

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
January 15, 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; Klingel, present; Kovacs, present; Willan, present
Horensky, absent

STAFF PRESENT

Anna C. Godfrey, Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator/Certified Public Works Manager; Attorney Michael Lavery; Chief McDonald; Lieutenant Cicerelle; Lieutenant Teter; Kevin McCarthy, CFO; Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works; Joseph Rossi, Construction Official/Zoning Officer; and Sean Brown, Highlands Administrative Assistant

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Finke, to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held December 18, 2012.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Finke, to approve the Executive Session minutes from the regular meeting held December 18, 2012.

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

Mr. Willan noted a correction to minutes of the Reorganization Meeting. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve the Reorganization Meeting minutes of January 1, 2013 as amended by Mr. Willan.

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

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to open to the public Ordinance 13-02, An Ordinance to Amend an Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of the Officers and Employees of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, public hearing on second reading. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel entertained comments from the public.

Joel Schnetzer, 240 Cemetery Hill Road, asked if there were any new positions in the ordinance. Mr. deBoer noted the Deputy Chief, Township Engineer and Deputy Zoning Officer positions have been added this year. Mr. Kovacs noted there are now stipend ranges for Patrolman PFC and Website Coordinator. J. Schnetzer feels the new positions should have been announced at the first reading of the ordinance. He asked if the Committee would add an Engineer/Planner if the Land Use Board does not support it. Mayor Klingel replied they would not. J. Schnetzer asked how this position was being planned for in the budget. K. McCarthy stated he removed the position of full-time Engineer from the budget. Mr. Kovacs noted salaries over last year went up 0.7 percent.

Hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to close the public hearing of Ordinance 13-02. All were in favor. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to adopt Ordinance 13-02 on second reading.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Klingel, to introduce Ordinance 13-03, Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, Repealing Chapter 19 Titled "Economic Development Commission" on first reading.

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

Public hearing and adoption will take place at the February 19, 2013 meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolutions 13-38, 13-39, 13-43 and 13-44.

13-38 Resolution Appointing a COAH Municipal Housing Liaison, RCA Administrator and a Municipal Monitoring Primary and Secondary Designee for the Township of Washington, County of Warren

13-39 Resolution Amending Resolution 13-06, Designating Official Newspapers

13-43 Transfer Resolution

13-44 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Sign the Cider Lane Right-of-Way Agreement Between the Township of Washington and Pechiney Plastics Packaging, Inc.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 13-40, Resolution by the Township Committee in the Township of Washington, County of Warren and State of New Jersey Authorizing State Contract Lease/Purchase of One (1) 2012 or Newer Chevrolet Tahoe. Mr. Finke questioned if the purchase of another vehicle will raise taxes. Chief McDonald stated three vehicles will be replaced this year. This vehicle's first payment is being paid from the 2012 budget. K. McCarthy feels it is prudent to acquire the Tahoe with 2012 funds due to underspending. Chief McDonald also noted there are two vehicles that will be paid in full this year. There will be no increase to the current number of police vehicles.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 13-41, Approval to Receive the Donation of a Police Vehicle from Bergen County. Mr. Finke suggested the Committee table this resolution until a cost analysis can be done. Chief McDonald noted this was previously voted on and approved unanimously in October. The cost to get the vehicle running will be approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000. A donation has been received from BASF specifically for the maintenance of this vehicle, the Prosecutor has promised to help with the maintenance of the vehicle, and there is a commitment from a local body shop to paint the vehicle at no cost. The company the Police Department uses to mark the police vehicles will also donate their services. Mayor Klingel stated this resolution is to memorialize the vote. The year of the vehicle is 1981. Chief McDonald stated after using the donations, the net cost to the Township will be zero dollars. It is a limited use tactical vehicle that will be available not only to the Township but to Warren County as well.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 13-42, Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (D. Allen/Deputy Zoning Officer). Per Mr. Finke's request, Mr. Kovacs explained how the need for a Zoning Officer during daytime hours prompted the change while providing a cost savings to the Township. J. Rossi provided the hours for the Zoning Office.

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief McDonald previously submitted a report and stated he is hosting a meeting with all superintendants in Warren County tomorrow to discuss school security plans. The Township has had many of the recommendations the State has recently made in place since 2001. He is pleased with the responses he has received from the schools. Security details will not be discussed publicly for both safety and security reasons.

J. Cooper previously submitted a report and had nothing further to report.

K. McCarthy stated he is currently working on the budget and is looking at a 0.7% increase to salaries and a 9% increase to pensions. He will be meeting with each department manager prior to the first budget workshop meeting scheduled for February 9th. The budget will be reviewed by the auditors prior to the meeting. Auditors will be in the office on January 29th to prepare the Annual Debt Statement and will prepare the Annual Financial Statement the first and second weeks of February.

J. Rossi presented a slide show of how his department is cleaning up the Township.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report and stated the house at 219 S. Lincoln Avenue has been taken down and removed.

Mayor Klingel spoke about the newspaper article regarding tax rates throughout the State. Unfortunately, the article was grossly inaccurate. Mr. Kovacs read what he prepared for the website. He noted taxes rose slightly in 2012. The newspaper article stated Washington Township Warren County taxes rose 79% and property assessment value rose 71%. In actuality, the average tax bill rose 3.92% and the property assessment value rose 0.2%. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Finke, to place what he prepared on the Township's website as well as request a retraction from the Star-Ledger.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Joel Schnetzer, 240 Cemetery Hill Road, stated the municipal tax rate in the Township has doubled since 2000. He discussed the tactical police vehicle with Chief McDonald. J. Schnetzer asked how the Township will fund the Farmland Preservation Committee. Mr. Kovacs stated he does not want to use the Open Space monies to pay down the Open Space debt this year but instead use it to build up the fund. Mayor Klingel stated the Committee will discuss this further and asked J. Schnetzer to inform the Committee if he becomes aware of any available farmland grants.

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 accept with regret the resignation of Helen Hartrum, Police Secretary, effective March 1, 2013. Mr. Kovacs stated the position will not be replaced.

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

Mark VanDeursen of the Washington Emergency Squad wished to update the Committee on the new Squad building and what has been done in the past year. They responded to a total of 1,600 emergency calls in 2012 with a total of 4,500 hours. The Squad consists of approximately forty volunteers and eight full-time staff. During Super Storm Sandy, they were very busy helping those without power as well as those who had medical emergencies. The Squad sent a crew to Ocean County, NJ for a 24-hour shift and another crew to Highlands, NJ for a 12-hour shift. Their junior members participated in a regional event and won first place which was a defibrillator. Mayor Klingel asked about a defibrillator for the park. M. VanDeursen will speak to the Recreation Commission Chairman about this. The new Emergency Squad building will be built on Kinnaman Avenue.

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Kovacs stated he spoke to the Tax Assessor who will have the rateables by the end of the month. He spoke to the Township Auditor who will complete the Annual Financial Statement prior to the first budget meeting. The budget process should move quickly, but the Township is still waiting for the State Aid numbers. The Police and DPW contracts will be discussed with the sub-committee and brought to the Committee for approval.

No other Committee members had anything 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, yes; Klingel, yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolution 13-45, 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. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel explained the Committee will be discussing personnel matters and contractual matters.

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Kovacs, to come out of Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed personnel/contractual matters dealing with the Police and DPW contracts and a contractual matter dealing with the Friese property. 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 Kovacs, seconded by Klingel, to approve the PBA contract as presented in Executive Session.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve the Teamsters contract as presented in Executive Session.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 13-46, Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (T. Cicerelle/Deputy Chief).

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 13-47, Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (R. Doll/Lieutenant).

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 13-48, Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (K. McCarthy/Full-Time Acting CFO).

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 13-49, Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (J. Cooper/Assistant Municipal Supervisor of DPW).

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 13-50, Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (A. Kilduff/Website Coordinator).

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

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the Environmental Impact Study on the Friese property with an amount not to exceed \$8,000 as discussed in Executive Session.

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

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey
Township Clerk