

When Union County political boss Ray Lesniak got Mayor James Cassella a taxpayer-funded \$75,000 no-show job at the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority, he bought a powerful friend in East Rutherford.

Lesniak's law firm represents Xanadu and other big builders that are guilty of over-development in our community. For example, Cassella's administration cut the tax assessment on Liberty Terrace from \$17.6 million to \$11.4 million! The Orchard Square tax assessment was reduced from \$17.8 million to just \$14.9 million – but the property is really worth \$35 million!

It's time for a mayor who will work for the people of East Rutherford instead of corrupt political insiders.

This banner shows how long al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden has been free since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on America. We maintain this count to keep the memory of our 9/11 victims alive and preserve America's focus on defense.

OSAMA AT LARGE: DAY 2214

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POLITICAL PAYOFF?

GOP Mayor Got \$75,000 "Fictitious" Job

Lesniak Clients Busy In East Rutherford

RAHWAY -- East Rutherford Mayor James L. Cassella was hired as assistant to the executive director of the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority (RVSA), a post described by one commissioner as "a fictitious position," when he was appointed last year.

If he remains in the post, the \$75,000 salary could multiply Cassella's Public Employee Retirement System pension by a factor of 12.

The resolution to appoint Cassella was supported by only six of the RVSA's 11 commissioners and came just months after reports showed the taxpayer-funded state pension system billions of dollars in debt.

Those reports detailed abuses in the pension fund caused by politicians, such as Cassella, who hold multiple taxpayer-funded jobs.

Cassella, 61, who retired as commercial sales manager at General Tire of New Jersey, was said to be unqualified by Commissioner Clark Landale, of Mountainside, who opposed his appointment.

"This person does not have the licenses the authority needs," said Landale. "We are spending taxpayer money on a fictitious position without properly researching the need."

Cassella served on the borough council from 1985 until his election as mayor in 1995 and is a former member of the East Rutherford school board.

Joan Papan, a former Scotch Plains mayor who serves as an RVSA commissioner, said of Cassella's appointment, "This is a waste of taxpayer money."

"We really didn't need that

position, we needed an engineer," said Papan. "I don't know what he's doing."

Told that Lesniak's law firm represents many developers with interests in East Rutherford, Papan said, "That does not surprise me."

"They've been pushing for privatization and the senator's got the bill to privatize the Parkway and Turnpike," Papan added. "Some people are pushing this privatization. I don't think it helps the taxpayers at all. It hurts the taxpayers."

"I'm here every day, this is not a no show job," Cassella insisted in an interview conducted at the authority's Rahway offices.

"They want to make an issue out of the fact that I got a job here," Cassella said of his political opponents.

Cassella said he attended most of the RVSA meetings, but a review of the official minutes showed his presence was recorded at only four of the 12 sessions since his appointment.

When asked how many people the authority serves, Cassella was unable to give the answer, which would be known to anyone that has viewed the authority's website.

Cassella stammered, unable to give response. He then turned to a computer and spent several minutes looking up the population for each member community and reading the list aloud, after telling his questioner, "You are an arrogant little bastard."

Shortly after, Cassella said, "This is stupid," several times and abruptly ended the interview, which may be viewed at www.njtoday.net/noshow.htm

Weiner Lesniak of state Sen. Rayn general counsel to public agency \$75,000 a year job lican mayor of a community, who clients have en development de

Lesniak, who government thro ty and beyond t of elected officials, appointed employees and contractors who owe him allegiance, was listed as



Sen. Raymond Lesniak



Mayor James L. Cassella

Strange bedfellows... A powerful Democratic party boss and the Republican mayor of a small Bergen County community are the focus of questions about pension abuse, double-dipping and profiting at taxpayer expense.

the state politician sNJ.com Weiner 2003 to of Virg Xanadu lands. Lesni firm h Corp.

Should it be illegal for politicians to inflate their tax-funded pension by holding more than one government job at a time?

The Lesniak represented numerous other developers seeking to build in the

nanian, applied to least thirty-three (33) two-bedroom for sale residential condominium dwelling units at 190 Van Winkle Street, East Rutherford. Matzel and Mumford land use application was presented by Lesniak's firm.

Cassella reportedly cast an illegal tie-breaking borough council vote on a controversial proposal that would include buying and currently owned by another Lesniak client.

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Paid for by the East Rutherford Democratic Club without the help of greedy developers, unethical municipal contractors or corrupt political bosses

This is an actual copy of a Union County newspaper that featured a revealing look at how power broker Ray Lesniak got Mayor Jim Cassella a taxpayer-funded \$75,000 no-show job at the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority. To read the whole story and watch an interview with Cassella defending his job, use the Internet to visit WWW.NJTODAY.NET/NOSHOW

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