

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
January 17, 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; Joseph Rossi, Construction Official; 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 December 20, 2011.

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

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Marks, to approve the minutes of the re-organization meeting held January 2, 2012.

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

ORDINANCES

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Marks, to open to the public Ordinance 12-02, Ordinance Amending, Revising and Supplementing Section 117-23 Entitled "No Parking" of the Code of the Township of Washington "Vehicles and Traffic", 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 12-02 on second reading. Mr. Finke noted a correction to the date of introduction.

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

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to approve Resolutions 12-21 through 12-24.

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

12-21 Tax Sale Redemption – Block 44; Lot 6

12-22 Refund Resolution, Veterans Deduction – Block 15; Lot 8.25

12-23 Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Agreement Between the State of New Jersey Department of Transportation and Municipality of the Township of Washington

12-24 Return of Escrow Funds – Floyd Opdyke

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief McDonald stated his monthly as well as annual reports were previously submitted. He met with the crossing guards from the Borough regarding a 12-month pay schedule and salaries and will meet with Borough Manager Phelan next week.

J. Cooper stated his report was previously submitted and he had nothing further to report. Mr. Klingel questioned the status of the branch pick-up. J. Cooper replied it has been completed.

K. McCarthy stated 2012 budget meetings have been scheduled for February 11th and March 3rd at 10:00 am. He will provide the department heads with preliminary budgets and will meet with them prior to the first budget meeting. The annual audit will begin on February 3rd.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report. He stated the contractor has returned the signed contract for the Pleasant Valley Road project. A motion was made by Elbassiouny, seconded by Klingel, to authorize the Mayor to sign the contract on behalf of the Township conditioned upon review and approval by the Township Attorney and Engineer.

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

Mr. deBoer stated the contractor anticipates beginning work in March. He also reported he and the Clerk met with an Aflac representative offering supplemental insurance. Mr. Elbassiouny suggested going out to bid rather than having one company present to the Township. The Committee agreed. Mr. deBoer spoke about a shared service as a Certified Recycling Coordinator with other towns. Attorney Lavery will look into this and suggested the Township's Risk Manager be contacted as well.

J. Rossi discussed his monthly permit fees and projects with the Committee. He then gave a presentation regarding solar panels. He would like to look into the Township having a solar carport for the police cars. After a brief discussion, Mr. Elbassiouny volunteered to work with J. Rossi on researching this project.

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 discussed the various changes in regards to the appointments of Committee members as liaisons to various departments, boards and/or commissions. Mr. Elbassiouny questioned the appointment of Mrs. Marks to the Land Use Board representing the Mayor. Mayor Kovacs replied he had the option of appointing someone as his designee, which he did after checking with the Land Use Board Attorney. Mr. Elbassiouny feels it is part of the Mayor's duties to sit on the Land Use Board. After a brief discussion, Attorney Lavery explained what the Mayor is doing is permitted per the statute.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to schedule the 2012 budget meeting dates for February 11th, March 3rd, and March 10th, all beginning at 10:00 am.

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

Mayor Kovacs would like to add the salary analysis to the first budget meeting. K. McCarthy will prepare a best and worst case scenario. The Committee discussed. K. McCarthy will discuss this with the Township Auditor as well.

Mayor Kovacs reported information was received from the Highlands Council regarding the approval of Washington Township's petition for plan conformance. Both grants that the Township applied for have been approved. A motion was made by Elbassiouny, seconded by Klingel, authorizing the Mayor to sign the documents to accept the grant monies.

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

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Finke reported the Environmental Commission had a quorum and was able to meet for a second time. The Washington Cemetery expansion was discussed.

Mr. Klingel had nothing to report.

Mrs. Marks had nothing to report.

Mr. Elbassiouny will work with the Clerk as to when the Economic Commission can conduct their meetings in the Municipal Building and will have recommendations for the remaining three members by the next meeting.

Mayor Kovacs stated he made appointments to the various boards per the recommendations of Mr. Elbassiouny. He requested the Clerk prepare a listing for each Board, including member's names and term expiration dates to be distributed to the Committee members.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Klingel, to approve Resolution 12-25, 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 8:30 p.m.

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

Attorney Lavery explained the Committee will be discussing Pinnacle/Hawk Pointe, an attorney client privilege potential litigation matter, Fairway Greens/Toll Brothers Bond which is an attorney client privilege matter, the Southwinds drainage easement an attorney client privilege matter, a contractual matter regarding the crossing guards, a contractual matter regarding the Washington shared service agreement, and a personnel matter regarding the police.

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Klingel, to come out of Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed an attorney client privilege matter dealing with Pinnacle/Hawk Pointe, an attorney client privilege matter dealing with Fairway Greens/Toll Brother's bond, an attorney client privilege matter dealing with the Southwinds drainage easement, a contractual matter dealing with the crossing guards, a contractual matter dealing with the shared service agreement with Washington Borough regarding the police, a personnel matter dealing with the police, and an attorney client privilege matter dealing with Pride Builders escrow dispute and pending litigation dealing with the former Medina Consulting. 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 Elbassiouny, to promote Sergeant James Teter to the position of Lieutenant, effective immediately, replacing a Lieutenant who recently retired.

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

A motion was made by Elbassiouny, seconded by Klingel, to authorize Bill Gleba of Finelli Consulting Engineers to prepare the documents requested by the bond company regarding the Pinnacle matter in an amount not to exceed \$2,000.

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

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Marks, to release the Toll Brothers bond once all improvements are approved and inspected by the Township and the association's bond is released.

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

A motion was made by Elbassiouny, seconded by Klingel, to authorize Bill Gleba of Finelli Consulting Engineers to draft the permit plans and cost analysis for the Southwinds drainage easement repair in an amount not to exceed \$2,500 for the work and not to exceed \$1,000 for the permit for a total of \$3,500.

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

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to approve Samir Elbassiouny and Dave Dempski to meet with Attorney Tom Fisher regarding Medina Consulting.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Finke, 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 Marks, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey
Township Clerk