

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
March 18, 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

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

STAFF PRESENT

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Klingel requested everyone remain standing for a moment of silence in memory of former Police Officer Henry "Hank" Rios. Condolences were extended to his wife and family. Patrolman Rios served our community dutifully for 20 years.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Klingel read the Proclamation recognizing the Washington Township Panther Football Program for their undefeated season and for winning the 2013 Warren County Midget Football Championship. He congratulated both the players and cheerleaders and acknowledged the time and effort of the coaches and parents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve the Executive Session minutes from the regular meeting held February 18, 2014.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 18, 2014.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve the minutes from the budget meeting held February 22, 2014.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve the minutes from the budget meeting held March 8, 2014.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the Executive Session minutes from the budget meeting held March 8, 2014 with the corrections given to the Clerk.

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

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolutions 14-50 through and including 14-53.

14-50 Deferred Local District School Tax

14-51 Deferred Regional High School District School Tax

14-52 Three Year Average Tax Resolution

14-53 Self-Examination of 2014 Budget Resolution

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

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to introduce Ordinance 14-03, Ordinance of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey to Exceed the Municipal Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank – Calendar Year 2014, on first reading.

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

Public hearing and adoption will take place at the April 15, 2014 meeting.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to introduce Ordinance 14-04, Bond Ordinance Providing for the Construction of a New DPW Storage Facility in and by the Township of Washington in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey, Appropriating \$500,000 Therefore and Authorizing the Issuance of \$237,500 Bonds or Notes of the Township for Financing Such Appropriation, on first reading.

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

Public hearing and adoption will take place at the April 15, 2014 meeting.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 14-54, Introduction of the 2014 Budget, on first reading.

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

Public Hearing and Adoption will take place at the April 15, 2014 meeting.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolutions 14-55 through and including 14-65.

14-55 Resolution Authorizing Settlement of 2013 Tax Appeal Filed by Anthony Page for the Property Known as 36 St. Andrews Drive and Identified as Block 38, Lot 18.14 on the Township of Washington Tax Assessment Maps

14-56 Redemption Resolution – Block 28; Lot 5.01

14-57 Redemption Resolution – Block 28; Lot 5.02

14-58 Redemption Resolution – Block 28; Lot 5.03

14-59 Redemption Resolution – Block 28; Lot 5.04

14-60 Redemption Resolution – Block 28; Lot 5.05

14-61 Redemption Resolution – Block 28; Lot 5.06

14-62 Redemption Resolution – Block 28; Lot 5.07

14-63 Redemption Resolution – Block 28; Lot 5.08

14-64 Redemption Resolution – Block 38; Lot 22 C0053

14-65 Resolution to Reissue Check Lost in the Mail

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 14-66, Transfer Resolution.

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief McDonald previously submitted a report and had no further comments.

J. Cooper previously submitted a report. He will be filing a maintenance permit to repair the guard rail on Mill Pond Road which was damaged this winter. Mr. deBoer explained this area is a unique situation as the pond is owned by Washington Borough, the road is owned by the Township and the one structure in the dam is owned by the County. They have met with representatives from the Borough and County with regards to the damage.

K. McCarthy stated the pension number provided by the State is higher than anticipated. This will not have an impact on the budget.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report. He has a final Amended Grant Agreement and Scope of Work from the Highlands Council and will set up a meeting with the Township professionals, appointed Board Members and staff members. Mr. deBoer updated the Committee on the Port Colden well monitoring, stating the State has confirmed the Township's request for a 2-year extension on meeting our monitoring requirements.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Joel Schnetzer, 240 Cemetery Hill Road, asked for an update on the property discussed at a previous meeting that the Township is looking to sell. Mayor Klingel explained the Township Planner is working on this. He has no further information at this time.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Klingel opened the discussion of the Flea Market Ordinance which was presented to the Committee in 2013 and revisited in January. The Mayor and Committee discussed the ordinance with Attorney Lavery. Attorney Lavery will make the revisions as discussed. Mayor Klingel would like the Zoning Officer to review the revised ordinance before it comes before the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Klingel stated there is a petition circulated by a Township resident regarding the installation of natural gas lines for the Candlewood Drive area. The residents are hoping the Township will get involved in getting the gas company to consider running gas lines through the neighborhood. Mayor Klingel faxed the petition to Elizabethtown Gas who will prepare a potential plan and cost, if any, to the residents. A representative from Elizabethtown Gas will explain what is involved to everyone.

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the Washington Historical Society to hold a History Expo, including a Civil War Reenactment outside, at the Masonic Lodge on Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Nancy Godfrey to attend the Security Illusion Seminar on April 4, 2014 in Budd Lake, NJ.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Kevin McCarthy to attend CMFO Exam Courses on April 5, 12, May 3 and 10, 2014 at Rutgers New Brunswick Campus.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to re-appoint Al Ivany to the Musconetcong River Management Council.

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

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

There were no reports from the Committee.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 14-67, 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. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery explained the Committee will be discussing a litigation matter dealing with the Washington Shopping Center, an attorney/client privilege and litigation matter dealing with Pinnacle/Hawk Pointe, a personnel matter dealing with a Police Officer, a contractual matter dealing with Unity Bank Performance Bond, a personnel matter dealing with the CFO, an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with 41 Lock Street.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to come out of Executive Session at 9:34 p.m. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a litigation matter dealing with the Washington Shopping Center, an attorney/client privilege and litigation matter dealing with Pinnacle/Hawk Pointe, a personnel matter dealing with a Police Officer, a contractual matter dealing with Unity Bank Performance Bond, a personnel matter dealing with the CFO, an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with 41 Lock Street and the Committee received an update on the Teamsters health insurance. 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 Counsel to respond to the Washington Shopping Center vs. Washington Township correspondence.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to appoint Kevin Lifer as CFO if our current Acting CFO is not approved by the State; salary to be determined at a later date.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to release the Unity Bank Performance Bond.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to authorize Attorney Lavery to draft a Settlement Agreement for 41 Lock Street.

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

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk