

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
April 16, 2013

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 Robert Klingel.

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

Finke, present; Horensky, present; Klingel, present; Kovacs, present; Willan, present

STAFF PRESENT

Ann Kilduff, Deputy Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator/Certified Public Works Manager; Attorney Michael Lavery; John Mooney, Township Auditor; Chief McDonald; Kevin McCarthy, CFO; Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works; Sean Brown, Clean Communities Coordinator; and Joseph Rossi, Construction Official/Zoning Officer.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Klingel read a proclamation designating April 2013 as Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month.

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Kovacs, to open to the public Ordinance 13-04, Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey to Exceed the Municipal Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank – Calendar Year 2013 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14), public hearing on second reading. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel entertained comments from the audience. Hearing no one, a motion was made by Horensky, seconded by Willan, to close the public hearing of Ordinance 13-04. All were in favor. A motion was made by Horensky, seconded by Willan, to adopt Ordinance 13-04 on second reading.

ROLL CALL: Horensky, yes; Willan, yes; Finke, no; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

2013 BUDGET

J. Mooney stated the State approved the Township's budget earlier today. There have been no amendments since the budget was introduced. J. Mooney explained the distribution of taxes and the revenues that support the 2013 expenditures. He stated the projected tax rate increased \$23.00 per year or \$1.92 per month on the average assessed house of \$250,000. Mr. Kovacs questioned if there was a change to the tax rate increase. J. Mooney stated the tax rate increase is .0092 or 1.67%. J. Mooney stated the Township is in compliance and significantly below both the Tax Levy Cap and the Tax Expenditure Cap. Mr. Horensky commended J. Mooney for clearly explaining where the tax dollars were spent and how the Township generates revenue to support the Township.

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Horensky, to open the 2013 Budget Public Hearing. All were in favor.

Joel Schnetzer, Cemetery Hill Road, questioned why there wasn't the need to add two cents to the budget as discussed at the first budget meeting. Mayor Klingel explained the Township received money from FEMA and State Aid. J. Schnetzer asked how much the budget will increase over last year. J. Mooney stated the general appropriations will increase by \$58,000. J. Schnetzer discussed with the Committee and asked how much FEMA money the Township received. K. McCarthy stated approximately \$60,000 - \$70,000 to date. It is not the full allocation. J. Schnetzer discussed the FEMA and Open Space monies with the Committee and K. McCarthy. J. Schnetzer would like future Budget Workshops to be held on weeknights so more people may attend. He would like budget worksheets available for the residents during these meetings. Mayor Klingel discussed the budget process with J. Schnetzer.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Horensky, to close the 2013 Budget Public Hearing. All were in favor.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Horensky, to adopt Resolution 13-82, Adoption of the 2013 Budget. Mr. Finke stated he is uncomfortable with the tax rate as compared to other Warren County towns. Mr. Kovacs discussed other municipality's figures Mr. Finke had previously presented during the budget process. Mr. Finke stated he is also not in favor of the recent employee raises. Mr. Willan stated this is the smallest increase in many years and feels the Township is taking a step in the right direction to minimize the increase.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Horensky, yes; Finke, no; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

J. Mooney left the meeting at this point.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Finke noted a correction to the meeting minutes of March 19th. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Finke, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 19, 2013 as amended.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Finke, yes; Horensky, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

Mr. Finke noted a correction to the Executive Session minutes of March 19th. A motion was made by Horensky, seconded by Willan, to approve the Executive Session minutes from the regular meeting held March 19, 2013 as amended.

ROLL CALL: Horensky, yes; Willan, yes; Finke, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Klingel stated Resolution 13-83, Extension of the 2013 Temporary Budget, is no longer necessary. The resolution was pulled.

A motion was made by Horensky, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolutions 13-84 through 13-87. Mr. Horensky stated Resolution 13-84 will allow each entity to share expenditures and explained.

13-84 Resolution Supporting Sustainable State Funding for Preservation and Stewardship of Open Space, Parks, Farmland and Historical Sites in New Jersey

13-85 Acceptance of Performance Surety Bond – Pride Builders Block 47; Lot 9.04

13-86 Resolution Amending Resolution 2013-68 Release of Performance Bond Toll Brothers, Inc. Blocks 38 and 28; Lots 19, 20, 22, and 3.01

13-87 Resolution Supporting S-896/A-1503 Sharing the Burden of Property Assessment Appeal Refunds

ROLL CALL: Horensky, yes; Willan, yes; Finke, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

J. Cooper previously submitted a report. He updated the Committee on the Pleasant Valley Road project stating the curbing and drainage are complete. A tree may need to be removed and is being discussed with the Township Engineer. Blacktop will be completed in approximately three weeks.

