

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES/AMENDED SCHEDULE

April 10, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Washington was held at 7:32 p.m. in the Council Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex, 350 Pascack Road, Township of Washington, New Jersey.

Council President Robert Bruno called the meeting at 7:32 p.m. by reading the following statement

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

The regularly scheduled Public Meeting of April 6, 2017 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 in January and this notice has been posted on the Township Bulletin Board and on the Township Web Site.

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

ROLL CALL

Council Members Peter Calamari, Steve Cascio, Thomas Sears, Michael Ullman and Council President Robert Bruno. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Mary Anne Groh, Administrator and Susan Witkowski, Township Clerk. Absent: Ken Poller, Township Attorney.

Council President Bruno addressed the absence of Mr. Poller, the Township Attorney. If there are any legal issues or question, they will be passed on Mr. Poller to be addressed at the next meeting.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Councilman Ullman, seconded by Councilman Sears to open the general public discussion.

Ayes: Councilmen Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman, Bruno.

Nays: None.

Council President Bruno stated that Administrator Groh had requested to address Council.

Mary Anne Groh, Administrator – Good evening everyone, please bear with me. I just want to share something with you. This is a message I received on Saturday morning that I think you should all be on notice about. (Administrator Groh plays message below.) I know people said they cannot hear it, so I will read it a transcript of it.

Transcript of Voice Mail from Janet Sobkowicz on Saturday April 8th at 9:20 a.m.

Oh hi Mary Anne. Good morning. It's Janet. Can you please give me a call me. It's important. Thank you.

That bitch had Bruno (inaudible)

And the budget document looks different because she worked it all out with Gary and Bob and emailed Gary Vinci and copied Alex and Bob Bruno. Something happen to the Mayor? Did she fall off the edge of the earth?

I can't wait to lower her salary the Council gave her. Cause I set the salary. Can't wait. These are the games she is going to play. She is in for it. In for it.

How rude is she?

What's that – the CFO wants additional hours now. (Laugh) I can't believe it.

How ... how rude is her to have him here in the office; not tell me they are doing capital budget. Okay. And then not to email me. She put it on my desk to read it but I'm not on the email.

Inaudible.

Administrator Groh though the Council should have notice of what I learned this weekend. I don't need you to comment on it, but I just think that you know what was done with the Capital Budget, nothing was done underhanded, in fact it was done to advance the cause and I just want you all to know, that is it, thank you.

Councilman Bruno asked if there were any comments. He stated it is kind of sad to hear what Ms. Groh read, we all spent a lot of time on this budget. The objective is to present a sound financial statement to the residents, Council and everyone that is on board here. The Capital Budget, again was something that was not discovered, but realized that there was a tremendous amount of surplus in there, and we want to use up the surplus properly, so it didn't sit there for another few years. He stated he had asked Ms. Groh to check with Auditor Vinci and Ashley Morrone, CFO to make sure that from a municipal accounting standpoint it was done properly because in order for the surplus to be used we also wanted to make sure that there was still surplus left. He stated it was my call and it his discussion, Madam Mayor, to get this document prepared properly for us for the meeting. There were no underhanded discussions, this was nothing more than getting a document to be presented properly for this evening for the Council. He hopes that what the Mayor said will not come to fruition.

Rosa D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard – Mrs. D'Ambra spoke of the Township's clean water shed area, which is in back of the shopping center and other towns having a Water Shed Committee that try to maintain the water shed area. The area is full of debris and it is the Township's responsibility to maintain that area. She suggested calling the Sheriff's Department to have some of the men come out to help clean up that area since our DPW is busy doing other maintenance around the Township. She stated the trees and bushes around Finnerty Place, as she understood by attending a meeting back in 1997, are the responsibility of the Township. There is garbage underneath the trees and the trees are bending towards the street making it difficult to park in the area. More garbage disposals are needed and the garbage needs to be picked up more frequently. She also suggested that each store in the shopping area have containers in the back along with a screen door. Council President Bruno stated money has been put in the budget to clean up the area behind the library and the shopping center, the area will be monitored, and we can also call the County. Councilman Calamari stated he did speak with the manager of the shopping center, who is now back on site almost every day, regarding the shrubs that face Finnerty. The overgrown shrubs do hinder the visibility of residents pulling out of the library. The manager of the shopping center did call his landscapers to come out and trim those bushes back. Councilman Sears stated the Scouts were going to help clean out that area on Earth Day, but it was a wash out due to the rain. He stated the Scouts can be

asked if they would like to do a clean up the next Earth Day. Council President Bruno suggested the Code Officer go to the area to investigate.

