

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
February 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; Klingel, present; Kovacs, present; Rossi, present

STAFF PRESENT

Anna C. Godfrey, Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator; Attorney Katrina Campbell; Chief Cicerelle; Lieutenant Kaufmann, Officers Benjamin Blake, David Burdge, and James Vernon; Joseph Rossi, Construction Official; and Jeff Cooper, Superintendent of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

REPLACEMENT TO FILL VACANT SEAT ON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Mayor Klingel stated newly appointed Committeewoman Nancy Anderson resigned from the Township Committee. Her resignation letter states "I am resigning as Committeewoman for personal reasons as we had discussed. In the short time I have been in this position I've enjoyed working with you, the Committee and the Township employees. I now have a better understanding of what is involved in the local municipality. Thank you for everything." Mayor Klingel explained the County Committee provided the Township Committee with three names as possible replacements for Mrs. Anderson. Those names are George Willan, Theresa Iacobucci and Bill Connolly. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to appoint George Willan to fill the vacant seat on the Township Committee.

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

The Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Willan and he joined the Committee at the dais.

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to introduce Ordinance 16-02, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2015-07, Fixing the Salaries of the Officers and Employees of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey on first reading with the correction noted by Mr. Kovacs.

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

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will take place at the February 27, 2016 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

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

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

PRESENTATION

Mary Jo Harris of the Family Guidance Center spoke of substance abuse issues in Warren County. Township resident Helen Carey shared her personal story dealing with substance abuse. On behalf of the Coalition for Healthy & Safe Communities, M. Harris acknowledged Lieutenant John Kaufmann and Officers Benjamin Blake, David Burdge, and James Vernon for administering Narcan to residents and therefore saving their lives. M. Harris also acknowledged Officers Zachary Grawher, Joshua Masenior and Robert Yeisley who were unable to attend the meeting. She presented Chief Cicerelle with a plaque acknowledging the entire Police Department. Mayor Klingel thanked M. Harris, H. Carey and the Officers and stressed the importance of substance abuse awareness.

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to open to the public Ordinance 16-01, Ordinance Re-Authorizing the Open Space Trust Fund for the Township of Washington on second reading. All were in favor.

Al Ivany, 1010 Butlers Park Road, supports the reauthorization of the Open Space Trust Fund.

Hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to close the public portion of Ordinance 16-01. All were in favor. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to adopt Ordinance 16-01 on second reading.

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to introduce Ordinance 16-03, Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, Repealing Amending and Supplementing Chapter 72 "Fire Prevention" on first reading.

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

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will take place at the February 27, 2016 meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolutions 16-35 through and including 16-39.

16-35 Redemption Resolution – Block 38, Lot 22 C0062

16-36 Refund Resolution – Block 18, Lot 12.03

16-37 Apply Overpayment due to Tax Court Judgment – Block 66, Lot 20.05

16-38 Salary Resolution (N. Morton – Crossing Guard)

16-39 Salary Resolution (A. Anton – Crossing Guard)

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolution 16-40, Resolution Accepting the Deed Restriction for the Property Known as Asbury Farms/Hawk Pointe – Block 65, Lot 2.

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

J. Cooper previously submitted a report. He spoke with Mr. Fiore regarding the road salt used in the Township and updated the Committee on repairs to the DPW vehicles. J. Cooper is waiting to hear back from the insurance company regarding a truck that caught on fire during the recent snow storm. He spoke about a 5-year vehicle maintenance plan. J. Cooper was asked by the Fire Chief to prepare a Shared Service Agreement for the snow plowing the DPW does at the firehouses. There is no charge for this service. He will have the agreement for the Township Committee's review at the March meeting.

Chief Cicerelle previously submitted a report. He explained the State is mandating police departments update their breathalyzer machine in 2016 and finger printing machines in 2017. Each is approximately \$15-20,000.

J. Rossi had nothing to report.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report. He stated he was contacted by Assemblyman Peterson's office regarding a traffic signal at the intersection of Mill Pond Road, Pleasant Valley Road and Route 57. The Township would be responsible for 25% of the installation of the traffic light. Mayor Klingel would like the DOT to make recommendations other than a traffic light.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

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

Terry Iacobucci, 19 Jockey Hollow Road, suggested funding for improvements at the Mill Pond Road, Pleasant Valley Road, and Route 57 intersection could possibly be made by the Warren Heritage Scenic Byway 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

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Richard Cotton, Asbury Farms/Hawk Pointe, updated the Committee on the next phase of the Asbury Farms community. He discussed the benefits of creating of a sub-committee which would include representatives from each department/facility involved. R. Cotton would like the sub-committee to meet twice per month. Mr. deBoer will contact R. Cotton once a date is set.

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the request from Nancy Godfrey, Ann Kilduff, and Eileen Parks to attend an Artemis training class on February 18, 2016 at the Harmony Township Municipal Building.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to schedule Budget Meetings for Saturday, February 27, 2016 at 10:00 am and on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 9:00 am.

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

Mayor Klingel appointed Tammy Firmin to the Environmental Commission.

REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Fiore spoke of the Open Space Committee. Mayor Klingel would like to see a member from the various Boards and a few members from the public sit on that Committee. Mr. Fiore asked about renting out the Parks & Recreation Building. J. Cooper spoke of the septic and ADA compliance issues and will look into the costs involved. R. Fiore met with the owner of the Port Colden Manor who will be renovating it into apartments, one of which may qualify as affordable housing. Mr. Fiore will be attending a Budget Seminar.

Mr. Willan thanked the Mayor, Township Committee and County Committee for his appointment back onto the Committee.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolution 16-41, 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 Campbell stated the Committee will be discussing a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department and a personnel matter dealing with the CFO position. Mayor Klingel stated he expects the Committee will be in Executive Session for approximately twenty minutes.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to come out of Executive Session at 9:37 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Campbell stated the Committee discussed a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department and a personnel matter dealing with the CFO position. 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 Kovacs, to approve the request from the Homeland Security Officer as discussed in Executive Session.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Kovacs, yes; Fiore, 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 9:38 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk