

The Special Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 5:34 P.M.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Assistant Administrator Coppola, Deputy Clerk DiGregorio

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** NONE

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on March 21, 2013 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 UPDATE**

Mayor Short noted the attendance of Bruce Sibling from Sen. Bucco's office, Freeholders John Krikus and Douglas Cabana, and Washington Township Republican Party President Bill Wagamuth.

#### **TOWN HALL MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN LEONARD LANCE**

**Congressman Lance** provided an update on the issues being addressed by the U.S. Congress: Budget, Foreign Affairs, and Economic Competition.

**Todd Modini**, resident of Mt. Olive, employed at Picatinny Arsenal, is faced with 22 furlough days in the next 6 months and concerned about the loss of income. **Congressman Lance** had hoped that sequestration would not happen, even though he voted for the compromise in 2011 knowing sequestration was a possibility. Moving forward **Congressman Lance** hopes Congress acts more fiscally responsible.

**Master Sergeant Jim Valenti** thanked **Congressman Lance** for his support of Fort Dix.

**Mike Kleckner**, resident of Flemington NJ, inquired about the status of firearm background check legislation. **Congressman Lance** is working on mental health and resources available to those in need. **Congressman Lance** said he believes in the second amendment and also believes guns should not be in the hands of criminals or those with significant mental health problems.

A resident asked about outsourcing jobs to other countries. The resident is out of work because her job was outsourced to Thailand. **Congressman Lance** stated that a territorial tax system would help create jobs and bring profits back to the U.S.

Resident **Bill Leavens** said he was concerned about the accumulation of CO2, foreign oil imports, and economic competitiveness. He suggests incentivizing nuclear energy. **Congressman Lance** said he shares the concern over foreign energy dependence.

Resident **Doug Timbie** expressed concerns about pollution, and that Washington is ineffective. Washington is tripping over itself and needs to speak in ways that make sense and not political talk, he said. **Congressman Lance** said he is trying to apply common sense to the work he is doing in Congress.

A resident asked about the proposal to increase the age when citizens are eligible to receive Social Security changes. **Congressman Lance** believes that Social Security and Medicare are worthwhile programs and should exist far into the future, but raising the age is inevitable.

Resident **Rob Chuzitski**, stated that 1 in 5 families are effected by metal illness but less and less funding is available. New Jersey also receives less money from the federal government than we pay to the federal government in taxes, he added. **Congressman Lance** said he fought for funding for Super Storm Sandy Aid, and will continue to vote for natural disaster funding.

**Father Joe**, of Stirling, asked what the Congressman's views are on immigration. **Congressman Lance** said he prefers a legal residency status rather than a citizenship status for long-term residents. Self deportation will not be a solution, he added.

**Tom Henwood**, resident of Clinton, said he is concerned about the backlog of veterans' claims and the suicide rate of veterans. **Congressman Lance** stated that Congress is very concerned about the backlog and the suicide rate, and Congress needs to do a better job.

A resident expressed his concern that Washington does not appear to be alarmed or react quickly to the many serious issues in front of them. **Congressman Lance** stated that his top priority is fiscal responsibility and that relates to many issues in front of Congress today.

**At 6:49 P.M. Mayor Short announced a 5 minute recess before returning to a Township Meeting. The meeting resumed at 7:02 P.M.**

**PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**RESOLUTION DISCUSSION**

**MUA Conservation Easement.** Mike Pucilowski informed the Township Committee that the MUA entered into an agreement with the EPA to provide water to portions of Chester Township, Parker Road, and Schoolhouse Lane affected by contamination from the Combe Landfill. The MUA needs to construct a well to provide water. The well, driveway, and electrical lines needed will be in a conservation easement area. The MUA would like permission to encroach on the easement for the good of the public.

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**RO-07-13 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 28, LOT 19 AS SHOWN ON THE TAX MAPS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING**

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**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 28, LOT 19 AS SHOWN ON THE TAX MAPS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY be introduced and read by title on first reading by the Township Committee.

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

**AYES:** Comm. Kennedy, LiaBraaten, Roehrich

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:**Tobin,Mayor Short

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION OF A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 28, LOT 19 AS SHOWN ON THE TAX MAPS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY 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 10, 2013 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. LiaBraaten, seconded by Comm. Kennedy that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote.

**AYES:** Comm. Kennedy, LiaBraaten, Roehrich,

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** Tobin, Mayor Short

**PUBLIC PORTION**

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

Motion was made by Comm. Roehrich, seconded by Comm. Kennedy to adjourn the meeting. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:**None

**The meeting adjourned at 7:09 P.M.**