Tony Napoli, 447 Prospect Avenue, George Toole, 452 Prospect Avenue, Marek Dziarmaga, 448 Prospect Avenue – Copies of the video inspection were given to the gentleman named above. Administrator Groh stated this is a copy of the inspection, the enzymes were done that night, or the next day. Mr. Statile did find a place on Friday that will do the rodding, and they will also do a camera inspection right after they do the rodding, so the difference can be seen right away. Mr. Statile will be sending the quotes so the purchase orders can be written up. A date has not been set, but it will be done very soon. The Engineer commented that it would not be the Township's responsibility to put the backflow in, but he didn't say the residents could not do it if they wanted to. The DPW will be putting the enzymes in at night, since the water is stationary and they can sit there. A conversation followed on putting a sensor in the area, with a phone line that would be able to send alerts when the area is compromised. Mr. Toole spoke of his concern of the pipe being compromised during the rodding and he doesn't believe this cleaning is the answer. He also spoke of reaching out to realtors who indicated they would have a hard time convincing buyers to purchase their properties due to the 3 sewer back-ups that have occurred. A conversation followed on the invert, which will be repaired in the next Road Program and the possibility of replacing the whole pipe. Mr. Dziarmaga spoke of doing the correct thing, that is just replacing the whole pipe. He doesn't want the problem to be monitored, he wants it corrected with a new pipe. He spoke of his conversation with the Engineer who stated that the decision maker is the Mayor, and he will do whatever the Mayor asks him to do. Mayor Sobkowicz spoke at length of the rodding being the first step, and if that is not done satisfactorily then the whole pipe would have to be replaced. Mr. Dziarmaga spoke of his concern that after the cleaning everything will be fine, nothing will happen, something will happen in a few years, and this will get lost with another administration. He stated he is losing his patience and all of these steps are unnecessary, it is not solving the problem. Mayor Sobkowicz stated she will speak to the engineer tomorrow. Mr. Dziarmaga wants a guarantee that this will not happen again, but he knows he cannot get that guarantee. Councilman Cascio and Councilman Calamari did attend the meeting with the engineer, along with the homeowners. Councilman Cascio stated in the past, the pipe was cleaned by power washing which doesn't get everything and residual is still left on the side of the pipe. The rodding was recommended, which is a surgical type of removal. The piping is a cinder piping, 8 inches in diameter. Enzymes will then be put at night, since water flow is decreased at night, the enzymes can sit there. Maintenance is extremely important and should be performed every 3 months. In the past the pipe was cleaned but not monitored. If the pipe needs to be replaced, the issue is the pitch is so low, almost flat and if the pipe is not set properly it can happen again. Council President Bruno spoke of being a big proponent of an action plan and he feels minutes should be taken during the any meeting that is going on. New piping would cost about \$75,000. Administrator Groh stated she has been texting Mr. Statile, the engineer, who indicated the pricing for the rodding and the camera will be approximately \$3,000 and hopefully it can be done next week. The monitoring was discussed. Councilman Bruno thanked the residents for their patience. A conversation followed on having a back-up plan in case the rodding doesn't work, and the pipe being currently compromised. Council President Bruno asked Administrator Groh to let Council know. Monitoring means that every 3 months the camera will be done, and follow up if anything is found. The key is regular maintenance of the pipe.

Mary Ann Ozment, 960 Adams Place – Mrs. Ozment suggested looking at the records of the Planning Board on who inspected and did the work on the sewer line, since the Prospect Avenue area was a minor subdivision 15 years ago. She spoke the Conference Agenda, which includes Codification, Form of Government, Anti-nepotism and Ethics Board. She stated these are all

important issues but feels they are moving along slowly, and the next meeting is not until May 8. She suggested Council be given any documents and look them over before meetings so they can ask any questions they may have. She also spoke of the New Jersey Municipal Organization website which might be helpful to Council since the site does answer many questions Council had. Council President Bruno spoke of the goal being to keep the issues on the Agenda, and cross them off when they are complete.

A motion was made by Councilman Sears, seconded by Councilman Ullman to close the general public discussion.

Ayes: Councilmen Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman, Bruno.

Nays: None.

ORDINANCE

Introduction: 17-02 1st Reading

Administrator Groh, as per Councilman's Cascio's request, gave an overview of Ordinance 17-02. By law, the Township is allowed to establish what is called a "CAP Bank" which enables the Township if in future years, if the Township needs to exceed the 2% CAP to avoid the need to go for a Public Referendum to get approval of a more than 2% increase, and the calculation is done by the auditors, and included in the budget documents. It is there due to an unforeseen circumstance and you can bank up to 3 years, and the third year falls off. The explanatory statement of sheets 3C will show how it was calculated for this year. It is a theoretical bank, it is not being funded. It is available in the future so there is no taxation or levy against the residents. It is there due to unforeseen extraordinary expenses, the Township can go up to the bank without having to go out to vote. It is more of a Line of Credit, there is no real money in there.

CALENDAR YEAR 2017 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 0.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Washington in the County of Bergen finds its advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2017 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council hereby determines that a 3.0% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$268,690 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, in the County of Bergen, a majority of the full

authorized membership of this Governing Body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2017 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Washington shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14, be increased by 3.0%, amounting to \$268,690, and that the CY 2017 municipal budget for the Township of Washington be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

A motion was made by Councilman Ullman, seconded by Councilman Sears, to introduce and pass Ordinance No. 17-02 at first reading by title.

Ayes: Councilmen Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman, Bruno.

Nays: None.

The following resolution, Resolution No. 17-187 was presented and adopted on a motion by Councilman Ullman, seconded by Councilman Cascio.

Ayes: Councilmen Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman, Bruno.

Nays: None.

RESOLUTION No. 17-187

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 17-02 entitled: **CALENDAR YEAR 2017 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)** was introduced and passed at first reading at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Washington on the 10th day of April, 2017; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that further consideration for final passage and public hearing of said ordinance shall be held on the 8th day of May, 2017, at 7:30 PM, prevailing time, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be reached in the Municipal Complex, 350 Hudson Avenue, Township of Washington at which time and place all persons who may be interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the office of the Township Clerk is authorized to advertise in The Bergen Record a newspaper circulated in this Township, the introduction and notice of further consideration for final passage and public hearing of this ordinance as required by law.

Introduction No. 17-03 1st Reading

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF VARIOUS ROADS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$600,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$570,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring), AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The improvement described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance is hereby authorized as a general improvement to be made or acquired by The Township of Washington, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey. For the said improvement or purpose stated in said Section 3, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$600,000, said sum being inclusive of all appropriations heretofore made therefor and including the sum of \$30,000 as the down payment for said improvement or purpose required by law and now available therefor by virtue of provision in a previously adopted budget or budgets of the Township for down payment or for capital improvement purposes.

Section 2. For the financing of said improvement or purpose and to meet the part of said \$600,000 appropriation not provided for by application hereunder of said down payment, negotiable bonds of the Township are hereby authorized to be issued in the principal amount of \$570,000 pursuant to the Local Bond Law of New Jersey. In anticipation of the issuance of said bonds and to temporarily finance said improvement or purpose, negotiable notes of the Township in a principal amount not exceeding \$570,000 are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to and within the limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

Section 3. (a) The improvement hereby authorized and purpose for the financing of which said obligations are to be issued is the resurfacing of various roads in and by the Township so as to provide roadway pavements at least equal in useful life or durability to a roadway pavement of Class B construction (as such term is used or referred to in section 40A:2-22 of said Local Bond Law), including without limitation, streets and locations described in the Township's 2017 Road Program, together with all milling, drainage facilities, landscaping, signage, structures, equipment, site work, work and materials necessary therefor or incidental thereto, all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor on file or to be filed in the office of the Township Clerk and hereby approved.

(b) The estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued for said purpose is \$570,000.

(c) The estimated cost of said purpose is \$600,000, the excess thereof over the said estimated maximum amount of bonds or notes to be issued therefor being the amount of the said \$30,000 down payment for said purpose.

Section 4. The following additional matters are hereby determined, declared, recited and stated:

(a) The said purpose described in Section 3 of this bond ordinance is not a current expense and is a property or improvement which the Township may lawfully acquire or make as a general improvement, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be specially assessed on property specially benefitted thereby.

(b) The period of usefulness of said purpose within the limitations of said Local Bond Law, according to the reasonable life thereof computed from the date of the said bonds authorized by this bond ordinance, is ten (10) years.

(c) The supplemental debt statement required by said Local Bond Law has been duly made and filed in the office of the Township Clerk and a complete executed duplicate thereof has been filed in the office of the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey, and such statement shows that the gross debt of the Township as defined in said Local Bond Law is increased by the authorization of the bonds and notes provided for in this bond ordinance by \$570,000, and the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance will be within all debt limitations prescribed by said Local Bond Law.

(d) An aggregate amount not exceeding \$60,000 for interest on said obligations, costs of issuing said obligations and other items of expense listed in and permitted under section 40A:2-20 of said Local Bond Law may be included as part of the cost of said improvement and is included in the foregoing estimate thereof.

Section 5. All bond anticipation notes issued hereunder shall mature at such times as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer, provided that no note shall mature later than one year from its date. The notes shall bear interest at such rate or rates and be in such form as may be determined by the Chief Financial Officer. The Chief Financial Officer shall determine all matters in connection with the notes issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, and the Chief Financial Officer's signature upon the notes shall be conclusive evidence as to all such determinations. All notes issued hereunder may be renewed from time to time subject to the provisions of N.J.S.A. §40A:2-8. The Chief Financial Officer is hereby authorized to sell part or all of the notes from time to time at public or private sale and to deliver them to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their dates to the dates of delivery thereof. The Chief Financial Officer is directed to report in writing to the governing body of the Township at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the notes pursuant to this bond ordinance is made. Such report must include the principal amount, interest rate and maturities of the notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

Section 6. The full faith and credit of the Township are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on the said obligations authorized by this bond ordinance. Said obligations shall be direct, unlimited obligations of the Township, and the Township shall be obligated to levy ad valorem taxes upon all the taxable property within the Township for the payment of said obligations and interest thereon without limitation of rate or amount.

Section 7. The capital budget or temporary capital budget of the Township is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing all detail of the amended capital budget or temporary capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services, are on file with the Township Clerk and are available for public inspection.

Section 8. This bond ordinance shall take effect twenty (20) days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by said Local Bond Law.

A motion was made by Councilman Cascio, seconded by Councilman Ullman, to introduce and pass Ordinance No. 17-03 at first reading by title.

A conversation followed on the Road Program and doing the roads by sections instead of haphazardly jumping from one road to the next, so the equipment can stay in one place and the complete road. During the Conference Session Council can decide which roads they wish to go forward with. At that time the engineer can forward with the specs to the CO-OP, for linear feet and tonnage. There will still be flexibility to swap out roads.

Ayes: Councilmen Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman, Bruno.
Nays: None.

The following resolution, Resolution No. 17-188 was presented and adopted on a motion by Councilman Ullman, seconded by Councilman Calamari.

Ayes: Councilmen Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman, Bruno.
Nays: None.

RESOLUTION No. 17-188

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 17-03 entitled: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF VARIOUS ROADS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$600,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$570,000 BONDS OR

NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION was introduced and passed at first reading at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Washington on the 10th day of April, 2017; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that further consideration for final passage and public hearing of said ordinance shall be held on the 8th day of May, 2017, at 7:30 PM, prevailing time, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be reached in the Municipal Complex, 350 Hudson Avenue, Township of Washington at which time and place all persons who may be interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the office of the Township Clerk is authorized to advertise in The Bergen Record a newspaper circulated in this Township, the introduction and notice of further consideration for final passage and public hearing of this ordinance as required by law.

BUDGET RESOLUTION

A motion was made by Councilman Cascio, seconded by Councilman Calamari, to approve Resolution No. 17-189.

Ayes: Councilmen Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman, Bruno.

Nays: None.

Resolution No. 17-189

Introduction of Township Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations attached hereto constitute the local Budget of the Township of Washington, Bergen County, New Jersey for the year 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said budget be published in the Record in the issue of April 13, 2017 and that a hearing on the Budget will be held at the Municipal Court Chambers on May 8, 2017 at 7:30 o'clock (P.M.) or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached.

The budget will be available to residents after tonight at the library, it will be posted on the website and the Township Clerk will have copies in the office.

INDIVIDUAL RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Council President Bruno, seconded by Councilman Calamari, to approve Resolution No. 17-190.

Administrator Groh estimated police overtime in March to be approximately \$20,000 based on the trends and there is also the issue of officers that have moved up steps. The actual overtime for March is \$15,375, so that does allow for a \$4,000 cushion. Vehicle Maintenance includes all of the department vehicles. The DMF vehicle needed a new transmission, the tower ladder repair is coming out of this line, along with the repair to the compartment door. This will not affect the actual budget, and it will get us through to May 8, the date for the adoption of the budget.

Ayes: Councilmen Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman, Bruno.

Nays: None.

Resolution No. 17-190

Emergency Appropriation

WHEREAS an emergent condition has arisen with respect to appropriations and no adequate provision has been made in the 2017 Temporary Budget for the aforesaid purpose, and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of emergency temporary appropriations for said purpose; and

WHEREAS, the total temporary budget resolution adopted in the year 2017 and emergency appropriations, including this resolution total \$3,784,964.11.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey (not less than two-thirds of all members affirmatively concurring) that, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20, the following emergency temporary appropriations be made and that said emergency temporary appropriations be added to the Temporary Budget adopted on January 3, 2017 and by prior emergency appropriation as follows:

TOWNSHIP CLERK - S&W	\$1,000.00
DEPT OF LAW - S&W	5,027.00
POLICE - S&W	20,000.00
DISPATCHING - S&W	1,000.00
DEPT OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES - S&W	5,000.00
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE - O/E	10,000.00
COMMUNITY SERVICE ACT	2,500.00
RECREATION - S&W	2,200.00
STAT EXPENDITURES SOCIAL	2,000.00
TOTAL	\$48,727.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following resolutions were part of the Consent Agenda and were made available to the Governing Body and the Public prior to the meeting.

Appointment of Deputy Municipal Court Administrator is a two year appointment by Code and it is also a statutory requirement. Lynda Lasini, was also approved by the County. There is no one under consideration for the Court Administrator at this time, someone was offered the position and refused. The position is posted on the League of Municipalities website, and also posted on the County website, no resumes have been received as of yet. The County requires the Court Administrator to be in there full time. Ms. Lasini has taken time off of her full time job to help accommodate the Township. She did work 18 hours her first week to get familiar with the office, and meet with Captain Hackbarth, Chief Hooper and Administrator Groh. A notice is posted in the window of the Court office, she has made herself available from 4:30 -7:30 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. On court days she will be in at 1:30 until 7:30, and she also has access to the data base, something is trying to be arranged so she can also retrieve her phone messages. Ms. Lasini is extremely diligent and hopefully we can get a Court Administrator. Her Deputy Clerk is helping at the window, she has not been hired but being paid as an independent contractor.

