

MINUTES
BOROUGH OF LAVALLETTE
REORGANIZATION AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING BOARD
Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.



I. Call to Order

Flag Salute: Chairman Cataline

Public Notice Announcement:

This is the Borough of Lavallette Planning Board Regular meeting of December 17, 2025. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given as required by Chapter 231 Public Law 1975, commonly known as "The Sunshine Law." The date, time and place of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board located in the Borough Hall Clerks Office at 1306 Grand Central Ave., filed with the Borough Clerk, and supplied to the Official Borough newspapers, the Ocean Star and the Asbury Park Press.

This meeting is a judicial proceeding. Any questions or comments must be limited to issues that are relevant to what the Board may legally consider in reaching a decision and decorum appropriate to a judicial hearing must be maintained at all times.

The following Board Members were re-appointed and sworn in for the appropriate terms:

- Mark Speaker, Class I Member, Mayor’s Designee
- John Bennett, Class II Member, Municipal Official
- Joanne Filippone, Class III Member, Council Representative
- Jennifer Hartman-Sica, Class IV Member
- Alex Barletta, Class IV Member
- Mary Chyb, Alternate # 1

After swearing in ceremony, the newly appointed members took their seats as Planning Board members.

ROLL CALL:

Alex Barletta – present	Jennifer DeRienzo – present	Joseph Palinsky – present
John Bennett – absent	Joanne Filippone – present	Thomas Restaino – absent
Anthony Cataline – present	Jennifer Hartman-Sica – absent	Mark Speaker - present
Mary Chyb – present	Vincent Marino – present	

Also Present: Mr. T. Brady, Esq. and Michael Goldstein, PE, PP, CFM

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- The reorganization meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.
 - The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - Several members were administered the oath of office for the new term.
 - A roll call for the new board was then conducted by the secretary.
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III. Reorganization of the Board

- **Nomination for Chairman (2026):**
 - **Motion:** Made by Filippone, seconded by A. Barletta, to **nominate Anthony Catalani as Chairman.**
 - **Vote:** The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- **Nomination for Vice Chairman (2026):**
 - **Motion:** Made by A. Cataline, seconded by Filippone, to **nominate Alex Barletta as Vice Chairman.**
 - **Vote:** The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.
- **Appointment of Board Secretary:**
 - A discussion confirmed that the Board Secretary is an appointed position.
 - **Motion:** Made by A.Barletta, seconded by V.Marino, to **appoint Christine Nunziato as Board Secretary.**
 - **Vote:** The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

IV. Professional Appointments for 2026

The board proceeded with resolutions for professional appointments for the 2026 year.

- **Appointment of Legal Counsel:**
 - **Motion:** Made by Filippone, seconded by Filippone, to **pass a resolution to appoint the firm of Brady and Kunz as legal counsel for 2026.**
 - **Vote:** A roll call vote was conducted. A.Barletta; Aye, J.Filippone; Aye, J.Palinsky; Aye, M.Speaker; Aye, A.Cataline; Aye, J.DeRienzo; Aye, M.Chyb; Aye, V. Marino; abstained.
 - The motion passed.
- **Appointment of Planning Board Engineer:**
 - **Motion:** Made by Filippone, seconded by A. Barletta, to **pass a resolution to appoint the firm of Van Cleef Engineering as the Planning Board Engineer for 2026.**
 - **Vote:** The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

V. Resolutions

- **Designation of Official Newspaper:**
 - The board discussed the resolution to designate the official newspaper for public notices.
 - **Speaker 13** clarified that while electronic publication on the borough website is the primary method, a default newspaper must still be designated as a backup in case the website is unavailable.
 - It was agreed to amend the resolution to include the specific borough website address; Lavallette.org.
 - The **hyperlink for the “Legal Notices”** [Borough of Lavallette - Legal Notices](#)
 - **Motion:** Made by J.Filippone, seconded by V.Marino, to adopt the resolution designating the official newspaper and the borough website for notices, with the amendment to include the specific website URL.
 - **Vote:** The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- **Adoption of Planning Board Procedures and Fees:**
 - C. Nunziato presented the Planning Board Procedures and Fees for 2026, noting they were largely the same as the previous year.
 - Minor changes included a request for applicants to provide digital copies of all application documents, and a more detailed list of witnesses and their professional credentials in advance, with an inclusion of an escrow fees for zoning appeals.
 - During the discussion, it was noted that two portable microphones are always available for use during cases.
 - A. Cataline suggested that the microphones should be available at every meeting where a case is to be heard.
 - **Motion:** Made by J. Filippone, seconded by A.Barletta, to adopt the Planning Board Procedures and Fees for 2026.
 - **Vote:** The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call vote.

- **Adoption of 2026 Meeting Calendar:**
 - The board reviewed the proposed meeting calendar for 2026.
 - Two changes were discussed and confirmed:
 - The February 12th meeting was removed, making February 10th the only meeting that month.
 - The November 11th meeting was moved to November 10th as November 11th is Veterans Day.
 - **Motion:** Made by J.Palinsky, seconded by A.Barletta, to adopt the 2026 meeting dates as amended.
 - **Vote:** The motion passed unanimously by Roll Call vote.

- **Memorialization of Resolution (Rite Aid to Restaurant Conversion):**
 - The board considered a resolution for memorialization concerning the project to convert the former Rite Aid building into a restaurant.
 - During a brief discussion, it was confirmed that the applicant cannot obtain a liquor license for the property due to its proximity to a church.
 - It was noted that this is an ABC regulation and the board has no control over it.
 - **Motion:** Made by A.Barletta, seconded by J.Palinsky, to adopt and memorialize the resolution as presented.
 - **Vote:** A roll call vote was conducted. A.Barletta; Aye, J.Palinsky; Aye, J.Filippone; Aye, V. Marino; Aye, M.Speaker; Aye, A.Cataline; Aye, J.DeRienzo; not eligible, M.Chyb; Aye.
 - The motion passed.

VI. New Business

- **Master Plan Re-examination Proposals:**
 - The board received three proposals from firms interested in conducting the Master Plan re-examination: HGA, Insight Engineering, and NV5.
 - The bids were very close in price, at approximately \$50,000, \$50,100, and \$50,900.

- It was noted that the HGA Company is solely a planning company and not an engineering firm, which was considered unusual.
 - A.Barletta commented that he was familiar with the professional from Insight Engineering, who was the former town planner in Toms River and has recent experience representing towns on affordable housing compliance, a key issue for the board's re-evaluation.
 - Board members were instructed to review all three proposals to be prepared to appoint a firm at the next meeting on January 28th. This timeline allows the selected planner to be on board for the first master plan workshop scheduled for February 10th.
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VII. Action Items

- **Update the resolution for the official newspaper** to include the specific website link for lavallette.org.
- **All Board Members are to review the three proposals** for the Master Plan re-examination to be prepared to make a decision at the next meeting.
- **The Board Engineer is to complete and distribute the review letter** for the Rizzo case by January 21st.

VIII. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn was made by A.Barletta and seconded by J.Filippone. The meeting concluded at 5:35pm.
- **The next meeting is scheduled for January 28th.**