

The Work Session of the Washington Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Tobin at 7:37 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Comm. Short, Walsh, Popper, Mayor Tobin, Attorney Jansen,  
Administrator Gallets, Assistant Administrator Burd

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comm. Nedd

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on January 8, 2008 and was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on the same date. This meeting is being held at the Washington Township Municipal Building, 43 Schooley's Mountain Road, Long Valley, New Jersey. Notices of this meeting were sent, as there were requests.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**TEEN CENTER PROPOSAL** – **Linda Guldner, 61 Winay Terrace, Robin Gurin, Beacon Hill Road, and Kim Kaiser, 40 E. Valley Brook Road,** made a presentation to the Township Committee regarding the Fuzzbox Teen Center. Many improvements have been made to the center through Boy Scout and Girl Scout efforts. The Center would like to hire chaperones for Friday and Saturday evenings in lieu of using parent volunteers, as well as continue with arts programs and center refurbishments by applying for grants. The Teen Center is looking to the Township Committee for approval to open the Teen Center to Long Valley arts programs during the week which will continue to fund the Teen Center operation. The Township Committee approved the use of the Teen Center for art programs for one year - September 1, 2008 to September 1, 2009, and will then evaluate the success of the program at that time. A memorandum of understanding will be prepared and presented to the Township Committee for approval.

**LONG VALLEY SOCCER NIGHTS** – **Cameron Esemplare, 26 Squirehill Road, Chairperson of the Recreation Committee,** stated that a representative from the traveling soccer program indicated that they would like to sponsor four night games at Palmer Park for the varsity high school soccer teams; two for the boys and two for the girls. They are willing to assume full responsibility for hosting the games and will abide by all previously established guidelines. Given no overhead to the Township and the groups promise to repair any damage to the fields, the Township Committee agreed with the merits of the proposal. The High School has not yet been approached.

#### **PUBLIC PORTION**

**Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the Public.**

**Tom Granat, 44 Flintlock Drive,** stated that he believes that the soccer proposal is a great idea.

**There being no further comments or questions, Mayor Tobin closed the meeting to the public.**

**LONG VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT – FIRE TRUCK SPECIFICATIONS** – **Kurt Wanner, 10 Cindy Lane** discussed the specifications with the independent consultant, **Harry Carter Associates** and **Scott Frech, DPW Superintendent.** Various issues were addressed and clarified, and the specifications were deemed open enough to solicit general bidding by various fire truck manufacturers. The Township Committee agreed that as soon as the new specifications are received, bids will be solicited.

Motion was made by Comm. Short, seconded by Comm. Walsh that the foregoing new specifications be employed and that bids be sought. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Popper, Short, Walsh, Mayor Tobin

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Nedd

#### **PUBLIC PORTION**

**Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the Public.**

**Dave Steinel, 12 Parker Road, Fairmount Fire Company Chief,** inquired about the status of replacing the foam and water strainer when the 2003 truck goes back to the factory for repairs. It was initially declined and Mr. Steinel stated that this item is a necessary alteration that needs to be revisited. **Soctt Frech** agreed that it should be done at the factory as opposed to having the DPW try to modify the system. The Township Committee agreed that if the funds can be found within the existing capital structure, using Committee Projects Funds as a backup, it should be undertaken.

**Kurt Wanner, 10 Cindy Lane**, inquired about the availability of the funds that would have been spent on having an independent consultant rewrite the specifications for the new truck. The Township Committee indicated that the funds would have come from capital.

**Tom LoPezzo, 47 Flintlock Drive**, recalled that during the budget discussions, these water and foam strainers were discussed as Form IV items, and the Township Committee should reconsider the same. Chief Steinel has negotiated an excellent opportunity which, if not undertaken, would be a fiscal mistake.

**Tom Granat, 44 Flintlock Drive**, suggested that future budget meetings be taped.

Motion was made by Mayor Tobin, seconded by Comm. Short that the foregoing water and foam strainer be modified with capital funds if available, using Committee Project Funds as a backup. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Popper, Short, Walsh, Mayor Tobin

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Nedd

**Chief Steinel** stated that one of their trucks was in a minor accident over the winter. The truck was repaired and he would like to know if it should be put through insurance. **Administrator Gallets** stated that she was not in receipt of an accident report, and was just recently informed of the accident. She is concerned with the late submission of the claim. **Chief Steinel** stated that he was under the impression that the Police report was sent to the office in a timely manner. The accident report will be submitted to the insurance company.

**Chief Steinel** also inquired about the ambulance that was being taken out of service. He would like to have the old ambulance for his fire company. The Township Committee responded that the vehicle has always been slated for auction. Chief Steinel countered that the Committee agreed to provide the fire company with the ambulance. The Township Committee will consult the minutes.

**There being no further comments or questions, Mayor Tobin closed the meeting to the public.**

## **DISCUSSION**

**MORRIS COUNTY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN** – The County has requested the establishment of a Wastewater Management Planning Technical Committee to include three municipal staff. The Committee will be comprised of Comm. Walsh, Ginny Kesper, Planning and Zoning Official and Chris Cooke-Gibbs, Health Official.

