

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
November 18, 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; Chief McDonald; Kevin McCarthy, CFO; and Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Willan, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held October 22, 2013.

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

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the Executive Session minutes from the regular meeting held October 22, 2013.

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

PRESENTATION/PROCLAMATION

Ike Smith provided the Committee with a slide presentation detailing the two bridges he built across streams at Lake Marguerite as his Eagle Scout project. Ike explained the process, provided pictures, and noted he has been maintaining the Red Trail over the past few years. Mayor Klingel presented Ike with a proclamation recognizing his project, stating his appreciation for Ike's dedication to the Township over the years. Mr. Kovacs stated he has seen many great Eagle Scout projects and feels this is one of the most ambitious. He also appreciates what Ike has done for the Township.

ORDINANCE

Mr. Kovacs explained passing this salary ordinance will allow the Committee to pass the salary resolution early in 2014. Mr. Finke stated he would like the Township Engineer position removed. The Committee discussed. Mr. Willan noted the notice contained the wrong dates. The Committee discussed. A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Kovacs, to introduce Ordinance 13-07, 2014 Salary Ordinance, on first reading, with the Township Engineer position removed and the notice dates corrected.

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

Public hearing and adoption will take place at the December 17, 2013 meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Horensky, seconded by Finke, to approve Resolutions 13-144 through 13-147.

13-144 Full Release of Performance Bond for Skyline Equipment – Block 66; Lot 20.07

13-145 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Second Amendment to the Shared Service Agreement for Police Services between the Township of Washington and the Borough of Washington (Warren County)

13-146 Redemption Resolution – Block 2; Lot 5

13-147 Transfer Resolution

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

Mr. Kovacs requested a copy of Resolution 13-145 with Exhibit A be sent to Washington Borough.

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief McDonald stated a report was previously submitted and he had nothing further to report.

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

K. McCarthy had nothing to report.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report and had nothing further to report.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public. Hearing no one, 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 Horensky, seconded by Willan, to approve the date of December 17 for the Annual Employee Holiday Luncheon.

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

Brian Sweatt of Sweatt & Walters explained to the Committee that the Affordable Health Care Act is causing problems with renewal rates and dates. He looked into the State's benefit plan for the Township and the rates are significantly higher for comparable benefits. A January 1, 2014 renewal date will be an increase to the Township of 62.18%. A December 1, 2013 renewal date will be an increase of 6.56%. B. Sweatt recommends taking advantage of this opportunity and having insurance coverage from December 1, 2013 through November 30, 2014. Mandated health coverage is driving the renewal price increases. The Committee discussed. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Horensky, to renew the AmeriHealth Health Insurance plan with a December 1, 2013 renewal date.

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

Mr. deBoer would like to recognize the time and effort both Brian and Dina of Sweatt & Walters provide to the Township employees and thanked them on behalf of the Township Committee.

Mr. deBoer explained Roaring Rock Park has sustained severe damage from Hurricane Sandy. He has a proposal from Conservation Harvester and Timber Harvesting and has also been in contact with the Forestry Management Department for the County with a plan to harvest the timber at the park. The cost of a Forestry Management Plan would be approximately \$6,000. Attorney Lavery explained the process, stating the Township would have to go out to bid for the harvesting of the timber. A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Horensky, to go out to bid to harvest the timber at Roaring Rock Park.

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

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

The Mayor and Township Committee members had nothing to report.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

The Committee took a short recess before entering into Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolution 13-148, 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 8:25 p.m.

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

Attorney Lavery explained the Committee will be discussing an attorney/client privilege litigation matter on a request from the Zoning Officer, an attorney/client tax matter, a litigation matter dealing with the Township of Washington vs. Pinnacle/Hawk Pointe Developers, a personnel matter and the Consumer Price Index. Mayor Klingel invited Committeeman-elect Mark Rossi into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Horensky, seconded by Finke, to come out of Executive Session at 9:21 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a contractual matter dealing with the Estate of Friese contract, a personnel matter dealing with the CFO, a contractual matter dealing with Union contracts and the Consumer Price Index, an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with a tax issue, and a litigation matter dealing with Washington Township vs. Pinnacle/Hawk Pointe Developers. 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 Kovacs, to approve the Mayor to sign the papers regarding the closing on the Friese property.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Horensky, to approve Resolution 13-149, Request to Waive Interest on Delinquent Taxes, in the amount of \$615.34 as discussed in Executive Session.

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

Mayor Klingel asked Mr. deBoer to research the Tax Collector's process.

A motion was made by Horensky, seconded by Finke, to approve a RICE Notice be sent to an employee for the next Committee meeting as discussed in Executive Session.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Finke, to instruct Attorney Lavery to apply for a term extension for the position discussed in Executive Session.

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

Mayor Klingel read a letter from Mr. Horensky, announcing his resignation effective upon adjournment of this meeting as he will be moving out of the state. Mayor Klingel, Mr. Kovacs, Mr. deBoer and Chief McDonald wished Mr. Horensky the best, stating they enjoyed working with Mr. Horensky and he will be missed. Mr. Horensky thanked everyone stating he enjoyed his time on the Committee and will miss the Township.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Horensky, to appoint Robert Finke as Deputy Mayor for the remainder of 2013.

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 Horensky, seconded by Willan, to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kilduff
Deputy Township Clerk