

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Vice Mayor Short at 7:30 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Murello, Vice Mayor Short

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator Coppola, Attorney Jansen, Municipal Clerk DiGregorio, Office Manager Lyons

ABSENT: Mayor Roehrich

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Daily Record and the Observer Tribune on January 7, 2016 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'S UPDATE –

Radio Frequency. Vice Mayor Short stated that Matt Lopez, Deputy OEM Coordinator, and Garrett Lare, LV First Aid Squad Chief, have been working with the Police, OEM, Fire and First Aid to come up with a proposal to improve radio communications. Morris County has been receptive to the Township's suggestions. The process is ongoing.

Green & Fireworks Festival. The festival will take place on September 10 at 4 PM behind the Middle School.

BOE Ballot Referendum. A question will be on the November ballot about regional high school funding. The Township Committee will hold a meeting in September to provide information to the public about the question and its tax implications. The school board will have representatives attending the meeting and there will be an opportunity for public comments and questions. A date will be announced shortly.

PRESENTATION – **Victoria Carson** put together a time capsule, to be opened in 25 years. She described the items in the time capsule. The Committee thanked Victoria for her project.

PRESENTATION - South Branch-Drakestown (a.k.a. Ogden) Preserves Connector Trail Application, B 16, L. 22.01 & 24. Ad Hoc Trails Committee Members **Ken Zaroni**, and **Greg Forsbrey**, as well as Open Space Committee Member **Mike Jeske** discussed a connector trail and the cost and labor required. A grant application has been filled out to cover some of the costs.

PUBLIC PORTION – **Vice Mayor Short** opened the meeting to the public for questions and comments related to the Grant Application.

Chip Autry, 81 Fawn Ridge Road, expressed concern about the use of the trail, and asked if it would interfere with the hunting that takes place on State property. Mr. Coppola stated the trail would be on township land not open to hunting now and the State land has both trails and hunting currently. Mr. Jeske stated that the Division of Fish and Wildlife which manages that land has been aware of the plan and was supportive of the land acquisition by the Township and of the proposed trail.

Patricia Agnolet, 12 North Bridge Dr., expressed concern that the trail may be close to her property. She already has hunters entering her property. There are bears in the area and she hopes public safety education would be provided to trail users. Administrator Coppola stated that signage and additional screening vegetation can be provided. He agreed to show Ms. Agnolet where the trail is proposed to be located on a more detailed map.

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

Motion was made by **Comm. LiaBraaten**, seconded by **Comm. Murello** to authorize the submission of an application to the County for the proposed trail work. Motion was carried forward by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Murello, Vice Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mayor Roehrich

ABSTENTIONS: None

PRESENTATION – West Mill Rd. (CR513) Speed Limit Report. Morris County Engineer **Chris Vitz** and Department of Planning and Public Works Director **Deena Leary** presented a study of speed data, vehicle volume, and accident information. Based on the data collected, it appears that the speed limit is appropriate for that road. **Mr. Vitz** stated that the County would be improving some of the signage on West Mill Road. **Vice Mayor Short** asked about the trail crossing located in the 50 MPH area. **Mr. Vitz** said the County will look to improve markings on the roadway as well as talk to property owners about modifications to increase sight distances at the trail.

PUBLIC PORTION – **Vice Mayor Short** opened the meeting to the public.

Ken Knipmeyer, 422 West Mill Rd., a 30 year resident, does not agree with the methodology used and believes the speed limit should be lowered.

Bill Leavens, 359 West Mill Rd., stated that there are other County roads in town with lower speed limits and the trail crossing is very dangerous.

Ken Ryan, 186 West Mill Rd., stated that trucks driving at that speed create vibrations causing damage to older buildings, and that there is a dangerous curve that drivers take too fast. Mr. Vitz agreed that signage approaching the curve is necessary.

Rob Allison, 385 West Mill Rd., would like to see a flashing light at the trail crossing as well as flashing speed signs that show drivers how fast they are going.

John Rickel, 16 Middle Valley Rd., expressed disagreement with the methodology of removing accidents involving animals from the study.

Gregg Forsbrey, 78 Naughtright Rd., questioned why there is not a slower speed limit at the trail crosswalk.

Ron Guzinski, 54 Zellers Rd., stated that the Middle Valley Rd. and West Mill Rd. intersection should have been addressed in the study.

Anne (inaudible last name), 379 West Mill Rd., is concerned that large trucks are not able to decelerate quickly enough. She asked about speed bumps for the road.

Marcy Gray, 376 West Mill Rd., who has 3 small children and is surrounded by other families with small children, stated that the speed limit should be lowered.

Cathryn O'Hara, 2 Middle Valley Rd., said she understands the math in the engineering but stated the analytics are cold. She asked what the community can do to be sure the screeching tires, near misses and number of children in the neighborhood can be added to the equation to move towards lowering the speed limit. Mr. Vitz stated that the only way to lower the speed limit is to get drivers to drive slower through enforcement. If people drive slower, new radar data can be collected and this topic can be revisited.

Betsy Guzinski, 54 Zellers Rd., asked if the traffic study can be looked at using another methodology. Mr. Vitz said that this methodology was the best for the county road.

Vice Mayor Short summed up by asking the county to consider additional signage; consider pavement markings; coordinate with the Park Commission; and look at traffic calming devices. The Township will step up enforcement and the issue will be revisited in the future.

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

RESOLUTION #R-137-16 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING
\$2,075,000 BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY**

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

AYES: Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Murello, Vice Mayor Short
NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mayor Roehrich

ABSTENTIONS: None

ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS

That the following resignations be accepted:

Barbara Margolese – Part time Zoning Officer/Land Use Coordinator, effective August 25, 2016
Howard Popper – Ad Hoc Police Range Committee, effective August 15, 2016

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

AYES: Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Murello, Vice Mayor Short
NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mayor Roehrich

ABSTENTIONS: None

It was agreed that R-146-16 and R-148-16, which were originally on the consent agenda, would be removed and considered separately.

