

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Special Joint Meeting with Washington Borough
June 3, 2009

The special joint meeting of the Washington Township Committee and Washington Borough Council was called to order this date at 7:30 p.m. in the Washington Borough Municipal Building, 100 Belvidere Avenue, Washington, New Jersey. Mayor Scott Mc Donald, Washington Borough Mayor, called the meeting to order.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE - The Borough Mayor noted that this meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law of 1975 in as much as a notice had been published in the Star Gazette, transmitted to the Express Times, posted at the Municipal Building and a copy is on the bulletin board at Borough Hall showing time, place and purpose of the meeting.

ROLL CALL: Woykowski, present; Mc Donald, present; Higgins, present; Cioni, present; Boyle, present and Housel, present. The Borough Attorney, Richard Cushing, Borough Manager, Richard Phelan and Borough Clerk, Kristine Blanchard were also present.

The Washington Township Mayor said this meeting was being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law of 1975 in as much as a notice had been published in the Star Gazette, transmitted to the Express Times, posted at the Municipal Building and a copy is in the Clerks Office.

ROLL CALL: Elbassiouny, present; Horensky, present; Kovacs, present; Mueller, present; Strunk, present. Attorney Howard Vex, sitting in for Township Attorney, Michael Lavery, Acting Administrator, Peter de Boer and Township Clerk, Mary Ann O'Neil were also present.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Borough Mayor said the first item, after discussion, on their agenda was the joint meeting with Washington Township and the passing of Resolution 114-2009, Approval of Shared Services Agreement/Police Department Consolidation. He opened the floor for discussion.

Phelan said he received a call from the DCA yesterday about changes on the grant. It specifically had to do with a Township Officer that would be able to retire in 2009. Originally, they said employees must be eligible to retire at the time of the proposal to be eligible for this funding. Then it was changed and it wasn't. Then they went back and it was changed. He has it in writing that it is a legitimate claim and they have applied for funding. This is under transitional funding and other than that, the grant has not changed.

The Township Mayor said this is a historic occasion and the Committee and Council has done a great job in working together. He applauded the negotiating committee, borough manager and acting administrator and said he had met with the Borough Mayor several times. de Boer said thanks should go to the officers that started the ball rolling on this.

The question was asked, regarding page 3 of 9 on the Interlocal Service Agreement, under Consideration, third paragraph - after 2009, the Borough, in addition to the base service fee shall pay the Township fifty percent (50%) of any increase to the Township's total police budget over the previous year's total police budget. Phelan said once they have an idea of the budget, he and de Boer will meet and arrive at this figure. This will be done in December, but they will start meeting in October.

Another question on Consideration, first paragraph, - 2009 pro-rated based on \$140,166.66 per month (1/12 of the total base service fee for 2009) - when is this due? Pheland said the first payment would be due during the month of August, then before the end of each month.

Woykowski had questions on page 3 and was uncomfortable with language, in case additional municipalities are joining. They are doing this under shared service. The third paragraph from bottom implies they will pay 50%, but makes no reference to any additional municipalities joining. The last paragraph also addresses it. She would like to see this tightened up a bit. In principal she is ok with it, just not ok with language.

Phelan said, their municipality requires 12 officers. If another municipality comes in and there would be more officers, more contributing to the pot, the overall cost would allow the boro's to go down. The Township Mayor said it would be an entirely different group, covering their area. It would be done differently. de Boer said that it could read, after 2009, the Borough, in addition to the base service fee, shall pay the Township fifty percent (50%) of any increase in the Township's total police budget over the previous year total police budget as it relates to this agreement only. There would be a Township overall budget and a Borough budget.

Boro Council asked if the Boro would have any input should the Township decide to incorporate, for instance Oxford Township. The Township Mayor said the Township would have no obligation to consult with the Borough on this.

Boro Councilman asked, if town X comes in and the budget goes up, how do you figure the amount of the Boro savings? The Township Mayor said they will honor this agreement to keep costs down and if another municipality comes in, again the cost will be on the number of officers and the amount of hours those officers would need to work. There would be a separate line item for each department in budget.

