

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
October 18, 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; Willan, present

STAFF PRESENT

Anna C. Godfrey, Township Clerk; Attorney Michael Lavery; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator; Chief Cicerelle; Officer Benjamin Blake; John Mooney, Township Auditor; Bob Beinfield, Bond Counsel; Joseph Rossi, Construction Official; and Jeff Cooper, Superintendent of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Willan, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 20, 2016.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held September 20, 2016.

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

PRESENTATION

Brian Sweatt of Sweatt & Walters Associates discussed healthcare insurance renewal and provided the Committee with a proposal. A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi to approve QualCare as the Township's insurance provider beginning December 1, 2016.

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

B. Sweatt will speak to the Township employees regarding the new insurance.

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to open to the public Ordinance 16-08, Refunding Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of \$5,600,000 Refunding Bonds of the Township of Washington in the County of Warren, New Jersey on second reading. All were in favor. J. Mooney and B. Beinfield explained the Township could save money by passing this ordinance. Hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to close the public portion of Ordinance 16-08. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Ordinance 16-08 on second reading.

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

RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolutions 16-134 through 16-140 excluding 16-139.

16-134 Resolution Determining the Form of General Refunding Bonds of 2016 of the Township of Washington, in the County of Warren, New Jersey, and Determining Certain Details in Connection Therewith.

16-135 Resolution to Cancel 2016 Taxes – Block 39, Lot 22 C0042

16-136 Redemption Resolution – Block 18, Lot 5.09

16-137 Redemption Resolution – Block 28, Lot 22 C0068

16-138 Resolution to Cancel Township Tax Sale Certificate – Block 50, Lot25

16-140 Chapter 159 Budget Amendment – 2016 Body Armor Grant

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

Mr. Kovacs discussed Resolution 16-139 and recommended striking the third paragraph of the resolution regarding the Township Committee meeting and discussing the tax appeals as they were not involved. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 16-139, Resolution Authorizing the Township Special Tax Appeal Attorney to Enter into a Stipulation of Settlement Relative to the Tax Appeals Caption Gladstone Ted S/Trust v. Washington Township, Tax Court of New Jersey, Docket Numbers 004545-2012, 001037-2013, 005420-2015. And 003652-2016 and the TSG GRAT #10, LLC C/O Gladstone v. Washington Township, Tax Court of New Jersey, Docket Numbers 001171-2014, 009085-2015 and 009919-2016, striking the third paragraph which states "Whereas the Township Committee of Washington Township met and discussed these tax appeals and the recommendations of the Township Tax Assessor and the Township Special Tax Attorney".

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief Cicerelle previously submitted a report. He will update Mayor Klingel with regards to a meeting to be scheduled in November regarding the State looking into the legalization of marijuana. Chief Cicerelle stated while off-duty, Officer Vernon witnessed a man having medical issues fall out of a boat and into the lake. Officer Vernon is credited for saving that man's life.

J. Cooper previously submitted a report and discussed the installation of the new door locks at Parks & Recreation Building with the Committee.

J. Rossi updated the Committee on the opening of the medical building at Hawk Pointe.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report and stated the Township's application for a grant for the Autogiro Building and Blacksmith Shop was denied. Mr. deBoer reported the Cemetery Hill Road project can now continue since the passing of the gas tax.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

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

Marc Pasquini, Mayor of Oxford Township, thanked the Police Department for a job well done. Their excellent communication is appreciated.

Charles Bivona, 91 Washburn Avenue, asked for an update on his concerns regarding the bear hunt discussion at the October meeting. Mayor Klingel read a response from Al Ivany of the Fish & Wildlife Commission which explained the State's stance on the subject. C. Bivona would like the Township to investigate non-violent means of controlling the bear population.

Frank Marascia, Environmental Commission Chairman, stated the DEP will be issuing a drought warning. The Committee discussed. Mayor Klingel would like drought warning information posted on the Township's website.

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.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the requests from Nancy Godfrey and Ann Kilduff to attend the Warren County Clerk's Conference on Thursday, December 1, 2016 in Harmony, NJ. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to go out for 2017 Professional Services Request for Proposals for Township Attorney, Township Auditor, Bond Counsel, Special Tax Litigation Counsel, Township Engineer and Animal Control Officer. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve the requests from Nancy Godfrey and Ann Kilduff to attend the Mid-State Registrar's Association Re-Certification Seminar on October 27, 2016 in Bridgewater, NJ. All were in favor.

Mr. deBoer explained Question #9 of the Best Practice Worksheet with regards to an annual review of the Fire District.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to acknowledge the CY 2016 Best Practices Inventory Worksheet as certified by the Township Clerk, Township Administrator and Chief Financial Officer.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to approve the request from Eileen Parks to attend a seminar entitled "The Security Illusion 2017, Is It Really Safe" on December 9, 2016 in Budd Lake, NJ. All were in favor.

REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Fiore stated the Recreation Commission reviewed the application to rent the Parks & Recreation Building. Frank Marascia met with Dick Flint to discuss trail maintenance. Mr. Fiore updated the Committee on the various board meetings he attended. He should have an answer regarding the status of abandoned houses shortly. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve Request for Use of the Parks & Recreation Building form.

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

Mr. Kovacs reminded everyone the November meeting will be held on Monday, November 14th due to the League of Municipalities Conference. Mr. Kovacs updated everyone on the Consumer Price Index and would like to approve the 2017 Salary Ordinance at the November meeting.

Mayor Klingel received a request from Nicole Grecco to consider adding thin blue line on highways to acknowledge support of the Police. The Department of Transportation denied the Township's request to have a line in front of the Police Department. The Committee will consider alternate ways to show support.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 16-141, 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 8:30 pm.

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

Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department, an employee personnel matter, a contractual matter dealing with shared services with Oxford and Mansfield Townships, and an attorney/client contractual matter dealing with payroll and leap year.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to come out of Executive Session at 10:15 pm. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel stated the Committee discussed a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department, an employee personnel matter, a contractual matter dealing with shared services with Oxford and Mansfield Townships, and an attorney/client contractual matter dealing with payroll and leap year. 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 Rossi, seconded by Willan, to approve the letter to the Township staff regarding the pay cycle as discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Kovacs would like to amend the motion to include Committee review of the letter as well as collaboration between the Township Administrator and Chief Financial Officer before it is distributed. Mr. Rossi and Mr. Willan amended the motion accordingly.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore to approve Resolution 16-143, Resolution Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (S. Zaro) as discussed in Executive Session.

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

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk