

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
October 22, 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 Katrina Campbell; Deputy Chief Cicerelle; Kevin McCarthy, CFO; Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works; and Joseph Rossi, Construction Official/Zoning Officer

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Finke, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 17, 2013. Mr. Finke questioned Mr. Willan's vote on the Highlands Ordinance. Mr. Willan confirmed what is reflected in the minutes is correct.

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

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Willan, to approve the Executive Session minutes from the regular meeting held September 17, 2013. Mr. Finke questioned Item 2 of the minutes. The Clerk will re-listen to the recording and correct if necessary. Mr. Willan noted a typographical error in Item 5. The Clerk will correct.

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

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolutions 13-132 through 13-140.

13-132 Resolution Authorizing a Donation of Abandoned Bicycles to Charitable Organizations, Namely "Project Graduation" and "Pedals for Progress"

13-133 Acceptance of Performance Guarantee, Soil Moving Permit, Smith Motors Company, Inc.

13-134 Shared Service Agreement for a Shared Municipal Court among the Townships of Washington, Oxford, Mansfield and the Borough of Washington

13-135 Resolution Authorizing the Execution of an Administrative Service Agreement with the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company and the Lincoln Financial Group and Other Agreements that are Necessary to Implement the Revised Plan 76-PD-Lincoln-120709 Deferred Compensation Program

13-136 Fair School Funding Plan

13-137 Cancel 2013 Taxes – Block 28.01; Lot 2

13-138 Cancel 2013 Taxes – Block 67.01; Lot 46

13-139 Refund Resolution – Block 18; Lot 12Q

13-140 Refund Resolution – State Tax Court Judgment

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Finke, to approve Resolution 13-141, Resolution Withdrawal of Petition for Plan Conformance to the Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council for Lands in the Planning Area.

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Deputy Chief Cicerelle 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.

J. Rossi had nothing to report.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report. He requested Committee approval to go out for RFP's for 2014. A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Willan, to instruct the Administrator to go out for RFP's for 2014.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Peter Basile, 14 Kinnaman Avenue, questioned the hiring of Township employees. He feels an experienced public worker should have been hired. He asked if the taxpayers are paying for one of the members to drive to and from work. Mayor Klingel stated it is a company vehicle. P. Basile informed the Committee he will be contacting the newspapers and has written to Governor Christie asking for his help.

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 Finke, seconded by Kovacs, to allow Mr. deBoer to attend the "Laws of Leadership" class on November 15th in Fairfield, NJ.

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

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Willan, to allow Mr. deBoer to attend the "Recycling Public Policy" seminar on March 6, 2014 in Bordentown, NJ.

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

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Willan, to allow N. Godfrey to attend the Warren County Municipal Clerks' Mini Fall Conference on October 30th in Harmony, NJ.

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

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Willan, to allow K. McCarthy to attend "Grant Accounting Workshop" on November 6th in East Brunswick, NJ.

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

A Service Order Request for 92 Windemere Terrace was received from the Warren County Health Department. J. Cooper noted this is a repeat request. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs to approve work be done on this property. Mr. deBoer stated the Committee's approval puts the official lien on the property. Mr. Finke asked when the last Service Order Request was received. J. Cooper replied it was received approximately four weeks ago. The Committee discussed with J. Cooper.

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

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Finke, seconded by Willan, to schedule an end of year Budget Workshop for December 7, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Finke, to hold the 6th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and Campfire on December 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

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

The Committee previously received a copy of the CY 2013 Best Practice Inventory Worksheet. The Township's score was 48 (96%) with 0% of State aid being withheld. Mr. Finke requested explanations on a few of the answers. Mr. deBoer and K. McCarthy explained. A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Willan, to acknowledge the CY 2013 Best Practice Inventory Worksheet as certified by the Clerk, Township Administrator, and Chief Financial Officer.

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

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Willan stated the Land Use Board voted to make the positions of their engineer and planner permanent for the remainder of 2013. The Board would like to be informed and able to provide input if the Township Committee considers hiring a Township Engineer.

Mr. Kovacs stated the CPI has been level at 1.5%. He has been working on salary rates for next year and will bring them to the November meeting.

Mayor Klingel stated the Economic Development Commission was eliminated earlier this year. He appointed Bill Connolly, Ed Rossi, Bill Rymon, Len Artigliere and Bruce Wilson to the newly created Economic Development Committee. Mayor Klingel appointed Brian McCathern to the Alternate 2 position on the Land Use Board. Mayor Klingel stated he has seen pictures of the Eagle Scout project at Lake Margerite. He would like to present him with a proclamation at the November meeting. Mayor Klingel stated paving needs to be done at the Parks and Recreation Building. K. McCarthy will let J. Cooper know of the available funds at the next meeting. Mayor Klingel suggested the possibility of changing the parking pattern to accommodate more cars if funds allow.

Mr. Finke asked if those appointed to the Economic Development Committee were Township residents. Mayor Klingel stated this is an ad hoc committee and those appointed are either residents or business owners in the Township. He is asking the Economic Development Committee to recommend ways to make the Township more business-friendly as well as look for establishments to fill vacated buildings. Mr. Kovacs stated an ordinance will be prepared after seeing how the new committee works out.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Finke, to approve Resolution 13-142, 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 8:07 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Campbell explained the Committee will be discussing a litigation matter regarding Pinnacle, a contractual matter dealing with the Police Shared Service, the purchase of property and personnel matters.

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Willan, to come out of Executive Session at 9:18 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Campbell stated the Committee discussed a litigation matter regarding Pinnacle, a contractual matter dealing with the Police Shared Service, the offer to sell property to the Township and personnel matters. 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 Willan, to approve Resolution 13-143, 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) 2013 or Newer Chevrolet Tahoe.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to instruct Attorney Lavery to send two letters to Fairway Mews; one terminating the COAH Administrator Agreement and another to reject the request for the removal of a deed restriction.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Finke, to authorize Attorney Lavery to proceed with the next step regarding Pinnacle if the November 1st deadline is not met.

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

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Willan, to authorize Attorney Lavery to send letters to the Arboretum Directors per the discussion in Executive Session.

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

Mr. deBoer reminded the Committee the November meeting will be held on Monday, November 18th due to the League of Municipalities Conference.

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Finke, to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk