

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
April 18, 2017

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; Sergeant Christopher Jones; Janice Congleton, Chief Financial Officer; John Mooney, Township Auditor; Joseph Rossi, Construction Official; and Andy Hart, Public Works Assistant Foreman

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Klingel stated a proclamation designating May as Older American's Month and a proclamation observing May 4, 2017 as the National Day of Prayer will be posted on the Township's website.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 21, 2017.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held March 21, 2017.

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

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to open to the public Ordinance 17-06, Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank on second reading. All were in favor. Seeing no one, a motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to close the public portion of Ordinance 17-06. All were in favor. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to adopt Ordinance 17-06 on second reading.

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

2017 BUDGET

J. Mooney gave a brief history of the budget process stating the Township is well below the expenditure and tax levy caps. There is an increase to the local tax rate of 4.55 cents. The average home assessed at \$250,000 will see an increase of \$114.00 per year or \$9.48 per month.

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public for anyone wanting to comment on the budget. Seeing no one, Mayor Klingel closed the public hearing of the budget.

A motion as made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolution 17-66, Adoption of the 2017 Annual Budget. Mr. Willan spoke of reducing the burden to the taxpayers. After a discussion with J. Mooney, the Department of Public Works Salary and Wage line item was decreased by \$40,000. Mr. Rossi and Mr. Fiore amended their motions to include this change.

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

J. Mooney left the meeting at this time.

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to introduce Ordinance 17-07, Bond Ordinance Providing for the Acquisition of a New Dump Truck by the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Appropriating \$170,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$161,900 Bonds or Notes of the Township for Financing Such Appropriation on first reading.

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

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolutions 17-68 through and including 17-77.

17-68 Resolution by the Township of Washington, County of Warren and State of New Jersey Authorizing State Contract Lease/Purchase of Two (2) 2017 or Newer Ford Police Interceptor Utility All Wheel Drive Vehicles

- 17-69 Resolution by the Township Committee in the Township of Washington, County of Warren and State of New Jersey Authorizing State Contract/Lease Purchase of One (1) 2017 or Newer Ford Police Interceptor Sedan
- 17-70 A Resolution Authorizing the Release of the Remaining Balance in the Developer's Escrow Accounts for Washington Animal Hospital Held in Trust by the Township of Washington
- 17-71 A Resolution Authorizing the Release of the Remaining Balance in the Developer's Escrow Accounts for Global Property Investors, LLC Held in Trust by the Township of Washington
- 17-72 Redemption Resolution – Block 38.05, Lot 12
- 17-73 Redemption Resolution – Block 38, Lot 22 C0068
- 17-74 Void Redemption Resolution 17-62
- 17-75 Redemption Resolution – Block 38.05, Lot 6
- 17-76 Redemption Resolution – Block 29, Lot 1
- 17-77 Cancel Tax Sale Certificate – Block 15, Lot 3
- ROLL CALL: Fiore, yes; Rossi, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 17-67, Resolution Adopting Personnel Policies and Procedures, pending attorney review.

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief Cicerelle previously submitted a report and showed a TV news clip of the department's two recruits, Dallas Overko and Christopher Tremel, who recently helped save an elderly man's life while still at the Police Academy.

Sergeant Jones spoke to the Committee about the drug awareness program at the elementary and middle school levels and how he would like to implement a high school program that compliments what is already in place. This new program would address the dangers of heroin to the senior class. Sergeant Jones stated the school is in favor of this program and discussed with the Committee. Sergeant Jones thanked the Committee for their support of the programs.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report and spoke about the upgrade to our computer system. He stated he has been contacted by both the Town of Belvidere and Harmony Township to use his Certified Recycling Professional certification to process their Recycling Tonnage Grants to the State. Mr. deBoer provided the Committee with copies of Jeff Cooper's resignation letter. A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to accept the resignation of Jeff Cooper, Superintendent of Public Works. Mr. Willan wished J. Cooper well and stated he has been a great asset to the Township and will be missed.

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

J. Rossi stated he, Building Inspector Dennis Allen, and Technical Assistant Sue Berger have been working for the Township for ten years and spoke of the positive working environment.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to open the meeting to the public.

Richard Cotton of Asbury Farms requested the Committee form a sub-committee in order to expedite the planning of his current project. Mayor Klingel stated this will be discussed in Executive Session.

Hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to close the public portion of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Klingel stated a request was received from McKenzie Patti and Emily Leider of Girl Scout Troop 94356 to build their Girl Scout Silver Award Project called "The Little Silver Library Box" by the pavilion at Meadow Breeze Park. Per the Committee's request, the Clerk will invite M. Patti and E. Leider to the May meeting.

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve Evan Howell's request to attend the Tax Collectors and Treasurers Association Seminar on May 16, 17, and 18, 2017 in Atlantic City.

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

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to authorize Attorney Lavery to draft an ordinance regarding the request for a zoning change from Joe Seneca of Nottingham, LLC – Washington Valley Estates for Block 28, Lot 5.

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

REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Fiore updated the Committee on the April Recreation Committee meeting. He spoke of recent trail maintenance, the Trail Day scheduled for June 10th, and the possibility of an "Adopt a Trail" program. Mr. Fiore spoke of the on-going issues at the Washington Cemetery regarding litter and fires. The Committee discussed. Mr. Fiore would like the Committee to address the abandoned property list and discussed next steps with the Committee, Attorney Lavery and J. Rossi.

Mr. Kovacs stated the Deputy Clerk has been assisting Washington Borough as Borough Clerk during her own time while they have been without a Clerk.

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 Fiore, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 17-78, 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 8:45 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with the Rolser property; a contractual matter dealing with the Washington Borough Police Contract; a personnel matter dealing with the Department of Public Works; and an attorney/client/contractual matter dealing with the Asbury Farms Redevelopment.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to come out of Executive Session at 9:50 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with the Rolser property; a contractual matter dealing with the Washington Borough Police Contract; a personnel matter dealing with the Department of Public Works; and an attorney/client/contractual matter dealing with the Asbury Farms Redevelopment. 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 Fiore, to introduce Ordinance 17-08, An Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Authorizing Execution of an Easement in Favor of the Owners of Block 67, Lot 22, on first reading.

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to appoint Peter deBoer as interim CPWM and waive his health care contribution costs in exchange for assuming supervisory duties on a temporary basis pending attorney clarification.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to authorize the Township Administrator to advertise for the Superintendent of Public Works position as discussed in Executive Session.

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

Mayor Klingel advised the Committee that Bill Heerwagen is no longer the Township's Fire Official. Mr. deBoer explained the Fire District appointed Ed Kiley and that they will be moving the office out of the Administration Building.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk