

The Special Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:11 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Short, Comm. Kennedy, Tobin, Roehrich

OTHERS PRESENT: CFO Lifer, Office Manager Coppola

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. LiaBraaten

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on January 9, 2012 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.

Mayor Short stated Comm. LiaBraaten's absence was due to illness. Mayor Short said he attended a meeting with Comm. Roehrich, Senator Anthony Bucco, Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll and representatives of JCP&L. A press release will be issued shortly detailing the activities that will be undertaken by JCP&L over the next 4 to 6 months. Within one week, a \$5 million substation will be online in Tewksbury. The Chester and Drakestown substations were online Jan. 31. JCP&L is supposed to spend \$3 million on tree cutting in Washington Township during 2012.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.

Kurt Wanner, 10 Cindy Ln., asked when the Verizon tower at 1 E. Springtown Rd. would be operational. He was told it would be operational by June and the township was currently receiving lease revenue for the site. An application for colocation has been submitted.

Mayor Short closed the meeting to the public.

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

FIRST AID SQUAD– **Comm. Tracy Tobin** said the squad's total OE request was flat though there are variations in line items compared to last year. The capital request for a new ambulance was discussed with Chief Bill Kanen and Treasurer Rob Cline of the First Aid Squad. The squad had two demos, and is requesting funding for the ambulance the Department of Public Works recommended as being easier to perform routine maintenance on. The ambulance it would replace has 67,000 miles and an estimated value of \$10,000. The Township Committee tentatively approved \$187,500 for the new ambulance.

FIRE DEPARTMENT– The Fire Department OE budget which was flat was also reviewed. The department's capital requests were discussed with **Chief Craig Wallenstein** and **Deputy Chief Kurt Wanner**. Comm. Tobin spoke about transmission issues with the 20-year old pumper; he recommended replacement. The consensus was to move \$450,000 for a new engine and \$18,000 for 6 sets of turnout gear from requested to tentatively approved. A down payment of 5% and the issuance of notes for the remainder to fund the fire engine were discussed. Of the \$9,600 requested for "Toughbook" laptops, \$7,500 was tentatively approved.

Fairmount Fire Company **Chief Dave Steinel** requested an additional \$750 for swiftwater rescue classes. The expense was authorized and the Committee will consider a transfer later in the year.

MAYOR AND COMMITTEE - Mayor Short discussed budgeting an additional \$7,000 in committee project for a possible Regional School District Study. He said it was something that will happen sooner or later and if the township doesn't participate it will be on the losing end of whatever reorganization or changes are made.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS- The Historic Preservation Commission, Environmental Commission, Shade Tree, Recreation, Fire Hydrant and Fire Prevention budgets were discussed. Shade Tree Committee Chairman Stephen Zaikowski will be invited to a future meeting to discuss bare root plantings and tree farms.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 P.M.

Deborah A. Burd, Acting Clerk