CONSENT AGENDA

Matters listed on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Township Committee and a roll call vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Committee member or a member of the public requests an item be removed from the Consent Agenda.

*RESOLUTION #R-138-16	APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS
*RESOLUTION #R-139-16	PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE RENEWAL – MOUNTAIN VIEW BAR AND GRILL, INC.
*RESOLUTION #R-140-16	A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SUPPLEMENTAL SOFTWARE PRODUCT AGREEMENT
*RESOLUTION #R-141-16	RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE RETURN OF A 2005 FREIGHTLINER HOSE CARRIER TO THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
*RESOLUTION #R-142-16	OUTSIDE TAX LIEN REDEMPTION REFUNDS
*RESOLUTION #R-143-16	RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SETTLEMENT OF THE TAX APPEAL KNOWN AS F & A REAL ESTATE MANAGEMENT CORP.
*RESOLUTION #R-144-16	REFUND TO TAX LIEN HOLDERS
*RESOLUTION #R-145-16	RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE 1033 PROGRAM (LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPPORT OFFICE, LESO)
*RESOLUTION #R-147-16	AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON AND THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON TO PROVIDE LAND USE COORDINATOR SERVICES TO THE BOROUGH OF CALIFON

***AUTHORIZE SOCIAL AFFAIR PERMIT – SAINT LUKE PARISH**

An application has been received from Saint Luke’s Parish for a Social Affair Family Picnic to be held on Sunday, September 25, 2016 between the hours of 11:00 AM and 6:00 P.M. to be held at Saint Luke’s Parish, 265 West Mill Road, Long Valley, New Jersey. Noted that the Chief of Police has signed the application.

That the foregoing special permit for a social affair be approved and the Clerk be authorized to sign the permit application and forward it to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

***APPROVE MINUTES**

July 13, 2016 Work Session
July 18, 2016 Regular Meeting

Minutes are available to the public after approval by the Governing Body.

***PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS**

That the vouchers be approved and that the Treasurer shall issue warrants in payment when there are sufficient funds to meet them. The bill list is on file in the finance office.

***MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

That the following monthly department reports be accepted and placed on file in the Township Clerk’s office:

2016 June Tax	2016 July Zoning
2016 July Tax	2016 July Building
2016 July Court	2016 July Police

Vice Mayor Short asked if anyone on the Committee or any member of the public wanted anything else removed from the consent agenda and read separately. There was no response.

Administrator Coppola asked that the reference to the appointment of a Zoning Officer in R-138-16 be removed. He also asked that the Shared Services voucher amount from Mount Olive be added to the bill list.

All items proceeded by an (*) were approved as part of the consent agenda on a motion made by **Comm. LiaBraaten**, seconded by **Comm. Murello** on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten (&), Murello, Vice Mayor Short
NAYS: None ABSENT: Mayor Roerich ABSTENTIONS: None

(&) Comm. LiaBraaten abstained from voting on the approval of the July 13, 2016 and the July 18, 2016 meeting minutes.

RESOLUTION #R-146-16	RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON ENDORSING AND SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF ASSEMBLY, NO. 3686, DESIGNATED AS “RALPH AND DAVID’S LAW”
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Motion was made by **Comm. Murello** seconded by **Comm. LiaBraaten** that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Murello
NAYS: Vice Mayor Short ABSENT: Mayor Roerich ABSTENTIONS: None

**RESOLUTION #R-148-16 AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR A
CONTRACT FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF 1997 PIERCE LADDER
FIRETRUCK 35-69**

Motion was made by Comm. Murello, seconded by Comm. LiaBraaten that the foregoing resolution be adopted.

DISCUSSION – Administrator Coppola explained the refurbishment work and costs. The current amount is \$29,728. As the work gets underway, if certain work does not have to be done, a ‘delete’ change order can be approved. This will avoid delays and hopefully get the truck back in service more quickly.

Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. LiaBraaten, Murello, Vice Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mayor Short

ABSTENTIONS: Comm. Babb

DISCUSSION – Administrator Coppola informed the Committee that the terms of the offer to the candidate for the Zoning Officer position were not accepted. As an alternative the Committee could consider that the Deputy Zoning Officer is currently on staff and can take care of inspections and complaints, and the Township Planner could assist with plan review. He also reached out to surrounding towns to investigate possible shared services. Attorney Jansen suggested the Committee consider a resolution to modify the current professional services agreement with the Township Planner to authorize additional work, on a temporary basis, for a one month period, for additional consideration not to exceed \$2,000.

**RESOLUTION #R-149-16 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MODIFICATION OF THE BANISCH
ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO INCLUDE
TEMPORARY ZONING OFFICE SERVICES FOR ADDITIONAL
COMPENSATION NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000**

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

AYES: Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Murello, Vice Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mayor Roehrich

ABSTENTIONS: None

DISCUSSION - Comm. Murello had given an incorrect date for a fundraiser benefiting a former WT volunteer firefighter. The correct date is August 27. Additional information can be found on the fire department website.

Vice Mayor Short stated that the special Township Committee and Regional Board of Education meeting will be held on September 13, at 7:30 PM at the Municipal Building.

PUBLIC PORTION – Vice Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public. There being no questions or comments Vice Mayor Short closed the meeting to the public.

Motion to adjourn was made by Comm. Murello, seconded by Comm. LiaBraaten. All were in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:19 P.M.

***Denotes Consent Agenda**