

I want to wish everyone here today and everyone watching at home a Happy and healthy New Year. Let's hope it's a good one, without any fear. (as John Lennon sang a long time ago.) I want to welcome Mayor McMullin, Councilman Bray and Councilwoman Danyluck to this governing body. I look forward to working with them and the rest of the council in the coming year.

This is the first time a reorganization meeting is being televised. We have been televising the council meetings since September and filming the meetings since July. The videos of the last 11 council meetings can be viewed on the boro website, Raritan boro.org, YouTube, or Raritan-online.com. The video of this meeting will be uploaded to the boro website later today. At the moment we are only on Optimum, but recently we were given permission by the school district to share one of their two FiOS channels. I'm hoping Verizon can finally get us hooked up by March.

Putting our meetings on TV has provided some benefits. Residents can watch their council in action in the comfort of their home. Since newspaper coverage of our meetings is minimal, residents can easily stay informed on the issues we discuss. Residents may be encouraged to attend a meeting if they have questions or comments.

If the Mayor or any councilperson is unable to attend a meeting, they can look at the video online to see what they missed. This will keep them up to speed and better prepared for the next meeting. And once a meeting has been filmed, there can never be any arguments as to "who said what".

Speaking of arguments, we should start the New Year with a clean slate. No doubt there will be disagreements, but those disagreements should lead to a healthy debate and not a bitter argument producing hard feelings that linger long after the meeting is adjourned.

— John F. Kennedy said, "Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future." I interpret that statement to mean: cut out the political games, do the right thing, stop crying about the past and make plans for the future.

Raritan has always been a great place to live. It's not a perfect community. We have problems that need to be addressed, just like any other town. But if we all work together, we can solve those problems and make our town a better place to live.

Thank you.

James Foohey