A motion was made by Councilman Calamari, seconded by Councilman Ullman, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Councilman Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman, Bruno.

Nays: None.

Resolution No. 17-191

Authorization of refund of escrow balance, Block 4407, Lot 35, 312 Beech Street

WHEREAS, Holly Cocuzzo posted engineering escrow monies on premises known as Block 4407, Lot 35, 312 Beech Street, and;

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval, C.A. No. 16-530, on March 3, 2017, and;

WHEREAS, outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated February 15, 2017 have been satisfied; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington is authorized to refund the balance of the escrow monies in the amount of \$657.00 to the above.

Resolution No. 17-192

Authorization of refund of escrow balance, Block 2305.02, Lot 2, 517 Jackson Avenue

WHEREAS, Mary & Terence Hayes posted engineering escrow monies on premises known as Block 2305.02, Lot 2, 517 Jackson Avenue, and;

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval, C.A. No. 16-497, and;

WHEREAS, outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated March 2, 2016 have been satisfied; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington is authorized to refund the balance of the escrow monies in the amount of \$461.00 to the above.

Resolution No. 17-193

Appointment of Deputy Municipal Court Administrator

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that Lynda Lasini, 10 Powell Avenue, Rochelle Park, New Jersey, is hereby appointed Deputy Court Administrator for a two (2) year term effective April 3, 2017 and expires on December 31, 2019 and until a successor is appointed and qualified.

A motion was made by Councilman Cascio, seconded by Councilman Sears to adjourn to Conference Agenda.

Ayes: Councilmen Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman, Bruno.

Nays: None.

Time Noted: 8:28 p.m.



Susan Witkowski
Township Clerk



Robert Bruno
Council President

Approved: July 17, 2017

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2017

Members present: Robert Bruno, Peter Calamari, Steve Cascio, Tom Sears, Michael Ullman. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Mary Anne Groh, Administrator; Susan Witkowski, Township Clerk. Absent: Ken Poller, Township Attorney.

Council President Bruno stated Councilman Calamari requested to speak about the committees. Council President Bruno stated he would like to do this first.

Councilman Calamari stated he reviewed the Township Code to prepare to discuss the change of the Form of Government. In his review, he noted one of Council's duties is to appoint such special committees of the Council as may be required. He would ask Madam Mayor if she would take a few days to think about letting the Council manage those couple of committees going forward, being the Memorial Field Committee and the GSP 168/171 Committee. Mayor Sobkowicz replied the Memorial Field Committee is meeting this coming Thursday and next Tuesday, we are waiting for a response, will be for GSP 168. Council President Bruno asked who coordinates the Committees. Mayor Sobkowicz replied Bernadette is notifying whoever is on the Committee. Council President Bruno suggests that everyone read the information Mr. Poller had given to Council, because there are other Council duties/responsibilities and authorities that as a Council we do have. Councilman Cascio stated that be aware that you look at the correct form of government with regard to Council representation.

Administration

Staffing

Registrar Board of Health Secretary – Mayor Sobkowicz had a conversation with the Clerk, since she did want to keep both the Registrar and Board of Health secretary positions together. The decision was Madam Clerk would be the Registrar, and her assistant would take over the Board of Health section and be the Deputy Registrar getting the necessary training. A resolution will be prepared to make it official, as well as the Personal Action Form. An email also needs to be sent to the State, either by the Mayor or the Administrator. The Clerk has prepared a draft resolution for tonight, but the salary has not been finalized. Her suggestion is what is in the budget being split between the Board of Health Secretary and Registrar. The Mayor and the Clerk spoke of \$2000 for the registrar, with the balance being about \$1,700 for the Board of Health Secretary, which is Cornelia. Councilman Calamari is in favor of doing the resolution tonight. The Registrar resolution would be for filling in a vacancy for the end of this year, which is an unexpired term. The term is a 3 year term. A conversation followed on what has been budgeted for the line item and what was spent. The budget can be amended for those salaries.

CFO/Additional hours – Council President Bruno asked if the Mayor or Administrator can speak to Ms. Morrone to see if she can work extra hours. Mayor Sobkowicz stated it is a minimum of 3 hours, but she has spent more hours in the office. Council President Bruno stated in speaking with Ms. Apar, it is his take that she would like Ms. Morrone in the office more often.

Grant Writer – Administrator Groh spoke of attending a Pascack Valley Administrators luncheon last Thursday where the subject of grant writers came up. She stated comments were made of certain groups, which ones are good

and which ones to look out for, along with having sample agreements from groups, different services that they may offer. A conversation followed on Josh Gottheimer, who has two dedicated staff members which help municipalities in his district search and write for grants. They do not provide the grant writers, but his office can make some recommendations of writers they have worked with in the past. Councilman Cascio will contact Josh Gottheimer's office to gather some of those names and forward them to the Administrator and Council. Councilman Calamari stated he read online that Habitat for Humanity procured a \$400,000 Federal Grant for the VFW project in the Township, and hopes the Township can get a grant writer in soon.

Repair Status

DMF Repair Status – Jay-Cue is to come back and finish up the rooftop. There was a leak in the Clerk's office, and an estimate was given by Jay-Cue two years ago for the work, it was never done but they will honor the price. There are no occupational health issues with regard to the DMF building. Administrator Groh will defer to the Department Head to follow-up, but she will pitch in.

Town Hall Repair Status – Administrator Groh stated that there is an issue in getting hot water to the 2nd and 3rd floor. A plumbing company did come in for an estimate for the hot water and also gave an estimate for a leak that was occurring in the basement. Council President Bruno spoke of his frustration and doesn't understand why there is not a plumber on call. Councilman Ullman also spoke of his frustration and the requirement of having a work environment that meets standards; he feels this is a disservice to the employees by not having hot water. Administrator Groh stated this will be remedied within the next week. A conversation followed on the DMF secretary getting quotes, and her 20 hour a work week. Administrator Groh spoke of what is currently going on with the field, and this also being debris season, which is tough. Currently there are 3 seasonal workers, and the Township is seeking a 4th, which is being advertised on the E-Sign. A conversation followed on the salary ordinance, not being able to increase the salary for a seasonal worker, which is currently \$12.36 per hour and advertising locally for the position.

Firehouse Repair Status – TBD – Councilman Sears stated the wall is currently being worked on.

Fire Apparatus Repair Status – Administrator Groh stated two purchase orders were issued this week, one was for the tower ladder and there were some other ones. They were given to the Mayor, came back and became purchase orders. With regard to the compartment door, the administrator will make a call to confirm that the lowest quote can do the work. Engine #44 is at Paramus, for preventive maintenance, and the truck came back with some tie rod problems, along with replacing the right front tire, since it is dry rotted. Administrator Groh will follow-up with the Chief. The trucks are staggered to be fixed so they are not all out at once.

Roads

2017 Road Program – roads to pave – Council President Bruno would like to hold off on that.

Police House – Mayor Sobkowicz handed out a letter with a list of things that the PBA Committee gave to the Chief, which was discussed today. There is money for the flooring, but by the end of the day we do have some estimates, which will not be \$50,000 she thought it would be. A conversation followed on the disrepairs of the police department, and why these disrepairs were not brought to the attention of the administration. Councilman Ullman spoke of his frustration and feels there is a breakdown in communication. He stated Department Heads have been asked to attend meetings, but then they received

blow back. Council President Bruno stated this is not new news, and now at the 11th hour additional monies is being requested. Councilman Sears stated he will go down and take a look. Councilman Ullman stated this is beyond maintenance, this is a security issue. Mayor Sobkowicz replied we would need to add \$50,000 in the Capital Budget. Council President Bruno requested quotes to hire someone to clean/maintain the building and he will also reach out to the Police Chief. A conversation followed on having department heads coming in to give updates. Councilman Cascio spoke of the legislative body not being able to provide money or services if they are not aware of what the needs are, and tax dollars are not being spent where they are needed. He stated the safety of our law enforcement division is at risk and he is ashamed and embarrassed. He stated in other forms of government a Council person is assigned to departments so Council is aware of what is going on and can make an informed decision. A conversation followed on the lack of an electric lock system and phones without caller id. Mr. Statile and Councilman Sears will take a look at the facility. Councilman Calamari asked if the cleaning service can be paid extra to clean the floors, get an exterminator for the mice, and also cleaning supplies. A conversation followed on the filters, which the Chief has bought with his own funds, and the cleaning of the patrol cars. Quotes have been received for painting, along with maintenance of the air conditioner. Administrator Groh stated the Chief came in with this memo, and she believes people are happy to see how Council is addressing the budget and feel empowered to bring requests. A conversation followed on contracts, which are signed by the Mayor, not Council, anything under \$17,500 does not have to be approved by Council. Council President Bruno stated the list is endless, and it is time for Council to get involved and we will get things done.

Miscellaneous

VFW Building – Habitat for Humanity has received \$400,000 in Federal Grant Funds for the project. The property was signed off about a month ago. The Clerk received an email from Mr. Poller today with the signed off deed and now they are trying to locate the keys.

Prospect Street – Matter was discussed during Public Session.

Ordinances and Legislation

Codification Project – Will be discussed when Mr. Poller is available.

