

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
SPECIAL MEETING-BUDGET MINUTES
March 9, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: Council President Feeney

STATEMENT:

Welcome to the Special Public Meeting of March 9, 2020 of the Township of Washington Township Council. Adequate notice of the meeting was given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act by the Township Clerk to at least two (2) newspapers on March 3, 2020, and this notice has been posted on the Township Bulletin Board and on the Township Web Site.

Proper notice having been given, the Township Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.

The purpose of this meeting is to conduct the following business and any other items that may be on the agenda.

2020 Budget Meeting.

Formal action may or may not be taken at this meeting.

Please notify the Municipal Clerk for any disability requirements necessary for attendance at Mayor and Council meetings. The fire exits are located through the double doors to your right and through the door on your left. Please silence all cell phones

SALUTE TO FLAG: Lead by Council President Feeney

ROLL CALL:

Councilmen Cumming, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan, Council President Feeney.

Also, in attendance Peter Calamari, Mayor; Robert Tovo, Administrator and Susan Witkowski, Township Clerk.

Absent: Councilman Cascio.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Five Minute Time Limit)

A motion was made by Councilman DeSena, seconded by Councilwoman Morgan to open the general public discussion.

Ayes: Councilmen Cumming, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan,
Council President Feeney.

Nays: None.

Absent: Councilman Cascio.

Seeing none.

A motion was made by Councilman DeSena, seconded by Councilman Cumming to close the general public discussion.

Ayes: Councilmen Cumming, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan,
Council President Feeney.

Nays: None.

Absent: Councilman Cascio.

DISCUSSION

2020 Budget

A list was given to Council of all Personnel that received a RICE notice.

Building Department Sarah Bright, Vince Corrado, both requested their salaries be discussed in public.

Councilman DeSena asked Administrator Tovo if the Building Department budget can afford this, since it is self-funded? Administrator Tovo replied it can, there was a salary analysis done for these positions, the average is \$25 per hour, we are looking at \$23 an hour, for Ms. Bright, full-time and part-time for Mr. Corrado. Councilman DeSena asked is there enough in the Building Department budget to off-set a \$38,000 increase. Administrator Tovo replied obviously part of their budget is funded by us, part of it is self-funded. Councilman DeSena stated zero should be funded by the Township. Administrator Tovo stated that is for our inspectors, this is for our TA's. Councilman DeSena stated TA's are supposed to be included in that. Administrator Tovo stated then why are they budgeted for in current. Councilman DeSena stated that is a mistake, and has been for two years. He stated the whole Department is to be funded by fees and permits, the Township should not fund, as we have been told the past two years that it was being self-funded. Administrator Tovo stated he will get that revenue number. Council President Feeney stated the salary requested is going from

\$32,759 to \$41,860. Administrator Tovo stated that is correct, it is a combination of part-time to full-time and pre-certified TA to certified TA. Councilman DeSena stated we need to table this if the Township is funding the Department, until Administrator Tovo gets us an answer. He asked Councilman Cumming if he agrees with his statement? Councilman Cumming replied yes, he does. Councilman DeSena stated the way the State Statute reads from the Department of Community Affairs is that it is a self-funded department, he stated he has had departments where we had five TA's, and a year later it went down to two TA's, because the funding wasn't there for five, three were laid off, would you agree Councilman Cumming, he is asking Councilman Cumming because he does have experience in this area. Council Vice-President Cumming replied he does agree, and does have experience in this area. Township Clerk Witkowski asked if Council would like to issue RICE notices to everyone in the department, including the inspectors. Council President Feeney stated she does not want to issue RICE notice to anyone; she would like to get the information first and follow-up at the next Council meeting (March 16th). A conversation followed on the issuance of RICE notices to inspectors once the information is received.

A motion was made by Councilman DeSena, seconded by Councilman Cumming, to adjourn.

Ayes: Councilmen Cumming, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan,
Council President Feeney.
Nays: None.
Absent: Councilman Cascio.

A motion was made by Councilman DeSena, seconded by Council President Feeney, to go into Closed Session.

Ayes: Councilmen Cumming, DeSena, Councilwoman Morgan,
Council President Feeney.
Nays: None.
Absent: Councilman Cascio.

Council President Feeney stated Council will not be returning to Open Session.

Resolution No. 20-183
Personnel-budget

WHEREAS, the public is invited to attend all Meetings (whether denoted public or conference sessions) of the Township Council in accordance with its general practice and the Open Public Meetings Act; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of New Jersey declared that the public has a right to attend all meetings of the public bodies at which any business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon in any way except as set forth in the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-12), which provides for the exclusion of the public from the portion of a meeting at which certain enumerated matters are to be discussed; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council has determined that, because of the nature of the subject matter to be discussed, the public should not be present at that portion of the meeting of the Township Council at which certain specific matters encompassed by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 are to be discussed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that, pursuant to the express provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, the public be excluded from the meeting or portion of the meeting (denoted as an “executive” or “closed” session) in which the following matters are to be discussed:

1. Any matter which, by express provision of federal law or State statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from the provision of subsection of a. of this section.

2. Any matter in which the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the Government of the United States.

3. Any material the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as any records, data, reports, recommendation, or other personal material of any educational, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing, relocation, insurance, and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including but not limited to information relative to the individual’s personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned (or, in the case of a minor or incompetent, his guardian) shall request in writing that the same be disclosed publicly.

4. Any collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of the terms and conditions thereof with employees or representatives of employees of the public body.

5. Any matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds, where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed.

6. Any tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection. Any investigations of violations or possible violations of the law.

7. Any pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation other than in subsection b. (4) of N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, herein in which the public body is, or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his ethical duties as a lawyer.

8. Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed at a public meeting. **PERSONNEL, budget**

9. Any deliberations of a public body occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty upon the responding party or the suspension or loss of a license or permit belonging to the responding party as a result of an act or omission for which the responding party bears responsibility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is not possible as yet to fix the time when or the circumstances under which the discussion conducted in Closed Session can be disclosed to the public. It is anticipated that the subject matter under discussion will be made public when finalized.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice is hereby given that the Township Council may find it necessary to take action at the conclusion of the executive/closed session; that such action if taken, will occur in open session; that you are invited to stay in the Municipal Building during the executive/closed session; that the doors to the Council chambers will be opened and an announcement will be made if the Township Council will be going into open session; and you may be present during such open session.

 The Township Council anticipates that an open session will be necessary.

 X The Township Council anticipates that an open session **will not** be necessary.

Time noted: 6:20 p.m.

/s/ Susan Witkowski
Township Clerk

/s/ Stacy Feeney
Council President

Approved: May 4, 2020