

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
February 21, 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; Janice Congleton, Chief Financial Officer; Joseph Rossi, Construction Official; and Jeff Cooper, Superintendent of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 17, 2017.

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held January 17, 2017.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve the minutes of the Budget Meeting held February 4, 2017.

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

PRESENTATION

Harold Blaine of Practical Environmental Solutions, LLC spoke to the Committee regarding the Port Colden well monitoring at the DPW Garage. He gave a brief history of the gasoline leak and the monitoring that began in 1991. H. Blaine provided the Committee with a map of the monitoring wells and discussed additional monitoring to be conducted with the Committee. He estimates the monitoring will be completed within the next three years.

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to open to the public Ordinance 17-01, An Ordinance Re-Authorizing the Open Space Trust Fund for the Township of Washington, on second reading. All were in favor. Seeing no one, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to close the public portion of Ordinance 17-01. All were in favor. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to adopt Ordinance 17-01 on second reading.

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

The second hearing, public hearing and adoption of Ordinance 17-02, Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of NJ, Adopting a Redevelopment Plan for Block 65, Lots 1, 3.03, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and Portions of Lots 2 and 4; Block 65.01 Lots 1, 1C0001 (Condo Unit 4) and 1C0002 (Condo Unit 3); Block 65.02, Lot 1 in the Township of Washington, was tabled until the March 21, 2017 meeting pending discussion by the Land Use Board.

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to open to the public Ordinance 17-03, Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of NJ Authorizing the Lease of Certain Property Owned by the Township and not Required for Public Purposes, on second reading. All were in favor. Seeing no one, a motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to close the public portion of Ordinance 17-03. All were in favor. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to adopt Ordinance 17-03 on second reading.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to introduce Ordinance 17-04, Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Amending and Supplementing Chapter 117 Titled "Vehicles and Traffic" Article V Titled Through Streets; Stop and Yield Intersections on first reading.

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

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will take place at the March 21, 2017 meeting.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to introduce Ordinance 17-05, An Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, Deleting Chapter XXXII Entitled "Board of Recreation Commissioners" and Adding a New Chapter XXXII to be Entitled "Recreation Committee" and Providing for the Establishment, Operating and Regulation Thereof on first reading with the amendments noted by Mayor Klingel and discussed with Attorney Lavery.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, no; Rossi, yes; Fiore, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will take place at the March 21, 2017 meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolutions 17-43 through and including 17-51.

17-43 Resolution Authorizing the Township Special Tax Appeal Attorney to Enter Into a Stipulation of Settlement Relative to the Tax Appeals Captioned 390 Route 57, LLC V. Washington Township, Tax Court of New Jersey Docket Number 011010-2013, 007347-2014, 009053-2015 and 010728-2016.

17-44 Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Cemetery Hill Road Improvements Section II Project.

17-45 Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Springtown Road Section I Project.

17-46 2016 Recycling Tonnage Grant Application

17-47 Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (E. Zittel – Crossing Guard)

17-48 Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (M. Cooper – Crossing Guard)

17-49 Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Various Capital Appropriation Balances

17-50 Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Capital Ordinance 2006-14 and the Outstanding Receivables

17-51 Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Various Grant Receivables and Corresponding Grant Appropriations

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief Cicerelle previously submitted a report and spoke to the Committee regarding participation in the Military Surplus Program and the possible acquisition of a rescue vehicle at no cost to the Township. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 17-52, Approving Participation by the Washington Township Police Department in the 1033 Military Surplus Program.

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

Chief Cicerelle advised the Committee his department will soon have the capability to issue electronic tickets.

J. Cooper previously submitted a report and advised the Committee of an accident that occurred during the last snow storm. Cameras have been installed at the Parks & Recreation Building and tables and chairs have been ordered.

J. Rossi had nothing to report.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report and noted he has been with Washington Township for twenty years.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Frank Marascia, Environmental Commission Chairman, offered his assistance with regards to the well monitoring and asked for an update regarding the issues at Washington Cemetery. Mr. deBoer reported on the latest meeting with members from the cemetery. Attorney Lavery and the Committee discussed the cemetery issues with F. Marascia.

Hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Fiore, 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 Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve the Washington Historical Society to hold a History Expo on April 22, 2017 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Masonic Lodge on Route 31 North.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to schedule Budget Workshop Meetings for March 4, 2017 and March 11, 2017, both at 10:00 am.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to approve Andy Hart to attend Certified Public Works Manager classes at Rutgers on various dates in March, April and May, 2017.

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

REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Fiore stated a plan needs to be in place for the repairs of the tennis and basketball courts. A mural of Meadow Breeze Park will be painted on an interior wall in the Parks & Recreation building. Mr. Fiore stated he had discussed foreclosures on several properties with Mr. deBoer.

Mr. Rossi reported Bill Connolly resigned from the Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Willan would like to see a five year financial plan in place for larger budget items. The Committee was in agreement and discussed.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 17-53, 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 8:55 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing a contractual matter dealing with a shared service agreement with Oxford Township; a contractual matter dealing with shared service agreement with Washington Borough; a litigation matter dealing with K. Adams vs. Game Time, Washington Township and Franklin Township Board of Education; an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with Asbury Farms; and an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with the Creager tax issue.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to come out of Executive Session at 9:45 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a contractual matter dealing with a shared service agreement with Oxford Township; a contractual matter dealing with shared service agreement with Washington Borough; a litigation matter dealing with K. Adams vs. Game Time, Washington Township and Franklin Township Board of Education; an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with Asbury Farms; and an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with the Creager tax issue. 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 Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve the assignment of a tax sale certificate for Lot 96.01 to Mr. Creager for \$500.00 as discussed in Executive Session.

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

Attorney Lavery explained the cost and procedure for pursuing abandoned properties. Mayor Klingel stated this will be discussed further at the next budget meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk