

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
February 21, 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; Kevin McCarthy, CFO; Lydia Schmidt, Tax Assessor, and Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 17, 2012.

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

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Marks, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held January 17, 2012.

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

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Kovacs stated March 2, 2012 is designated as "Read Across America Day". He read a portion of the proclamation to the public and stated a copy will be sent to the Township schools.

ORDINANCES

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Marks, to open to the public Ordinance 12-01, Ordinance Reauthorizing the Open Space Trust Fund for the Township of Washington, public hearing on second reading. All were in favor. Mayor Kovacs entertained comments from the audience. Hearing no one, a motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Marks, to close the public hearing. All were in favor. A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Marks, to adopt Ordinance 12-01 on second reading. Mr. Elbassiouny asked the amount of money in the Open Space Trust Fund. K. McCarthy will forward the information to Mr. Elbassiouny.

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

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Kovacs pulled Resolution 12-33, Salary Resolution, until after the March 3rd Budget Meeting and Resolution 12-36, Resolution to Cancel 2011 Taxes – Block 28 Lot 5.08, to be discussed in Executive Session. A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Marks, to approve Resolutions 12-31 through 12-39, excluding 12-33, 12-36 and 12-38.

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

12-31 Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Interlocal Services Agreement Between the Township of Washington and the Pollution Control Financing Authority of Warren County for Solid Waste Disposal.

12-32 2011 Recycling Tonnage Grant Application

12-34 Resolution to Cancel 2000 Taxes – Block 44 Lot 2

12-35 Resolution to Cancel 2001 Taxes – Block 13 Lot 8

12-37 Quick Chek Acceptance of Performance Bond & Escrow

12-39 Quick Chek Acceptance of Stormwater Recharge Contribution in Lieu of Installation of an Improvement

A motion was made by Marks, seconded by Elbassiouny, to approve Resolution 12-38, Quick Chek Acceptance of Developers Agreement, pending satisfactory submission of the proper paperwork by Quick Chek.

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

J. Cooper previously submitted a report. There were no questions regarding the Public Works Department.

K. McCarthy stated he made the budget adjustments as discussed at the February 11th meeting and is ready to introduce the budget on March 3rd. Per the auditor, the budget is very close to CAP. The Committee discussed the salary increases. K. McCarthy briefly explained the Shared Services agreements with Oxford and the Borough. He noted steps are being taken to close out some of the older escrow accounts and explained the process. Mrs. Marks noted a discrepancy in State and Township records regarding COAH monies. K. McCarthy will look into this.

Mr. DeBoer previously submitted a report. He requested Committee approval to have quarterly meetings with the professionals and staff. Mr. Elbassiouny suggested paying the professionals with the Highlands grant money if discussing the Highlands. The Committee discussed. Mr. deBoer will prepare a report providing justification of these meetings.

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

Mayor Kovacs stated he appointed Carol Kain to the Historical Preservation Commission and Lydia Schmidt to the Environmental Commission. In regards to the Land Use Board, Mayor Kovacs moved Karen Lesniewski from the position of Alternate 1 to a Class 4 member filling a vacancy and moved Marilyn Sendell from the Alternate 2 to Alternate 1 position. All Boards are now full with the exception of the Alternate 2 position on the Land Use Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Marks questioned office coverage regarding Agenda Items 3 and 4. N. Godfrey replied the Tax Collector will cover the front offices. A motion was made by Marks, seconded by Elbassiouny, to approve new business agenda items 1 through 6.

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

- Item 1 Request from Peter deBoer to Attend a Seminar on March 8th Entitled "Recycling ANJR Regional Swap & Share Session" at Morris County MUA.
- Item 2 Request from Peter deBoer to Attend a Seminar on February 22nd Entitled "Recycling Tonnage Reporting Workshop" in Hillsborough, NJ.
- Item 3 Request from Nancy Godfrey to attend a Class on March 2nd Entitled "Notary Basics – Review Role of a Notary Public in NJ" at Mansfield Township Municipal Building.
- Item 4 Request from Ann Kilduff to attend a Class on March 2nd Entitled "Notary Basics – Review Role of a Notary Public in NJ" at Mansfield Township Municipal Building.
- Item 5 Request from Ann Kilduff to Attend a Class on February 22nd Entitled "Trust Fund & Project/Unit/RCA Training" (COAH) in Trenton, NJ.
- Item 6 Request from Sue Berger to Attend a Class on February 22nd Entitled "Trust Fund & Project/Unit/RCA Training" (COAH) in Trenton, NJ.

Lydia Schmidt of Washington Hope gave a video presentation regarding the burial services at Washington Cemetery, highlighting several issues including open burns and littering. The Committee discussed the situation with L. Schmidt. Attorney Lavery requested L. Schmidt provide him with information regarding the Oldbridge, NJ Cemetery's ruling on enclosed fire pits. Mr. Elbassiouny asked L. Schmidt to also provide that information to the Zoning Officer. Mayor Kovacs requested the Fire Official be made aware of the situation. Mr. Elbassiouny suggested L. Schmidt go before the State Cemetery Board. Mayor Kovacs requested Attorney Lavery work with her to contact the Board. Mr. Finke asked the size of the proposed expansion. L. Schmidt replied it would be approximately 125 acres and explained the proposed plans.

Dave Dempski, COAH Coordinator, provided an update to the Committee. COAH is now part of Local Government Services. Monies in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund are in jeopardy of being taken by the State and used elsewhere if they are not allocated by July. D. Dempski explained fees are no longer collected on commercial properties, only residential development, and rehabilitation money is not available to the Township. D. Dempski would like to allocate money to help Habitat for Humanity build houses in the Township. The Committee agreed and discussed other possibilities. D. Dempski will provide a list of approved projects the Committee can consider.

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Elbassiouny had nothing to report.

Mr. Finke stated the Environmental Commission did not meet this month due to lack of a quorum. The Washington Hope Organization is requesting people attend the meeting next Tuesday in the Borough regarding the Washington Cemetery expansion. Mayor Kovacs asked Attorney Lavery to supply Mr. Finke with background information of the Cemetery's involvement with the Township.

Mr. Klingel had nothing to report.

Mrs. Marks stated she attended the School Board meeting on February 13th and it was decided School Board elections will be held in conjunction with the General Election in November. The school's budget meeting will be held on March 26th.

Mayor Kovacs stated he would like to include the county and school tax rate in the budget. The Committee agreed. Mayor Kovacs complimented K. McCarthy on the budget preparation.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Elbassiouny, seconded by Klingel, to approve Resolution 12-40, 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 8:50 p.m.

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

Attorney Lavery explained the Committee will be discussing an employee personnel matter, an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with Hawk Pointe, a potential litigation matter dealing with Pinnacle, an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with the Southwinds drainage issue, a pending litigation issue dealing with Medina, and a contractual matter dealing with shared services with Washington Borough.

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Elbassiouny, to come out of Executive Session at 10:17 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed eight matters including a personnel issue, an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with Hawk Pointe, a potential litigation matter dealing with Pinnacle, an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with the Southwinds drainage issue, a pending litigation issue dealing with Medina, and a contractual matter dealing with shared services with Washington Borough. 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 Finke, seconded by Klingel, to instruct Attorney Lavery to send a letter to Oxford Township requesting the \$5,000 owed per the Police Shared Services Agreement.

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

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey
Township Clerk