

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting  
September 20, 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; Lieutenant Teter, Lieutenant Kaufmann and members of the Police Department; and Jeff Cooper, Superintendent of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Klingel read the proclamation designating October 2016 as “National Domestic Violence Awareness Month” as well as the proclamation designating October 10, 2016 as “Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day”.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 16, 2016.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held August 16, 2016.

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

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to introduce 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 first reading.

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

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will take place at the October 18, 2016 meeting.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Detective Ronald Pantuso effective September 29, 2016.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolution 16-124A, 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 7:40 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing two personnel matters.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to come out of Executive Session at 7:52 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed two personnel matters. 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.

RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolutions 16-124B through and including 16-130.

16-124B Resolution Imposing a Halloween Curfew and Establishing Observance of Trick-Or-Treat within the Township of Washington

16-125 Redemption Resolution – Block 38.03, Lot 9

16-126 Resolution to Cancel 2016 Taxes – Block 7, Lot 19

16-127 Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Township Vehicles on the Internet through the MUNICIPAL Website

16-128 Resolution Authorizing Master Public Works Shared Services Agreement for Sharing Public Works Equipment between the Township of Washington and the County of Warren

16-129 Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (R. Parr – Crossing Guard)

16-130 Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (J. Casella – Police/Step 5)

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolution 16-131, Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (C. Tremel – Police Recruit).

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolution 16-132, Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (D. Overko – Police Recruit).

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

The Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Police Recruits Christopher Tremel and Dallas Overko.

The Committee took a short recess and returned at 8:12 pm with all members present.

#### STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report and stated he received correspondence from the Warren County Planning Department regarding expanding the parking hours of the Park & Ride in an attempt to increase the number of patrons. A motion was made by Willan, seconded Rossi, to approve the expansion of the parking hours of the Park and Ride from 24 hours to 48 hours.

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

Mr. deBoer advised the Committee that proposals are being reviewed for the renewal of employee health care insurance for 2017.

J. Cooper previously submitted a report and had nothing further to add.

#### PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

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

Jessica Mickley of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County thanked the Committee for approving the earlier proclamation and spoke of local events that will bring awareness to domestic violence and the assistance the crisis center can provide.

Charles Bivona, 91 Washburn Avenue, spoke to the Committee about the upcoming bear hunt. He requested the Committee follow the example of certain other towns and make the Township's borders off-limits to bear hunting by passing either a resolution or ordinance at the next meeting. He feels there are better ways to control the bear population.

Denise Bivona, 91 Washburn Avenue, also spoke against bear hunting and requested the Committee consider passing either an ordinance or resolution against hunting bears in the Township. She stated bears are being driven from their natural habitat and into residential communities because of the hunt. Mr. Kovacs asked Mr. Fiore to discuss this at the next Environmental Commission meeting.

Jeff Duckworth, 28 Coleman Hill Road, spoke in favor of the bear hunt. He stated the State is depending on hunters in New Jersey to control the bear population and doesn't feel individual municipalities should interfere.

Joel Schnetzer, 240 Cemetery Hill Road, stated bears are a problem on his farm and they, as well as deer, consume thousands of dollars of crops each year. He feels this is a State issue.

C. Bivona understands the issues the farmers are facing, but feels controlling a bear's access to unnatural food sources would decrease their population more effectively than hunting.

Hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, 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 Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve the request from David and Melissa Flynn for the return of their driveway escrow in the amount of \$180.30 per the recommendation of the Township Engineer.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve the requests from Nancy Godfrey and Ann Kilduff to attend the Warren County Clerk's Fall Mini Conference on Thursday, September 29, 2016 in Harmony, NJ.

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to set the date of the Annual Holiday Tree Lighting for December 10, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL: Fiore, yes; Rossi, 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 a seminar entitled "In the Age of Public Scrutiny" on October 28, 2016 in Budd Lake, NJ.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the Highlands Plan Conformance Amended Grant Agreement.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to approve the Service Order Request for 41 Lock Street, Block 40 Lot 74.

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

Mr. Kovacs discussed the lawn maintenance at 2 Pohatcong Drive with J. Cooper.

#### REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Fiore provided the Committee with a draft of the Rental Request Form for the Parks & Recreation Building. The keyless entry system for that building is being installed. Mr. Fiore provided information on the Tax Abatement & PILOT seminar he attended and reported the Asbury Farms sub-committee meetings are going well.

Mr. Rossi thanked Mr. Fiore for his work on the Parks & Recreation Building.

#### 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 Kovacs, to approve Resolution 16-133, 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 a pending litigation matter dealing with COAH, a potential litigation matter dealing with an OPRA request for certain police records, a contractual matter dealing with an Empire Telecom cell tower, and shared services with Mansfield and Oxford Townships.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to come out of Executive Session at 9:53 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a pending litigation matter dealing with COAH, a potential litigation matter dealing with an OPRA request for certain police records, a contractual matter dealing with an Empire Telecom cell tower, and shared services with Mansfield and Oxford Townships. Attorney Lavery excused himself from the discussion regarding the shared services. 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 authorize the Township Attorney to research the possibility of a cell tower RFP as discussed in Executive Session.

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi to authorize the Township Attorney send a letter to Hawk Pointe as discussed in Executive Session.

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Willan, to approve the affordable housing contribution as discussed in Executive Session pending the availability of funds.

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

The Committee discussed the areas where hunting is allowed in the Township.

#### ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC  
Township Clerk