

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Minutes
November 15, 2010

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.

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 a copy is posted at the municipal building. This Agenda is subject to change by the order of the Washington Township Committee before and/or during the scheduled meeting.

ROLL CALL

Elbassiouny, present; Klingel, present; Kovacs, present; Marks, present and Strunk, present. Michael Lavery, Township Attorney; Mary Ann O'Neil, Township Clerk, Peter de Boer, Administrator/Certified Public Works Manager; Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works and Police Chief James Mc Donald were also present.

SALUTE TO FLAG

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Klingel made a motion to approve the Regular Minutes of October 19, 2010, Kovacs seconded.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Kovacs, yes; Marks, abstain; Strunk, abstain; Elbassiouny, yes.

Kovacs made a motion to approve the Executive Minutes of October 19, 2010, Klingel seconded.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes; Marks, abstain; Strunk, abstain; Elbassiouny, yes.

ORDINANCES

Kovacs made a motion to open Ordinance 10-12 Ordinance to Create a New Chapter of the Township Code regarding Placement of Mailboxes, Basketball Equipment and Yard Damage by Municipal Equipment during Storm Operations on Township Owned Right -of-Way, to the public, Klingel seconded. Nobody from the public wished to be heard. Kovacs made a motion to close the public hearing, Klingel seconded. All were in favor. Kovacs made a motion to adopt Ordinance 10-12, after public hearing and second reading, Klingel seconded.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes; Marks, yes; Strunk, yes; Elbassiouny, yes.

Kovacs made a motion to open Ordinance 10-14 Ordinance Amending, Revising and Supplementing Chapter 72 Subsection 72-9A (6) of the Code of the Township of Washington, Entitled, "Fire Prevention, to the public, Marks seconded. All were in favor. Nobody from the public wished to be heard. Kovacs made a motion to close the public hearing, Klingel seconded. All were in favor. Klingel made a motion to adopt Ordinance 10-14, after public hearing and second reading, Marks seconded.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes; Strunk, yes; Elbassiouny, yes.

Klingel made a motion to open Ordinance 10-15 Ordinance Amending, Revising and Supplementing Section 117-23 Entitled "No Parking" of the Code of the Township of Washington "Vehicles and Traffic, to the public, Kovacs seconded. All were in favor. Nobody from the public wished to be heard. Kovacs made a motion to close the public hearing, Klingel seconded. All were in favor. Klingel made a motion to adopt Ordinance 10-15, after public hearing and second reading, Kovacs seconded.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Kovacs, yes; Marks, yes. Strunk, yes. Elbassiouny, abstain.

Kovacs made a motion to introduce Ordinance 10-16, Salary Ordinance, Marks seconded.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Marks, yes; Klingel, yes; Strunk, yes; Elbassiouny, yes.

Public Hearing and Second Reading will be December 21, 2010.

Kovacs made a motion to introduce Ordinance 10-17 Ordinance Amending, Revising and Supplementing Chapter 50 Article II Sections 50-6, 50-7 and 50-8 Entitled "Collection of Vegetative Wastes" of the Code of the Township of Washington "Brush, Grass and Weeds," Klingel seconded.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes; Marks, yes; Strunk, yes; Elbassiouny, yes.

Public Hearing and Second Reading will be December 21, 2010.

RESOLUTIONS

Klingel made a motion to approve Resolution 10-158 Resolution to Authorize & Approve Salaries & Wages (Crossing Guards), Marks seconded.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes; Strunk, yes; Elbassiouny, yes.

Kovacs made a motion to approve Resolution 10-159 Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds, Klingel seconded. Marks questioned on why you would need to transfer from O&E to pay electricity, there was money in the budget. Kovacs said, at budget time, it is usually a guess on the amount to be put in budget. de Boer said on electricity, this is the first full year in the building and they did not have a full year history of the building at budget time.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes; Marks, yes; Strunk, yes; Elbassiouny, yes.

Kovacs made a motion to approve Resolution 10-160, Chapter 159 - Highlands Performance Grant Program, Klingel seconded.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes; Marks, yes; Strunk, yes; Elbassiouny, yes.

Klingel made a motion to approve Resolution 10-161 Auction of Vehicle on E-Bay.com, Marks seconded.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes; Strunk, yes; Elbassiouny, yes.

