

The Work Session Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:34 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Kennedy (8:35 P.M.), LiaBraaten, Tobin, Mayor Short

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Jansen, Administrator/Acting Clerk Burd, Office Manager Coppola, Deputy Clerk DiGregorio

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Roehrich

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.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public. There being no comments or questions, Mayor Short closed the meeting to the public.

PRESENTATIONS

SPECIAL HOMES OF NEW JERSEY – **Terry McKeon, Executive Director**, made a presentation to the Township Committee regarding their partnership with **MONARCH DEVELOPERS (Asheesh Patel)** to take advantage of the Special Needs Housing Partnership offered by HMFA (Home Mortgage Financing Agency of New Jersey) and the State Department of Human Services. Special Homes is currently looking at properties for this project. As a group home already exists in Long Valley, issues of saturation will be investigated. Special Homes has requested that the Township Committee consider endorsing the purchase and renovation of a 4-bedroom single family affordable house. The need for assistance and access to stores was discussed. The Township's obligation would be financial only. The Township has already committed funds to the Special Needs Housing Partnership.

COMMUNITY HOPE – **Mike Armstrong, CEO** made a presentation to the Township Committee regarding their proposal to purchase a three-bedroom townhouse. This project would not be funded through the Special Needs Housing Partnership. Community Hope is asking for \$250,000 from the Township's Housing Trust Fund.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - **Liz DeCoursey, Director of Operations**, is finalizing plans for the construction of a 4-bedroom single family home and requested that the Township consider contributing \$50,000 from its Affordable Housing Trust Fund to help offset the cost of the site work and construction. The Township will receive credit toward its affordable housing obligation.

The Township Committee will consider the proposals and the available funds in the Housing Trust Fund and respond back to these organizations with its decision as to where funds will be directed.

RO-04-12 AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK be introduced and read by title on first reading by the Township Committee.

Motion was made by Comm. Tobin, seconded by Comm. LiaBraaten that the following resolution be adopted. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. LiaBraaten, Tobin, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Kennedy, Roehrich

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK be adopted upon first reading.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at a meeting of the Township Committee on April 16, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington Township Municipal Building, 43 Schooley's Mountain Road, Long Valley, New Jersey at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorized to advertise said Ordinance in full in the Observer Tribune according to law.

Motion was made by Comm. Tobin, seconded by Comm. LiaBraaten that the following resolution be adopted. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. LiaBraaten, Tobin, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Kennedy, Roehrich

RESOLUTION #R-32-12 ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY OF CONDUCTING ANNUAL BUDGET EXAMINATION

Motion was made by Comm. Tobin, seconded by Comm. LiaBraaten that the following resolution be adopted. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. LiaBraaten, Tobin, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Kennedy, Roehrich

RESOLUTION #R-33-12 INTRODUCE 2012 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Short noted that the tax increase is only 1.39%, coming in under the 2% cap imposed by the State. This increase includes all appropriations, even those the State allows outside the levy cap.

Motion was made by Comm. Tobin, seconded by Comm. LiaBraaten that the following resolution be adopted. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. LiaBraaten, Tobin, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Kennedy, Roehrich

Mayor Short thanked CFO Lifer and the Township Committee for their efforts on the budget and the timely fashion in which it was completed.

PROPOSED ORDINANCES AMENDMENTS

AMEND SITE PLAN REVIEW FEES – AGRICULTURAL USES – **Attorney Jansen** explained the modified language to the existing ordinance. The Township Committee will consider an ordinance entitled, "**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 159, SITE PLAN REVIEW, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON REGARDING SITE PLAN ESCROW FEES FOR AGRICULTURAL USES,**" in its current form at the March 19, 2012 Regular Meeting.

ALARM ORDINANCE REVIEW – The Township Committee agreed that the Alarm Renewal fee should be reduced, however, as this year's budget is already set, it cannot be reduced in 2012. The current alarm registration fee is \$100, with a yearly renewal fee of \$50. **Administrator Burd** made a recommendation to implement a two year \$50 renewal fee (after the initial \$100 registration fee). Residents would save \$50 over a two year period, with the impact of reduced revenue not affecting the 2012 budget. **Chief Bailey** explained the Police Department's procedure when there is a false alarm, for which service fees may be assessed. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the appropriateness of the registration fee, the proposed two year renewal fee and the service fees. It was then proposed that the \$100 registration fee be good for two years, the \$50 renewal fee be good for two years and that service fees remain the same. The Township Committee will consider an ordinance entitled, "**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 39, ALARM SYSTEMS, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON,**" in modified form at the March 19, 2012 Regular Meeting.

DISCUSSION

SCHEDULE INTERVIEW – MUA OPENING – An interview date to fill an MUA opening was set as follows:

Monday, March 19, 2012 at 7:00PM to be conducted by Comm. Kennedy and Comm. LiaBraaten

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – **Comm. LiaBraaten** stated that there was a good turnout at the meeting.

SCHOOL STUDY - A study will be conducted regarding the effects of possible changes to the West Morris Regional High School District. A meeting will be held on April 18, 2012 and will be public. Mayor Short will discuss it further at the Regular Meeting.

CALIFON POLICE AGREEMENT – **Chief Bailey** mentioned the Califon agreement and the meeting set to discuss its continuation.

CHESTERS – **Comm. LiaBraaten** asked about shared Police services with the Chesters, to which Mayor Short responded that we will not be involved.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public. There being no comments or questions, Mayor Short closed the meeting to the public.

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 9:48 P.M.

RESOLUTION #R-34-12 - EXECUTIVE SESSION – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: DPW
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: Chester Township (CFO)

Motion was made by Comm. Tobin, seconded by Comm. LiaBraaten that the following resolution be adopted. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. Kennedy, LiaBraaten, Tobin, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Roehrich

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 10:12 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 P.M.

Deborah Burd, Acting Township Clerk