

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
July 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 Deputy Mayor George Willan.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE – Mr. Willan 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; Kovacs, present; Rossi, present; Willan, present
Klingel, absent

STAFF PRESENT

Ann Kilduff, Deputy Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator; Attorney Michael Lavery; Chief McDonald; Officer Benjamin Blake, Kevin McCarthy, CFO; and Joseph Rossi, Construction Official

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 16, 2015.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held June 16, 2015.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Pat Kollar, Municipal Alliance Coordinator, read a letter of appreciation from Warren Hills Project Graduation. P. Kollar thanked the Committee for the Township's matching funds to the program. She also read another note of appreciation from the Brass Castle Publishing Company and Kim Sigman of the Senior Program for the donation towards a color printer. Mr. Willan thanked P. Kollar on behalf of the Committee for her dedication to the program.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolutions 15-80 through 15-89, excluding 15-84.

15-80 Liquor License Renewal – BR Krishna, LLC (Town & Country Liquors)

15-81 Liquor License Renewal – Mountain Valley Fine Wines & Liquors, LLC

15-82 Liquor License Renewal – 31 Pub, LLC (Draught House)

15-83 Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit

15-85 Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (A. Kilduff)

15-86 Redemption Resolution – Block 64, Lot 12.01

15-87 Redemption Resolution – Block 57, Lot 4

15-88 Corrective Action Plan – 2014 Audit Report

15-89 Resolution Authorizing Mayor's Signature on the Deed of Conservation Easement for Washington Community Solar, LLC – Block 67, Lot 63.01

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

Mrs. Iacobucci asked for clarification on Resolution 15-84, Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Township Vehicles and Excess Equipment on the Internet through the eBay Website. Mr. deBoer explained the conditions of the vehicles. The Committee discussed the bidding process. A motion was made by Mr. Kovacs to approve Resolution 15-84. There was no second. Mr. Kovacs withdrew his motion. The Committee tabled Resolution 15-84 until the next meeting.

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief McDonald previously submitted a report and stated Deputy Chief Cicerelle created an interactive map on the police website which shows the volume and location of calls on a monthly basis. Since 2009, crime has decreased 58% in neighboring Washington Borough and twenty-two drug houses have been closed down. Chief McDonald commended both the narcotics unit and his department.

K. McCarthy had nothing to report.

J. Rossi reported the Dollar Tree store opened recently and two foreclosed properties have been sold.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Willan opened the meeting to the public.

Jeff Duckworth, 28 Coleman Hill Road, questioned the missing street addresses on the Zoning Officer's Report. Mr. deBoer stated the addresses were omitted on his recommendation for the privacy of the residents working with the Zoning Officer. The public has the right to OPRA the zoning documents if they choose. J. Duckworth asked if the back hoe was on the list of vehicles to sell. Mr. deBoer replied it is not.

Don Beisel, 13 Edgemere Terrace, asked for an update of the water issue on his property. Mr. deBoer stated he met with Mr. Appleget of the DEP on location. Mr. Appleget identified wetland vegetation which may be problematic and will provide an overview to Mr. de Boer.

Mike Buchyn, 21 Springtown Road, stated there is an abandoned property he would like to acquire to clean up for agricultural purposes. Taxes are not being paid on that property and he requested the balance be waived. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee cannot waive taxes and mentioned the possibility of a special tax sale with a minimum bid and auction to reduce the taxes. There was a brief discussion of vacant properties. Mr. deBoer will follow up with M. Buchyn and Attorney Lavery.

Hearing no further comments, Mr. Willan closed the public portion of the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. deBoer stated there is nothing new to report on the amendment of Chapter 117, Sub-Section 117-30 "Stop Intersections" at this time.

Mr. deBoer stated Franklin Township and Washington Borough will be discussing the Township's proposal regarding the Shared Service Agreement dealing with the paver, roller and trailer at each of their next meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Willan explained the County is offering free bulletin boards to municipalities to be used to provide Medicare information to the residents. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve a new bulletin board from the Medicare Special Benefits Outreach Program. Mrs. Iacobucci would also like this information posted on the Township's website.

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

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to approve the Service Order Request for 151 Railroad Avenue.

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

Mr. Willan explained the Township received correspondence from the Highlands Council stating the Township's Waste Water Management Plan has been deemed consistent with the Regional Master Plan.

Chief McDonald explained National Night Out and stated this year it will be held on August 4th from 6:00 – 9:00 pm at Meadow Breeze Park. There is no cost to the residents or Township. The night's events are paid for thru business donations.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve Warren Hills Community Day be held on Saturday, September 19, 2015.

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

Mr. deBoer stated the State requires that the Governing Body receive annual storm water training and showed a short video. Mr. deBoer noted the Township is a Tier B and is in compliance. Annual inspections are done to clean and re-label storm basins. The Township has not had any problems with contaminated storm water. The Township's community obligation is handled at National Night Out.

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mrs. Iacobucci reported Attorney Lavery is reviewing a draft of the bylaws for the Warren Heritage Scenic By-Way Committee.

There were no further reports from the Committee.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve Resolution 15-90, 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 8:28 pm.

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

Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing a pending litigation matter dealing with Asbury Farms, two personnel matters dealing with the Police Department and Administration, a contractual matter dealing with the Police Department; a contractual matter dealing with the PBA contract, and a contractual matter dealing with the Washington Borough Shared Service Agreement. Mr. Willan stated he expects the Committee will be in Executive Session for approximately 60 to 90 minutes.

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to come out of Executive Session at 10:42 pm.

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

Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a pending litigation matter dealing with Asbury Farms, two personnel matters dealing with the Police Department and Administration, a contractual matter dealing with the Police Department; a contractual matter dealing with the PBA contract, and a contractual matter dealing with the Washington Borough Shared Service Agreement. 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 schedule a Special Meeting on July 28, 2015 at 1:00 pm to discuss the School Resource Officer position pending proper notifications.

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

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to authorize the Township Administrator to schedule a meeting with Washington Borough to discuss the Police Shared Service contract.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolution 15-91, Township of Washington Resolution Authorizing the Cost Difference of Original Application Purchasing Military Service for Patrolman Benjamin Blake be Satisfied by the Township, pending certification of funds by the Chief Financial Officer.

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

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to adjourn the meeting at 10:48 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kilduff, RMC
Deputy Township Clerk