

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
August 16, 2016

The regular meeting of the Township Committee was held on this date at the Washington Township Municipal Building, 211 Route 31 North, Washington, N.J. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mayor Robert Klingel.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE – Mayor Klingel noted that this meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law of 1975 in as much as a notice had been published in the Star-Gazette and transmitted to the Express-Times, posted at the Municipal Building and a copy is on file in the Clerk’s office. This agenda is subject to change by order of the Washington Township Committee before and/or during the scheduled meeting.

ROLL CALL

Fiore, present (8:10 pm); Klingel, present; Kovacs, present; Rossi, present; Willan, present

STAFF PRESENT

Anna C. Godfrey, Township Clerk; Attorney Michael Lavery; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator; Chief Cicerelle; Janice Congleton, CFO; and Joseph Rossi, Construction Official

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held July 19, 2016.

ROLL CALL: Rossi, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, abstained; Klingel, abstained

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held July 19, 2016.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Rossi, yes; Willan, abstained; Klingel, abstained

PRESENTATION

Pat Seppi and Theresa Hwilka of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) updated the Committee on the Pohatcong Superfund Site and its impact on the Township. A Monitoring Well Network has been established and continues to test area wells on a regular basis.

Mayor Klingel opened the presentation discussion to the public.

Joel Schnetzer, 240 Cemetery Hill Road, thanked the Environmental Commission for arranging this presentation and spoke of the issues some farmers are experiencing. He would like to have another meeting scheduled to include the Warren County Freeholders, Warren County Agricultural Board, and the farmers who are affected by this.

Frank Marascia, Environmental Commission Chairman, clarified NJ American Water’s involvement in the area discussed.

Jeff Duckworth, 28 Coleman Hill Road, questioned the area of Brass Castle Dye Works on Brass Castle Road. T. Hwilka wasn’t aware of any cause of concern from them in that area. J. Duckworth and T. Hwilka discussed the Superfund Site.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Klingel closed the public portion of the presentation discussion.

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to open to the public Ordinance 16-07, Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Creating Chapter 95 of the Code of the Township of Washington Entitled “Unified Electronic Reporting System for Dealers in Precious Metals and Other Secondhand Goods” on second reading. All were in favor. Seeing no one, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to close the public portion of Ordinance 16-07. All were in favor. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to adopt Ordinance 16-07 on second reading.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Fiore, yes; Rossi, yes; Klingel, yes

RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolutions 16-118 through and including 16-120.

16-118 Resolution to Cancel 2016 Taxes – Block 86, Lot 1

16-119 Resolution Supporting the Authorization of the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2016 Statewide Crackdown

16-120 Chapter 159 Budget Amendment – Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Grant

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Fiore, yes; Rossi, yes; Klingel, yes

J. Congleton explained the need for Resolution 16-117 with regards to the Public Works Building. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 16-117, Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$423,200 Bond Anticipation Notes.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Rossi, yes; Fiore, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

Attorney Lavery explained a Performance Guarantee Reduction. A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 16-121, Performance Guarantee Reduction – Nottingham LLC / Washington Valley Estates Major Subdivision.

ROLL CALL: Rossi, yes; Willan, yes; Fiore, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi to approve Resolution 16-116, Resolution to Implement the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Rossi yes; Fiore, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolution 16-122, Designation of an Area in Need of Redevelopment (Asbury Farms).

ROLL CALL: Fiore, yes; Kovacs yes; Rossi, yes; Willan, abstained; Klingel, yes

Attorney Lavery explained for the public that by passing this resolution, the Township Committee agrees with a resolution approved by the Land Use Board and determines the area is indeed in need of redevelopment.

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief Cicerelle provided the Committee with information regarding the Geospatial Software Program (GXP) which allows for pre-planning as well as instantaneous planning of structures in the event of a major incident. He explained how it would be a great benefit to all first responders. The County Prosecutor is requesting municipalities contribute approximately \$1,200 - \$1,500 towards the payment of this program. Chief Cicerelle mentioned National Night Out was a great success and thanked the Committee and residents who attended. He thanked Mr. Fiore for his recent help. Chief Cicerelle stated they have received the disaster trailer and are waiting on shelving to be installed. The dog kennels have been installed and have already been used.

Mayor Klingel thanked the Police Department and Public Works Department for an outstanding job preparing for National Night Out.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report and had nothing further to add.

J. Congleton had nothing to report.

J. Rossi had nothing to report.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to open the meeting to the public. All were in favor.

Alex Plinio, 42 Merlin Drive, spoke to the Committee regarding Resolution 16-122, Designation of an Area in Need of Redevelopment (Asbury Farms). A. Plinio is representing Hawk Pointe Reserve and gave the Committee a brief overview of work done by a subcommittee which was formed to discuss this project. A Plinio stated the subcommittee would like two Hawk Pointe representatives on the Redevelopment Sub-Committee.

Alan Jenks, 46 Merlin Drive, is Vice-President of the Hawk Pointe Property Owners Association and stated they have an interest in the redevelopment in Hawk Pointe and how their properties may be affected. He also requested two Hawk Pointe representatives be included on the Redevelopment Sup-Committee.

Hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to close the public portion of the meeting. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Fiore stated the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC) held a presentation at last month's meeting. The Committee discussed adding the membership cost to the Environmental Commission's 2017 budget.

Mr. Fiore reported the Recreation Commission voted unanimously at their August 4th meeting to pay for the keyless entry system for the Recreation Building. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to approve the installation of a keyless entry system at the Parks and Recreation Building.

ROLL CALL: Rossi, yes; Fiore, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve the resignation of Police Officer Richard Hummer.

ROLL CALL: Fiore, yes; Rossi, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve Mayor and Clerk to sign the 2017 Municipal Alliance County Contract.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Rossi, yes; Fiore, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to approve the Police Chief to sign the Memorandum of Agreement for the RAPID Program.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Fiore, yes; Rossi, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve the application for the survey of gypsy moth egg masses in the Township.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Fiore, yes; Kovacs, yes; Rossi, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to approve the request from Mr. Fiore and Eileen Parks to attend a course entitled "Tax Abatements – Understanding Them and Examining Models That Work" on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at Kean University.

ROLL CALL: Rossi, yes; Willan, yes; Fiore, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Fiore thanked Mr. Rossi for donating hot dogs and hamburgers for National Night Out. Frank Marascia and NJ American Water will be doing a Spring and Fall clean-up on trails in need. The Recreation Commission has concerns regarding the cracks in the basketball court and walking paths at Meadow Breeze Park. Information regarding a Corporate Community Day has been added to the Township's website and will be included in the next newsletter with the hope of getting volunteers to do maintenance on the trails. There were concerns from the Environmental Commission regarding a member who has not been to meetings in over a year. Mr. Fiore asked if there were any updates on the Washington Cemetery. Mayor Klingel stated a snow fence has been installed between the cemetery and the house on the south side. Permits were filled out to put a fence along the front. The retention basin is now in compliance. Mr. deBoer will look into the status of the front fence and fire boxes.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve the payment of the bills.

ROLL CALL: Fiore, yes; Rossi, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 16-123, Resolution Authorizing Executive Session for a Meeting Not Open to the Public in Accordance With the Provisions of the NJ Open Public Meeting Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 at 8:40 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing three attorney/client privilege matters dealing with tax board appeals and judgment, a Shared Service Agreement with Oxford Township, and a Shared Service Agreement with Oxford and Washington Borough, two personnel matters dealing with Animal Control and the Police Department and a contractual matter dealing with Asbury Farms.

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to come out of Executive Session at 10:21 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed three attorney/client privilege matters dealing with tax board appeals and judgment, a Shared Service Agreement with Oxford Township, and a Shared Service Agreement with Oxford and Washington Borough, two personnel matters dealing with Animal Control and the Police Department and a contractual matter dealing with Asbury Farms. No official action was taken. Copies of these minutes will be available at such time the Committee determines there is no harm to the public interest.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to authorize the Township Administrator to submit an agreement to Oxford Township regarding a shared service with the Code and Construction Department.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Rossi, yes; Fiore, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore to approve Asbury Farms as a Redeveloper at Hawk Pointe.

ROLL CALL: Rossi, yes; Fiore, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, abstained; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to authorize Attorney Lavery to submit a letter to Asbury Farms regarding the property for purchase as discussed in Executive Session.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Fiore, yes; Rossi, yes; Willan, abstained; Klingel, yes

Mayor Klingel stated the Redevelopment Committee for Asbury Farms shall consist of himself, Mr. Fiore, two Land Use Board members, an Environmental Commission member, an Economic Development Committee member, and two residents from Hawk Pointe.

Mayor Klingel stated he is moving Brian McCatharn from the Alternate I position on the Land Use Board to the Class IV position vacated by Karen Lesnewski. B. McCatharn will also be the Land Use Board liaison to the Environmental Commission.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Memorandum of Agreement for the RAPID Program in addition to the Police Chief.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Fiore, yes; Kovacs, yes; Rossi, yes; Klingel, yes

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk