

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF DEMAREST
WORK SESSION Minutes
September 14, 2026
7:30 PM**

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, have been satisfied by the inclusion of the date, time and place of this meeting in the annual schedule of meetings of this Governing Body. Such schedule of meetings was published as required by law and is posted at Borough Hall, on the Borough website and filed in the office of the Borough Clerk.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Mayor Bernstein, Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Carmeli, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Marks, Councilmember Reiss

Absent:

Also Present: Julie Falkenstern, Borough Administrator
Deena Rosendahl, Borough Attorney

Ordinance (Introduction): *(none)*

Ordinance for Public Hearing (Adoption): *(none)*

Work Session Discussion Items:

Engineering Report

Ms. Falkenstern gave brief update on the progress of the project to
Proposal from Daniel Ricci – Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout Candidate Daniel Ricci presented a proposal related to the 9/11 Memorial:

Project Overview and Objectives

To increase the visibility, physical accessibility, and aesthetic appeal of the existing 911 Memorial.

Proposed enhancements include installing a walkway path leading to the memorial, laying pavers around the site for simplified maintenance and visual improvement, and placing a sign to honor the victims.

The proposed path would begin around the corner of the parking lot situated behind the train station. Walkway construction materials under consideration include dirt, gravel, or other easily walkable surfaces to assist visitors who find it difficult to access ceremonies.

The Mayor and Council noted that the exact starting and ending points must be coordinated with the town engineer to avoid creating tripping hazards near the rail line and the metal guardrail.

They also advised that care must be taken regarding the placement of the "in honor of the victims" sign to ensure it does not block the public view of the memorial site, particularly during the annual 911 memorial service.

Mayor Bernstein asked Daniel to consider addressing safety and tripping hazards associated with pavers shifting over time, the project may require laying a concrete foundation first before installing the pavers, mirroring the town's previous project replacing pavers leading to the gazebo.

Daniel noted that the estimated material cost for the project is between \$3,000 and \$5,000. He proposed fundraising methods include hosting a car wash, selling engraved donor pavers, and requesting tool/hardware donations from local hardware stores. Daniel will reach out to Denny Wiggers, the original contributor who donated and dedicated the memorial stones, to see if he will contribute materials or labor.

Daniel will lead the project, directing a team consisting of Scouts from his troop, other high school students, friends, town members, and adult volunteers. Any specialized or highly skilled labor that cannot be completed by volunteers will be contracted out. The project will incorporate elements of recycling and conservation. Daniel has just over two years remaining as a Scout to execute and complete the project. The Council consensus was to approve that the project move forward, contingent upon Scout Council approval. Daniel must present the project to the Scout Council for official adoption and approval, with a response expected by the end of the current week or the following week.

Upon receiving Scout Council approval, Daniel was asked to report back to Borough Administrator, who will connect him with Director of DPW and the town engineers to begin detailed planning and placement coordination.

Consent Agenda

Mayor Bernstein asked if any member would like to have any resolution removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately. (none)

Mayor Bernstein asked if any member would like to abstain from voting on any resolution on the consent agenda. (none)

Council President Slowikowski made a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Reiss.

Roll Call:

Roll Call:

Ayes: Council President Slowikowski, Councilmember Carmeli
Councilmember Jiang, Councilmember Collins, Councilmember Marks,
Councilmember Reiss
Nays: None

Consent Agenda:

Resolution No. 168-26	SSA with BC Flu Clinic
Resolution No. 169-26	SSA with BC Snow Plowing
Resolution No. 170-26	Release of Escrow
Resolution No. 171-26	Crossing Guard Agreement
Resolution No. 172-26	Authorizing Tax Refund Overpayment

Meeting Open to the Public

Councilmember Collins made a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jiang and approved by all on a voice vote.

There being no members of the public wishing to speak, Councilmember Reiss made a motion to close the meeting to the public. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jiang and approved by all on a voice vote.

Mayor Bernstein then announced that at this month's Planning Board meeting he made the following appointment:

Due to his appointment last month of Mary Lynn Hamilton as the Class 4 member to fill the unexpired term of Camille DiSclafani, term ending 12/31/28 a vacancy was created a of the 2nd Alternate position.

Diane Pavlova, possessing prior experience on the planning board, was appointed to fill Mary Lynn Hamilton's unexpired term as the 2nd Alternate, term ending 12/31/27.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Councilmember Collins made a motion to close the meeting to the public. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Reiss and approved by all on a voice vote. The meeting was therefore adjourned at 7:58.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Falkenstern, RMC
Borough Clerk