

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
March 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; Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works; Kevin McCarthy, Chief Financial Officer; and Joe Rossi, Construction Official

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Klingel read and presented a proclamation honoring the Washington Township Panthers Football and Cheerleading teams, recognizing them for winning the Championship two years in a row.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held February 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 minutes of the budget meeting held February 28, 2015.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the budget meeting held February 28, 2015.

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

RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolutions 15-50 through 15-52.

15-50 Deferred Local District School Tax

15-51 Deferred Regional High School District School Tax

15-52 Self-Examination of the 2015 Budget Resolution

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

ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to open to the public Ordinance 15-02, Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 59, Construction Code, Uniform Permits Article II Subsection 50-10.1: Municipal Certification of Continued Occupancy for Abandoned/Vacant Properties, Unsafe Structure Notice, Enforcement and Penalty. All were in favor. Seeing no one, a motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Rossi, to close the public portion of Ordinance 15-02. All were in favor. A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to approve Ordinance 15-02 on second reading. Mr. Kovacs expressed his concerns with not having an inspection upon the sale of all properties. The Committee and J. Rossi discussed.

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

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Willan, to introduce 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: Iacobucci, yes; Willan, yes; Kovacs, yes; Rossi, yes; Klingel, yes

Second reading, public hearing and adoption will be held on April 21, 2015.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to introduce 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.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Rossi, yes; Klingel, yes
Second reading, public hearing and adoption will be held on April 21, 2015.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolutions 15-54 through 15-57.

15-54 Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (Hayes and Pappalardo – Police Department)

15-55 Resolution Authorizing a Donation of Abandoned Bicycles to Charitable Organizations

15-56 Full Release of Performance Guarantee from Durling Realty, LLC d/b/a Quick Chek Corporation

15-57 Resolution Approving the Transfer of Funds

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to Approve Resolution 15-53, Introduction of the 2015 Budget on first reading.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Rossi, yes; Klingel, yes
Second reading, public hearing and adoption will be held at the April 21, 2015 meeting.

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

J. Cooper previously submitted a report and stated the Township is low on salt.

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

K. McCarthy had nothing to report.

J. Rossi had nothing to report.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Willan, to open the meeting to the public. All were in favor.

Don Beisel, 13 Edgemere Terrace, requested an update on his water problem. Mr. deBoer stated he contacted the DEP on the advice of the County. He has not heard back from the DEP. A brief discussion followed.

Carol Kain, 96 East Asbury-Anderson Road, questioned the three acres of land between her house and Hawk Pointe Golf Course. Mayor Klingel explained the sale of the property is pending the Wastewater Management Plan approval.

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.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve a History Expo to be held at the Mansfield Lodge being sponsored by the Washington Historical Society on Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

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

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Willan, to approve the Musconetcong Watershed Association's Annual "Run for the River" Race on Sunday, May 3, 2015 at 10:00 am.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Nancy Godfrey to attend WCMC Association Quarterly Meeting and Seminar on March 26, 2015 in Harmony, NJ.

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

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mrs. Iacobucci updated the Committee on a meeting she attended of the Scenic Byway Committee. The Committee discussed.

Mr. Kovacs spoke about the funding of Farmland Preservation in both the Township and County. The Committee discussed. A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to authorize Mr. Kovacs to meet with Joel Schnetzer and David Dempksi to discuss Farmland Preservation and determine if there is any interest amongst the farmers.

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

There were no further reports from the Committee.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 15-58, 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 8:23 pm.

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

Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with NJ Supreme Court's recent ruling on COAH's impact on Washington Township; a pending litigation matter dealing with DP Warren; a contractual matter dealing with cable renewal; a contractual matter dealing with a contract with an engineer; and a contractual matter dealing with Pinnacle/Hawk Pointe.

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to come out of Executive Session at 9:26 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with NJ Supreme Court's recent ruling on COAH's impact on Washington Township; a pending litigation matter dealing with DP Warren; a contractual matter dealing with cable renewal; a contractual matter dealing with a contract with an engineer; and a contractual matter dealing with Pinnacle/Hawk Pointe. 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 Willan, to approve Eclectic Architectural for the Friese property as discussed in Executive Session.

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

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Willan, to authorize the Mayor to execute the mediation agreement on the DP Warren litigation matter.

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

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Willan, to pay Finelli Consulting Engineering, Inc. an amount not to exceed \$5,551 with the understanding that they will complete the inspections needed at Pinnacle/Hawk Pointe. The CFO is authorized to contact Finelli Consulting Engineering, Inc. advising them of the Township Committee's offer.

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

Mayor Klingel updated the Committee on the progress of the Economic Development Committee including a possible tax abatement program to encourage the purchase of vacant buildings. The Committee discussed with Attorney Lavery.

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Willan, seconded by Rossi, to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk