

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Minutes
February 17, 2009

The regular meeting of the Township Committee was held this date at the Washington Township Municipal Building, 211 Route 31 North, Washington, N.J. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Samir Elbassiouny. Michael Lavery, Township Attorney and Anna Godfrey, Deputy Clerk was also present.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE - The Mayor 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, transmitted to the Express Times and posted at the municipal building and a copy is in the Clerks Office. . This agenda is subject to change by the order of the Washington Township Committee and/or during the scheduled meeting.

ROLL CALL: Elbassiouny, present; Kovacs, present; Mueller, present. Horensky and Strunk were absent.

SALUTE TO FLAG

PROCLAMATION

Designating American's Read to Kids Day

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mueller made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special meeting December 11, 2008, Elbassiouny seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mueller, yes; Elbassiouny, yes; Kovacs, abstain.

Mueller made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Special Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2008, Session One, from December 11, 2008, Elbassiouny seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mueller, yes; Elbassiouny, yes; Kovacs, abstain.

Elbassiouny made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Special Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2008, Session Two, Mueller seconded.

ROLL CALL: Elbassiouny, yes; Mueller, yes; Kovacs, abstain.

Mueller made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Special Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2008, Session Three, Elbassiouny seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mueller, yes; Elbassiouny, yes; Kovacs, abstain.

Mueller made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 16, 2008, Elbassiouny seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mueller, yes; Elbassiouny, yes; Kovacs, abstain.

Elbassiouny made a motion to approve the minutes of the Executive Meeting of December 16, 2008, Mueller seconded.

ROLL CALL: Elbassiouny, yes; Mueller, yes; Kovacs, abstain.

Mueller made a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of the Joint Meeting with Washington Borough on December 18, 2009, Elbassiouny seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mueller, yes; Elbassiouny, yes. Kovacs, yes.

Kovacs made a motion to approve the Reorganization Minutes from January 1, 2009, Mueller seconded.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Mueller, yes. Elbassiouny, yes.

ORDINANCES

Kovacs made a motion to open Ordinance 09-03, Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, Amending and Supplementing Chapter 64, "Development Regulations," Section 64-8, "Fees and Deposits," to adjust Escrow Fees, to the public, Mueller seconded.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Mueller, yes; Elbassiouny, yes. Nobody from the public wished to be heard.

Kovacs made a motion to close the public hearing, Mueller seconded. All were in favor. Kovacs made a motion to approve Ordinance 09-03 after public hearing and second reading, Mueller seconded.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Mueller, yes; Elbassiouny, yes.

RESOLUTIONS

The Mayor asked if anyone wanted to pull any resolutions, otherwise they would be approved with one vote. Kovacs made a motion to approve Resolution 09-33 through and including Resolution 09-43, Mueller seconded.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Mueller, yes; Elbassiouny, yes.

- 09-33 Affirming Appointment of Emergency Management Coordinator (Thomas Cicerelle)
- 09-34 Affirming Appointment of Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator (Todd Pantuso)
- 09-35 Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds
- 09-36 Resolution to Return Driveway Escrow, (Carol Willis)
- 09-37 Deferred Regional High School District School Tax
- 09-38 Deferred Local District School Tax
- 09-39 Tax Sale Certificate Redemption, Block 38, Lot 22, COO77
- 09-40 Tax Sale Certificate Redemption, Block 38, Lot 22 COO77
- 09-41 2009 Temporary Budget
- 09-42 Resolution to Apply for an Implementation Grant (Wash. Twp./Mansfield Twp./Oxford Twp. Court)
- 09-43 Award of Contract for Professional Services without Public Bid (Finelli Consulting Engineers)

REPORT FROM STAFF

Pete de Boer, Certified Public Works Manager, said the Township now has the ability to provide the public with the information the Committee is looking at. He had given the Committee his January 2009 Report and showed the report on the screen on how the time is spent working in Township with a pie chart.

Police Chief James Mc Donald had no report at this time.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

Elizabeth Scoville, 5 Osprey Court asked Lavery how the requested information was going. Lavery said he talked with the engineer today and he was supposed to be doing the calculations and to him by the end of the week. As soon as he gets them he can put into the agreement. She asked if the street lights would be included. Lavery was not sure about this had been part of Mr. Willan's request. He will check into it further.