**COMCAST FRANCHISE FUNDS** – Comcast has sent the Township a one time \$20,000 grant for access related needs. Former Committeeman Walt Cullen has previously asked that some of these funds be directed to the High School for communication related needs, and **Administrator Gallets** proposed that some of the funds be directed to the e-mail archiving project, or for equipment for the videotaping of meetings and putting them on the web. The funds will go into surplus for the time being.

**PEACHTREE COAH** – The Township's 20 year agreement with Peachtree is ending. The Township Committee has indicated that it is in our best interests to maintain the restrictions on these units. A Committee comprised of Paula DeBona, Esq., Dianne Gallets, Ginny Kesper, and Comm. Short, will meet with the owner, Mr. Katz, to renegotiate keeping these units in our low/moderate income housing program.

**SEWER CONNECTION – MOUNTAIN VIEW** – There are three options to consider in undertaking the Mountain View sewer connection. **Municipal Engineer Leon Hall** indicated that two of the options are viable. Mountain View's engineer will provide the Township Committee with more detailed plans to consider before an easement is granted.

**TELEPHONE POLES** – Comm. Walsh inquired about the Committee's feelings on erecting Township owned telephone poles to hang event banners across Route 24. The Committee was not too receptive.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

**Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the Public.**

**Harlin Parker, 525 Naughtright Road**, stated that the idea came about in trying to get the word out to the community about upcoming events. He further stated that a lot of non profit community organizations would like to advertise their events in this manner.

The Committee expressed concerns about driver distraction on a main road.

Walt Cullen, 9 Laurel Drive inquired whether Township or County approval was required for a utility to install a telephone pole. He was informed that utilities already have rights of way provided the poles are used for utility purposes.

**There being no further comments or questions, Mayor Tobin closed the meeting to the public.**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS – PATROL OFFICER & FULL TIME DISPATCHER** – The Township Committee will consider the hiring of a patrol officer and full time dispatcher as requested by Police Chief Michael Bailey at the June 16, 2008 Regular Meeting when a full Committee is present.

**LONG VALLEY POLICE INCIDENT** – Chief Bailey described an incident that occurred on June 11, 2008 wherein a suicidal individual caused the shut down of the center of Long Valley for a good part of the day. County officials aided in the effort which had a peaceful resolution.

**EAGLE SCOUT DONATION** – Eagle Scout Matthew Elchison provided the Township with the remainder of the funds he collected for his community service project to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

**FARMLAND UPDATE - PASCALE** – Administrator Gallets stated that upon final inspection of the property before closing, it was discovered that an adjoining landowner had planted an orchard on Township property. The landowner will be notified by letter of the encroachment, and that the orchard needs to be removed, or the Committee could consider subdividing the land and selling a portion to this landowner. This issue will be discussed further at the June 14, 2008 meeting.

#### **WATER SHORTAGE**

Comm. Short inquired about the status of the ongoing water shortage on the mountain. Administrator Gallets will ask the MUA to come before the Committee to address the issue and provide a status report.

#### **LEGISLATIVE MEETING**

Comm. Walsh stated that a meeting was held with our legislators. Mayor Tobin stated that they have an office on Route 206 and invited the surrounding municipalities to attend a meeting to discuss various topics such as the facilitation of shared services, lack of State sympathy toward our communities, Highlands compensation and non funded state mandates.

#### **COOPER CHEMICAL REDEVELOPMENT PLANNING**

Administrator Gallets stated that she received an e-mail letter from Al Telsey, Esq. who would like to discuss numerous ideas regarding the revitalization of the Cooper Chemical Property. He stressed that although he was informed that there are no funds currently earmarked for legal services, he does not believe that this effort should be delayed, and proposed the preparation of a plan at a cost not to exceed \$5,000. The Township Committee is unable to authorize any further action at this time.

#### **ZONING ORDINANCE FEES**

Attorney Jansen stated that the zoning permit ordinance is being further revised to address the fact that different people now serve as zoning officer and construction official. The ordinance that is on for adoption on Monday should be defeated.

#### **SCHOOL PARKING SITUATION**

Assistant Administrator Burd brought up the issue of parking at Palmer Park for a High School event. No authorization is needed, but the Police will be notified that people will be walking along the roadway.

#### **STAY ALIVE AT 25**

Mayor Tobin commented on the excellent presentation given regarding the “Stay Alive at 25” program which reminds students and parents of the hazards of driving. The school will start a program (enforceable only on the school property) wherein a sticker must be displayed indicating that a student has a provisional license.

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 10:20 P.M. upon approval of the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION #R-85-08 –EXECUTIVE SESSION – ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE: MILLER’S GREEN  
ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE: IMPOUNDED VEHICLE  
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: PBA**

Motion was made by Comm. Short, seconded by Comm. Walsh that the foregoing resolution be adopted.  
Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Popper, Short, Walsh, Mayor Tobin

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Nedd

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 10:49 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 P.M.

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Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk