

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY

Regular Meeting
December 20, 2011

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 7:35 p.m. by Mayor Samir Elbassiouny.

SUNSHINE LAW COMPLIANCE – The Mayor 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:

Elbassiouny, present; Finke, present; Klingel, present; Kovacs, present; Marks, present

STAFF PRESENT

Anna C. Godfrey, Township Clerk; Peter deBoer, Township Administrator/Certified Public Works Manager; Attorney Michael Lavery; Chief McDonald; Kevin McCarthy, CFO; Joseph Rossi, Construction Official; and Jeff Cooper, Assistant Municipal Supervisor of Public Works

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Prior to the start of the meeting, Mayor Elbassiouny wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Hanukah.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Marks, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held November 14, 2011.

ROLL CALL: Finke, yes; Marks, yes; Klingel, yes; Kovacs, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Kovacs, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the regular meeting held November 14, 2011.

ROLL CALL: Finke, yes; Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes; Marks, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Klingel, to approve the minutes of the special meeting held December 1, 2011.

ROLL CALL: Finke, yes; Klingel, yes; Kovacs, yes; Marks, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Klingel, to approve the Executive Session minutes of the special meeting held December 1, 2011.

ROLL CALL: Finke, yes; Klingel, yes; Kovacs, yes; Marks, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

ORDINANCES

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Kovacs, to open to the public Ordinance 11-16, 2012 Salary Ordinance, public hearing on second reading. All were in favor. Mayor Elbassiouny entertained comments from the audience. Hearing no one, a motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to close the public hearing. All were in favor. A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Marks, to adopt Ordinance 11-16 on second reading.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Marks, yes; Finke, yes; Kovacs, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Marks, to open to the public Ordinance 11-17, Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 71, Section 71-3 "Fees for Use of Township Park, Ball Fields, Tennis and Basketball Courts and Other Facilities" to Update the Fees for Use of the Township Park, Ball Fields, Tennis and Basketball Courts and Other Facilities, public hearing on second reading. All were in favor. Mayor Elbassiouny entertained comments from the audience. Hearing no one, a motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Marks, to close the public hearing. All were in favor. A motion was made by Marks, seconded by Klingel, to adopt Ordinance 11-17 on second reading. Mr. Finke questioned the refreshment stand at the park. Mr. Klingel explained.

ROLL CALL: Marks, yes; Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Kovacs, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

Mr. Kovacs questioned the timing of introducing Ordinance 11-18. Attorney Lavery explained that as the Committee members are not changing, it would be acceptable to introduce an ordinance in 2011 and adopt it in 2012. After a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to table the introduction of this ordinance until January 2, 2012.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Klingel, to approve Resolution 11-164, Resolution Amending the Interlocal Service Agreement for Police Shared Services Between the Township of Washington (Warren County) and the Township of Oxford. Mr. Finke asked if this would impact the contract with the Boro. Attorney Lavery explained it would not affect the Boro contract. Mayor Elbassiouny stated he appreciates the help of Mayor Niece of Oxford during these negotiations.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Marks, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

Mr. deBoer explained the Township went out to bid for the Pleasant Valley Road Reconstruction Project for a third time. Bids were reviewed by the Township Engineer who approves the awarding of the bid to Reivax Contracting Corporation. A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to approve Resolution 11-165, Award of Bid – Pleasant Valley Road Reconstruction Project.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Kovacs, yes; Marks, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Klingel, to approve Resolution 11-166, Resolution Authorizing and Approving Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (Substitute Technical Assistants and Inspectors). Mayor Elbassiouny stated he participated in the interview process with J. Rossi.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Marks, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Klingel, to approve Resolutions 11-167 through 11-177.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Marks, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

11-167 Tax Sale Certificate Redemption Resolution – Block 71, Lot 7.04

11-168 Tax Sale Certificate Redemption Resolution – Block 74, Lot 7.05

11-169 Tax Sale Certificate Redemption Resolution – Block 67, Lot 2

11-170 Tax Sale Certificate Redemption Resolution – Block 40, Lot 61

11-171 Tax Sale Certificate Redemption Resolution – Block 38, Lot 22 C0063

11-172 Tax Sale Certificate Redemption Resolution – Block 38, Lot 22 C0096

11-173 Interest Resolution, Extension of August Grace Period

11-174 Refund Resolution – Various Properties (Block 66, Lot 1.04 & Block 65.05, Lot 7)

11-175 Resolution to Cancel 2011 Amounts Owed Less Than \$10.00

11-176 Resolution to Cancel 2011 Overpayments Less Than \$10.00

11-177 Resolution to Cancel 2011 Taxes, Veteran Exemption – Block 65.04, Lot 3

K. McCarthy explained the various transfers listed on the resolution. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Marks, to approve Resolution 11-178, Transfer Resolution.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Marks, yes; Finke, yes; Kovacs, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

J. Rossi explained he, Mr. DeBoer, and Mayor Elbassiouny interviewed for a Technical Assistant in the Code and Construction office and explained the process. He recommends hiring Theresa Ferguson as his secretary until she is trained as a Technical Assistant for 20 hours per week at a rate of \$15.00 per hour. A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to approve Resolution 11-179, Resolution to Authorize and Approve Salaries and Wages for Certain Employees (Ferguson).

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Kovacs, yes; Marks, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Marks, to approve Resolution 11-180, Resolution Reappointing Anna C. Godfrey as Acting Township Clerk.

ROLL CALL: Finke, yes; Marks, yes; Klingel, yes; Kovacs, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

J. Daly, Broker of Record, was present to discuss liability coverage options. He stated he compared various options, and Statewide came in at \$221,771 with an assessment increase of less than 2%. Statewide has a lower deductible and would be a savings of \$46,336. They have the same training classes as PAIC. J. Daly explained the coverage to Mr. Finke. A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Klingel, to approve Resolution 11-181, Resolution to Join Statewide Insurance Fund.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Marks, abstained; Elbassiouny, yes

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Klingel, to approve Resolution 11-182, Resolution Appointing Risk Management Consultant (John Daly). Per Mr. Finke's request, Mayor Elbassiouny explained J. Daly's role in the Township. J. Daly stated he is compensated by Statewide Insurance.

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Marks, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

A motion was made by Kovacs, seconded by Klingel, to approve Resolution 11-183, Resolution Appointing a Fund Commissioner & Alternative Fund Commissioner (deBoer/Godfrey).

ROLL CALL: Kovacs, yes; Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Marks, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Elbassiouny stated he had a proclamation for Mr. Roger Jinks, Superintendent of Washington Township Schools. Mr. Jinks was voted Superintendent of the Year this past June. Mayor Elbassiouny spoke briefly about Mr. Jinks and the relationship between the schools and the Township before reading the proclamation. Mr. Jinks thanked the Committee, stating he felt honored.

STAFF ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Chief McDonald stated he is proud of the work of his department this past year. He thanked the Committee, Lieutenant Cicerelle, Mr. deBoer, and Mayor Niece of Oxford for all of their help in working on the police contract. Chief McDonald also wished to acknowledge Lieutenant Tom Hickey upon his retirement after twenty-five years of service. He will be missed.

J. Cooper would like to increase the hours of the part-time mechanic from 30 to 35 hours per week. Seeing no issues, a motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to extend the hours to 35 per week for Bill DeMarco, part-time mechanic.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Kovacs, yes; Marks, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

J. Cooper also stated the brush pile at the garage is very large after picking up from the October snowstorm. Excavator Bob Jewell will grind the brush at no charge to the Township if we give him the chips. This would be a savings of approximately \$1,200. A certificate of insurance will be supplied. A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to authorize Bob Jewell to grind the brush at the Township garage. All were in favor. Mayor Elbassiouny commended the Department of Public Works and Sunshine Tree Service on cleaning up after the October storm. J. Cooper discussed the construction of the new salt barn and requested payment of the blacktop in the amount of \$7,600 be taken from the bond that paid for the salt barn. A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Marks, to pay \$7,600 for the blacktop for the salt barn from the original bond.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Marks, yes; Finke, yes; Kovacs, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

J. Rossi thanked the Committee for working with him to modify rates for the residents and for granting him substitutes so as not to interrupt service to the Township.

