

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting

October 21, 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

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

STAFF PRESENT

Ann Kilduff, Deputy Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator/Certified Public Works Manager; Attorney Michael Lavery; Chief McDonald; Kevin McCarthy, CFO; Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works; and Joseph Rossi, Construction Official

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Klingel was honored to read a proclamation commemorating the 275th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Washington. Representatives of the church thanked Mayor Klingel for his support.

NEW BUSINESS

Brian Sweat of Sweat & Walters spoke to the Committee about the employee's health insurance. He recommends the Township return to Aetna effective December 1, 2014 through November 30, 2015 as AmeriHealth's fees have substantially increased. He explained recent federal healthcare changes to the Committee. Costs are now based on age and employees will be contributing different amounts. Mr. Willan asked how many employees are covered. B. Sweat replied there are 41 employees. Mr. deBoer explained the four-year phase in for Governor Christie's law which also affects employee contributions towards their health insurance. The Committee discussed with B. Sweat. Mayor Klingel questioned out of state facilities. B. Sweat confirmed Aetna has a nationwide network. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Aetna as the employee health insurance effective December 1, 2014.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 16, 2014.

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

ORDINANCE

Mayor Klingel explained Ordinance 14-07, Ordinance Authorizing Special Emergency Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53 in the Amount of \$110,000 for the Preparation of an Approved Tax Map in and by the Township of Washington in the County of Warren, New Jersey was tabled from the September 16, 2014 meeting where a public hearing was held. Mr. Willan stated he and Mr. Rossi met with the CFO and Auditor to discuss funding the tax maps. The Auditor recommends using asset funds which will have no impact on the taxpayers. Mr. Willan would like to partially fund the tax maps in 2015 when the Committee has a better understanding of next year's budget. He would prefer to make budget cuts than impact the taxpayers. The Committee discussed. Mr. deBoer noted that by passing this Ordinance, the Committee is not spending any money. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Ordinance 14-07.

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

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolutions 14-149, 14-151 and 14-152. Resolutions 14-136 and 14-145 were pulled.

14-149 A Resolution Authorizing the Extension of and First Amendment to the Shared Service Agreement for Paving Equipment Between the Township of Washington, The Township of Franklin and the Borough of Washington, Warren County

14-151 Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Cemetery Hill Road Improvements Section I Project

14-152 Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Rymon Road Improvements Section IV Project

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 14-150, Resolution Accepting Certain Roadways and Streets within the Village at Hawk Pointe Residential Area Washington.

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

J. Cooper previously submitted a report. Construction on the new DPW building began on Monday. The concrete floor will be poured this week.

J. Rossi had nothing to report.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report. A meeting was held with regards to Mill Pond Road. There will be a signal crossing with drop down bars at the railroad crossing within the next two years. Mr. deBoer stated the title search is not yet complete for the two properties experiencing drainage issues. Mayor Klingel asked Mr. deBoer and J. Cooper to visit the Edgemere Terrace site during a rainstorm. Mr. deBoer will be on site with a representative from the County Engineer's office on October 28th.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Nancy Anderson, 11 Kinnaman Avenue, stated she is disappointed with the Committee's decision regarding the digital tax maps as there were residents at the last meeting who did not want this done. Mayor Klingel explained the Committee is not moving forward with the tax maps until it is known where the money is coming from without affecting the taxpayer. N. Anderson would like the decision reversed because of the debt load. Attorney Lavery stated the Township is required by law to update the tax maps and money has not been spent yet. N. Anderson would like the Township to pay off the debt. Mr. Kovacs stated it has been five or six years since the Township borrowed money which was needed to pave roads. The Township has been working on paying down that debt ever since. N. Anderson asked when and how the police contracts are being renegotiated. Mr. Kovacs stated they will be reviewed in the Fall of 2015 by two Committee members. The meeting is not open to the public. It is then discussed by the Committee in Executive Session. N. Anderson asked when the public provides input to the contracts. M. Kovacs stated terms of the contract are discussed in open session. N. Anderson asked the type of Aetna plan the Committee approved. Mr. deBoer stated it is an HMO/HSA.

Jeff Duckworth, 28 Coleman Hill Road, asked if the Township will be selling the old backhoe. Mayor Klingel stated it was needed last winter although it cannot do all that the new one does. J. Duckworth stated as a taxpayer he expects what is said is actually done. The backhoe was to be sold when the new one was purchased. He is disappointed in the Township's decision.

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

OLD BUSINESS

The Committee discussed two options to 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. Mayor Klingel explained there was a disagreement at the last meeting with regards to this ordinance. Mrs. Iacobucci had suggested these two options geared towards abandoned and vacant structures. After review, the Committee tabled this discussion to the November 17, 2014 meeting.

Mr. deBoer received a copy of the Township's Wastewater Management Plan. A copy will be sent to the DEP.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to schedule a Budget Workshop Meeting for Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 5:30 pm at the Municipal Building.

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

Mayor Klingel stated the November Committee meeting will be held on Monday, November 17, 2014.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve the Township Administrator to solicit for 2015 RFP's for Attorney, Auditor, Bond Counsel and Special Litigation Counsel.

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

A motion was made by the Willan, seconded by Rossi, to schedule the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony for December 13, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

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

The Committee previously received a copy of the CY 2014 Best Practice Inventory Worksheet. The Township's score was 44 (88%) with 0% of State Aid being withheld. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to acknowledge the CY 2014 Best Practice Inventory Worksheet as certified by the Township Clerk, Township Administrator and Chief Financial Officer.

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

Mr. deBoer explained the Highlands Council is requesting a letter from the Township stating the Committee's intentions now that the ERI has been adopted. A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to approve a letter to the Highlands Council with the intention to move forward with the Checklist Approach.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan to move forward with the Highlands Exemption Ordinance to allow designated municipal representatives to issue eligible Highlands Act exemptions. Attorney Lavery explained this will allow local officials to approve exemptions without the need to obtain Highland Council approval. Mr. deBoer stated several employees have recently been trained.

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

Mr. deBoer will draft an ordinance for first reading at the November 17, 2014 meeting.

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

There were no reports from the Committee.

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; Rossi, yes; Klingel, yes

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 14-153, 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 8:40 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery explained the Committee will be discussing two personnel matters dealing with the Police Department and DPW; a contractual matter dealing with a potential shared service agreement with an adjoining municipality; a pending litigation matter dealing with DP Warren; an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with tax lot issue; and an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with oversight of authorities.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to come out of Executive Session at 10:00 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed two personnel matters dealing with the Police Department and DPW; a contractual matter dealing with a potential shared service agreement with an adjoining municipality; a pending litigation matter dealing with DP Warren; an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with tax lot issue; and an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with oversight of authorities. 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 Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to move forward with a possible shared service with Mansfield for Code and Construction.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to authorize our insurance carrier to take action as discussed in Executive Session.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to eliminate the tax penalty on Block 40, Lot 96.01 and 98 as discussed in Executive Session.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve the purchase of a vehicle pending the availability of funds.

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

Mr. Willan asked the CFO about the check and balances that were to be put in place after the tax issue in August. K. McCarthy spoke to the Township Auditor who recommended a structure for him to use. Mr. Willan would like a target timeframe for a draft of the structure at the next meeting. Mr. Willan stated the Committee would like to hold the 2015 budget at the current budget of \$9.7 million. K. McCarthy will be looking at the Township's expenses. The Committee discussed.

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to adjourn the meeting at 10:08 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kilduff
Deputy Township Clerk