

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
February 17, 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/Certified Public Works Manager; Attorney Michael Lavery; Chief McDonald; and Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Eagle Scout Sean Graham led the Flag Salute

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Klingel read and presented a proclamation to Sean Graham, recognizing him for his Eagle Scout Project. S. Graham explained how he built a brick patio for a local non-profit group called the Phillipsburg Railroad Historians.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the budget meeting held December 11, 2014.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held January 20, 2015.

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

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held January 20, 2015.

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

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to open to the public Ordinance 15-01, Ordinance Re-Authorizing the Open Space Trust Fund for the Township of Washington on second reading. All were in favor. Seeing no one, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to close the public portion of Ordinance 15-01. All were in favor. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan to adopt Ordinance 15-01 on second reading.

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

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to introduce Ordinance 15-02, Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 59, Construction Code, Uniform Permits Article II Subsection 50-10.1: Municipal Certificate of Continued Occupancy for Abandoned/Vacant Properties, Unsafe Structure Notice, Enforcement and Penalty.

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

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will be held on March 17, 2015.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolutions 15-38 through 15-43.

15-38 Resolution for a Person-To-Person Liquor License Transfer - Daya Wine & Liquors (t/a Town & Country Liquors) to BR Krishna

15-39 2014 Recycling Tonnage Grant Application

15-40 Redemption Resolution – Block 38, Lot 22 C0030

15-41 Resolution Supporting, Recognizing and Honoring the Service of Law Enforcement Officers

15-42 Resolution Accepting a Maintenance Bond from Security Structures, Inc.

15-43 Salary Resolution – K-9 Officer (J. Casella)

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief McDonald previously submitted a report and stated an apology was put on Facebook for the phone call that residents received 3:00 am Sunday morning telling them to move their cars. It was due to a poor judgment call and a glitch in the system. Chief McDonald apologized to the residents and assured them it will not happen again.

J. Cooper previously submitted a report and explained the excessive vehicle repairs on some of the older vehicles due to the snow storms. J. Cooper has used the entire salt budget this winter with enough salt left to go out eight more times. He will discuss both of these issues further at the budget meeting.

Mr. deBoer submitted a report and stated sexual harassment training is available to all employees and all board members. Mr. deBoer met with the Mayor, CFO and a representative from MSI regarding a new financial program. He would like to start implementing the new program with the Police and Public Works departments. Mayor Klingel stated it will be beneficial to each department as well as streamline the budget. Mr. Kovacs would like monthly budget updates from the CFO.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Klingel opened the meeting to the public.

Don Beisel, 13 Edgemere Terrace, requested an update on his water problem. Mayor Klingel stated the County agreed to provide the Township with a Hold Harmless Agreement to do work on County property, but the Township would have to obtain permits from the DEP at the Township's cost. Mayor Klingel has been speaking with Freeholder Smith with regards to this matter.

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

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave English discussed having outside dining and entertainment at the Draught House and provided the Committee with a copy of his plans. Attorney Lavery spoke about the possible need for a site plan and potential parking issues. Discussion followed. D. English also spoke to the Committee regarding plans for the old Roaring Rock Restaurant including a two family home or affordable housing. D. English was referred to the Land Use Board Secretary for both properties.

Mayor Klingel tabled the appointments to the Environmental Commission and Recreation Commission to another meeting.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Ann Kilduff to attend Municipal Clerk Review classes in Wantage, NJ on March 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2015.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Nancy Godfrey and Ann Kilduff to attend the Mid-State Registrar's Spring Seminar in Bridgewater, NJ on Thursday, March 12, 2015. The Clerk stated there will be coverage in the office.

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

Mayor Klingel stated the Township received a Safety and Loss Control Award for the Township's commitment to safety. Mr. deBoer feels the Township's Safety Committee has been a benefit to the Township.

The Committee discussed the Comcast Franchise Renewal. J. Cooper would like to include internet service. Attorney Lavery will contact Comcast.

The Joint Purchase and Use of Paving Equipment between Washington Township, Washington Borough and Franklin Township will be discussed in Executive Session.

The Proposed Interlocal Agreement – Solid Waste Disposal will be discussed in Executive Session.

Mr. deBoer updated the Committee on the Warren County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Township's detailed plan will be submitted to the County by March 19, 2015.

The Committee discussed potential budget meeting dates. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to schedule budget meetings for February 28 and March 14, 2015 at 10:00 am in the Municipal Building.

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

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mrs. Iacobucci stated the Environmental Commission members have incorrect terms and members are not staggered correctly. Attorney Lavery stated the terms can be re-assigned at any time. Mrs. Iacobucci discussed the Environmental Commissions' concerns regarding the Pohatcong Superfund site.

There were no further reports from the Committee.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 15-44, 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 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing a contractual matter dealing with the status of COAH as it affects the Joe Justo Realty project, a contractual matter dealing with the Joint Purchase Agreement with Washington Borough and Franklin Township, a contractual matter dealing with the proposed Interlocal Agreement dealing with solid waste disposal, a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department, and a personnel/contractual matter dealing with two employees.

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to come out of Executive Session at 9:26 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a contractual matter dealing with the status of COAH as it affects the Joe Justo Realty project, a contractual matter dealing with the Joint Purchase Agreement with Washington Borough and Franklin Township, a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department, and a personnel/contractual matter dealing with two employees. The Committee did not discuss the contractual matter dealing with the proposed Interlocal Agreement dealing with solid waste disposal. 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 Rossi, seconded by Iacobucci, to authorize Attorney Lavery to take the action discussed in Executive Session with regard to the COAH obligation of Joe Justo Realty.

ROLL CALL: Rossi, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Kovacs, yes; Willan, 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 9:27 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk