

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
December 16, 2014

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 pm by Mayor Robert Klingel.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE – Mayor Klingel 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

Iacobucci, present; Klingel, present; Kovacs, present; Willan, present
Rossi, absent

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 Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 17, 2014.

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

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Willan, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held November 17, 2014.

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

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to open to the public Ordinance 14-09, Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey Highlands Preservation Area Exemption Ordinance, public hearing on second reading. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel explained the purpose of the ordinance. Seeing no one, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci to close the public hearing of Ordinance 14-09. All were in favor. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to adopt Ordinance 14-09 on second reading.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to open to the public Ordinance 14-10, 2015 Salary Ordinance, public hearing on second reading. Seeing no one, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to close the public hearing of Ordinance 14-10. All were in favor. Mrs. Iacobucci requested clarification as to which positions on the ordinance are currently filled. Mr. deBoer will provide her with the information. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to adopt Ordinance 14-10 on second reading.

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

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolutions 14-165 through 14-178, excluding 14-175.

14-165 Redemption Resolution – Block 38, Lot 22 C0044

14-166 Refund Resolution – Block 65.01 Various Lots

14-167 Cancel 2014 Amounts Owed Less Than \$10.00

14-168 Transfer Tax Sale Payments to Oxford Township Sewer Utility Collector

14-169 Refund Resolution – Block 73, Lot 1.06

14-170 Cancel 2011 Overpayment Less Than \$10.00 – Block 65, Lot 1.01

14-171 Transfer 2013 Overpayment to 2015 Taxes – Block 38, Lot 22 C0065

14-172 Interest Resolution – Extension of August Grace Period

14-173 Cancel 2014 Overpayments Less Than \$10.00

14-174 Acceptance of Performance Bond Guarantee from Security Structures, Inc for the Installation of the DPW Storage Building

14-176 Chapter 159 – School Resource Officers (SRO's)

14-177 Chapter 159 – Body Armor Replacement Fund

14-178 Chapter 159 – Body Armor Replacement Fund

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

Mr. Willan asked if the Department Heads are in agreement with Resolution 14-175, Transfer Resolution. Mr. McCarthy replied he hasn't spoken to the Department Heads, but sufficient money is left in each account for outstanding expenses. Mr. Kovacs questioned the DPW salaries transfer. K. McCarthy explained the DPW is not over budget. There was an error in the 2014 budget calculations. Mr. Kovacs questioned the Police salaries transfer. K. McCarthy stated

this was a transition year with retirees, new recruits and additional overtime. Some of the outside overtime expenses will be reimbursed to the Township. Mr. Kovacs discussed the School Resource Officers with K. McCarthy. Mr. Kovacs requested financial documents be provided to the Committee a few days prior to a meeting to allow time for review. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 14-175, Transfer Resolution.

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief McDonald previously submitted a report and had nothing further to add. Mrs. Iacobucci asked if anything has been done regarding traffic enforcement at the intersection of Route 31 and Springtown Road. Chief McDonald replied his department is working on it.

J. Cooper previously submitted a report. The Township has plenty of salt for the roads.

K. McCarthy had nothing to report.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Joel Schnetzer, 240 Cemetery Hill Road, questioned the timeframe and funding for farmland preservation. Mr. deBoer explained Angela Clerico of Natural Systems Utilities has resigned from working with the Township. Scarlett Doyle will continue with the project as Municipal Planner in 2015. J. Schnetzer asked the amount of the transfer resolution. Mayor Klingel replied it is \$90,725. J. Schnetzer asked why the salary resolution is passed before the budget. M. Kovacs stated it avoids the extra work for retroactive payments to employees as well as back contributions for healthcare and pension payments.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Klingel explained the Committee previously discussed two options for an Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 59, Construction Code, Uniform Permits Article II Subsection 59-10.1: Municipal Certificate of Continued Occupancy for Abandoned/Vacant Properties, Unsafe Structure, Notice, Enforcement and Penalty. Per Mayor Klingel's request, a motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Kovacs, to instruct Attorney Lavery to review the changes made and prepare an ordinance removing the Continued Certificate of Occupancy upon change of ownership. It will be replaced with abandoned and vacant structures within a specified timeframe. Mr. Kovacs would like the ordinance prepared for discussion and review.

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

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Kovacs, to schedule the Reorganization Meeting for January 1, 2015 at 10:00 am.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve the 2015 Municipal Holiday Schedule.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Ann Kilduff to attend a Municipal Finance for Municipal Clerks course on January 17, 24, 31 and February 7, 2015 in Morris Plains, NJ.

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

The 2014 Annual Report for the Pohatcong Native Arboretum was received.

Mr. deBoer recommends keeping the current professionals in 2015 and adding Scarlett Doyle as Municipal Planner. Approval will be on the January 1st agenda.

Mr. deBoer previously discussed the change in Planners for the Highlands grant work for the Township.

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mayor Klingel thanked Deputy Chief Cicerelle for his time in organizing the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. This year's ceremony was the most attended to date. Mrs. Iacobucci would like a letter of thanks to all who volunteered their time or services.

There were no further reports from the Committee.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve the payment of the bills. Mr. Willan had questions to discuss in Executive Session regarding some of the bills. Mr. Kovacs and Mrs. Iacobucci withdrew their motions.

The Committee took a five minute recess before entering into Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolution 14-179, 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 7:58 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing two contractual matters dealing with personnel and vendors.

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Willan, to come out of Executive Session at 9:58 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a personnel/contractual matter dealing with the DPW, a contractual matter dealing with bills from a vendor, an attorney/client privilege and potential litigation matter dealing with tree cutting on public property, and a personnel/pending litigation matter dealing with the Police Department. 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 the payment of the bills, pending clarification from the CFO as discussed in Executive Session.

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

Mr. Kovacs spoke about the CPI and 2015 Salary Resolution. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to have the 2015 Salary Resolution for contractual, statutory, full-time employees and Crossing Guards based on CPI + 1 presented at the January 1st Reorganization Meeting. Mr. Willan would like to see the cost of the salary increases be absorbed from another line item(s) within the departmental budgets. Mrs. Iacobucci agreed. The Committee discussed.

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

Mr. deBoer requested Committee approval to close the Municipal Building on December 26, 2014 with employees taking a vacation day. The Committee approved this request.

ADJORNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kilduff
Deputy Township Clerk