

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting  
April 21, 2015

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; Rossi, present; Willan, present

STAFF PRESENT

Anna C. Godfrey, Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator; Attorney Katrina Campbell; John Mooney, Township Auditor; Chief McDonald; Jeff Cooper, Superintendent of Public Works; Kevin McCarthy, Chief Financial Officer; and Joseph Rossi, Construction Official

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Klingel read two proclamations by title. One proclamation designates May 2015 as Older American Month and the other commends the Northwest NJ Community Action Partnership, Inc. (NORWESCAP) upon the occasion of celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of community action. Mayor Klingel stated both proclamations will be posted on the Township's website if anyone wishes to read them in full.

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to open to the public Ordinance 15-03, 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 2015 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14).

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

Ralph Fiore, 162 Mine Hill Road, asked for an explanation of this ordinance. J. Mooney explained the ordinance passes the Cost of Living Adjustment limit for the year and also explained CAP banking.

Hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to close the public portion of Ordinance 15-03. All were in favor. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Ordinance 15-03 on second reading.

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

RESOLUTION 2015-59 - 2015 BUDGET

J. Mooney explained the budget has not changed since it was introduced and the Township is well below both the expenditure cap and the tax levy cap. Expenditures inside the cap were cut by approximately \$50,000. An average assessed home of \$250,000 will see an increase of approximately \$3.20 per month or approximately \$39.00 per year. The tax rate is increasing 1.57 cents. J. Mooney explained how the reserve for uncollected taxes is driving the increase and commended the Committee on the work they did with this year's budget. Mrs. Iacobucci asked about the refinancing of the Township's older bonds. J. Mooney stated he is still working with the underwriters on the older bond and there is nothing that can be done with the newer bond. Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public for Resolution 2015-59.

A resident requested a copy of the budget worksheets. Mayor Klingel explained the information on the worksheets is constantly changing. The Clerk explained a summary of the budget is on the Township's website as well as being posted in the newspaper and at the municipal building. The Clerk also stated copies of the full budget were available in her office for public inspection. The resident thanked Mayor Klingel for giving an approximate length of time the Committee will be in Executive Session at previous meetings and asked about having a public session afterwards. Mayor Klingel stated the public session is usually held towards the end of the meeting, but before Executive Session. Mr. Kovacs recommends having a chart on the projection screen during the budget process to help the residents.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Klingel closed the public portion of Resolution 2015-59. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to adopt Resolution 2015-59, 2015 Budget as presented.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve the minutes of the budget meeting held March 14, 2015.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the budget meeting held March 14, 2015.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 17, 2015.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held March 17, 2015.

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

#### ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to open to the public Ordinance 15-04, An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 14-10 Fixing the Salaries of the Officers and Employees of the Township of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey. All were in favor.

Per a resident's request, Mayor Klingel explained this ordinance adjusts the salary ranges of the salaries that have been established for the year. Mr. Kovacs stated this ordinance provides more detail than the previous ordinance and explained the process of determining the salary ranges. Mr. deBoer stated this ordinance is an attempt to provide clarity to the residents. Attorney Campbell stated some positions are statutorily determined and provided examples.

Hearing no further comments, a motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to close the public portion of Ordinance 15-04. All were in favor. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Ordinance 15-04 on second reading.

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

#### RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve Resolutions 15-60 through 15-63.

15-60 Redemption Resolution – Block 50, Lot 14

15-61 Redemption Resolution – Block 38, Lot 22 C0094

15-62 Redemption Resolution – Block 38, Lot 22 C0023

15-63 Redemption Resolution – Block 3, Lot 13.04

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

The Committee discussed Resolution 15-64, Resolution Supporting the Transparent Tax Act of 2015 and the information received from the Tax Collector. The Committee tabled this resolution in the event more information becomes available.

#### STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

J. Cooper previously submitted a report and had nothing further to add.

J. Rossi updated the Committee on businesses coming into the Township.

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

#### PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Lydia Schmidt, 21 Cemetery Hill Road, spoke to the Committee regarding the large amount of garbage on her property generated by Washington Cemetery across the street from her property. She stated the detention pond is also filled with garbage. Mr. deBoer stated this has been an on-going issue for the Zoning Officer and Police Department. He has brought the matter to the attention of the Department of Environmental Protection. L. Schmidt stated traffic is another issue and discussed the cemetery with the Committee, Mr. deBoer, Attorney Campbell and Chief McDonald.

Joel Schnetzer, 240 Cemetery Hill Road, stated he also seen the large amounts of garbage left throughout the cemetery and agrees something needs to be done.

