

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
July 15, 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 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

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

STAFF PRESENT

Anna C. Godfrey, Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator/Certified Public Works Manager; Chief McDonald; Deputy Chief Cicerelle; Kevin McCarthy, CFO; Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works; and Joseph Rossi, Construction Official

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Klingel read a proclamation recognizing Special Olympic Athlete Amy Noctor. A. Noctor won the gold medal for the Special Olympics triathlon. She was the fifth athlete and the first woman to cross the finish line with 34 other triathlon contestants.

PRESENTATION

Dave Anderson spoke to the Committee regarding Sociological Research in America, a non-profit cultural exchange program. Students spend approximately seventeen days in the area with host families and learn different aspects of governmental, non-governmental and non-profit organizations. After a brief discussion, Mayor Klingel suggested D. Anderson work with the Township Administrator to schedule a site visit.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 17, 2014.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the Executive Session minutes from the regular meeting held June 17, 2014.

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

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolutions 14-117 through and including 14-125.

14-117 Acceptance of Maintenance Guarantee – Washington Cemetery Association – Block 67, Lot 4

14-118 Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit

14-119 Resolution for Person-to-Person Liquor License Transfer – Elydo Inc. to D. English

14-120 Resolution for Place-to-Place Liquor License Transfer – 268 Route 31 North to 294 Route 31 South, Units 1-4

14-121 Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (E. Parks)

14-122 Resolution Authorizing the Execution of a Lot Line Agreement between the Washington Township Board of Education and the Township of Washington, County of Warren

14-123 Cancel 2013 Overpayment – Block 18, Lot 15

14-124 Redemption Resolution – Block 40; Lot 63

14-125 Corrective Action Plan – 2013 Audit Report

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

J. Cooper previously submitted a report. He stated the project on Mill Pond Road is progressing on schedule. A special brush pick-up from the July 3rd storm has begun. J. Cooper received notice of three properties to be mowed per the Board of Health.

J. Rossi updated the Committee on the pot holes in the A&P parking lot. They are to be repaired by the owner, but to date have not been repaired. J. Rossi will continue to monitor this.

K. McCarthy completed his mid-year financial review with the exception of the Police Department. He is working with an analyst and they will have a detailed analysis available at the next meeting.

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

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, questioned the large increase to her taxes. K. McCarthy stated 80% of the increase is due to an increase for Warren Hills Regional High School due to a clerical error in the way the tax was calculated for the prior year, which needs to be made up for this year. K. McCarthy explained how the school's debt service should have been included in the tax rate last year. N. Anderson asked what the Township is going to do to stop the taxes from rising. Mr. Kovacs explained on a house appraised at \$250,000, the taxes will increase \$805.00, out of which the Township is responsible for \$40.00. He noted this is a one-time increase. N. Anderson asked about the 2% cap. Attorney Lavery stated the 2% cap is on appropriations. Mrs. Iacobucci, Mr. Kovacs, K. McCarthy and Attorney Lavery discussed the taxes with N. Anderson.

Joel Schnetzer, 240 Cemetery Hill Road, asked if Highlands Council grant money was used to offset the bill from Natural Systems Utilities (NSU) in the amount of \$17,000 from the May bills list. K. McCarthy replied grant money was not used. The amount was for billable hours and there are no outstanding bills from NSU. J. Schnetzer asked about the work that needs to be done for the Preservation Area of the Township. Mr. deBoer stated the Township is still going through the process. The adoption of the ERI has not been completed. J. Schnetzer asked about the progress on the property the Township is looking to close on. Mayor Klingel replied the Township is working on it but there has been no progress. J. Schnetzer feels the Township can do more to control our local tax rate.

Don Beisel, 13 Edgemere Terrace, asked about the site inspection of his property. Mayor Klingel stated an e-mail was sent to the County Engineer with proposed dates. The Township Administrator has not heard back from the County Engineer but will continue to follow-up.

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

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to approve Envision's Sociological Research Group to meet with the Township Administrator and others and to walk through the municipal building per the earlier presentation.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve the request from the Washington Township Fire Department to conduct a Fundraising Activity on Friday, November 28, 2014.

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

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Ann Kilduff to attend Local Elections Administration classes on October 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2014 in Wantage, NJ.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Peter deBoer to attend recycling classes on September 10, September 30, and November 13, 2014 in New Brunswick, NJ.

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

Mr. deBoer spoke to the Committee about Storm Water Education and the requirements the Township needs in order to be in compliance with the Municipal Storm Water Regulation Program.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to schedule a special meeting of the Township Committee on Thursday, August 7, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. to award the bid for the DPW building and digital maps.

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

Mr. Kovacs requested a copy of the Township Administrator's analysis for the digital maps.

Mr. deBoer and Mr. Kovacs explained Warren Hills would like to hold a Community Day in September to promote school spirit. Representatives from Warren Hills met with various Township staff to discuss their plans and what is required by the Township. A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Warren Hills Community Day.

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

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mrs. Iacobucci met with the Environmental Commission and noted the ERI must be endorsed by the Commission before the next Township Committee meeting. Mr. deBoer stated he has been working with the Township Planner with regards to this.

There were no further reports from the Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 14-126, 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. Attorney Lavery explained the Committee will be discussing a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department, a contractual matter dealing with digital tax maps, a litigation matter dealing with Washington Township vs. Pinnacle/Hawk Point Developers, a personnel matter dealing with the CFO and two tax matters.

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to come out of Executive Session at 10:15 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department, a contractual matter dealing with digital tax maps, a litigation matter dealing with Washington Township vs. Pinnacle/Hawk Point Developers, a personnel matter dealing with the CFO and two tax 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 Rossi, to approve the request for the relief of interest on taxes in the amount of \$367.67 for which taxes were sent to an incorrect address, based on the fact that taxes have been paid.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 14-127, Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (K. McCarthy).

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to include in the next newsletter a breakdown of the tax pie chart as well as a spreadsheet as developed by the CFO. Mayor Klingel would like a contact number with the information. The Committee agreed to add the CFO's contact information to the newsletter. Mayor Klingel would like the chart and graph printed in color.

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

Mrs. Iacobucci suggested the Township hold a dinner to thank the volunteers on various boards. The Committee discussed.

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk