

Amended: 1/15/08

**MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE
MAYOR & COUNCIL
HELD TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor McPherson at 2:40 p.m. with the following Councilmembers present:

- Councilman Frazier
- Councilman Reyes
- Councilman Fecanin
- Councilman Sommer
- Councilwoman Keyes
- Councilman Genovesi

Mayor McPherson asked those present to join her in a salute to the flag followed by a moment of silent prayer.

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Councilman Reyes read the provision of the Open Public Meetings Law.

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For **FINANCE**, the following report was given by Councilwoman Keyes:

“Good Afternoon everyone and welcome to our adjourned meeting.

The Finance Committee is respectfully submitting the year end review of the Finances of our Borough. The report will be on file with the clerk for review.

I am pleased to report that we did end this year with a surplus of \$239,000. There may be additional funds that are received this week which will be able to be applied to the 2007 budget, and if those funds are received as anticipated, the year end surplus amount will be adjusted.

I reported in August, that the Finance committee had 3 targets in addition to the stated fiduciary responsibility it has to the residents, reduce the introduced tax increase, hold the operating departments to reductions of 20% and to achieve a spending plan of under 3%. We were successful in meeting these goals.

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This was accomplished without jeopardizing the **ESSENTIAL services that are provided to our residents, such as garbage & snow removal services and the general upkeep & maintenance of the Borough.**

Some of the financial highlights of the year include an increase in investment interest. Our CFO, Ed Cortright is diligent in his investment of idle cash, and although we estimated earning 300,000 this year, Ed was able to realize 315,000 in income.

Our Grants and Aid for the year totaled \$787,243 this does not include the Extraordinary Aid that was awarded, \$500,000.

We obtained \$400,975 in miscellaneous unanticipated revenue and our recycling revenue doubled this year from an anticipated \$80,000 to over \$116,000.

Our debt totals \$19,496,307; The principal dollars paid on the Borough debt including capital bonds and BCIA leases in 2007 totaled \$1,293,000.

These figures do not include the debt incurred by the Rutherford Board of Education. 558,375 represents bonds that have been authorized, but not issued, and therefore, must be part of our calculations.

As you all will recall, this committee attempted to restructure the debt that we have and were first denied, and later on decided to wait out the market. It was our ambition to realize a net cost savings as compared to the original bonding terms and effects so that the payments would be varied, but in the end, the terms of the bonds would not change. I am sure that the finance committee in 2008 will address the debt structure and address it accordingly.

As a reminder, the municipal budget goes to fund:

Yes, to live in the Borough of Rutherford with services that include:

- (1) Public works employees, who are also our volunteer firemen and women, to come down your street five times a week, two days for trash, one day for recyclables, one day for brush, one day for metals, and let's not forget street sweeping, leaf and snow removal - All with a reduced staff and no new hires to replace retired staff or personnel who have moved on.
- (2) One of the finest and recognized libraries in all of Bergen County
- (3) A performing arts center that is reinventing itself thanks to the efforts of our Mayor and Freeholder, the county has stepped up and committed millions of dollars to its revitalization. We will soon have a viable "anchor" and "family" forum without

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having to travel outside of Rutherford to the "Mega" cinemas in order to enjoy a movie with your family or loved one.

- (4) For our recreation programs at Memorial and Tamblyn Fields, we have an nationally accredited senior center that not only brings out our seniors here in Rutherford, but is able to attract seniors from our surrounding neighbor towns, all of these services cost our property owners, approximately a dollar a day.

I want to thank my colleagues that leave us today, Mayor McPherson, who was instrumental in my becoming involved at this level and as an educator to the intricate working of municipal government. I couldn't ask for a better guide. You have made a tremendous positive difference in this town and as a resident, I am grateful to you for your initiatives and your constant drive to make Rutherford the jewel of Southern Bergen County.

Councilmen Frazier and Councilman Reyes, thank you for sharing with me your own experiences and your views on how to make Rutherford a better place for all of us. I am proud to have always been associated with you both.

And to my new colleagues, Mayor elect Hipp, Councilwoman elect Inguanti and Councilman elect Sasso, I am confident that you will bring to this council only the best of intentions and dedication that the office you will hold calls for. I am sure that as a council we will move forward and work for the residents of Rutherford together."

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The following is the 2007 Report from CFO, Edward Cortright:

Budget Surplus

We are pleased to report that the Borough will complete the 2007 calendar year with an estimated surplus of about \$239,000.00. Some of the financial highlights for the year include the fact the Chief Financial Officer earned \$315,000.00 in investment income, that the Tax Collector achieved at 97.47% collection ratio, and that the Borough was awarded \$787,243.00 in grants in aid from State and Federal sources. Also, \$400,975.00 was received in miscellaneous unanticipated revenue, and recycling revenue soared to \$116,924.00 or \$80,924.00 more than anticipated in 2006 or 2007. We were also the recipient of \$500,000.00 in Extraordinary Aid. The surplus will be a needed source of revenue in the 2008 budget.

The following compares the 2007 surplus with the surplus of prior years:

Year	Surplus
2007	\$239,000.00 (Estimated at 12/26/07)

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2006	\$752,360.00
2005	\$690,640.00
2004	\$1,108,690.00
2003	\$1,458,427.00
2002	\$1,209,401.00
2001	\$2,010,567.00

Borough Debt

Principal paid on Borough Indebtedness, including Capital Bonds and BCIA leases in 2007 totaled \$1,293,000.00. Interest paid on this debt totaled \$762,000.00. The total debt outstanding at December 31, 2007, including BCIA Lease Bonds, equals 19,496,000.00, the structure of which is delineated below. This amount is far below the state maximum which is \$98,434,000.00. This figure does not include School Debt which is \$19,650,000.00. The Governing Body has no control over indebtedness issued by the Board of Education. Details of the Borough's outstanding obligation at December 31, 2007 are as follows:

	<u>December 31, 2006</u>	<u>December 31, 2007</u>
Serial Bonds Issued	\$9,131,000.00	\$8,514,000.00
Serial Bonds Authorized but not Issued	\$2,460,500.00	\$9,070,500.00
<u>Green Trust Loan:</u>		
Issued for Leisure Lane Authorized but not issued	\$18,826.00	\$13,580.00
For Waterfront Park Authorized but not issued	\$280,000.00	\$280,000.00
For Wall Field	\$138,375.00	\$138,375.00
5 Year Bonds issued for Tax refunds	<u>\$560,000.00</u>	<u>\$420,000.00</u>
Sub-total	\$12,588,701.00	\$18,436,455.00
BCIA Leases	<u>\$5,357,974.00</u>	<u>\$1,059,852.00</u>
Grant Total (Exclusive of Board of Ed)	<u>\$17,946,675.00</u>	<u>\$19,496,307.00</u>

Tax Collections

In 2007, due to the diligent efforts of the Tax Collector's office, the percent of collection of current 2007 taxes is estimated at 97.61%. This rate is about 1% less than the collection rate achieved in prior years. This reduction is largely due to the delinquency of EnCap.

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The reserve for uncollected taxes in the 2007 budget was set at \$978,000.00 and was based on a 98% collection rate. In 2008 a larger reserve for uncollected taxes may be necessary.

The following compares the 2007 collection rate with that of the prior years:

Year	Levy	Collected	% of levy collected
2000	\$37,245,887.00	\$36,179,947.00	97.13%
2001	\$38,450,503.00	\$37,704,158.00	98.05%
2002	\$39,753,000.00	\$39,223,877.00	98.66%
2003	\$42,395,322.00	\$41,863,817.00	98.74%
2004	\$44,260,728.00	\$43,700,971.00	98.74%
2005	\$46,817,576.00	\$46,094,295.00	98.45%
2006	\$50,997,728.00	\$50,285,215.00	98.60%
2007	\$56,705,341.00	\$55,350,000.00	97.61%

Investment Interest

Investment from the investment of idle cash amounted to about \$315,000.00 which was \$15,000.00 more than originally estimated in the 2007 Budget. Most of the cash is invested in short term certificates of deposit, the State of New Jersey Cash Management Fund and MBIA Corporate Liquid Asset Account. All the remaining cash is kept in interest bearing checking accounts, certified by the State as being designated municipal depositories. Every attempt is made to maximize revenues from this source which also includes investing the funds over weekends and paying out the larger disbursements only the day before the payment is due.

The 2007 Budget

The total amount appropriated for the 2007 budget (including Grants) is \$25,702,602.00. There were no over expenditures which are serious violations of New Jersey Financial Regulations. The Borough was fortunate to have been awarded \$500,000.00 in Extraordinary Aid and \$787,243.00 in Grants and aid which helped mightily in reducing taxes needed to support the budget expenditures. Included in the spending plan was \$140,000.00 which represented 1/5 of the cost of the tax refunding bonds and \$78,000.00 which represented 1/5 of the cost of the mandatory revaluation. Similar amounts will have to be included in the 2008 budget.

Due to the unanticipated retirements in the Police Department, an exceptionally large transfer of \$300,000.00 was necessary to the Police Salary budget account. Fortunately, the unexpended budget balances were available in several other budget accounts, mainly due to the fact that positions, vacated through attrition, were not filled during the year. An additional \$200,000.00 for Police terminal leave has yet to be funded. There was no need for Emergency Appropriations which would have to be raised in the 2008 Budget.

ESTIMATED SURPLUS

DEC 31,
2007

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SURPLUS AVAILABLE 1/1/07	\$752,000.00
ADD:	
ACTUAL REVENUES OVER ANTICIPATED (NEXT PAGE)	332,286.00
LESS:	
SURPLUS USED TO SUPPORT 2007 BUDGET	(750,000.00)
REFUNDS OF PRIOR YEARS' REVENUES	(92,995.00)
CANCEL 2004 STORMWATER GRANT RECEIVABLE	(2,791.00)
ESTIMATED SURPLUS 12/31/07	239,000

REVENUES

	ANTICIPATED IN 2007 BUDGET	REALIZED IN 2007	EXCESS OR [DEFICIT]
STATE AID	\$2,482,318.00	\$2,482,318.00	\$0.00
			\$0.00
GRANTS SEE PAGE	\$787,243.00	\$787,243.00	\$0.00
DELINQUENT TAXES	\$495,000.00	\$516,500.00	\$21,500.00
CURRENT TAXES	\$18,349,278.00	\$18,456,000.00	\$106,722.00
OTHER REVENUE:			
SURPLUS	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00	\$0.00
CAPITAL SURPLUS	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00	\$0.00
LIQUOR LICENSES	\$12,700.00	\$15,800.00	\$3,100.00
OTHER LICENSES	\$3,500.00	\$4,170.00	\$670.00
MUNICIPAL COURT FINES	\$446,000.00	\$446,000.00	\$0.00
ENCAP CONTRIB.	\$200,000.00	0.00	-\$200,000.00
INTEREST ON DEL TAXES	\$100,000.00	\$140,699.00	\$40,699.00
PARKING METERS	\$174,000.00	\$171,000.00	(\$3,000.00)
INVESTMENT INTEREST	\$300,000.00	\$315,000.00	\$15,000.00
PARKING LOT PERMITS	\$85,000.00	\$91,667.00	\$6,667.00
FIRE SAFETY FEES	\$73,000.00	\$86,913.00	\$13,913.00
ELEVATOR INSP FEES	\$15,000.00	\$15,880.00	\$880.00
CONSTRUCTION FEES	\$440,000.00	\$460,000.00	\$20,000.00
LEASE OF BORO PROP	\$103,000.00	\$105,087.00	\$2,087.00
CABLE TV FRANCHISE FEE	\$58,679.00	\$58,679.00	\$0.00
FELICIAN SPONSORSHIP	\$48,000.00	0.00	-\$48,000.00
RUTHER. SENIOR HOUSING	\$21,000.00	\$21,000.00	\$0.00
SPONSORSHIP REVENUE	\$100,000.00	\$19,000.00	(\$81,000.00)
HOTEL TAX	\$320,000.00	\$260,000.00	(\$60,000.00)

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RECYCLING REVENUES	\$36,000.00	\$116,924.00	\$80,924.00
LABOR DAY STREET FAIR	\$50,000.00	\$51,700.00	\$1,700.00
JIF DIVIDEND	\$75,000.00	\$92,900.00	\$17,900.00
			\$0.00
NURSING SERVICES AID	\$42,546.00	\$42,546.00	\$0.00
UNIFORM FIRE SAFETY	\$20,338.00	\$23,000.00	\$2,662.00
OTHER FEES & PERMITS	\$73,000.00	\$63,000.00	(\$10,000.00)
REVENUE UNANTICIPATED			
2006 BUDGET			
LAPSED		\$323,000.00	\$323,000.00
OTHER			
UNANTICIPATED		\$77,975.00	\$77,975.00
GRAND TOTALS	\$25,702,602.00	\$26,284,001.00	\$581,399.00

STATE AID AWARDED			
			EXCESS
	ANTICIPATED	REALIZED IN	OR
	REVENUE	2007	[DEFICIT]
LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE	\$77,844.00	\$77,844.00	\$0.00
EXTRAORDINARY AID	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00
CONSOLIDATED AID	\$618,260.00	\$618,260.00	\$0.00
ENERGY RECEIPTS TAX	\$1,127,870.00	\$1,127,870.00	\$0.00
SUPPLEMENTAL ENERGY RECEIPTS TAX	\$52,242.00	\$52,242.00	\$0.00
			\$0.00
HOMELAND SECURITY	\$70,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$0.00
MUNICIPAL PROPERTY TAX ASSISTANCE	\$36,102.00	\$36,102.00	\$0.00
			\$0.00
GRAND TOTAL STATE AID	\$2,482,318.00	\$2,482,318.00	\$0.00
2007 GRANTS AWARDED			
CLEAN COMMUNITY ACT (STATE)	17,010.00	17,010.00	
ALLIANCE AGAINST DRUGS (COUNTY)	13,500.00	13,500.00	
NJDEP GREEN COMMUNITY GRANT	2,000.00	2,000.00	
STATE BODY ARMOR GRANT	4,035.00	4,035.00	
NJ MEADOWLANDS COMMISSION			
07 MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE	100,000.00	100,000.00	
CLICK IT OR TICKET (STATE)	4,000.00	4,000.00	
FROM COUNTY PROSECUTOR FOR PD	43,572.00	43,572.00	

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BCUA FOR RECYCLING ASSISTANCE	8,360.00	8,360.00	
FEDERAL COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT:			
FOR WILLIAMS STREET IMPROVEMENT	127,840.00	127,840.00	
FOR HANDICAPPED RAMPS	80,426.00	80,426.00	
NJDOT FOR MORTIMER AVE IMP.	150,000.00	150,000.00	
FROM NJ STATE POLICE			
FOR EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT	5,000.00	5,000.00	
COUNTY OPEN SPACE GRANT:			
FOR MEMORIAL FIELD TENNIS COURTS	231,500.00	231,500.00	
GRAND TOTALS	787,243.00	787,243.00	

SCHEDULE OF MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES NOT ANTICIPATED

SOURCE	AMOUNT REALIZED
Police Department	\$ 8,236.00
Building Dept. Violations & Admin Fees	28,895.00
Cancel Old Grant Balances	5,821.00
Miscellaneous Ins. Reimbursement From Prior Years	881.00
Tax Office NSF Check Charges	650.00
Tax Sale Ads	380.00
Duplicate Bills, etc.	45.00
Sprint - Miscellaneous	318.00
State reimbursement - Vets & Seniors Admin Fee Reimbursement	4,221.00
Miscellaneous	201.00
Assessor Copies	45.00
DMV Fines, Probate and Restitution	13,590.00
Soda and Candy Machine Rebates	551.00
Auction	2,630.00
Void Old Outstanding Checks	1,062.00
Close Out Old Escrow Balances	4,519.00
Miscellaneous Pension Refund	153.00
Borough Clerk UPS Drop Box Rent	600.00
Copies	1,687.00
Filming Permits	2,600.00
Bid Specs Fee	750.00
Miscellaneous	140.00
Total Amount to Miscellaneous Revenues Not Anticipated	\$77,975.00