Form of Government – Mr. Poller did provide different forms, which are all Faulkner Forms, and the ways the form of government can be changed, whether it is through direct petition or from a Committee of the Council. Councilman Cascio suggested a spread sheet so they can be compared.

Dogs in Parks – amend ordinance signs – There are currently signs, and a copy of the existing ordinance was circulated. Council can amend the ordinance to prohibit pets from being in the ballfields, since it is not expressly prohibited. Councilman Cascio spoke of his concern in changing the ordinance; he feels it would be problematic and not enforceable. A conversation followed on advancing the idea of a dog run. A lengthy conversation followed on having non-police officers, who do not carry a gun, such as Police Specials, who can write tickets and assist in that type of enforcement. Those persons can be an additional resource over and above our Police Officials, and would be a benefit to the Township residents. A conversation also followed on the Code Enforcement Official and his duties.

Email Security, BCC's – A conversation followed adding a confidentiality phrase/disclaimer to all emails. The phrase can be done by DART; any email that leaves the twpofwashington.us server goes out with verbiage. The Clerk will send some examples to the administration.

Anti-Nepotism Ordinance – Councilman Cascio requested the Clerk hand out two different examples, one from Saddle Brook and one from Fair Lawn. He requested to send the hybrid example to Mr. Poller, then forward to Council.

Resolutions

Reduce Local Affordable housing – Holly Schepisi – Council was given a letter, along with two bills from Ms. Schepisi’s office which would establish a moratorium until the end of next year and establish a commission to determine the number of units for each town, instead of the Courts. A template resolution was also attached, along with a list of recipients. A motion was made by Councilman Cascio, seconded by Councilman Sears to support/join in Ms. Schepisi’s efforts. (Council Agreed.) The Township Clerk will create the resolutions and they will be voted on all at once.

Reduction for Performance Bond Guaranty, Stagger Lee, LLC – The resolution will be done at the May 8 meeting, which would reduce the Performance Bond Guarantee, and is done with the satisfaction of Azzolina & Fuery.

Valley Hospital – Councilman Cascio stated he will recuse himself from this discussion, a family member (sister) works at the hospital.

Councilman Cascio left the dais at 9:35 p.m.

Council President Bruno spoke of his concern of the language at the bottom of the 1st page which supports the relocation of the Valley Hospital to Paramus, New Jersey. Mayor Sobkowicz explained where the new hospital would be located. The reason for the resolution is that Valley Hospital needs to obtain from the State of New Jersey a certificate of need. This also occurred when Pascack Valley North was getting approved. At that time a survey was done of the surrounding towns and most of the residents in our community use Valley Hospital. Council President Bruno stated he would like something from Paramus which states they support the move of Valley Hospital to Paramus. Councilman Sears stated he agrees that we do need further explanation. Councilman Ullman stated they are moving to Paramus due to an issue in the Village of Ridgewood, and if the governing body of Paramus supports the move, he would also support the move. Administrator Groh will follow up with Paramus.

Councilman Cascio returned to the dais at 9:41 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Open Space Projects – The deadline for applying for an Open Space Grant is June 30 with the notice of intent being May 5. The focus this year and years to come is increasing activity in parks areas that is focusing on people to move. Ten towns are vying for the money. Open Space Grants are matching Grants, whereas CDBG grants are fully funded. Councilman Ullman suggested an activity circuit (par course) at Sherry Field, which would consist of stations along with informational plaques. The dog park was also discussed, which would be less expensive. Councilman Cascio stated he will send out estimates for a par course. Councilman Sears stated he will price out a dog park. Council agreed to a par course at Sherry Field. Mr. Statile will be contacted to provide specs.

Council Minutes – A conversation followed on Cornelia starting her five extra hours as per the budget. The five hours are in addition to the Health Secretary position. The five extra hours will begin April 18.

Meeting with Westwood High School – Councilman Cascio left the dais at 9:53 p.m. Councilman Ullman spoke of expanding the No Parking for students and the pushback being placed on the school board. He stated residents are coming to Council meetings with issues and he feels it is the responsibility of the school board to provide adequate parking for schools. A conversation

followed on Council attending Board of Education meetings to address this issue. The Township Clerk will reach out to Mr. Poller regarding Council's attendance at Board of Education meetings. Councilman Calamari spoke of an article in The Record about the Board of Education spending 21 to 38 million dollars to fund middle schools and his disappointment of not reading the board reaching out to Our Lady of Good Counsel since there are empty classrooms, saving taxpayer money. Councilman Sears congratulated the Musical Educational system of the high school on being ranked 98 out of 572 districts.

Financials – Once the budget is adopted on May 8, Council can compare what was has been spent against what is budgeted.