Frank Cregan, 62 Merlin Drive, said the Unity Bank Site is atrocious and it has been an eyesore for about a year. The Mayor said the owners are having some legal issues the property owners are dealing with right now. Cregan said the way they have addressed is unacceptable in his mind. The Mayor will check with the Zoning Officer on this, but is not sure there any violations. Cregan also wanted to know where the residents recycle their telephone books. de Boer advised they can be brought to the garage.

Eve Marks, said in 2004 there was supposed to be a Policy and Procedure Manual done for the Township of Washington, was one every written and put into place? She asked if she could obtain a copy. Godfrey, Deputy Clerk, advised she could fill out an OPRA Request, but her husband, Tom Marks, should have a copy. She would like a copy. The Mayor told her to put an OPRA Request in for a copy of the Manual.

Daryl Detrick said he and Barry Mueller have been working with other individuals on creating a Candidate Nomination Form recognizing a lifetime of dedication. He presented a copy of the proposed new form to the Committee for consideration. The Mayor said the only thing he would like to see would be for a young person, but this could go under volunteer services. He asked, what happens if you have an outstanding youth.. Mueller said this would be a separate recognition, it would not fall under this category. Mueller made a motion to adopt the Candidate Nomination Form, as presented, Kovacs seconded.

ROLL CALL: Mueller, yes; Kovacs, yes; Elbassiouny, yes.

Detrick said he is involved with a group called Group Work Camp. This is a faith based organization to bring 400 to 450 volunteers to community for a one week period. They are working with six churches and Habitat for Humanity to bring this to the Township in the summer of 2010. They will stay at the high school for the week and work on 70 to 90 houses for low income, disabled and elderly. They need to identify the houses, fund raising and other things. He will be coming back later on this project.

NEW BUSINESS

1. _____ Kovacs made a motion to approve the Certified Public Works Manager, Peter de Boer, attending a seminar on February 27, 2009 in Asbury on the Sale of Private property, Mueller seconded. All were in favor.

2. Kovacs made a motion to approve the Certified Public Works Manager, Peter de Boer, attending a seminar on March 23 in New Brunswick on Creating an Ethical Environment, Mueller seconded. All were in favor.

3. Mueller made a motion to approve the Clerk, Mary Ann O'Neil, attending a seminar on OPRA and Records in Asbury on March 12, 2009, Kovacs seconded. All were in favor.

4. Kovacs made a motion to approve the Clerk, Mary Ann O'Neil, attending a seminar on Sale of Public Property in Asbury, NJ on February 27, 2009, Mueller seconded.. All were in favor.

5. Mueller made a motion to approve the Tax Collector, Evan Howell, attending a seminar on OPRA and Records in Asbury on March 12, 2009, Kovacs seconded. All were in favor.

6. Mueller made a motion to approve Susan Berger and Carolyn D Edward attending a COAH Class in Morristown on February 20, 2009, Kovacs seconded. All were in favor.

7. Mueller made a motion to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Alan Lowcher from the Economic Development Commission, Kovacs seconded. All were in favor.

REPORTS FROM STAFF

Barry Mueller had nothing to report.

Mike Kovacs had nothing to report.

Samir Elbassiouny had nothing to report.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Kovacs made a motion to approve the bills, Mueller seconded.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Mueller, yes; Elbassiouny, yes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mueller made a motion to approve Resolution 09-44 to go into Executive Session at 8:13 p.m. for Attorney Client Privilege/ potential litigation on the Municipal Property and Walgreens and one Attorney/Client Privilege on Escrow Fees, Kovacs seconded. All were in favor.

The doors were opened. Kovacs made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:29 p.m., Mueller seconded. All were in favor.

Lavery said the Committee emerged from Executive Session at 8:29 p.m. where they discussed two Attorney Client/Potential Litigation Matters, one dealing with a Land use Application on Township Owned property and an escrow issues before the Land Use Board No official action was taken. Copies of the minutes at such time the Committee determines there is no harm to public interest.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee, Kovacs made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m., Mueller seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ann O'Neil RMC/CMC/MMC
Township Clerk

(Typed from Recording)