

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
September 15, 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; Willan, present
Rossi, absent

STAFF PRESENT

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held August 18, 2015 with the correction noted by Mr. Willan.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held August 18, 2015.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolution 15-113A, 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 7:35 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing a contractual matter dealing with the Friese property. Mayor Klingel stated he expects the Committee will be in Executive Session for approximately 20 minutes.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to come out of Executive Session at 7:51 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a contractual matter dealing with the blacksmith portion of the Friese property. 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 15-114, Resolution Authorizing Emergency Appropriation for the Winnie Friese Estate Outbuilding and Site Rehabilitation Project.

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

Mayor Klingel explained the reason for the resolution is that funding needs to be established before a bid is awarded.

BID OPENING

Mayor Klingel explained the Township received two bids for the Friese property. The Township's portion of the project will cost approximately \$40,000 to \$50,000; the rest will be paid for by grants. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolution 15-115, Resolution Authorizing an Award of Bid for the Blacksmith Shop Rehabilitation and award the bid to Charles Mann at \$128,199.00.

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

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolutions 15-110 through and including 15-113.

15-110 Liquor License Renewal – Hawk Pointe

15-111 Liquor License Renewal – Washington Township Liquor License Holding Co. (Ocino's) Year 1 of 2 Special Ruling Permit

15-112 Chapter 159 Budget Amendment – NJ Sage: Pedestrian Safety Grant

15-113 Chapter 159 Budget Amendment – Friese Estate/Warren County Restoration Project

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

Mr. Willan asked for clarification on Resolutions 15-107 and 15-108. The Clerk explained the Police Department has a need to hire substitute crossing guards to work on an as-needed basis. Mayor Klingel asked the reason for the time change in Resolution 15-109. Deputy Chief Cicerelle explained since Halloween is on a Saturday he would like to see

children off the streets sooner for safety reasons. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Resolutions 15-107 through and including 15-109.

15-107 Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries & Wages (G. Phillips –Substitute Crossing Guard)

15-108 Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries & Wages (S. Cicala – Substitute Crossing Guard)

15-109 Resolution Imposing a Halloween Curfew and Establishing Observance of Trick or Treat within the Township of Washington

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

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief McDonald previously submitted a report and spoke about a grant for body cameras and the necessary equipment that will also need to be purchased. He has no immediate plans to purchase the cameras. Chief McDonald discussed use of the cameras with Mayor Klingel.

J. Cooper previously submitted a report and stated he will be looking into the report of the pavilion roof leaking.

J. Rossi reported Vision Credit Union will be opening next week, the old Norton Oil building may soon be occupied, and an abandoned house on Jackson Valley Road has been sold.

Mr. deBoer previously submitted a report and stated he contacted the Fire Department regarding the roadside collections. Funds collected are used for scholarships for Warren Hills Regional Middle and High Schools and Warren County Technical School students. Any remaining funds are carried over to the next year.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

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

Ralph Fiore, 162 Mine Hill Road, thanked the Department of Public Works for taking care of the overgrown property on Bowerstown Road. He discussed the responsibility of property maintenance with Attorney Lavery, Mr. deBoer and the Committee.

Nancy Anderson, 11 Kinnaman Avenue, stated she has been tracking the police overtime and would like to know what measures are being taken to stay within the budgeted amount. Chief McDonald stated he currently has two officers out and others have been filling in for them. N. Anderson suggested looking into solar panels for some of the municipal facilities through a Federal program. Mayor Klingel stated this has been considered. J. Rossi offered to obtain quotes for solar carports if the Committee is so inclined.

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

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the request from the Fire Department to conduct a roadside fundraiser on November 27, 2015.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Klingel noted a letter was received from the Economic Development Committee endorsing the Township Committee's decision for the Township's Wastewater Management Plan which should be approved by the DEP by the end of October. The Environmental Commission and Land Use Board have previously endorsed the Plan.

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Willan, to schedule the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony for Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Eileen Parks to attend the Sussex County Assessors' Association Seminar on September 30th in Panther Valley.

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

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Willan, to approve Ann Kilduff to attend the Social Media Mayhem Class on November 6, 2015 in Budd Lake, NJ.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve Jeff Cooper to attend the Social Media Mayhem Class on November 6, 2015 in Budd Lake, NJ.

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

A motion was made by Iacobucci, seconded by Willan, to approve Nancy Godfrey to attend the Registrar Association/Municipal Clerks Association Seminars on November 16-19, 2015 in Atlantic City, NJ (League of Municipalities Conference).

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

J. Cooper explained the vandalism being done to an abandoned property. A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to approve the Service Order Request to secure an abandoned house at 99 Lannings Trail from trespassing and vandals.

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

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mrs. Iacobucci stated the Township Engineer provided the Environmental Commission with a very comprehensive overview of the Wastewater Management Plan. Mrs. Iacobucci discussed requirements of a sheriff's sale of abandoned properties with Attorney Lavery.

There were no further reports from the Committee.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to approve Resolution 15-116, 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 8:22 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee will be discussing a COAH litigation update to appoint a new expert on behalf of the municipality, a personnel matter dealing with a DPW employee, a contractual matter dealing with the drainage at the DPW building, an attorney/client privilege and contractual matter dealing with the deed restriction at Asbury Farms, a litigation update on Washington Township and DP Warren, a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department, and a contractual matter dealing with the Shared Service Agreement with Washington Borough. Mayor Klingel stated he expects the Committee will be in Executive Session for approximately one hour and twenty minutes.

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to come out of Executive Session at 10:30 pm. All were in favor. Attorney Lavery stated the Committee discussed a COAH litigation update, a personnel matter dealing with a DPW employee, a contractual matter dealing with the drainage at the DPW building, an attorney/client privilege and contractual matter dealing with the deed restriction at Asbury Farms, a litigation update on Washington Township and DP Warren, a personnel matter dealing with the Police Department, and a contractual matter dealing with the Shared Service Agreement with Washington Borough. 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 Iacobucci, seconded by Kovacs, to authorize the Mayor to sign the deed restriction with the changes as discussed in Executive Session assuming they are acceptable to the grantor.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Kovacs, to authorize Attorney Lavery to draft a resolution regarding the Chief's retirement as agreed upon in executive session.

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

A motion was made by Willan, seconded by Iacobucci, to authorize the retention of E.Consult as the Township's Planning Consultant on the COAH litigation.

ROLL CALL: Willan, yes; Iacobucci, yes; Kovacs, 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 10:38 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey, RMC
Township Clerk