

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Budget Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2017

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 10:00 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; Rossi, present; Willan, present

STAFF PRESENT

Ann Kilduff, Deputy Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator; John Mooney, Municipal Auditor; Janice Congleton, Chief Financial Officer; Chief Cicerelle; and Jeff Cooper, Superintendent of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolutions 17-40 and 17-41.

17-40 Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds

17-41 Resolution Authorizing the Township Special Tax Appeal Attorney to Enter into a Stipulation of Settlement Relative to the Tax Appeals Captioned Asbury Farms V. Washington Township, Tax Court of New Jersey, Docket Numbers 005936-2015 and 004283-2016

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no one, Mayor Klingel closed the public portion of the meeting.

2017 BUDGET DISCUSSION

J. Mooney stated the Township did not have any over expenditures and the tax collection rate is the highest it's been in the past four years at 97.2%. The Township is looking at a 6.7 cent increase as this point which would give the average homeowner an increase of \$168.00 per year or \$14.00 per month. He suggested the Committee look into capital ordinances, the many open tax title liens, and establishing a trust fund for deductibles.

J. Congleton discussed removing Reserve for Tax Appeals of \$50,000 from the budget and removing Capital Improvement Fund of \$25,000 pending review of Ordinances. The Committee discussed road improvements with J. Cooper.

Various adjustments were made as the Committee discussed line items with J. Congleton and J. Mooney. \$117,950 was cut from the budget leaving a 4.97 cent increase. At this point, the average homeowner would see an increase of \$144.00 per year or \$10.36 per month.

The Committee discussed well monitoring. Mr. deBoer will invite a representative from Practical Environmental Solutions to a Committee meeting to answer various questions.

The Committee took a short recess and returned with all members present. Adjustments continued to be made to the various line items in the budget.

The Committee discussed the yearly contribution to the Washington Emergency Squad. Mr. deBoer will send them a letter asking how the money is allocated.

J. Cooper suggested installing a padlock on the tennis courts until they are repaired. The Committee agreed. J. Cooper updated the Committee on repairs needed to the basketball courts and the parking lot at the Parks & Recreation Building.

Mr. deBoer explained updates to the website are needed to upgrade the site and make it compatible with new technology. The cost of \$3,950.00 can be taken from the Township's recycling grant. A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to upgrade the website for an amount not to exceed \$3,950.00.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to schedule a Budget Meeting for Saturday, February 25, 2017 at 10:00 am. All were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolution 17-42, 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 1:45 pm. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel explained the Committee will be discussing personnel matters.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to come out of Executive Session at 2:35 pm. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel stated the Committee discussed 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.

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to deny a request from the Deputy Treasurer for a Summer Recreation stipend in the amount of \$3,000 as discussed in Executive Session.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kilduff, RMC
Deputy Township Clerk