Kovacs said the only way all of this could be accomplished was to have separate bookkeeping for uniforms, salaries, etc. There would be a Washington Township Budget, Washington Borough and Town B Budget. Borough Councilman said, then Washington Borough would be responsible for 50% of the Washington Township/Washington Borough Budget. Township Mayor said this was his understanding. The Township Mayor said there would be two separate agreements if this was ever done. This does not affect the agreement being discussed tonight.

The Township Mayor said there would be monthly reports given to the Borough for their records.

de Boer said the Township would like to amend, Page 4, (b) fourth paragraph, that the wording be added, the costs associated with carry over sick time by Borough Employees, let the PBA contract and the contract sick policies currently which allows for, shall be solely borne by "Washington Borough, paid, but reimbursed by the Borough to Township for the employee. The carry over sick time by the Borough for the 300 hours shall be paid by the Borough for the effected employees. So, if any of the 300 hours is used, the Borough pays, once they use the 150 hours they have with the Township. The 300 hours would be based on current salary of 2009.

The Borough Officers could have been compensated for the 300 hours, but they chose to bring them with them to the Township, but the Borough will have to pay for the 300 hours, if they have used their 150 hours in the Township. This is strictly a use it or lose it process. Phelan said the Borough will have to budget this, as well as the Township, who will initially pay it out and be reimbursed by the Borough.

Strunk asked, in tab 5 of book that had been distributed earlier, they are increasing some salaries and some are getting \$11,000 increase. Why is this being done? Phelan said the Borough Pay Scale is different from Township Pay Scale and it must be in compliance with PBA contract. He asked in determining the 24 officers, what determined this amount. Woykowski this was done by a financial feasibility study and this was the amount of officers required. Strunk had compared this to Hackettstown. Chief McDonald said that Hackettstown is understaffed and could use more officers. Strunk asked, are they creating flexibility with the men, without a lot of overtime, if an officer is out.

Strunk asked if there was an alternative plan how they will pay administration for dealing with 13 more people with current staff. Do they know how they will pay the people? The Township Mayor said funding has been put in place to get this up and running. Strunk said he was talking about the in house employees. Kovacs said the Mayor has talked with Finance and the Auditor on this. Strunk said the last time he talked with Finance, there had been no discussion on this at all. The Township Mayor said this has been put into the grant to get this in place. de Boer said funding has been put into the grant to pay for the putting into the system the pension plan, new payroll check, personnel packets, policy manuals, etc.

Mayor McDonald asked the PBA if they were in agreement in signing of the agreement. They were in agreement with the agreement and 2009 sick time.

They will have to know by June 15, 2009 if they are getting the full grant, because the entire agreement is based on getting the full grant to make this work.

Strunk asked how this will work, where will the money come from to take care of things. de Boer said it is a reimbursable grant. Upon receipt of invoice, voucher should be submitted and it will be paid.

Boyle made a motion to approve Resolution 114-2009, Resolution on Interlocal Service Agreement between Washington Township (Warren County) and Washington Borough, as amended and update of attached fee schedule, with an answer by June 15, 2009, Housel seconded. .

ROLL CALL: Boyle, yes; Housel, yes; Mc Donald, yes; Higgins, yes; Cioni, yes; Valentine, yes; Woykowski, yes.

The Washington Boro Mayor opened up the meeting for discussion, nobody wanted to be heard.

Horensky made a motion to approve Resolution 09-72, Resolution on Interlocal Service Agreement between Washington Township (Warren County) and Washington Borough, as amended, and an update of attached fee schedule, with an answer by June 15, 2009 Kovacs seconded.

ROLL CALL: Horensky, yes; Kovacs, yes; Mueller, no; Strunk, no; Elbassiouny, yes.

Horensky made a motion to adjourn the Washington Township Committee portion of the meeting at 9:11 p.m., Strunk seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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