

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
October 20, 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

Anna C. Godfrey, Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator; Attorney Michael Lavery; Deputy Chief Cicerelle; Jeff Cooper, Superintendent of Public Works; Kevin McCarthy, CFO; and Joseph Rossi, Construction Official

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Prior to the flag salute, Mr. Willan asked everyone to join him in a moment of silence for Warren Hills Regional High School student Evan Murray who recently passed away.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held September 15, 2015.

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

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held September 15, 2015.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Lieutenant Kaufmann explained the purpose of proposing a drone ordinance is for the protection of our citizens and prevention of possible hindrances to the Police and Fire Department and the EMS. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to authorize Attorney Lavery to prepare a drone ordinance for introduction at the November meeting.

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

Lieutenant Kaufmann stated the Township has been awarded the Gold Award for the outstanding job done with our Street Smart program. A grant was awarded to promote pedestrian safety and he has received positive feedback on the program. Mr. Willan accepted the plaque from Lieutenant Kaufmann on behalf of the Committee.

Bill Connolly, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee (EDC), updated the Committee on the accomplishments of the EDC, whose long term goal is to help the Township be more fiscally responsible. They have met with the owners of some of the new businesses to see how the Township could help potential businesses to the Township. They also met with Township professionals, the Highlands Council, Freeholder Sarnoski, and Richard Cotton of Asbury Farms. They contacted the owners of vacant buildings. B. Connolly spoke about the Township's pre-application meetings with new businesses. The EDC would like to meet with local farmers to help them with development and with understanding the Highlands programs. They would like to document a process for new businesses coming into Washington Township. Mr. Willan thanked B. Connolly along with Bill Rymon, Ed Rossi, Len Artigliere, and Bruce Wilson for volunteering their time and being a part of the EDC. Mrs. Iacobucci would like to have the farmers input just like business owners as to what works for them and what does not.

Brian Sweatt of Sweatt and Walters Insurance & Investment Advisors spoke about the renewal of health insurance. At the request of the PBA, he researched other options in addition to the Township's current healthcare program. B. Sweatt explained the various options to the Committee, noting employees would have to pay a premium for these other options. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to renew the current health care plan with Aetna and offer the option of a higher premium plan with the employee paying the difference. A meeting will be scheduled with the employees to review the higher premium plan.

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

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolutions 15-117 through 15-127, excluding Resolution 15-119.

15-117 Liquor License Renewal - VFW

15-118 Construction of a Storm Water Infiltration Mitigation Project at the Township's DPW Yard Utilizing Developer's Contributions

15-120 Refund Resolution for Fees Paid for Pavilion Rental by Brian and Meredith Nolan
15-121 Refund Resolution - Block 40, Lot 9
15-122 Refund Resolution - Block 5, Lot 34Q
15-123 Redemption Resolution - Block 40, Lot 63
15-124 Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (L. Silva/Substitute Crossing Guard)
15-125 Resolution Appointing Risk Management Consultant
15-126 Statewide Insurance Fund Risk Management Consultant's Agreement
15-127 Full Release of Maintenance Guarantee/Soil Moving Permit – Washington Cemetery Association
ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Rossi, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Willan, yes

Mrs. Iacobucci asked if the position listed in Resolution 15-119 was advertised. Mr. deBoer replied it was not. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 15-119, Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (T. Pantuso/Substitute SRO).
ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Rossi, yes; Iacobucci, no; Willan, yes

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

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

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

K. McCarthy had nothing to report.

J. Rossi reported both Johnson Dodge and Anthony DeSapio have begun construction on their projects. Work has been completed outside of the Draught House.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report and spoke about a request he received from resident Tracy Lea who would like to place a bench in memory of Evan Murray at Meadow Breeze Park near the basketball court. A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to authorize Mr. deBoer to pursue having a bench placed at Meadow Breeze Park in memory of Evan Murray pending approval by the Recreation Commission.

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

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Willan opened the meeting to the public.

Wally Godfrey, Recreation Commission Chairman, spoke to the Committee about a feasibility study that was done for some of the walking path extensions if allowed by the DEP. Plumbing repairs need to be done at the snack stand and a concrete picnic table will be placed at Lake Marguerite. There are some backstop issues at two of the baseball fields and bullpens have been requested at those fields. Money has been set aside to make repairs to the parking lot at the Parks & Recreation Building. The Recreation Commission is looking at adding another composting bathroom on the Kayharts Lane side of the park to eliminate the need to rent port-a-johns. The Recreation Commission has looked into adding fields on the Millpond property. Signs will be added to the parking lot off of Kayharts Lane to remind drivers to slow down. Signs will also be placed at Roaring Rock and the Dick Flint Natural Area warning those walking to be aware of hunters and to wear bright clothing.

Frank Marascia, 27 St. Andrews Drive, asked the Committee to consider some type of public forum with members of the Highlands Council so the residents can have a better understanding of what they do. Mr. Willan suggested the possibility of someone from the Highlands Council attending the Economic Development Committee's meeting with the local farmers. F. Marascia and the Committee discussed the hours that were set for Trick or Treating.

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

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve Ann Kilduff and Nancy Godfrey to attend the Warren County Municipal Clerk's Association Fall Mini Conference on October 29, 2015.

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

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the Township Administrator to solicit for 2016 RFP's for Attorney, Auditor, Bond Counsel and Special Tax Litigation Counsel.

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

The Committee previously received a copy of the CY 2015 Best Practice Inventory Worksheet. The Township's score was 44 (88%) with 0% of State Aid being withheld. A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Iacobucci, to acknowledge the CY 2015 Best Practice Inventory Worksheet as certified by the Township Clerk, Township Administrator and Chief Financial Officer. Mrs. Iacobucci would like to see more clarification in the comments section as to ordinances or policies referenced.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Iacobucci, to introduce the 2016 Salary Ordinance at the November meeting.

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

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mrs. Iacobucci stated the Warren Heritage Scenic Byway Committee should be meeting soon and will keep the Committee informed.

There were no further reports from the Committee.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolution 15-128, 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 8:46 pm.

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

Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department, an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with the Asbury Farms deed restriction, an attorney/client privilege pending litigation matter dealing with the Asbury Farms tax appeal, a contractual matter dealing with the DPW Contract, a contractual matter dealing with the Police Chief contract, and an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with a letter regarding a farmland assessment dispute. Mr. Willan stated he expects the Committee will be in Executive Session for approximately one hour.

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to come out of Executive Session at 10:35 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department, an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with the Asbury Farms deed restriction, an attorney/client privilege pending litigation matter dealing with the Asbury Farms tax appeal, a contractual matter dealing with the DPW Contract, a contractual matter dealing with the Police Chief contract, and an attorney/client privilege matter dealing with a letter regarding a farmland assessment dispute. 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 rescind the appointment of the K-9 Officer as discussed in Executive Session.

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

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Rossi, to approve Appraisals Systems to provide appraisal services for the Asbury Farms tax appeal, if necessary, subject to the availability of funds as certified by the CFO.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi, to approve Resolution 15-129, Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (J. Vernon – K-9 Officer).

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Rossi to approve the funding for the purchase of the K-9 and related equipment as discussed in Executive Session.

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

Mr. Willan stated these funds will be coming from the K-9 Trust Fund and will not be an additional expense to the tax payers.

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Rossi, seconded by Iacobucci, to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk