

**TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

PUBLIC PORTION/CONFERENCE MEETING

APRIL 23, 2012

The Township Council held a Public Portion/Conference Meeting in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Council Vice President Joseph D'Urso with the Clerk leading the salute to the flag. Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Steve Cascio, Joseph D'Urso, Fred Goetz. Absent: None. Councilman Richard Hrbek arrived at 9:00 p.m. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Kenneth Poller, Attorney

Pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, this meeting was noticed with the Ridgewood News, posted on Municipal Bulletin Board and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

A motion was made Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to open the public discussion.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz

Nays: None

Judy Monocky, 481 Ridgewood Blvd. North - Ms. Monocky reported on the Recreation Committee's recommendations for the field renovations. The committee unanimously voted on Option 1 for Memorial Field, installing artificial turf and creating a multi-purpose field, citing that it is the most cost effective and efficient. Option 3, also unanimously was chosen for Sherry Field, which includes making minor changes to the field. She thanked her committee and asked the Council to move forward on the projects.

Rosa D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard - Mrs. D'Ambra said that the library grounds are not properly maintained. Debris is accumulating under the trees and need to be tended to better by the DMF. The catch basin adjacent to the property must also be cleaned out. The school path is looking better but needs a garbage pail because the trash is accumulating again. She said the pail should be chained to a tree. The YMHA needs to clean their property along the brook area leading to Schlegel Lake. Mr. Goetz thanked the Gehringer family for cleaning up the school path.

Thomas Strickland, 107 Cosman Street - Mr. Strickland read a portion of an article in the Bergen Record regarding the proposed plans of several of the township's fields. The articles described several options for improvements on the fields which included the removal of trees. He said that Cosman Street will be adversely affected if trees are taking down on Sherry field. Mr. D'Urso stated that no decisions have been made on field improvements yet and in the proposed improvements for Sherry field no trees would be cut down and the footprint would remain the same. Gardner field would have some trees taken down.

Raymond Bernroth, 838 Crest Place - Mr. Bernroth asked when the No Parking signs will be put on Ridgewood Boulevard North. He was told that the signs will be up next week. Mr. Bernroth asked if any decisions have been made in regard to the field plans and was told that no decisions have been made at this time. He said that if a lot of money is going to be spent then the job should be done the right way.

Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue - Mr. Ullman made a comment on a recent conference meeting discussion in which Mr. Azzolina said that he had made an error in soil calculations on the corner of Washington Avenue and Pascack Road. He commended Mr. Azzolina's honesty. He asked why the owner of the property was not told to remove the fill and why the Township has not recouped the fees from the mistake. He stated that it is a matter of accountability and asked if there is going to be any recourse. Mr. Poller stated that Mr. Azzolina is doing recalculations and looking into remediating the situation.

Timothy Ritter, 699 Jacqueline Road – Mr. Ritter asked when the Council would make a decision on what improvements will be done on Memorial field. He stated that he does not want the Township to pay the high school for use of their fields.

Sandy Phillips, 321 Hudson Avenue – Mrs. Phillips asked if the fields project is going to have to be bonded. The capital budget and the bid process were explained. She asked that the township be responsible in their decision and not put additional debt on the taxpayers. She stated that there are many important things that the township needs and gave the generator as an example. Mrs. Phillips asked if anyone has looked into changing the pattern of the traffic light on the corner of Manhattan Avenue and Pascack Road during late night hours.

Donna Scholes, 655 Calvin Street – Mrs. Scholes said that Memorial field is in poor condition and she asked that the Council make a decision for improvements as soon as possible. She wants to see the project done in its entirety.

Scott Spezial, 785 Washington Avenue – Mr. Spezial said that the Council needs to address the field improvements now because it is a major safety issue. He said that the old Council hired a professional to put sod down and maintain the field but that did not work and the condition of the field is worse than it ever was. He stated that this Council needs to work as a team and agree to do the turf project at Memorial field.

Steve Lilien, 17 Katharina Place – Mr. Lilien said that the Council has not kept their campaign promises and do not work together.

Eamon Twomey, 187 Devon Road – Mr. Twomey said that he is against paying the high cost of using the high school field. He spoke about the timeline of doing the project that was proposed in a presentation by Mr. Spezial two meetings ago. He spoke about the limited parking around Memorial Field and said that people could park at the YMHA. He spoke about putting up lights at Sherry Field to extend playing times for baseball.

Kevin Stapleton, 762 Koch Peak – Mr. Stapleton said that baseball would like two fields at Memorial field but would be interested to hear more about lighting at Sherry Field.

Thomas Strickland, 107 Cosman – Mr. Strickland spoke about the condition of the brook that runs along Sherry Field. He met with the DMF supervisor at the site who agreed something needs to be done. The county has been notified of the issue. Trees and stones have created a dam and water is backing up at the bridge. He said that kids threw the stones into the brook.

There being no more comments or questions from the public, a motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to close the public discussion.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz

Nays: None

BUDGET HEARING:

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Dr. Cascio to pass the following resolution:

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz

Nays: None

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-8 permits that the Budget as advertised may be read by its title providing that at least one week prior to the date of the hearing a complete copy of the approved budget shall

a) be posted in a public place where public notices are customarily posted and at the free public library, and

b) is made available to each person requesting the same during said week and during the public hearing, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington has complied with the aforesaid requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE Township is hereby permitted to waive the reading in full of the 2012 Municipal Budget.

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Dr. Cascio to open the Budget Public Hearing.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, Goetz, D'Urso

Nays: None

Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue – Mr. Ullman asked how many days are represented in gross balance amounts on Sheet 3d2 – Gross Days of Accumulated Absence, for the Police and DMF and if it is a required field. He asked questions specific to the funding. He asked if there is cause for concern about \$700,000 in unfunded liability. Mr. Vinci said that it is not uncommon for a town not to fully fund it. If spots are not filled within departments than the unfunded money is available as there will be a savings in that department. He asked about a jump in the DMF from 113,000 last year to 200,000 this year on page 3d. Mr. Vinci said there is a listing by person and advised him to request the information from Mrs. Do. Mr. Ullman asked about an appropriation of \$24,000. He asked for an explanation of page 3d1 which Mr. Vinci explained and said that it is a new page added by the state. Mr. Ullman asked about the surplus on page 4. He asked if the surplus level is considered healthy for a town this size. Mr. Vinci said that the town should be able to replenish the surplus this year if tax collections remain strong. He asked about surplus and spending. Surplus can only be used to balance budget, cash flow, and in some cases, paying tax appeals. Areas in the budget for insurance funds and commissions paid were discussed. Mr. Ullman asked about Sheet 13, and, if the money paid to the auditor was their only fee or if there are additional fees throughout the year. Additional fees are paid to the auditor for work not covered under the annual contracted agreement. Bonding fees were paid to the auditor in 2011. Mr. Ullman asked about funding the Memorial Field project. He asked about the million dollar reserve from the selling of a school many years ago and if it could go toward the funding of the project. He said that with interest rates at an all-time low it may be a wise way to spend the money. Next year the town's debt load is lowered by \$300,000 to \$400,000 dollars. Mr. D'Urso asked Mr. Vinci's opinion on the timing of the project. Mr. Vinci said that he would look at funding the project this year for a variety of reasons. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that she would not allow the \$1,000,000 surplus used for the project.

Rosa D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Blvd. – Mrs. D'Ambra asked about the Fire Department compliance on page 15b. She asked why the Fire Department is not getting grants for some of their equipment and expenses. She asked what money is used for in-line item for the DMF – other expenses and was told that it is used in case something breaks down. Mrs. D'Ambra asked why diesel trucks are running at Town Hall on Saturday.

There being no further comments or questions, a motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Dr. Cascio to close the Budget Public Hearing.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz, Hrbek.

Nays: None

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Dr. Cascio to

approve the following resolution:

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz, Hrbek

Nays: None

WHEREAS, the local municipal budget for the year 2012 was approved on the 28th day of March, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on said budget has been held as advertised; and

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said approved budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, County of Bergen, that the following amendments to the approved budget of 2012 be made.

	FROM	TO
CURRENT FUND		
General Revenue		
6. Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget		
Local Tax for Municipal Purposes		
Including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$ 9,022,281	\$ 8,762,178
Total Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget	9,623,797	8,363,694
7. Total General Revenues	\$12,583,824	\$ 12,323,721
8. GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS		
(A) Operations within "CAPS"		
Department of Administration		
Salaries and Wages	\$ 185,745	\$ 163,745
Insurance		
Employee Group Insurance	765,267	739,272
Police Department		
Salaries and Wages	2,877,757	2,718,757
Other Expense	46,400	46,700
Police Dispatchers		
Salaries and Wages	75,000	25,000
Vehicle Maintenance		
Other Expenses	105,600	104,600
Total Appropriations Within "CAPS"	7,912,445	7,654,750
Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes Within "CAPS"	8,773,361	8,515,666
Insurance		
Employee Group Insurance	44,783	35,728
Total Other Operations Excluded from "CAPS"	1,533,193	1,524,138
Interlocal Municipal Services Agreements		
Joint Health Services – Contractual		
Salaries and Wages	1,000	26,922
Other Expenses	37,470	18,195
Total Interlocal Services Agreements	38,470	45,117
Total Operations Excluded from "CAPS"	1,599,261	1,596,853
Total General Appropriations for Municipal Purposes Excluded from "CAPS"	2,980,463	2,978,055
Subtotal General Appropriations	11,753,824	11,493,721
Total General Appropriations	12,583,824	12,323,721

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that two certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the Office of the director of the Division of Local government Services for certification of the 2012 local municipal budget so amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this complete amendment, in accordance with NJSA 40:4-9 be published in the Ridgewood news in the issue of April 27, 2012 and that said publication contain notice of a public hearing on said amendment to be held at Township Hall on May 7, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution #4 and #6 were removed from the Consent Agenda and were discussed separately.

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

The Consent Agenda was presented and adopted on a motion by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Dr. Cascio.

Ayes: Councilmen Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz, Hrbek.

Nays: None.

WHEREAS, Dorothy Wink posted Performance Bonds on premises known as block 3501, Lot 14.01, 71 Ridgewood Road; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is replacing the original resolution that was acted on February 9, 2009 with the 2009 back up; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington is authorized to refund the performance Bonds in the amount of \$12,250.00 to the above.

WHEREAS Lauren Jurkovich posted a road opening bond at premises known as 262 Hickory Street; and

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the township Engineer as per his letter dated April 5, 2012,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington is authorized to refund the road opening bond in the amount of \$1000.00 to the above.

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the township of Washington that the township Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the following recreation fee:

Maria Bianchi
151 Mill Street
Westwood, New Jersey 07675

Lacrosse 2012 - \$130.00

WHEREAS, there exists a need for the County of Bergen, Office of emergency management, Department of Public Safety to provide an automated telephone alerting system service (hereinafter called "system") to be available 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week, and all days per year to the seventy (70) Municipalities comprising the county of Bergen; and

WHEREAS, the Bergen County Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted Resolution No. 250-12 on March 7, 2012, authorizing the county to award a purchase contract to Swiftreach Networks, 14 Industrial Avenue, Suite #4, Mahwah, New Jersey 07430 (hereafter known as the "service provider") to provide the above-referenced system to those municipalities so desiring; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington wishes to utilize such a system for the benefit of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, an agreement is necessary to delineate the respective responsibilities of the parties in connection therewith; and

WHEREAS, the County shall pay 100% of the cost of initial installation, testing and training of the system and 100% of the cost of the annual

maintenance, testing and training of the system, 100% of the call fees for emergency calls using the emergency Service listing and non-emergency calls using municipally-provided lists; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Washington be and is hereby authorized to enter into an Agreement with the county of Bergen to utilize an automated telephone alerting system service at any time during the County's contract period with the service provider (April 7, 2012 through April 2, 2013) with an option for one (1) additional year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor of Township of Washington be and is hereby authorized to execute said Agreement in a form to be approved by the municipal attorney.

After a short discussion where Mr. Goetz stated that he always prefers having RFP about Resolution #4, a motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Dr. Cascio to approve the following resolution:

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek

Nays: None

Abstain: Councilperson Goetz

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) requires that the Township of Washington (the "Township") retain a Licensed Site Remediation Professional ("LSRP") pursuant to the Site Remediation Reform Act (N.J.S.A. 58:10C-1 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, the Township has selected Quest Environmental & Engineering Services, Inc. ("Quest") as and for the Township's LSRP pursuant to the proposal for professional services submitted to the Township by quest6 dated march 2, 2012 (the "Proposal/Agreement") which is on file with the Township's Business Administrator and Township Clerk; and

WHEREAS, the Township wishes to enter into the Proposal/Agreement with Quest;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, that the Township hereby approves and adopts the Proposal/Agreement with Quest; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to execute the Proposal/Agreement on behalf of the Township.

The Council discussed Resolution #6 concerning Ordinance #12-08 and a motion was then made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. D'Urso to approve the following resolution:

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek

Nays: councilperson Goetz

WHEREAS, by law, the effective date of an ordinance may be accelerated due to an emergency situation, and such action must be supported by 2/3 vote of the governing body;

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 12-08 has been enacted on April 23, 2012 and an emergent situation exists with respect to the health and welfare of the Township of Washington.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that Ordinance 12-08 is hereby effective immediately upon publication.

Mary Ann Ozment, Township Clerk

Richard Hrbek, Council President