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Councilwoman Keyes made a motion to accept the following Resolution, seconded by Councilman Frazier and unanimously approved on roll call:

RESOLVED: That bills in the amount of \$462,317.81 payable from the Rutherford Current Account, \$18,182.00 from the Business Improvement District Account, \$1,716,110.94 from the Capital Fund to the Current Fund and an additional \$1,093,430.55 from the Current Account to the Grant Account all as detailed as follows on the attached sheets, be passed for payment, warrants drawn and charged to the proper accounts. A complete list of these bills is on file with the Borough Clerk.

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Councilwoman Keyes made a motion to accept the following Resolution, seconded by Councilman Reyes and unanimously approved on roll call:

WHEREAS, certain 2007 budget accounts will have unexpended balances and other 2007 budget accounts will have insufficient amounts to cover requirements;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following amounts be transferred to and from the accounts named:

<u>TO:</u>		<u>FROM:</u>	
Board of Adjustment:		Police - Salaries	\$53,142
Legal Costs	\$8,000		
Garbage Dumping Fees	29,220		
Financial Administration:			
Payroll Preparation	15,922		
Totals	\$ 53,142		\$ 53,142

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Councilwoman Keyes asked the Borough Attorney Anne Marie Rizzuto, Esq. to speak regarding the lease for the Jr. Football League. The Borough Attorney said the Jr. Football League has a house located at Memorial Field, which is Borough owned property, this is a lease amendment that was negotiated sometime ago and was in conjunction with adding a second floor, it provides for standard lease provisions as well as some additional negotiation between the parties and she is asking the resolution should be authorized for the Mayor to execute the lease amendment and the Clerk to witness the Mayor's signature.

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Councilwoman Keyes made a motion to approve the Lease Amendment between the Borough of Rutherford, and Rutherford Junior Football Association, Inc., seconded by Councilman Frazier and all members present vote aye with the exception of Councilman Sommer and Councilman Genovesi who voted nay.

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For **POLICE**, Councilman Frazier reported that the Police Department has done an outstanding job during the past year and the report is on file with the Borough Clerk. He said the statistics show that the Police have been dutiful in their assignments and that the town continues to remain safe and are grateful to them and all the other Departments.

Councilman Frazier thanked Mayor McPherson, the entire Council, the Borough Attorney, Borough Administrator and all those who make up this Borough for the support given to him across the years to serve the Borough. Councilman Frazier said to the incoming Mayor and Councilmembers they are wished the best and they know within their hearts they will be vigilant to carry out their responsibilities. He said he will continue as a resident of the Borough to be a part of the quality of life that is expected among one another in terms of love one another as he has loved them. Councilman Frazier said they have enjoyed everything and he thanked them for the opportunity to have served and he will continue to work together to do all they can so that the golden moments may move on just a little while longer.

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Councilman Frazier made a motion to accept the following Resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Keyes and unanimously approved on roll call:

WHEREAS, certain organizations have applied for Raffle Licenses and have been approved by the Chief of Police and paid the required fees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Licenses be issued to:

Pierrepont School PTA - Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle

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Councilman Frazier made a motion to accept the resignation of Steven Nienstedt as OEM Coordinator, seconded by Councilman Sommer and unanimously approved on roll call.

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For **FIRE**, Councilman Reyes reported that all Committee Reports are on file with the Borough Clerk's Office.

Councilman Reyes said he wished to thank everyone for the opportunity he has had to serve the residents of Rutherford and to thank the residents who supported him and continue to support him. He said secondly he wished to thank the employees and volunteers of Rutherford, everybody that makes the Borough work and make sure that they can wake up each morning and know that the garbage is taken out, streets are safe and if there is an emergency the Fire Department is there. He acknowledged the service the library provides to the town. Councilman Reyes said it was important to him to thank everyone because the honor of serving was such a privilege for him as well as a resident. He said some people aren't here whom he would like to thank such as Bruce Bartlett who passed on, he was a great person who gave him a lot of advice; Councilman Tom Arnold who passed and was always a generous, nice person, someone that they could all look up to. He acknowledged other Councilmember's that he worked with such as Mike Matthews and Cathy Botti, as well as the current Councilmember's. He said he can't thank Mayor McPherson enough for the leadership she provided. He thanked his wife Susan and his children Caitlin, Walter and Christopher who were always there for him even at times when they were told they didn't have to be there, they were there. He said they give up so much of themselves when doing something for the Borough whether it was volunteering and they sometimes forget the sacrifices their families make, so he sincerely wished to thank his wife and children for their sacrifice. Councilman Reyes then wished everyone Happy New Year's.

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Councilman Reyes moved to accept the resignation of Timothy F. Stafford as Borough Administrator, seconded by Councilman Frazier and unanimously approved on roll call.

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For **PUBLIC WORKS**, Councilman Fecanin reported that all Committee Reports are on file with the Borough Clerk.

Councilman Fecanin wished to thank Chris Seidler, Superintendent of DPW for all their hard work throughout the year, especially the last few weeks with the recent snow and bad rain as it is very difficult to snowplow and pick up leaves at the same time, so he thanked him and his staff and Sharon for all the work they do. He thanked all the men in the DPW for the best year in workman's comp cases, which has probably been the best in many years while they work many hours and under-staff they are working safely and he wished to thank them for

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doing so. Councilman Fecanin again thanked Mayor McPherson as he had done in the last meeting, for everything she has done for the town, myself and family. He thanked Richard and Ray for their hard work over the years and for their friendship. Councilman Fecanin wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

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Councilman Genovesi said he wished to thank Council President Richard Reyes for what he considers a favorable job as Council President and allowing open discussion during work sessions and he is happy to have the opportunity to have served with him. He said to Councilman Frazier that he has respected him since he was a kid growing up in this town, his family is a wonderful family and everyone in town loves the Frazier family. Councilman Genovesi said he knows they have had their differences but he just wanted him to know that he does appreciate him both as a person and a mentor because he feels he gave him guidance and it has been a tremendous honor to serve with him. Councilman Frazier replied thank you.

Councilman Genovesi reported as they embark on the journey together into the New Year, they must take time to reflect upon the year that has just past. He said his duties on the Council for 2007 were building and public utilities; his only Committee assignment he received from the Mayor was the Passaic River Coalition. Councilman Genovesi said he came into the year 2007 alone as the sole representative of the Republican Party and he is leaving this year with new friends from across the aisle. He said they have had their disagreements on fiscal issues, they have had agreements on other issues, to him this is how a Government that is truly representative of the community as diverse as this, should work. Councilman Genovesi said there is always a place for diversity of ideas in a public forum and they should do their very best in 2008 to ensure that our newly resident-mandated Government is fully reflective of that. He said he could never fully express to the residents of Rutherford what a tremendous honor it is for he and his family to have earned their trust, he has done everything possible the past year to convey their desires and wishes in his voting in Borough Hall. He said he remembers all the conversations he had at their doorsteps and all the struggles, wishes and hopes as the residents expressed to him during his campaign; he truly hopes that he has not let any of them down and he looks forward to continuing to serve their interest for the next two years. Councilman Genovesi said to the residents in attendance, please accept his sincerest and warmest thank you for allowing him to serve them.

For **BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES**, Councilman Genovesi said it was an extremely busy year for the Building Department and he has had an opportunity to develop a relationship with Mr. John Uhl and his staff. He found the experience very conducive for learning and educating himself which is what they as elected officials should be doing; constantly learning from the Borough professionals. He said that in January he had a conversation with Mr. John Uhl in which he relayed to him that he would do his very best to

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present his needs to the council, whether they disagreed on an issue or happen to agree, he feels that he has done that and he hopes that Mr. Uhl would agree. Councilman Genovesi said he disagreed on the amount construction fees should be increased and the timeframe they would be increased in but after all was said and done, he voted against the measure, however his respect and trust in Mr. Uhl grew from that experience. He believes they both displayed nothing short of courteous behavior and a professional relationship and he wish to thank him for that.

Councilman Genovesi said with the help of the permit fee increases, the Building Department was able to recapture some much needed revenue. Prior years have led the Department to run in a revenue negative fashion. He said while uniform construction revenue increased this year, construction department revenues were down slightly by 1.5%; the grand total for the department shows a combine gain of over 18.2% over the 2006 figures and Mr. Uhl should be commended for that. The totals for the year 2007 uniform construction code revenue \$421,688 that is a margin of a positive \$80,425 over 2006 an 23.6% increase; construction department revenues were \$92,566 that was negative 1.5% over 2006; grand total for 2007 \$514,254 an 18.2% increase; permits issues are done for the year 2007 in comparison with 2006 figures and the building department feels this is indicative of the economic concerns nation wide; in year 2007 - 1,998 permits were issued; inspection performed has increased over the last four years reaching its highest point this year and the building department feels this is a result of permits being issued in the past years, they are still open and continuing the work.

Councilman Genovesi said the additional items requested in 2008 by Mr. Uhl and his Department are software upgrades since they have been experiencing problems with the size of the database and the construction software being used and he would encourage the new Mayor to seek out Mr. Uhl and possibility discuss this matter; File update - a system is needed by the Department to organize and consolidate all records to meet time requirements presented for OPRA requests and for required research. This year they had a donation of Panasonic Toughbook computers which were intended to be installed in Borough vehicle so the inspector can check application, permits, etc. in real-time from the field. Councilman Genovesi said in conclusion he reports to the residents that the Building Department seems to be in good standing. Mr. John Uhl and his staff should be commended for the work they have done this year, he congratulates Mr. Uhl once again and thanked him for his professionalism and working with him. He said the full report is on file with the Borough Clerk. Councilman Genovesi that wished everyone a Happy New Year!

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Councilman Sommer said that a hazard of going last on Committee Reports at an annual meeting is that many things one might want to say have already been said so he will try to use fewer words and different words than that which have been expressed. Councilman Sommer said best wishes to Councilman Reyes and Councilman Frazier as they end a great career and

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public service to the Borough and unless you walk a path one may not realize all of the time, energy and thought that goes into such positions and the knowing what is the right thing to do. He said with that he commends them for all the time they put into it and he thanks them on his behalf and from the community as well and wish them the best as they continue forward. Councilman Sommer said likewise he also wished Mayor McPherson and thank her for efforts over the last nine years for what she has done for the town and he thinks it has all been observable and he wished her equally great things in the future.

For **HUMAN RESOURCES**, Councilman Sommer said he would like to spend a few minutes on the annual reports. He said these reports tell them what goes on that they may not know and to really take in. Councilman Sommer said the **RECREATION DEPARTMENT** which he thinks along with the Police, Fire, Ambulance; they reach out to all in so many different ways either with their children, friends who have kids, the adult programs. He said there is over 13 different groupings, the number of programs and the number of people that participate in these are really phenomenal. There are 14 different program for kids, many adult programs, nine trips to the City for shows, eleven special events programs, youth sports program with over 2,500 while some might be the same there are different seasonal programs. Councilman Sommer said as he always feels none of this would happens without the parents, coaches and the volunteers like the referees; this is a huge community coming together and he knows from being involved for such a long time, other towns are very envious of how this Recreation Department pulls this off and with only two people currently, Maureen Bigley and Barbara Bennett they deserve credit and of course Geri Brooks. He said if for a moment you think of the scheduling of the limited number of fields and getting the uniforms and collecting the fees and answering questions over and over and always with a smile which is so important. Councilman Sommer said three highlights from the Recreation is the Exceptional Individual Program is a wonderful program that is run in conjunction with the Police and it is great to see it at the annual but they do so many things with those individuals in town, the Pre-School Program is growing and perhaps on a more administrative level they are trying to keep up with technology and knowing that people don't have the time to go down to Borough Hall to register, so now it is available on-line to be completed at any time. Councilman Sommer said he is very proud of the Department.

Councilman Sommer said the **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**, the pantry and the generosity given to people who are in need of food and clothing but they may be surprised that there is over \$250,000 that is expended with \$200,000 reimbursed by the State but a lot comes from donations within the town, the proprietors and others and then it is distributed to people who need it. Councilman Sommer said an individual is marking an anniversary, Kathy Hildebrand who has been the Director and organizing and pushing this program. He said organizations need people to make them happen and in this case Kathy Hildebrand is the force behind this for 20 years.

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Councilman Sommer continued with the AMBULANCE CORP saying they do a tremendous amount of things for people in need and we are so fortunate to have them. All reports are on file with the Borough Clerk.

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MAYOR'S AGENDA

- ◇ Resolution in Memory of **Hugh McDonough**

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MAYOR McPHERSON'S COMMENTS

"I wish everyone here a very good afternoon and a Happy New Year. As my term of office as Mayor of Rutherford draws to a close, I reflect on many things. I am proud of the obstacles we have overcome, the challenges we have met and the goals we have achieved over the last eight years. I wished to thank the residents of our beloved Borough for giving me the opportunity to serve them. I wish to thank my husband David and our four children Bernadette, Molly, David and Thomas for their sacrifice of my time and attention so that I could provide that service to the best of my ability. Without the support and encouragement from my family and friends like Denise Ross, the Bartlett family and many others both in this room and outside of it, it would not have been possible. I wish to thank those I appointed to our many volunteer committees and those I served with as colleagues on the dais for their commitment to Rutherford. I wish to thank those who have dedicated themselves to serving the Borough, our volunteers and our Fire Department, our Ambulance Corp., our Recreation Department and our Borough employees and their Department Heads. I learned valuable lessons from all of them. I am grateful for our Borough Administrator Timothy Stafford and our Clerk Mary Kriston for their incredible work ethic. Our Borough Attorney Anne Marie Rizzuto and other Borough Professionals have been as dedicated as all of us in protecting the interest of Rutherford. It was a privilege to serve and run with men of integrity like Councilman Ray Frazier and Councilman Richard Reyes and their wide variety of liaison assignments, they never wavered on making Rutherford a better place to live and remain steadfast in providing for the public safety of our residents. In her time as finance chair, Councilwoman Maura Keyes has tackled thorny issues like re-evaluation and the municipal budget head-on by making great efforts to educate our residents like never before. Councilman George Fecanin has left an indelible mark on our Department of Public Works; over the last eight years he has insisted that the most important changes be implemented there while inspiring the confidence and the cooperation of our Superintendent, our workers and our residents. Councilmen Sommer and Genovesi are to be commended respectively for their service in drawing attention to our Recreation needs and cable franchise agreements. To Mayor-Elect John Hipp and Councilmembers-elect John Sasso and Rose Inguanti, I give my

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best wishes as they embark on their journey of service to the residents of Rutherford. To all Rutherford residents I wish the comfort and joy of a Happy Holiday Season and Peace in the New Year. Change has been called for this day and it is without a doubt coming at 3:30, that is the nature of life and indeed of politics but one thing I hope never changes about Rutherford. This is a quality that is devoid of politics, it can be possessed but never purchased by those whose families have lived here for generations or those who more recently came here and that is our fierce affection for our beloved Borough. It is borne of the overwhelming sense of tolerance and mutual respect that true Rutherfordians have for one another, most always displaying the better angels of our nature. Thank You."

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Councilman Reyes moved to adjourn Sine Die, seconded by Councilman Frazier and unanimously approved on roll call. The meeting ended at 3:20 p.m.

Borough Clerk