

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP LAND USE BOARD

REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 6, 2010 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER and PUBLIC NOTICE

Mr. Howell acted as Board Secretary

Evan Howell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He said this is the reorganization meeting of the Land Use Board of the Township of Washington. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act in that a Notice was published in the Star Gazette, and the notice of and agenda for this meeting was posted on the bulletin board in the Township Administration Building, and notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

Present: Samir Elbassiouny, Evan Howell, Robert Klingel, Mark Rossi, James Vergos, Robert Christine, Robert Finke, Louis Accetturo

Absent: Leonard Artigliere, Erich Sodtalbers

Professionals in attendance: Steven Gruenberg, Esq.

Mr. Howell acted as Board secretary.

PRESENTATION OF 2010 BOARD MEMBERS:

No oaths were administered during the meeting.

Louis Accetturo (alternate #1) exp. 12/31/11

Oath of office had been administered prior to the meeting.

Robert Christine (class 4) exp. 12/31/13

Mayor Samir Elbassiouny (class 1) exp. 12/31/10

Evan Howell (class 2) exp. 12/31/10

Committeeman Robert Klingel (class 3) exp. 12/31/10

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Mr. Howell called for nominations for chairperson.

Motion to nominate Mark Rossi as chairman for the Land Use Board was made by Samir Elbassiouny and seconded by Robert Klingel. Hearing no nominations from the floor,

motion was made by Samir Elbassiouny and seconded by Robert Klingel to close the nominations, and nominations were closed.

Members in favor: Samir Elbassiouny, Evan Howell, Robert Klingel, James Vergos, Robert Christine, Robert Finke

Abstaining: Mark Rossi and Louis Accetturo

Mr. Howell congratulated Chairman Rossi and turned the meeting over to him.

Mr. Rossi called for nominations for vice chairperson.

Motion to nominate Leonard Artigliere as vice chairperson for the Land Use Board was made by Robert Klingel and seconded by Robert Finke. Hearing no nominations from the floor, motion was made Samir Elbassiouny and seconded by Robert Finke to close the nominations, and nominations were closed.

Members in favor: Samir Elbassiouny, Evan Howell, Robert Klingel, Mark Rossi, James Vergos, Robert Christine, Robert Finke

Abstaining: Louis Accetturo

Mr. Rossi called for nominations for Board attorney.

Mayor Elbassiouny noted there were 3 candidates who had expressed an interest in the position: Steve Gruenberg at \$140/hour; John Belardo at \$140/hour; and H. Matthew Curry at \$125/ hour.

Motion to re-appoint Steven Gruenberg was made by Evan Howell. There was no second.

Mayor Elbassiouny noted resumes had been distributed to the Board.

Mr. Klingel indicated he had reviewed the resumes and found, of course, that Mr. Curry's rate is attractive. He observed, however, that Mr. Curry had little land use background. Mayor Elbassiouny highlighted Mr. Curry's experience in municipal government.

There was considerable discussion as to the high cost of legal fees. Although cost seemed to be the driving factor, Mayor Elbassiouny observed a fresh face may be called for. Mayor Elbassiouny pointed out that the Board could hire a separate litigation attorney.

Mayor Elbassiouny noted legal expenses for 2009 amounted to \$80,000. He suggested perhaps Mr. Gruenberg could be hired to handle litigation.

The Board expressed a desire to interview all candidates in an effort to reduce legal fees. Mr. Howell noted the Board needs an attorney next week for cases scheduled.

Mr. Howell withdrew his motion. He then made a motion to appoint Steve Gruenberg for the month of January which was seconded by James Vergos.

Members in favor: Samir Elbassiouny, Evan Howell, Robert Klingel, Mark Rossi, James Vergos, Robert Christine, Robert Finke

Abstaining: Louis Accetturo

Mayor Elbassiouny asked whether Steve Gruenberg would continue as litigation attorney should another attorney be appointed to represent the Board. Mr. Gruenberg said he would have to consider it.

Motion to interview the 3 candidates who had expressed interest was made by Mark Rossi and seconded by Robert Klingel.

Board members concurred on voice vote.

Mr. Rossi called for nominations for the position of Board Engineer. Motion was made by James Vergos and seconded by Robert Klingel to appoint Finelli Consulting Engineers as Board Engineer. Hearing no nominations from the floor, motion was made and seconded to close the nominations, and nominations were closed.

Robert Finke suggested that Finelli be requested to reduce their rates. It was observed that Finelli had held that rate. Mr. Finke asked about the usual rate. Mr. Rossi noted that Finelli's rates were competitive.

Members in favor: Samir Elbassiouny, Evan Howell, Robert Klingel, Mark Rossi, James Vergos, Robert Christine, Robert Finke

Abstaining: Louis Accetturo

Mr. Rossi called for nominations for Board planning expert. Motion was made by Robert Klingel and seconded by Samir Elbassiouny to appoint Scarlett Doyle as Board planning expert. Hearing no nominations from the floor, motion was made and seconded to close the nominations, and the nominations were closed.

Mr. Klingel noted although Ms. Doyle had held her rate, request should be made in light of the difficult economy that she reduces her rate.

Members in favor: Samir Elbassiouny, Evan Howell, Robert Klingel, Mark Rossi, James Vergos, Robert Christine, Robert Finke

Abstaining: Louis Accetturo

Mr. Rossi called for nominations for secretary to the Board. Motion was made by Samir Elbassiouny and seconded by Robert Klingel that Alice Oldford be appointed as

Secretary to the Board. Hearing no nominations from the floor, motion was made and seconded to close the nominations, and the nominations were closed.

Members in favor: Samir Elbassiouny, Evan Howell, Robert Klingel, Mark Rossi, James Vergos, Robert Christine, Robert Finke

Abstaining: Louis Accetturo

Mr. Rossi called for nominations for geotechnical expert and alternate. Appointment was deferred to the regular meeting. Board requires additional information.

Mr. Rossi called for selection of newspapers for publication of legal notices. Motion was made by James Vergos and seconded by Robert Klingel to select the Star Gazette as the weekly paper and the Express Times as the daily paper.

Members in favor: Samir Elbassiouny, Evan Howell, Robert Klingel, Mark Rossi, James Vergos, Robert Christine, Robert Finke

Abstaining: Louis Accetturo

Mr. Rossi called for appointment of review committee. It was observed that this committee had not met. However, there is a COAH advisory committee. Mr. Rossi suggested that the review committee be abolished.

Motion to abolish the review committee was made by Samir Elbassiouny and seconded by Robert Klingel

Members concurred on voice vote.

Mr. Rossi called for approval of the calendar for 2010.

Regular Meetings

1/13	7/14
1/27	7/28
2/10	8/11
2/24	8/25
3/10	9/8
3/31	9/29
4/14	10/13
4/28	10/27
5/12	11/10
5/26	11/17
6/9	12/8
+ reorganization 1/5/2011	

Motion was made by Samir Elbassiouny and seconded by Robert Klingel to adopt the 2010 meeting calendar.

Members concurred on voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

These minutes were approved 1/13/10.

Alice Oldford, Secretary to the Board

