCIL REPORTS**

Councilmember Mortimer announced that the Citizens Safety Advisory Committee will meet at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Lounge, instead of the Garden Room, due to high public participation. He also congratulated Team Sweden for winning the World Junior Cup.

Councilmember Winograd wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed the Boy Scout guests. She announced that the Village cleared the Green Acres diversion in December. Councilmember Mortimer, Village Clerk Heather Mailander, Village Manager Keith Kazmark, and Councilmember Winograd traveled to Trenton to clear this longtime issue, dating back to

when Councilmember Winograd was in third grade. Clearing this diversion will make Ridgewood eligible for significantly more grant opportunities, including funding for Boy Scout initiatives, Girl Scout initiatives, playgrounds, parks, and other projects.

A supplemental meeting has been scheduled for February 20th between the ACCESS Committee and the Fourth of July Committee to discuss incorporating the special needs community into the parade, addressing all access-related issues beyond just neurodivergence.

The Stigma-Free Committee, along with ACCESS and other initiatives, collected 758 Cards of Joy during the holidays, which were distributed to senior residential living facilities and veterans' homes throughout the community.

On January 23rd, Stigma-Free and ACCESS will hold a joint meeting to discuss shared resources, recognizing the overlap between disability and stigmatized communities.

The Ridgewood Beautification Team and the Central Business District Advisory Committee (CBDAC) will hold a shared meeting tomorrow, to discuss making Ridgewood's Central Business District more vibrant.

Councilmember Winograd congratulated Grace Kim, her first intern and Shade Tree intern, who was selected as one of just five statewide finalists for the New Jersey delegation to the prestigious United States Senate Youth Program, a national honor recognizing exceptional student leaders committed to public service. Grace is a senior at Ridgewood High School.

The Village has onboarded another intern, Katie Kauf, a film student at the University of Southern California, who will create a video highlighting Operation Blue Envelope. This program educates neurodivergent drivers on proper procedures when pulled over by law enforcement. The video will be presented to other municipalities and police forces, with a planned release in summer 2026.

Councilmember Weitz reported that none of his committees met since the December 17th meeting through the holidays. He spoke about Tony Damiano, noting they were all at his funeral service yesterday. It was a beautiful service, befitting a wonderful man. The community is richer for him having been here. Councilmember Weitz was most struck by how even in his last days, knowing he would be leaving, Mr. Damiano faced it the way he faced life—with grace, dignity, humility, and always with humor. He asked that everyone keep Mr. Damiano's family in their thoughts and may his memory be a blessing to everyone who knew him and the entire community that loved him.

Deputy Mayor Perron announced that the Central Business District Advisory Committee (CBDAC) meets tomorrow morning at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom, and is open to the public. The link is in the agenda posted on the Village website. This will be a joint meeting with the Ridgewood Beautification Team to explore overlapping interests in revitalizing downtown. CBDAC has one

vacant resident slot, and interested residents can apply online under the Village Clerk's Office forms.

The Green Ridgewood and Green Team committees will meet tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in person, on the first floor of Village Hall. Deputy Mayor Perron expressed disappointment that the County did not receive a grant for which Green Ridgewood had worked with Columbia University on a comprehensive report about flooding and environmental problems on the Saddle River Trail, which originates in the Saddle River County Park (The Duck Pond) in Ridgewood. The grant would have helped six towns along the trail remediate environmental issues. The Village is reviewing why the application was unsuccessful and whether to reapply.

The Ridgewood Business Alliance, an organization for economic development and marketing in the Village, is working to get started and is currently working on retaining a lawyer.

Deputy Mayor Perron reminded everyone that Styrofoam, in the form of extruded polystyrene, which are the big blocks of white Styrofoam used for packaging (not peanuts), can be recycled at the Ridgewood Recycling Center. Residents should not put this Styrofoam in the garbage, put it out for bulk day or yard waste pickup.

Deputy Mayor Perron stated that last night, the Planning Board met and considered five ordinances the Village Council introduced last month to form the Village's Fair Share Housing Plan, to provide housing in Ridgewood for all different income types. The Planning Board's lawyer stated the review was to determine whether the ordinances are consistent with the 2022 Master Plan. After extensive public comment and board member discussion, the consensus was that the five ordinances are consistent with the Master Plan. A letter was written and sent to the Village Council today.

The letter states no inconsistencies were found with the Master Plan, but asks the Village Council to consider comments and concerns of Planning Board members and the public, as set forth in the minutes and audio recording of the January 6th Planning Board meeting. The audio recording of this Planning Board meeting will be sent to Village Councilmembers. Topics raised include bulk items, density, traffic impact, flooding in the area, pedestrian safety, and the small-town feel of the Village. One Planning Board member suggested the Village Council might consider increasing the floor area ratio in the B1 and B2 zones in the future.

## **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. RIDGEWOOD WATER**

Mr. Kazmark asked Ridgewood Water Director Rich Calbi to present the items for Village Council consideration for Ridgewood Water. Mr. Calbi welcomed everyone and wished the Village Council a Happy New Year, noting he had 11 items for consideration tonight.

**1. AWARD CONTRACT – SERVICING AND REPAIR OF POTABLE WATER WELLS AND PUMPING FACILITIES**

Mr. Calbi stated that bids were opened on November 19, 2025 for servicing and repair of water wells and pumping facilities. Two bids were received. The low bidder was AC Schultes with a calculated bid amount of \$249,340. The bid amount is used for awarding the contract only. A service contract is recommended in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for 2026, funded from the Water Utility Operating Budget.

Councilmember Weitz asked if this is unit pricing and whether the Village might need a change order if more services are needed. Mr. Calbi confirmed it is unit pricing and that would be an additional award if needed. The not-to-exceed amount is set to avoid having to return for additional authorization.

**2. AWARD CONTRACT – HVAC MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FOR WATER FACILITIES**

Mr. Calbi indicated that bids were opened on November 19, 2025 for HVAC maintenance and repair. Three bids were received. The low bidder was KCG in the amount of \$37,375, used to determine the low bidder. This is a service contract with a not-to-exceed amount of \$48,000 for 2026, funded from the Water Utility Operating Budget.

**3. AWARD SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT – FURNISH CORROSION CONTROL INHIBITOR**

This is for furnishing a corrosion inhibitor that has been utilized for several years to prevent corrosion of lead and copper within the distribution system. It is manufactured solely by ESC Environmental and is a unique blend of polyphosphates and orthophosphates. Ridgewood Water has seen success since 2016, with the most recent lead levels at 2.7 parts per billion, well below the New Jersey DEP action level of 15. The contract is recommended in an amount not to exceed \$300,918.20, funded from the Water Utility Operating Budget.

Mayor Vagianos asked if corrosion refers to rust. Mr. Calbi explained that typically this addresses lead, galvanized piping, and copper piping. Without this treatment, water can corrode those pipes and leach material into the water.

**4. AWARD SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT – REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON AT PFAS TREATMENT FACILITIES**

This is the annual allowance for changeout of media in PFAS treatment facilities which is granulated activated carbon. This year adds the Prospect facility in Glen Rock, which went

online in October, 2025 bringing the total to four plants. The contract amount is \$363,600, funded from the Water Utility Operating Budget.

Councilmember Winograd noted this shows how much money is saved by recycling through reactivation. Mr. Calbi confirmed the unit price for virgin material is \$3.71 per pound compared to \$2.30 for custom municipal reactivated carbon.

**5. AWARD CONTRACT – CUSTOMER PORTAL AND INVOICE CLOUD FOR RIDGEWOOD WATER CUSTOMERS**

Mr. Calbi explained that this is the annual award for the Water Smart customer portal and invoice cloud, which allows customers to monitor water usage and pay bills online. This is the final year of a three-year contract, in an amount not to exceed \$48,166.70, funded from the Water Utility Operating Budget.

**6. AWARD CONTRACT UNDER STATE CONTRACT – MASS NOTIFICATION SYSTEM**

Mr. Calbi stated that this is for a new three-year contract with Everbridge, the provider of the mass reverse 911 notification system utilized by both Ridgewood Water and the Village for emergencies. This is a shared service split 25% Village and 75% Ridgewood Water, funded from both operating budgets, in an amount not to exceed \$49,769.67.

Councilmember Winograd requested that communications include a gentle reminder for people to notify Ridgewood Water of contact information, particularly for those who have elderly parents or others helping maintain their homes, as this was an issue previously. Mr. Calbi noted this is incorporated in social media outlets and E-News on a rotating basis. Every water bill includes a barcode for signup, and customer service collects email addresses when customers call. Village Manager Kazmark noted the exterior of the Village calendar has a QR code to scan for all Village and Ridgewood Water communications signups.

**7. AWARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT – WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS – WEST GLEN BOOSTER STATION TO GLEN WATER TANK**

Mr. Calbi explained that this is a recommendation to hire Suburban Consulting Engineers to design water distribution main replacement on Glen Avenue in the amount of \$177,200. This will replace the main from Oak Street to the tank in Midland Park. The current water main is vintage 1920s. This will add to improvements being made with the new pump station.

Mayor Vagianos asked what planimetrics and invert elevations are, as stated in the scope of services. Mr. Calbi explained planimetrics is the mapping used to make plans and details. Invert elevation describes the actual depth of the water main from ground grade.

**8. AWARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT – ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT FOR PFAS TREATMENT FACILITIES**

Mr. Calbi stated that this is for Professional Engineering Services for asset management plan development and standard operating procedures for eight or nine of the twelve PFAS treatment facilities. As part of I-Bank funding requirements, standard operating procedures must be prepared and all assets in each PFAS facility added to the asset management plan including every valve, window, and piece of piping. The contract amount is \$350,000, funded from the Water Capital Budget.

Mayor Vagianos asked if this will be done for the other three facilities when they come online. Mr. Calbi stated those are being designed by Arcadis and will require a separate authorization.

**9. AUTHORIZE SHARED SERVICES CONTRACT – TESTING OF WATER SAMPLES FOR COLIFORM AND E. COLI BACTERIA**

Mr. Calbi explained that this is a recommendation to enter a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Hawthorne for testing water samples for coliform and E. coli bacteria. The Ridgewood Water Lab has the ability to provide this service at an annual charge of \$20.30 per sample, with annual increases. The lab can add future services if Hawthorne requests them. This is the first step in providing this service to other adjoining water utilities.

Mayor Vagianos explained to the Boy Scouts that Ridgewood Water has four municipalities that it serves, which is represented by the four water drops in its logo. Hawthorne is not one of those customers, but they think Ridgewood Water is so skilled that they will pay Ridgewood to test their water, which is a compliment to Mr. Calbi and his staff. It's also a great benefit for Hawthorne to get local service. Mr. Calbi credited the lead chemist in the lab for taking the lead on this initiative. Mayor Vagianos suggested the Boy Scout troop leaders consider requesting a tour of Ridgewood Water, which all Village Councilmembers have taken, and found fascinating.

**10. AUTHORIZE CHANGE ORDER – PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES – CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION AND OBSERVATION OF THE RAVINE PFAS TREATMENT FACILITY**

Mr. Calbi explained that this is approval of change order number three for the Professional Services Agreement for the Ravine PFAS Treatment Facility. The project is near completion by the contractor, but due to delays, the contract with Mott MacDonald needs to be extended. The request is for an additional \$39,000, funded from the Water Utility Capital Budget. The contractor is paying liquidated damages daily, due to delays, and at project end there will be discussion about them covering some of these change order costs.

Mayor Vagianos explained to the Boy Scouts that at the beginning of the year, the Village determines budget and spending needs. At regular meetings, each individual payment is

discussed before authorization. Mr. Calbi cannot pay bills until the Village Council authorizes them. This is done twice, once at budget adoption and then line by line at Public Meetings. Work Sessions, like tonight, are for discussion and questions. Once a month at the Regular Public Meeting, official approval is given. Village Councilmembers ask questions at Work Sessions so proceedings go smoothly at Public Meetings.

**11. AUTHORIZE REFUND OF WATER OVERPAYMENT – 500 ROUTE 17, RIDGEWOOD**

Mr. Calbi stated that this is a recommendation from the Ridgewood Water Customer Service Department Supervisor, Justin Popek, for a refund due to an overpayment in the amount of \$7,425.41 to the property at 500 Route 17. This occurred because the building at 500 Route 17 was being charged for his neighbor's water usage.

**B. PARKING**

**1. RESCIND PARK AND RIDE ORDINANCE**

Mr. Kazmark stated this ordinance has been prepared by the Village Attorney to rescind the Park and Ride ordinance, now that the Village no longer governs the Park and Ride on Route 17, which is now governed by the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

Councilmember Weitz asked for background. Ms. Mailander explained that the Village and State had an agreement for the Park and Ride. The Village was responsible for maintaining, plowing, paving, maintaining grounds, and preventing dumpster overflow. The Village had a few meters in the lot receiving minimal revenue. Part of the revenue was set aside by the State for improvements. When the Village wanted to use some of the revenue for improvements, it required approval from the State of New Jersey.

The Village was doing significant work for the State without receiving much revenue from meters. Collectively it was decided to tell the State they could run it instead of the Village. About five or six years ago, the Village relinquished control and the State has run it since, without meters, letting people park for free.

There is still an ordinance on the books governing Village operation of the Park and Ride. Since the State now operates it, the ordinance will be rescinded. Mr. Kazmark added that since the State took ownership, they have done considerable work including resurfacing the lot, removing an eyesore trailer at Councilmember Weitz's encouragement, and adding plantings to establish a better buffer between the Park and Ride and Ridgewood residential properties. This ordinance change is cleanup work, since the Village no longer has jurisdiction over that parking lot.

C. **BUDGET**

Mr. Kazmark explained that item one, under the Budget category, was removed from the agenda.

2. **AWARD CONTRACT – GRANT WRITER**

Mr. Kazmark explained that this is the award of contract for Grant Writer Services. A memorandum and proposal from Millennium Strategies to retain them as grant writer for calendar year 2026 was presented. There is no increase over the 2025 rate, totaling \$39,600 for the year, as a flat rate.

Last year, the Village took in over \$750,000 in grant money, with \$434,000 directly attributed to grant applications prepared or supported by Millennium Strategies. As of the end of December, there are \$5,350,000 in pending grant applications awaiting response, all of which were prepared or supported by Millennium Strategies.

Councilmember Weitz stated he had been waiting a year to say this was an excellent value. The \$39,600 annual fee has come back exponentially. This is wonderful use of Village money. He is a huge fan of grant money as it brings money back to the Village without pulling from the tax base. He is thrilled to vote to renew this and hopes for even better results now that the Green Acres diversion has been lifted.

Mr. Kazmark noted the Village has not been eligible for Green Acres funds or numerous DEP grants. With cleanup of the diversion, by mid-year the Village hopes to be back on the “nice list” at the DEP with a whole new set of funding opportunities previously unavailable.

3. **AWARD CONTRACT UNDER STATE CONTRACT – PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL SHADE SYSTEMS AND REPLACEMENT CABLE SYSTEMS AND HARDWARE AT GRAYDON POOL**

This is an award of contract under State Contract for purchase and installation of shade systems and replacement cable systems and hardware for shades at Graydon Pool. Trees in poor health had to be removed at Graydon, eliminating some shade. Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Bigos, submitted a memorandum to install additional shade systems throughout the beachfront property.

The contractor is General Recreation of Newtown Square, Pennsylvania. The Village will purchase three 20x20 shades and one 20x20 shade with 16-foot posts. Multiple units will be installed to provide additional shade cover for beachgoers in summer months. This is allocated through the 2025 Capital Budget in an amount not to exceed \$53,737.

Councilmember Weitz asked if this purchase will match existing shades. Mr. Kazmark confirmed that the shades will match. Councilmember Weitz noted many residents complained at the end of last year, and staff was kind enough to move bleachers to create more shade. Due to the fact that trees are being taken down, this is money well spent and he is glad it will be ready for Memorial Day. Mr. Kazmark confirmed the need is recognized and they are ready to move forward for Memorial Day.

**4. AWARD CONTRACT UNDER BERGEN COUNTY CONTRACT – UNTREATED ROCK SALT**

Mr. Kazmark stated that this is an award of contract under the Bergen County Cooperative Contracting System for untreated rock salt. A memorandum from Chris Rutishauser requests the initial purchase of rock salt for the winter season. The resolution authorizes a first purchase amount not to exceed \$120,000. There was a slight increase this year—the quote is \$78.48 per ton compared to last year’s \$74.74 per ton, an increase of \$3.74 per ton.

Councilmember Weitz asked if this is enough given more snow and ice this winter, than in previous winters. Mr. Kazmark stated the Village was stocked with rock salt before the first two snowfalls of the season, but the amount of rock salt is light now. The Village works with Midland Park and Wyckoff depending on needs and stockpiles, recording information for proper charges. This authorization will load the Village back up, and enable quick shipment receipt.

Councilmember Weitz asked if this is enough. Mr. Kazmark explained this is the initial request. As needed during the season, salt will be ordered up to this dollar amount. If more is needed later, due to a bad snow and ice season, an additional appropriation will have to be authorized. The \$78.48 per ton price is fixed for the entire season through the cooperative bid. If additional allocation beyond \$120,000 is needed, authorization will be requested from the Village Council.

**5. AWARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT – ELEVATOR SUBCODE INSPECTION/INSPECTOR**

Mr. Kazmark stated that this is the award of a Professional Services Contract for elevator Subcode Inspection/Inspector. In 2023, the Village contracted with Top Floor Elevated Solutions rather than going through the State. By using a private contractor, the Village receives revenue through elevator inspections. Finance ran a report showing over the last two years of this contract, the Village has taken in almost \$50,000 in additional revenue on elevator inspections. Continued partnership with Top Floor Elevated Solutions is recommended.

6. **AUTHORIZE SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT – CHILD HEALTH CLINIC (FAIR LAWN, GLEN ROCK, AND MAHWAH)**

Mr. Kazmark said this Shared Services Agreement allows residents of all four towns, which includes Ridgewood, to attend monthly child health clinics. Ridgewood bills the three other municipalities for one quarter of the invoice billed by the pediatrician at the conclusion of the final clinic of the year. Ridgewood has added a \$500 administrative fee for each town since 2025. This agreement has been in place for over 15 years with Glen Rock it is the ninth full year with Fair Lawn, and it will be the first year with Mahwah’s participation.

7. **AUTHORIZE CONTINUATION OF SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT – HEALTH OFFICER (MAHWAH)**

This is a continuation of a Shared Services Agreement with Mahwah for the use of the Village’s Health Officer. The Shared Services Agreement will continue to provide the services of Dawn Cetrulo, the Director of Ridgewood’s Health Department and Health Officer, to Mahwah, and Mahwah will pay the Village for Ms. Cetrulo’s services as their Health Officer. The Shared Services Agreement will run through December 31, 2027.

8. **AMEND CHAPTER 145 – FEES – FEES FOR: DAY CAMP, GRAYDON POOL, TENNIS, PICKLEBALL; MOBILE CONCESSION STAND RENTAL, IRENE HABERNICKEL FAMILY PARK PAVILION RENTAL**

Mr. Kazmark explained that this is to amend Chapter 145, the recreation fees for the summer day camp program, Graydon Pool membership, tennis and pickleball memberships, rental of the mobile concession stand, and the Irene Habernickel Family Park pavilion rental. The recommendation is that Graydon Pool, tennis, pickleball, and summer camp fees remain at the same rates in 2026 as in 2025. This ordinance will modify the mobile concession unit rental fees and establish rental fees for the Irene Habernickel Family Park pavilion.

Mayor Vagianos asked how often fees are raised. Mr. Kazmark stated fees are reviewed every year. This particular ordinance is reviewed by the Parks, Recreation and Conservation Board and that recommendation comes to the Village Council through Nancy Bigos, Director of Parks and Recreation. On average since Mr. Kazmark has been Village Manager, modifications are made every other year.

Mayor Vagianos stated that regular increases result in marginal increases rather than being forced to make large fee increases. The every-other-year approach, as necessary, is a good practice. Councilmember Winograd noted this is a unique year because school starts earlier this year, affecting pool days. The pool will be closed on the weekdays leading up to Labor Day, and then reopen for Labor Day weekend before closing officially on Labor Day.