2017 Road Program – roads to pave – The map was discussed, along with a list of Mr. Statile's rankings of potential roads for 2017, as well as rankings of all the roads within the Township of Washington. A lengthy conversation followed on doing the worst roads and then completing a cluster of roads, as per Mr. Statile's recommendation, and if that would make a difference in the bidding price. Last year the paving was done later, but it is better to pave in the summer when it is warmer/hotter. Administrator Groh stated not included in the estimates are Colonial Boulevard and Lafayette, which are both subject of DOT grants, and there are also a few outstanding ordinances that relate to Colonial Boulevard. DOT grants are not matching grants and certain streets are better suited. Mr. Statile has identified \$625,000 worth of roads that have 13 to 14 ratings, and one road which has a 15 rating, Colonial and Lafayette are not included. Clustering roads may not save money, but it will save time in moving the equipment. Administrator Groh stated she will reach out to Mr. Statile to get the specs in and also ask to estimate the tonnage to \$800,000, minus the curbs and drainage. She will ask for two proposals for the May 8 meetings, one is to do the roads, what roads from best to worst using the rating and a cluster approach encompassing the worst roads in a cluster.

Capital Budget – A discussion followed on the last email from the Administrator which was included in the packets. Capital Surplus was discussed, along with funded ordinances, how much and the ordinance numbers. Long term debt and permanent debt was discussed, as well as BANS. Ms. Morrone will work with Robert Beinfeld, Bond Counsel, to structure the debt service. Councilman Ullman will reach out to Ms. Morrone.

A motion was made by Councilman Calamari, seconded by Councilman Sears to approve the following resolutions.

Ayes: Councilman Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman, Bruno.

Nays: None.

Resolution No. 17-194

Appointment of Registrar of Vital Statistics

BE IT RESOLVED that there is a vacancy as Registrar of Vital Statistics in the Township of Washington; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, Bergen County, that Susan Witkowski, CMR, 176 Dorato Place, Northvale, NJ 07647 be hereby appointed Registrar of Vital Statistics to fill the unexpired term, effective, April 5, 2017, expiring December 31, 2017, or until a successor has been appointed and qualified.

Resolution No. 17-195

Resolution Urging the Legislature to Reduce Local Affordable housing Burdens and Provide Defined Rules and Relief in Providing Thereof

WHEREAS, municipalities do not have the resources to provide court mandated housing with the Mount Laurel doctrine without proper funding; and

WHEREAS, law suits increase housing four-fold through court mandates and without an affirmative defense municipalities can do nothing to stop growth and sprawl, costing millions of dollars outside of local budgets; and

WHEREAS, property taxes must be raised exponentially to pay the costs associated with court mandates and, therefore, population, further overburdening taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative impact of years of unfunded court mandates has left many municipalities with serious needs and burdensome property taxes; and

WHEREAS, expected state population growth .3 percent does not provide sufficient demand to justify court mandated 30 percent housing supply increase; further congesting our state; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey is already the most densely populated state in the country with 1,195 persons per square mile; and

WHEREAS, the quality of life and public welfare in this municipality will be reduced, negatively impacting infrastructure, water and sewer capacities; school class sizes and school services; municipal services such as volunteer and staffed ambulatory services and fire departments, police departments, public transportation and traffic; and

WHEREAS, the lack of affordable housing and rentals is not due to a lack of units, rather it stems from residents paying property taxes that are unaffordable and increasing by roughly \$700 million annually; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey should relieve the burden of unfunded court mandates and provide statewide parity and predictability in regard to municipal affordable housing obligations; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly is urged to pass Assembly Bill No. 4666 imposing an end-of-year moratorium on all affordable housing litigation; and Assembly Bill No. 4667 establishing the "Affordable Housing Obligation Study Commission" to assist in finding solutions to the affordable housing crisis foisted upon municipalities by the end of the year; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the state and the legislature to assist municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the time has come to reasonably address affordable housing needs in New Jersey to preserve the integrity of the state and its quality of life.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Washington urges the state and the legislature to aid municipalities over-burdened by court-mandated affordable housing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we enthusiastically must reach a solution to affordable housing in New Jersey.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that certified copies of the of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Chris Christie, Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno, Department of Community Affairs Commissioner Charles A. Richman, New Jersey Senate Republican Leader Thomas Kean, Jr., New Jersey Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto, New Jersey Assembly Republican Leader Jon Brammick, our State Senator Gerald Cardinale, our Assembly(wo)men Holly Schepisi and Robert Auth, and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Mayor Sobkowicz reminded everyone of the DEP public meeting on April 27, 7:00 pm to discuss Waste Management's transfer station renewal application. The meeting will be held at Pascack Valley High School.

A motion was made by Councilman Sears, seconded by Councilman Calamari to adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Calamari, seconded by Councilman Ullman to adjourn.

Ayes: Councilmen Calamari, Cascio, Sears, Ullman, Bruno.

Nays: None.

Time Noted: 10:29 p.m.



Susan Witkowski
Township Clerk



Robert Bruno
Council President

Approved: July 17, 2017