Chief McDonald previously submitted a report. He stated one of the crossing guards is to be commended for helping an elderly resident. He will give further details at the next meeting.

J. Rossi updated the Committee on the generator. He stated there was a slight problem with the phones during a test-run but the situation was corrected.

K. McCarthy had nothing to report. Mr. Kovacs thanked him and D. Evans for putting together a good budget.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report. He asked Sean Brown to update the Committee on Clean Communities. S. Brown stated they are currently awaiting 2013 funding and applications are being reviewed. Mr. deBoer stated he has been in contact with Warren County Arts and they would like to use the Log Cabin for events throughout the year. Mr. deBoer is working with John Daly with regards to some insurance issues. The Committee discussed. Mayor Klingel would like to make the Log Cabin available to other groups as well. The Committee discussed and agreed to revisit this idea at a later date. A motion was made by Horensky, seconded by Finke, to allow Warren County Arts to use the log cabin, pending insurance approval by John Daly. All were in favor.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Anthony Pasquini, Pohatcong Native Arboretum, updated the Committee on the status of the arboretum. There was a recent article in the newspaper highlighting the completion of the arboretum. He invited the Committee to a Dedication Ceremony he would like to hold in June. ID plaques will be installed. He has a staff that will oversee the arboretum and would like funds made available to pay them. Mr. deBoer suggested he submit a funding proposal to the Township.

Joel Schnetzer, Cemetery Hill Road, asked the Mayor if he requested the Highlands Council attend a joint meeting with the Land Use Board and Environmental Commission. Mayor Klingel stated he sent a letter to the Highlands Council requesting a meeting be held on May 29th.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Klingel closed the public portion of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Finke, to approve the Musconetcong Watershed Association's Annual "Run for the River" race through Washington Township on May 5th as well as to approve the Annual "Reach the Beach" Relay Race Series through a portion of Washington Township on October 18th.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Finke, yes; Horensky, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Horensky, to approve the request from Evan Howell to attend the Tax Collectors & Treasurers Association Spring Conference May 21st through 23rd.

ROLL CALL: Finke, yes; Horensky, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Willan, to approve the request from Eileen Parks, Sean Brown, Joe Rossi and Dennis Allen to attend "Highlands Area Delegated Exemption Certification" Class on April 25th.

ROLL CALL: Finke, yes; Willan, yes; Horensky, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Willan stated he attended the Washington Township Board of Education meeting in March during their budget discussion.

Mr. Horensky had nothing to report.

Mr. Finke had nothing to report.

Mr. Kovacs had nothing to report.

Mayor Klingel had nothing to report.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve the payment of the bills.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Finke, no; Horensky, abstained; Klingel, yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Horensky, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 13-88, 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 8:40 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery explained the Committee will be discussing a contractual matter dealing with the Police Shared Service Agreement with Washington Borough, a potential litigation matter dealing with Pinnacle/Hawk Pointe, an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with a particular piece of property bordering a municipal property, and an attorney/client privilege matter with regards to tax liens.

A motion was made by Horensky, seconded by Willan, to come out of Executive Session at 9:22 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a contractual matter dealing with the Police Shared Service Agreement with Washington Borough, a potential litigation matter dealing with Pinnacle/Hawk Pointe, an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with a particular piece of property bordering a municipal property, and an attorney/client privilege matter with regards to tax liens. 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 Horensky, seconded by Finke, to authorize Attorney Lavery to send a notice to Washington Borough regarding the Shared Services Contract as was discussed in Executive Session.

ROLL CALL: Horensky, yes; Finke, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Horensky, to authorize Attorney Lavery to contact the attorney of the Dire family to advise them the Township will accept the deeds for where their property overlaps the Township's property.

ROLL CALL: Finke, yes; Horensky, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Horensky, to authorize Attorney Lavery to make the offer on the Pinnacle litigation as was discussed in Executive Session.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Horensky, yes; Finke, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Finke, to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kilduff
Deputy Township Clerk