Mayor Vagianos asked the Boy Scouts what they think about school opening before Labor Day, and they indicated disapproval. Mayor Vagianos noted that decision is made by the Board of Education, not the Village Council.

**9. ANNUAL RESOLUTIONS FOR THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Annual resolutions for the Finance Department were presented, including: interest rate on taxes and municipal liens, water administration fees, significant sewer discharge interest rates, water utility interest rates, Edmunds contracts, cost of mailing, online tax sale, and cancellation of balances under \$10. These are annual resolutions required for the Finance Department.

**10. AUTHORIZE 2025 BUDGET RESERVE TRANSFERS**

This authorizes 2025 budget transfers of \$48,000 in the Current Fund and \$425,000 in the Water Department Utility Budget. No transfers are needed in Parking at this time. Explanations for each transfer are attached in the packet.

**11. AUTHORIZE 2026 TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS – GENERAL BUDGET, WATER UTILITY BUDGET AND PARKING UTILITY BUDGET**

Mr. Kazmark indicated that the Village establishes temporary budgets each January for the General Budget, the Water Utility Budget and the Parking Utility Budget, which is used until the annual budgets for each of these are adopted.

**12. AUTHORIZE PARTIAL 2025 TAX REFUND – TAX EXEMPT VETERAN**

Mr. Kazmark stated that this authorizes a partial 2025 tax refund for a tax-exempt veteran and subsequent reimbursement of an overpayment in taxes resulting in a refund of \$7,615.35. The explanation is attached in the packet.

**13. AUTHORIZE TAX OVERPAYMENT – TAX EXEMPT VETERAN**

This allows the tax payment made on a tax exempt property to be reimbursed to the mortgage company which paid it in error.

## **D. OPERATIONS**

### **1. AMEND MANAGEMENT AND NON-UNION SALARY ORDINANCES**

This is to amend the Management and Non-Union salary ordinances after review and merit adjustments made at the end of calendar year 2025. The ranges on certain positions needed to be slightly increased for 2026, and new titles have been added to these ordinances.

### **2. AMEND CHAPTER 265 – VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC – ESTABLISH STOP SIGN AT ENTRANCE DRIVEWAY TO RECYCLING CENTER**

Mr. Kazmark said that this is to amend Chapter 265, Vehicles and Traffic, to establish a Stop Sign at the entrance of the driveway to the Recycling Center. A memo from Village Engineer Chris Rutishauser makes the request to establish this Stop Sign to ensure safety of staff working at the Recycling Center, as they assist residents unloading recyclable materials.

Councilmember Weitz asked if this is right at the gate. Mr. Kazmark confirmed that it is.

### **3. ACCEPT DONATION – PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF PLAQUE FOR IRENE HABERNICKEL FAMILY PARK PAVILION**

This is acceptance of an anonymous donation for the Recreation Department for purchase and installation of a plaque for the Irene Habernickel Family Park Pavilion. Nancy Bigos, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided a comprehensive memo with regard to this donation.

## **6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Vagianos invited anyone with questions to address the Village Council. He specifically invited the Boy Scouts to come to the microphone and ask questions about anything discussed, encouraging them to come in pairs if that made them more comfortable.

Mr. Calbi noted he had spoken with the Boy Scouts before the meeting for 10-15 minutes but did not have time for a full discussion. He did not mention the logo with four towns but noted he could talk for hours about Ridgewood Water. Mayor Vagianos gave a hint that Hawthorne is not one of the four towns represented by the water drops but Ridgewood is, leaving it as a question for the Boy Scouts to figure out the other three towns serviced by Ridgewood Water.

There were no comments from the public, so Mayor Vagianos closed public comment.

**RESOLUTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Ms. Mailander read resolution #26-02 to go into Closed Session, as follows:

Mayor Vagianos thanked the Boy Scouts for attending and stated it was a pleasure to have them attend tonight's Work Session.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Village Council, on a motion by Councilmember Winograd, seconded by Councilmember Mortimer, and carried unanimously by voice vote, the Village Council's Regular Public Work Session was adjourned at .

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Paul Vagianos  
Mayor

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Heather A. Mailander  
Village Clerk