

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Special Meeting
August 7, 2014

A special 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 Deputy Mayor George Willan.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE – Mr. Willan 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:

Kovacs, present; Rossi, present; Willan, present
Iacobucci arrived at 7:35 p.m.
Klingel, absent

STAFF PRESENT

Anna C. Godfrey, Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator/Certified Public Works Manager; Attorney Michael Lavery; Kevin McCarthy, CFO; Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works; Dave Evans, Township Auditor; Kevin Smith, Township Engineer

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

INFORMAL DIALOGUE

Brian Tipton, an attorney representing Johnson Dodge, explained the problems they are having with acquiring access from Route 31 to their proposed site at the intersection of Rymon Road and Route 31. He is asking the Township Committee to support the reclassification of that section of Route 31.

Traffic Engineer Paul Going provided the Committee with a map of the affected area. He explained how the Department of Transportation classifies highways by access level. Route 31 is currently classified as a Level 2. He feels changing the classification to a Level 3 or Level 4 will benefit other properties along that portion of Route 31 as well.

B. Tipton requested written support from the Committee. The Committee discussed. Kevin Smith agrees access to this property from Route 31 would be beneficial. Mrs. Iacobucci would like to make the distinction that by passing the resolution, it is not tied to the application which is before the Land Use Board. The resolution only addresses the accessibility of the Route 31 corridor.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve a resolution in support of changing the classification of the Route 31 corridor from Class 2 to Class 3 or Class 4 from the county line to the borough line. A copy of this resolution will be given to the Land Use Board with a cover letter.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Rossi, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Willan, yes

Mr. Kovacs suggested seeking support of this reclassification from Senator Doherty.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to open the meeting to the public. All were in favor.

Nancy Anderson, 11 Kinnaman Avenue, had questions concerning the Public Works storage facility. Mr. Willan stated he will open the meeting to the public after that topic is discussed.

Hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to close the public portion of the meeting. All were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve Resolution 14-130, 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 8:04 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery explained the Committee will be discussing attorney/client privilege matters dealing with the bids the Township received for the DPW storage building and the digital tax map RFP's.

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to come out of Executive Session at 8:29 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed attorney/client privilege contractual matters dealing with the bids the Township received for the DPW storage building and the digital tax map RFP's. 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.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to open the meeting to the public. All were in favor.

Nancy Anderson, 11 Kinnaman Avenue, asked why the Township is building a new Public Works storage facility. J. Cooper explained how the original building was built in the early 1960's and how the Department has outgrown it. Nancy Anderson asked how the Township plans on paying for the building. D. Evans explained the Township is using money from the sale of the old municipal building. There will be no cost to the taxpayers. Although this particular situation won't affect the taxpayers, Nancy Anderson asked the Committee to take into account how future decisions will affect the taxpayers.

Hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to close the public portion of the meeting. All were in favor.

AWARD OF BID

Mr. deBoer explained the recommendation of the Township Engineer is to award the bid for the construction of a DPW storage facility to the low bidder, Security Structures, Inc. The Township Attorney reviewed the bid and found everything to be in order. Mr. Willan entertained questions or comments from the Committee. Mrs. Iacobucci asked if all four bids covered the same amount of work. Mr. deBoer replied that they do and explained the Public Works Department will be doing some of the work to cut down on costs. J. Cooper explained the current building is fueled by propane. The two buildings will now be fueled by gas which is less expensive. He spoke to two municipalities who had buildings constructed by Security Structures, Inc. and both are pleased with the contractor. There were no issues with their buildings.

RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve Resolution 14-128, Resolution Authorizing the Purchase/Construction of a New DPW Storage Facility by Security Structures, Inc.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Rossi, yes; Willan, yes

REVIEW OF PROPOSALS

Mrs. Iacobucci previously met with the Township Administrator and CFO to review the four proposals the Township received regarding the preparation of digital tax maps and 911 maps. They also met with one of the vendors who would provide the Township with a "living" map which can be made current over the years as well as allow residents to access the zoning maps via the Township website.

Richard Raymond, president of Civil Solutions, spoke about tax mapping and his involvement in working with the State. His company is the tax mapping consultant for all of Gloucester County. Mr. deBoer stated he contacted Civil Solution's references and all spoke very highly of the company. He and Mrs. Iacobucci spoke of the various ways new maps would benefit the Township employees, professionals, residents, the Police and Fire Departments and the 911 Dispatch Center.

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to introduce Ordinance 14-07, Ordinance Authorizing Special Emergency Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:5-53 in the Amount of \$110,000 for Preparation of an Approved Tax Map in and by the Township of Washington, in the County of Warren, New Jersey, on first reading. Mr. Kovacs noted the emergency appropriation will be stretched over five years and will have an impact of \$7.00 per year for the average tax payer. If funds become available, the option is available to pay the total amount early.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Rossi, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Willan, yes

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will take place at the September 16, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Willan thanked the professionals and public for attending the meeting.

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk