

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Budget Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2014

The budget 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 10:00 a.m. by Mayor Robert Klingel.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE – The Mayor noted this meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Law of 1975 in as much as a notice has 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
Ms. Iacobucci arrived at 10:05 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT

Anna C. Godfrey, Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator/Certified Public Works Manager; Dave Evans and John Mooney, Municipal Auditors; Kevin McCarthy, Chief Financial Officer; Chief McDonald; Deputy Chief Cicerelle, Lydia Schmidt, Tax Assessor; and Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no one, Mayor Klingel closed the public portion of the meeting.

RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 14-47, Resolution Designating Robert Beinfield as Township Bond Attorney.

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

2014 BUDGET DISCUSSION

K. McCarthy had provided the Committee with a detailed analysis of the operating expenses including recommended changes. D. Evans stated the Committee cut approximately \$22,000 from the budget at the last budget meeting. This represents an approximate \$3.38 per month increase to the average residential tax payer. The Committee discussed the line items of the budget with K. McCarthy and D. Evans. Mr. deBoer stated he is waiting for a response from the State regarding the Port Colden wells. Ms. Iacobucci and D. Evans discussed the school tax.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to introduce the 2014 Budget at the March 18, 2014 meeting.

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

Mayor Klingel requested D. Evans and J. Mooney be present at the March 18th meeting.

Lydia Schmidt addressed the Committee with regards to updating the tax, zoning and 911 maps which she feels have been critically neglected. Some blocks, lots and acreage are incorrect, making it difficult to make correct decisions and it is affecting our 911 Center. She feels beginning with a digital tax map would be a benefit to the Township. The Committee was given a fee estimate from the Township Engineer. Discussion followed. Mr. deBoer stated he has been working with the Tax Collector regarding Township-owned properties and will work with him regarding owner-unknown properties as well. D. Evans discussed funding. Mr. deBoer and L. Schmidt will research options other than the Township Engineer updating the maps.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Joel Schnetzer, Cemetery Hill Road, asked if the Township will be closing on the property discussed at the last budget meeting this year. Mayor Klingel and Mr. Kovacs explained the process and feel there is a good possibility of closing on it this year. J. Schnetzer asked if the older backhoe which was discussed at last year's budget meeting had been sold. J. Cooper replied it has not been sold as he just received the new backhoe.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 14-48, 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 10:46 a.m.

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

Mayor Klingel explained the Committee will be discussing salaries and wages for certain employees and an insurance issue.

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to come out of Executive Session at 11:31 a.m. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel stated the Committee discussed salaries and wages for certain employees and an insurance issue. 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 Iacobucci, to approve Resolution 14-49, Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (Committee Members/Mayor).

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

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Willan, to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 a.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk