

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
December 18, 2012

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 p.m. by Mayor Michael Kovacs.

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 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

Elbassiouny, present; Finke, present; Klingel, present; Kovacs, present; Marks, present

STAFF PRESENT

Anna C. Godfrey, Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator/Certified Public Works Manager; Attorney Michael Lavery; Chief McDonald; Kevin McCarthy, CFO; Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works; and Joseph Rossi, Construction Official

Mayor Kovacs called for a moment of silence for the Newtown, CT victims and their families.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

AWARD OF BID

Mayor Kovacs stated the bids for the 150,000 Watts 3-Phase, 480 Volts, Natural Gas Fired Generator have been reviewed and approved by both the Township Engineer and Attorney. The low bidder was Wires Electrical Shop of Hackettstown with a bid of \$57,900. A motion was made by Elbassiouny, seconded by Finke, to approve the purchase of a 150,000 Watts 3-Phase, 480 Volts, Natural Gas Fired Generator from Wires Electrical Shop. Mr. Elbassiouny asked for clarification of the generator from J. Rossi. J. Rossi explained this generator will power more than this building to allow for future expansion. Mr. Elbassiouny would like the building to continue to be open to the public during emergencies.

ROLL CALL: Elbassiouny, yes; Finke, yes; Klingel, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes

PROCLAMATION

Deputy Mayor Klingel read a proclamation honoring Mayor Michael A. Kovacs for his induction into the League of Municipalities Mayor Hall of Fame. Mayor Kovacs served the Township as Mayor for twenty years.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Elbassiouny, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held November 19, 2012.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Elbassiouny, yes; Finke, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Klingel, to approve the Executive Session minutes from the regular meeting held November 19, 2012.

ROLL CALL: Finke, yes; Klingel, yes; Elbassiouny, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Elbassiouny, seconded by Klingel, to approve Resolutions 12-138 through 12-147. Mr. Elbassiouny commended the Public Works Department for their continued work with the schools.

12-138 Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Interlocal Agreement for Lawn Mowing Services Between the Township of Washington and Washington Township Board of Education

12-139 Resolution Reappointing Anna C. Godfrey as Acting Clerk for the Year 2013

12-140 Cancel 2012 Overpayments Less Than \$10.00

12-141 Cancel 2012 Amounts Owed Less Than \$10.00

12-142 Interest Resolution – Extension of August Grace Period

12-143 Transfer Tax Sale Payments to Oxford Township Sewer Utility Collector

12-144 Transfer Tax Sale Payment to Borough of Washington Municipal Sewer Utility

12-145 Resolution to Correct Amount to Cancel in Resolution 12-135 (Block 65.05, Lot 3)

12-146 Credit 2012 Overpayments to 2013 Taxes

12-147 Transfer Resolution

ROLL CALL: Elbassiouny, yes; Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief McDonald previously submitted a report. Mr. Elbassiouny asked what has been done at the schools in light of the tragedy in Connecticut. Chief McDonald explained he sent officers to each of the schools for a few days to help the students feel more comfortable. He met with the Superintendent of the Township schools and discussed security of the buildings. Chief McDonald spoke to the kindergarten and preschool classes as he does each year. Mrs. Marks asked if

the schools have Plexiglass windows. Chief McDonald replied he will be discussing that with the schools. Mr. Elbassiouny suggested the schools have silent alarms.

J. Cooper previously submitted a report. Brush clean-up from Hurricane Sandy was completed as of December 10th.

K. McCarthy stated the Township's budget is in good shape. Money was saved in the Police Department when senior officers left and were replaced with junior officers. Police overtime was not as high as in the past. More vehicle repairs are being done in-house which is also a savings to the Township. Budget workshops will be held on February 9 and 23, 2013.

J. Rossi thanked everyone who helped him with the generator bid. He will meet with the Police Department within the next few weeks regarding access for installation. The generator will be received six weeks after it is ordered.

P. deBoer previously submitted a report and noted there was an updated November Highlands Report. The Freeholders approved a \$120,000 grant for historic restoration on the Friese property. The \$42,000 grant from the County Board of Recreation for acquisition will be on the Freeholders January agenda. Mr. Finke questioned the Highlands Report with regards to the Land Use Board. Joel Schnetzer, Land Use Board Vice-Chairman, explained and confirmed the Board had not voted on starting the Farmland Preservation Program as was reported. P. deBoer will have the report corrected. The Committee discussed the program with J. Schnetzer.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Kovacs opened the meeting to the public. Hearing no one, Mayor Kovacs closed the public portion of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Klingel, to accept the resignation of David Dempski as COAH Coordinator and Clean Communities Coordinator with regret. The Committee discussed a new coordinator with P. deBoer.

ROLL CALL: Finke, yes; Klingel, yes; Elbassiouny, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to accept the resignation of Tiffani Higgins from the Land Use Board with regret.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Elbassiouny, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes

Mayor Kovacs moved Mark Glowinski from the Alternate 1 position to the position vacated by T. Higgins.

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to participate in the Sussex-Warren Partnership to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Elbassiouny, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to approve the list of 2013 Municipal Office Holiday Closing dates as submitted.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Elbassiouny, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes

Mayor Kovacs recommended closing the municipal offices on Christmas Eve as Christmas falls on a Tuesday this year. A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Elbassiouny, to close the municipal offices on Monday, December 24, 2012 in observance of Christmas Eve.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Elbassiouny, yes; Finke, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to schedule the 2013 Reorganization Meeting for January 1, 2013 at 11:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Elbassiouny, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Klingel suggested paving and reconfiguring the parking lot at the Parks & Recreation Building.

Mr. Elbassiouny thanked everyone he worked with, including Committee members, employees, and residents, during his six years on the Committee.

Mr. Finke had nothing to report.

Mrs. Marks had nothing to report.

Mayor Kovacs has nothing to report.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to approve the payment of the bills.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Elbassiouny, yes; Marks, yes; Kovacs, yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Marks, to approve Resolution 12-148, 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 8:15 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery explained the Committee will be discussing an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with a letter received from the Land Use Board.

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to come out of Executive Session at 8:44 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with a letter received from the Land Use Board. 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 Klingel, seconded by Finke, to instruct Attorney Lavery to take the action discussed in Executive Session. All were in favor.

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey
Township Clerk