

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting  
January 17, 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; and Jeff Cooper, Superintendent of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Fiore welcomed members of Boy Scout Troop 141 who were present in the audience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Fiore, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held December 20, 2016.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to approve the minutes of the Reorganization Meeting held January 2, 2017.

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

ORDINANCE

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

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

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will be on February 21, 2017.

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

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

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will be on February 21, 2017.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolutions 17-30 through and including 17-37.

17-30 Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle July 2014 – June 2019

17-31 Resolution of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of NJ, for Consent from the Washington Township Committee to Utilize the Public Rights-Of-Way for Small Network Nodes Granting Permission and Authority to Verizon Wireless

17-32 Resolution Authorizing the Township Special Tax Appeal Attorney to Enter Into a Stipulation of Settlement Relative to the Tax Appeals Captioned BNS Golf, LLC V. Washington Township, Tax Court of New Jersey Docket Number 009382-2014

17-33 Redemption Resolution – Block 3, Lot 4

17-34 Redemption Resolution – Block 38.03, Lot 11

17-35 Resolution to Cancel Taxes – Block 45, Lot 14 Q0043

17-36 Agreement Between Johnson Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep Inc. and the Township of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey Allowing the Township to Utilize Certain Trucks Temporarily until the Trucks Previously Ordered are Delivered

17-37 Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (E. Parks/Deputy Tax Assessor)

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

#### STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief Cicerelle previously submitted a report and updated the Committee on the statistics of the K-9 Unit including forty arrests, a gun and knife used in separate incidents were recovered, and individuals hiding in various places were located.

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to accept the resignation of School Resource Officer Todd Pantuso.

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

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

Mr. deBoer had nothing to report.

#### PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

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

Frank Marascia, Environmental Commission Chairman, spoke about the on-going problems at Washington Cemetery and asked the Committee to draft an ordinance to control the issues. After a brief discussion, Attorney Lavery will look into the issues and Mr. deBoer will schedule a meeting with the owner of the Cemetery.

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

Attorney Lavery updated the Committee regarding the history of a tax lien against Block 40, Lot 96.01 and will contact the owner's attorney.

Per Mr. deBoer's recommendation, the discussion regarding a draft ordinance revising Township stop signs was tabled.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Willan, to approve the Mayor and Clerk to sign an Interlocal Agreement for Solid Waste Disposal between the Township of Washington and the Pollution Control – Financing Authority of Warren County.

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

The Committee and Chief Cicerelle discussed a draft ordinance requiring large hardened buildings to install radio communications equipment to ensure access to emergency services. The draft ordinance was tabled pending Attorney Lavery's review.

#### REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Fiore discussed the possible bonding for park improvements including tennis courts, basketball courts and the parking area around the Parks and Recreation Building. The information will be forwarded to the Township Auditor. Mr. Fiore reported a trail maintenance calendar was prepared and a suggestion was made to have a handicap accessible entrance at Lake Marguerite. Mr. Fiore spoke of the rental of the softball fields and Parks and Recreation Building and reported the Environmental Commission discussed options for the Township's abandoned properties.

Mr. Kovacs reported the budget will be sent to the Township Auditor for his review prior to the first budget meeting.

#### 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 17-38, 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 8:05 pm.

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

Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing a contractual matter dealing with a shared service with Oxford Township and a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department.

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Kovacs, to come out of Executive Session at 8:57 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a contractual matter dealing with a shared service with Oxford Township and a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department. 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 Resolution 17-39, Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (James Faulborn - SRO) appointing him as the School Resource Officer at Warren Hills Regional High School effective January 30, 2017.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Fiore, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC  
Township Clerk