Marks made a motion to approve Resolution 10-162 Authorize & Approve Salaries & Wages (Ralph Price/Code & Const.), Kovacs seconded.

ROLL CALL: Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes; Strunk, yes; Elbassiouny, yes.

STAFF/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief Mc Donald had no report at this time - will email to committee when it is finished.

Cooper passed out his report on the Department of Public Works. Marks asked Cooper the status of the salt barn. Cooper advised it is going out to bid in December or early January. Marks asked, if they appropriate the funds for January, will the price increase. Klingel said it will be done by bid, price will be in bid.

Rossi, Code and Construction, gave a slide presentation on of the October permits, which are up from last year. Also Mansfield Township has dropped out of the Code and Construction Agreement, but will be with Washington Township until December 31, 2010.

de Boer had two items to discuss. He needed approval on the paving/stripping project at Bowerstown Road and Various Roads in the Township for installation of Thermoplastic Long Life Traffic Stripes. The cost was under the original price. Kovacs made a motion to approve the invoice in the amount of \$7050.30 to Denville Line Painting, Inc., Klingel seconded.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes; Marks, yes; Strunk, yes; Elbassiouny, yes.

de Boer had a report from Finelli Consulting Engineers, Inc. on the Pleasant Valley Road, Section 2, Widening and Reconstruction. They provided a proposal for engineering and design services required for the preparation and design plans and construction documents. The cost for the services related to the engineering and design work for this portion of the project will be approximately \$22,500, unless otherwise authorized to exceed. Klingel made a motion to approve Finelli Consulting Engineers, Inc. provide professional engineering and design services on Pleasant Valley Road, Section 2, Widening and Reconstruction, not to exceed \$22,500.00, Marks seconded.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes; Strunk, no; Elbassiouny, yes.

de Boer reported they have been awarded an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Rebate Program in the amount of \$45,019.56. The Mayor said this will be like an electric audit. The Township will have to provide an additional electric box. de Boer thanked Dianne Edwards who did the leg work to secure this grant. The Mayor thanked de Boer and Edwards for all their work on securing this grant.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS/CONCERNS

The Mayor asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. Klingel made a motion at 8:13 p.m. to open the meeting to the public, Marks seconded. All were in favor. Nobody from the public wished to be heard. Klingel made a motion to close the public part of the meeting, Marks seconded. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Christmas Luncheon for Employees and Volunteers - Each year Committeeman Strunk requests to give a Christmas Luncheon to employees. The Mayor asked Strunk if he would consider doing something different this year if he didn't mind. He was thinking this year, during the holiday tree lighting, they would try to do a volunteer appreciation day for some of the boards who volunteer their time. Strunk said all the boards have always been invited to the luncheon. Anybody on any of the boards, commissions or committees are invited to attend. Strunk said, if necessary, he would be happy to contribute to the Appreciation Day, but wants to have the luncheon during the day for everybody. The Mayor asked if the luncheon during the day could be done at the tree lighting for everybody. Kovacs made a motion that Strunk be allowed to host the Christmas Luncheon for employees and volunteers, Klingel seconded. All were in favor. Kovacs said there would probably be a bigger attendance of the employees at the luncheon. After discussion, the tree lighting will be Saturday, December 11 at 7:00 p.m. Strunk made a motion that the tree lighting and honoring volunteers be held December 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., Klingel seconded. All were in favor.

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

RJ Strunk had no report.

Robert Klingel had no report.

Michael Kovacs said they usually put the salary ordinance in place in December, so in January the employees can receive their salary without retro being done.

Kovacs also thanked Mary Ann O'Neil for her 17 years of service. This would be her last meeting. He figured she had done over 300 of the meetings. He thanked O'Neil for her service. The Mayor seconded that. Strunk said she had done a great job.

Kovacs said they will be going through the resumes received for the clerk and deputy clerk positions. Over 40 applications have been received for deputy clerk. Kovacs said, he, Klingel and deBoer will be going over the resumes and will have recommendations for the December meeting.

Eve Marks has not heard anything on the Shared Service with Morris County and Warren County. There should be a meeting on December 2.

Also, Economic Development/Chamber of Commerce has compiled a business list in Washington Township on their new web site. Klingel asked if a link could be put to the Township Website. Marks will check this out.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Kovacs, yes; Marks, yes to the ones she signed; Strunk, yes to the ones he signed and Elbassiouny, yes to the ones he signed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Strunk made a motion at 8:22 p.m. to approve Resolution 10-163 Resolution Authorizing Executive Session of the Washington Township Committee for a meeting not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act N J S A 10:4-12, Klingel seconded. Lavery said they would be discussing an update on Fairway Mews/Diversified Properties; Personnel/interview information on clerk and deputy clerk; COAH/potential litigation/attorney/client; five matters that Marks had e-mailed him (1) personnel matter/attorney/client, (2) surveillance camera/attorney/client; (3) Internal Control/attorney/client; (4) Ordinances/attorney/client and (5) Township Administrator Duties/Reorganization Assignments/attorney/client Also, pending litigation on latest Hawk Point Litigation.

The Committee came out of Executive Session at 9:46 p.m. Klingel made a motion to come out of Executive Session, Kovacs seconded. All were in favor.

Lavery said the Committee had discussed five personnel matters/attorney/client; surveillance cameras and policy guidelines, which will be discussed in open session; votes needed on ordinances; personnel/administrative duties, updated on pending litigation/ Hawk Pointe; personnel/clerk and deputy clerk and Fairway Mews/COAH. No action was taken. Copies of these minutes will be available to the public at such time the Township determines there is no harm to the public.

Strunk made a motion to authorize the Mayor to send a letter to unions asking them for consideration of certain concessions for next year, as discussed in Executive Session, Marks seconded.

ROLL CALL: Strunk, yes; Marks, yes; Klingel, yes; Kovacs, abstain; Elbassiouny, yes.

Marks said they were going to bring up the authorization for the purchase of the surveillance cameras, which she wanted to discuss. How did it come about? Was there any discussion as to appropriation? Who authorized the purchase, which was done in four payments, which subsequently had other items purchased, which was in excess of \$5000. Who made the decision? Klingel said he and de Boer spoke about some concerns they had over at the DPW Garage to which they got quotes for cameras. There was money in the budget to cover it. Marks asked, if there was money to do it, why was it taken from separate accounts, four separate payments to do it over months. de Boer said the work was done in phases, it was not done at once. The bills were paid as the work was done. Marks said the decision was then made by Klingel and de Boer. Klingel said everybody signed the bills for this. Marks said in June two payments were made. Then it says 11/30/09, 50% payment for four security cameras at DPW \$850 to one account/bldg and grounds and then another 50% went from recycling, which was also in June. There were \$850 increments. Then in August two additional increments. There was installation of 5 cameras, so obviously this was a project, a capital project. If there was a security issue, it should have been discussed and money should have come out of appropriate accounts. Strunk said the cameras were installed due to vandalism.

Marks said when we do projects, the Mayor was right in principal, there was money in the budget and it was thought to be the right decision. She said it should have been brought before the Committee, the Mayor said maybe it fell through the cracks. It was a line item in their budget. Marks said there is a lot of money that could be cut from day to day operation appropriations, obviously there is a lot of money that can go for different things that people find.

Marks asked about \$11,000 voucher that was just paid for the police station. Does anybody know what that is all about? Equipment and supplies had been purchased by the police department. Also, there was \$5000 put aside for computer/laptops, what is this all about? When were these things discussed? de Boer said there had been discussion on the computer/ laptops already. The Mayor said no action had been taken on the computer/laptops yet, de Boer said the \$5000 had been encumbered. If there is money at the end of the year, they will be purchased. Klingel felt the price for computer/laptops was high and asked de Boer to get quotes from other vendors. de Boer said he will get permission from Committee before computer/laptops are purchased. There was also discussion on licenses for the computers. The Mayor said they will wait until end of year to see if funds are available.

Marks brought up the painting of fields during the year. Why toward the end of the year is this taken out of the Recreation Commission budget? Why isn't it done all year? de Boer said when they built the park there was no budget, now there is not enough in the budget, so they go to Recreation Commission for help. Marks asked if there was a procedure in place. de Boer said there is no procedure in place. There was discussion about the Recreation Commission paying for all the lining through fees collected.

Marks said the miscellaneous items were to be broken down further, is this going to be done in 2011? de Boer said the DPW and Police have agreed to break down their miscellaneous items.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee, Marks made a motion to adjourn at 10:16 p.m., Kovacs seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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