Nancy Anderson, 11 Kinnaman Avenue, questioned an expense on the bills list for a cell phone application for the Police Department, the need for a new police vehicle and job ad for a Class 2 Police Officer. Chief McDonald explained the cell phone application allows the officers to access documents, State statutes and other information, the new vehicle is to replace an older vehicle and the job ad is to search for a Police Officer to replace someone who retired. N. Anderson questioned the cost for a 2014 audit. K. McCarthy explained it is a portion of the annual fee from the auditors.

A resident wished to acknowledge the Public Works Department for the great job they did plowing this past winter.

Kathy Fiore, 162 Mine Hill Road stated she spoke to the Chairman of the Historical Commission about funds to place a plaque at the lime kiln near Shop-Rite and was looking for an update. She would also like an update on the traffic light at the corner of Route 57 and Brass Castle Road. Mr. deBoer stated the plaque has been approved and he will contact the Chairman. He met with a representative from JCP&L and learned the Township is liable to pay for that traffic light. K. McCarthy explained he and Mr. deBoer reviewed the electric bills and found ways to reduce the cost.

Ralph Fiore, 162 Mine Hill Road, discussed the problem of uncollected taxes with the Committee. Mayor Klingel explained the Township holds a yearly tax sale to collect funds. Mr. Kovacs discussed the issue. Attorney Campbell briefly explained the tax sale process.

Lydia Schmidt, 21 Cemetery Hill Road, discussed with Attorney Campbell and Mr. Kovacs the fact that some residents do not pay their taxes and either walk away from the property, or allow their houses to become unfit or abandoned. Mayor Klingel will request a list of delinquent properties from the Tax Collector and discuss next steps with Counsel.

N. Anderson discussed banks making tax payments on foreclosed properties with Attorney Campbell and asked how many homes are in foreclosure. The Clerk replied there are not many.

Joel Schnetzer, 240 Cemetery Hill Road, asked for the final tax rate. Mayor Klingel replied it is 1.57 cents. J. Schnetzer asked if the purchase of the Jeep was discussed at the budget meetings. K. McCarthy replied it was a 2014 budget item. J. Schnetzer discussed police vehicles with Chief McDonald and the Committee. J. Schnetzer feels there is no need for the Public Works Department to use salt on the roads in April.

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

#### ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to introduce Ordinance 15-05, An Ordinance Amending, Revision and Supplementing Chapter 1 of the Code of the Township of Washington, Entitled "General Provisions", Specifically Article 1, Entitled "Administration", Specifically Subsection Three.Two (3.2) Entitled "Definitions" and Article II, Entitled "Fair Housing Fees. Mayor Klingel explained this is to update the Township's COAH obligation with changes made by the State.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Rossi, yes; Willan, yes; Klingel, yes  
Second reading, public hearing and adoption will be held on May 19, 2015.

#### OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business at this meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve a request from Evan Howell to attend TCTA Spring Conference in Atlantic City from May 19-21, 2015.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve requests from Nancy Godfrey and Peter deBoer to attend a seminar "Managing Records in the Age of Public Scrutiny" on Friday, June 19, 2015 in Budd Lake, NJ.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve a request from Peter deBoer to attend a seminar entitled "Ethical Culture 2015 Workshop" on Friday, April 24, 2015 in Budd Lake, NJ.

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

#### REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Kovacs recommends creating a subcommittee to begin discussing the renewal of the Police Contract with Washington Borough. The Committee discussed. A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to create a subcommittee to include Mayor Klingel, Mr. Kovacs, Mr. deBoer, Chief McDonald and Deputy Chief Cicerelle to discuss the renewal of the Police Contact with Washington Borough. The Township Clerk or Deputy Clerk will also be in attendance.

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

Mrs. Iacobucci had a request to include a flyer to promote Earth Day regarding the reduction of carbon footprints on the Township's website. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci to have the flyer entitled "Best Ways to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint" placed on the Township's website. All were in favor. Mayor Klingel suggested the Committee discuss listing local businesses on the website at a future meeting.

There were no further reports from the Committee.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve Resolution 15-65, 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 8:47 pm.

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

Attorney Campbell stated the Committee will be discussing three personnel matters dealing with the Police Department, Department of Public Works and other staff. The Committee expects to be in Executive Session for approximately 45 minutes.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to come out of Executive Session at 9:30 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Campbell stated the Committee discussed three personnel matters dealing with the Police Department, Department of Public Works and other staff. 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 Resolution 15-66, Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (M. Merrill) to be located at the Motor Vehicle Offices. Mr. Willan noted the salary will be covered by Homeland Security. Mr. Kovacs stated this position includes dental and vision insurance and waives medical insurance.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to advertise for a temporary part-time DPW position on the Township's website to replace an injured employee.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Kovacs, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Rossi, 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 9:33 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC  
Township Clerk