K. McCarthy stated the Township is in great shape at year-end and spoke about the importance for the revenue payment from Oxford being received before the end of the year. Mayor Elbassiouny noted Oxford has been contacted and payment will be received.

Mr. deBoer stated the DEP is meeting with him at Southwinds tomorrow, 12/21/11 and requests the Township Engineer also attend. The Committee was in favor of Mr. Gleba's attendance. Mayor Elbassiouny stated he will also be in attendance.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

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

Hearing no one, a motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Kovacs, to close the public portion of the meeting. All were in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Per the Committee's request, Mr. deBoer provided them with additional information regarding Resolution 11-151, Resolution Supporting S-3062 "Telecommunications-Cable Television Deregulation Ensuring Consumer Protection Act". After reviewing the information, Mr. Finke questioned whether the Township offices should be receiving free internet and basic cable from Comcast. Mr. deBoer will look into this. After a brief discussion, the Committee again tabled this resolution until next year, pending further review.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Finke, seconded by Klingel, to hold the Committee's 2012 reorganization meeting on Monday, January 2, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. All were in favor.

Richard Norton of Norton Oil, 285 Route 31 South, was in attendance to discuss an influx of cars and trucks making u-turns and damaging his property. Mr. Norton stated since Shop-Rite opened, many tractor trailers are coming onto and damaging his property. Trucks going north on Route 31 are mostly responsible as they miss the entrance to Shop-Rite. He feels additional signage is necessary and is seeking assistance from the Committee. Mr. deBoer stated he has been to the property to view the damage and agrees another sign is necessary in advance of the traffic light at the entrance to Shop-Rite. He stated Mr. Norton does have two signs on his property reading "No U-Turn". The Committee discussed. Liz Scofield, 5 Osprey Court, feels another sign would be a problem, as that entrance is also the entrance to homes, a golf club and wedding hall. Mayor Elbassiouny will speak to Shop-Rite to discuss possible solutions. He asked Mr. Norton to monitor the situation and asked Chief McDonald to have his officers watch it as well.

Sue Sutton, crossing guard, was present to request reinstatement of the crossing guard's previous pay or a cost of living pay raise. She stated they have not received a raise since 2007 and last year received a pay reduction. Chief McDonald explained the original plan was to reduce the staff. From a safety standpoint, they retained the same number of crossing guards and looked for other ways to save money. S. Sutton stated they previously received a 3.75% pay raise yearly in January. Mary Beam, crossing guard, stated they would prefer their previous pay rate, but if not possible, then a cost of living raise. Mayor Elbassiouny, Mr. Kovacs and S. Sutton discussed. Chief McDonald recommends a 4% increase and will discuss this further during the budget process. He feels the job they do is very important and they deserve a pay increase. Mr. Kovacs asked if crossing guards are inside the Cap. K. McCarthy replied they are. Theresa Duffell, crossing guard, asked if they could get new uniforms. Chief McDonald replied they have already been ordered and should arrive shortly.

In regards to the 2012 Non-Contractual Employee Salaries, Mr. Kovacs stated the CPI came in at 3%. The Township is locked in by contract at CPI plus 1% increases for the Police and Road Departments and recommends a resolution be prepared for January 1st for these employees. Mr. Klingel would like to be sure the money is available before committing. Mayor Elbassiouny stated it is the intent to honor the current contract, but also feels the budget needs to be reviewed. After a brief discussion, it was decided no action will be taken until the budget process with the intent of fulfilling the contractual obligations.

REPORT FROM OFFICIALS

Mr. Finke reported the Environmental Commission had a quorum and discussed the expansion of Washington Cemetery. Various members will be attending the January meeting in the Boro.

Mr. Klingel wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Mrs. Marks wished everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays.

Mr. Kovacs had nothing to report.

Mayor Elbassiouny had nothing to report.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Klingel, seconded by Finke, to approve the payment of the bills.

ROLL CALL: Klingel, yes; Finke, yes; Kovacs, yes; Marks, yes; Elbassiouny, yes

ADJORNMENT

Hearing no further business to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Marks, seconded by Finke, to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna C. Godfrey
Township Clerk