

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Budget Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2016

The budget 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 10:05 am by Mayor Robert Klingel.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE – The Mayor noted this meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law of 1975 in as much as a notice has 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; Willan, present
Rossi, absent

STAFF PRESENT

Ann Kilduff, Deputy Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator (10:20 am); John Mooney and Andrew Kucinski, Municipal Auditors; Kevin McCarthy, Chief Financial Officer; Chief Cicerelle; Detective Sergeant Schott; and Jeff Cooper, Superintendent of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Klingel stated the purpose of this meeting is for the Township Committee to discuss the budget. The Committee plans to introduce the budget at the March 15, 2016 meeting and adopt it at the April 19, 2016 meeting. Residents will be able to view the budget at the March 15th meeting.

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to open to the public 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 second reading.

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

Seeing no one, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to close the public portion of Ordinance 16-02. All were in favor. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to adopt Ordinance 16-02 on second reading.

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

Due to an error in the published time of the second reading, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to reintroduce Ordinance 16-03, An Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Repealing, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 72 "Fire Prevention".

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

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will be held on March 15, 2016.

RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolution 16-42, 2015 Recycling Tonnage Grant Application.

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

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the request from Nancy Godfrey and Ann Kilduff to attend the Mid-State Registrar Association Re-Certification Seminar on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at the Bridgewater Municipal Complex.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve the request from Peter deBoer to attend the Association of New Jersey Recyclers 2016 Annual Meeting on March 24, 2016 at the Rutgers EcoComplex.

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

2016 BUDGET DISCUSSION

K. McCarthy gave an overview of the budget process. J. Mooney stated the Township is well below the expenditure cap and below the tax levy cap. State aid is flat for the fourth year. The Township's tax collection rate increased slightly but is still low for the fourth year. K. McCarthy proposed cuts to various expenses which the Committee discussed with J. Mooney. K. McCarthy recommended a UCC contribution as an added item of revenue and discussed the Police Shared Service with the Committee.

The Committee discussed cuts to the various line items with Chief Cicerelle, J. Cooper, and Mr. deBoer. J. Cooper provided the Committee with a six-year projected vehicle maintenance plan which they discussed. J. Cooper discussed the possible financing of new DPW vehicles over time.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

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

Richard Cotton, Hawk Pointe/Asbury Farms, commended the Committee on cutting expenses. He asked about outsourcing the CFO position. J. Mooney explained there are firms that can provide a CFO on a temporary basis; however, they are expensive. R. Cotton asked about the revenues in the budget. J. Mooney explained the anticipated revenue includes the fund balance and is approximately \$6M. The remainder is raised by taxes.

Joel Schnetzer, 240 Cemetery Hill Road, feels there is a benefit to looking into keeping the current salt spreader and plows for any new trucks the Township purchases. He suggested selling the old backhoe to create revenue for the budget. J. Schnetzer asked for clarification on the \$25,000 spent on DPW repairs. J. Cooper explained.

Karl Spolarich, 18 Mountain Ridge Drive, thanked the Committee for cutting expenses. He asked if Ordinance 16-03 will have any impact on the budget. Mayor Klingel stated there would be no impact. Mr. deBoer explained it is a self-funding position.

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

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; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

Mayor Klingel thanked everyone for their work on the budget and stated the next budget meeting will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 9:00 am.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolution 16-43, 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 12:15 pm. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel explained the Committee will be discussing a personnel matter. He expects the Committee will be in Executive Session for approximately fifteen minutes.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to come out of Executive Session at 12:45 pm. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel stated the Committee discussed a personnel matter. 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.

Mr. Willan asked if the anticipated sale of property could help with the purchase of a DPW vehicle. The Committee discussed. Mayor Klingel will discuss with Attorney Lavery. Mr. deBoer will speak with the Tax Collector regarding foreclosed properties in the Township.

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kilduff, RMC
Deputy Township Clerk