

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting  
June 20, 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 Katrina Campbell; Chief Cicerelle; Sergeant Gerald Magyar; Police Officers Dallas Overko, Christopher Tremel, and James Vernon; Janice Congleton, Chief Financial Officer; and Andy Hart, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 16, 2017.

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held May 16, 2017.

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

ORDINANCE

Mayor Klingel announced the Committee will table the second reading, public hearing and adoption of Ordinance 17-09, Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Amending and Supplementing Chapter 123-7 Titled “Zoning Map” to Change the Boundary for the VR Zone to Remove Block 28, Lots 5.01 Through 5.08 and Change the Boundary of the R40 Zone to Include the Aforementioned Lots until the July 18, 2017 meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolutions 17-91 through 17-97, excluding 17-96.

17-91 Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit

17-92 Corrective Action Plan – 2016 Audit Report

17-93 Reappointment of Special Law Enforcement Officers – Class III

17-94 Chapter 159 Budget Amendment – NJDOT Grant Cemetery Hill Road Improvement Section II

17-95 Chapter 159 Budget Amendment – EPA Clean Communities Grant 2017

17-97 Resolution Amending Resolution 17-05 Establishing a Local Emergency Planning Committee

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

Mr. Fiore gave a brief update on this year’s Clean Communities Grant applications. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 17-96, Resolution Approving the 2017 Clean Communities Grants.

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief Cicerelle previously submitted a report and provided the Committee with a retirement letter from Detective Sergeant Brooks Schott effective August 1, 2017. Sergeant Gerald Magyar spoke of an awards policy recently created in the Police Department. He presented a Certificate of Achievement to Officer Christopher Tremel, a CPR Save Medal was presented to Officer Dallas Overko and a Life Saving Medal to Officer James Vernon. Mayor Klingel thanked the Officers and read a letter he received commending Sergeant Magyar as well as Officers Tremel, Grawer, Casella and Lily for their compassion and professionalism during an emergency at a resident’s home.

Andy Hart previously submitted a report and spoke of roads that will be paved beginning in July. Residents who will be affected have been given letters explaining the upcoming projects. A. Hart discussed work orders completed on abandoned properties.

J. Congleton will have the refunding bond with an interest rate of 3% completed in early July.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

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

Lydia Schmidt, 21 Cemetery Hill Road, spoke of the grant the Township received to repave Cemetery Hill Road and the water run-off issues coming from work previously done on Cemetery Hill Road and at the Washington Cemetery. L. Schmidt would like trees planted in the Township's right-of-way as she feels they would help with the water issues. She provided the Committee with a letter she wrote addressing these concerns.

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 Fiore, seconded by Willan, to approve work orders for properties at 1 Glen Eagles Road, 43 Hillcrest Avenue, 32 Long Hill Avenue, 176 Little Philadelphia Road, and 407 Route 57 West.

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

Mayor Klingel asked Attorney Campbell to follow up with Attorney Lavery regarding the upcoming Franchise Renewal with Comcast.

Attorney Alan Lowcher spoke about the site easement request from David English for 388 Jonestown Road. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to grant a five foot site easement for 388 Jonestown Road.

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

Sheriff McDonald spoke about the Project Lifesaver Program which helps people with autism, dementia, or Alzheimer's Disease who may tend to wander away from their home. The Sheriff requested Washington Township purchase a Protect and Locate Unit (PAL) as explained by Officer DeLena to donate to the Sheriff's Office. The Committee discussed with Sheriff McDonald. J. Congleton will look for any available funds. Mr. Fiore would like to see information regarding the policies and procedures of this program.

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to approve the request to hold an auction at 642 Route 57 East to sell the contents of the building.

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

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to accept the letter of retirement from Detective Sergeant Brooks Schott effective August 1, 2017.

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

#### REPORTS FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Fiore stated the Recreation Committee will look into issuing fines for fields damaged when played on while they are closed. Mr. Fiore will see if fines can be enforced for illegal fishing at Lake Marguerite. Approximately thirty people attended Trail Day and had a great time. Mr. Fiore will forward information to Attorney Lavery's office regarding the ten properties the Township is looking to foreclose on.

Mr. Kovacs stated he has been tracking the CPI which is currently a little more than 1.5%.

#### 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 Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolution 17-98, 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 8:35 pm. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel stated the Committee will be discussing an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with Asbury Farms and a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department.

A motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Willan, to come out of Executive Session at 9:05 pm. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel stated the Committee discussed an attorney/client privilege matter dealing Asbury Farms 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 Fiore, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 17-99, Asbury Farms Developers Agreement.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Fiore, to approve Resolution 17-100, Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (Christopher Summers / Police Recruit) effective July 1, 2017 pending appropriate evaluations.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Fiore, seconded by Willan, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC  
Township Clerk