

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

Special Session/Public Portion

June 2, 2014

The Township Council held a Special Session/Public Meeting in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by Council President Thomas Sears with the Clerk leading a salute to the flag. Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Peter Calamari, Steve Cascio, Richard Hrbek, Thomas Sears. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Ken Poller, Attorney.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act this meeting was listed in the Township Council Annual Meeting List which was published in the Ridgewood News, forwarded to the local newspapers, posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. Calamari to open the general public discussion on the two resolutions before town council at this time.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

Joe D'Urso, 12 Viola Terrace – Mr. D'Urso states that he understands that Mr. Sears only wants a discussion on the budget. A lengthy discussion followed with regard to why this special meeting was being held. Mr. Sears states that meeting is being held due to miscommunication between a couple of entities. Mr. D'Urso asked if there were any interoffice memos sent to the new clerk, deputy clerk or the mayor days before the meeting on the 21st of May. Mr. Sears states that he is not answering any questions tonight; statements only are to be made. Mr. D'Urso reiterated the question again with regard to interoffice memos and Mr. Sears replied he does not have an answer for that. Mr. D'Urso states that he feels that Mr. Sears is being disrespectful by not answering questions and believes that the attorney advised Mr. Sears. Mr. D'Urso states that he will OPRA request the interoffice memo. Mr. D'Urso also asked if the new clerk knows that if she does not produce OPRA requests she can be sued. Mr. D'Urso states he appreciates council coming out tonight and states that council worked on the budget for three months and cut only \$2,110 from the budget. Mr. D'Urso also states that the Mayor is fibbing with regard to her stating she spoke to the auditor on the 21st and the auditor stating it was not necessary to have increasing and decreasing resolutions. Mr. D'Urso feels it is very damaging to Lerch, Vinci and Higgins. Mr. D'Urso feels it is very disrespectful of Mr. Sears not answering his questions.

Bill Thomson, 560 Hoover Avenue – Mr. Thomson asked if cameras were put into police cars last year. Mr. Sears states that he believes they were. Mr. Thomson states that in the budget under Memorial Field renovation of \$2,165,000, he would like to know what that is for. Mr. Sears states it was put in the capital for consideration of renovation of Memorial Field. Mayor Sobkowicz states that we are bonding 5% of the two million in case council decides to do the project. Mayor Sobkowicz continued that capital budget items are items that may be considered during the year by council and there needs to be enough money in the capital. There was a discussion of what kind of renovation would cost two million dollars. Mayor Sobkowicz states it could be a turf field. Mr. Sears's states there were proposal brought before the council for consideration. Mr. Thomson asked a question with regard to the VFW building. Mr. Thomson then states it is ridiculous, that council should step down if they can't answer a question from a citizen. Mr. Sears states that those questions were answered and they will be in the minutes.

Fred Goetz, 587 Washington Avenue – Mr. Goetz states he really didn't have any questions just wanted to reiterate that what the public is going to talk about cannot be limited. Mr. Goetz went on to speak at length with regard to the public having legitimate questions and Mr. Sears is restraining them to the topic at hand. Mr. Sears spoke of a lawsuit against the town that cost the taxpayer's money. Mr. Goetz went on to state things that public officials do not do that would induce lawsuits. Mr. Goetz feels this is disgraceful.

Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue – Mr. Ullman asked with questions on sheet 3D with regard to the analysis of compensated liability, gross days of accumulated absence, what date is that of. Mayor Sobkowicz went on to explain how the terminal leave days are analyzed with regard to days. The actual accumulated days for December 31, 2013 is 937. Mayor Sobkowicz also explained that terminal leave no longer exists. Mayor Sobkowicz also stated that at the end of the year anyone who banks 1 to 5 days gets paid in January of the next year. There was a conversation with regard to the retirement of Sergeant Curl, and the anticipated retirement of the chief and the terminal leave accumulated. Mayor Sobkowicz states that the terminal leave for the chief for \$71,000 and it was paid out of current expense. Mayor Sobkowicz states that Sergeant Curl was also paid terminal leave and it was a very small amount.

Mary Ann Ozment, 960 Adams Place – Mrs. Ozment states that she has a lot of questions that have nothing to do with the budget, and Mr. Sears's states that only questions with regard to the budget can be asked. Mr. Sears replies you can ask whatever question you would like. Mrs. Ozment went on to state her interpretation of OPRA with regard to providing documentation immediately when it is in your possession. Mrs. Ozment states that the documents that were in her OPRA request were readily available and she has not received them as of yet. Mrs. Ozment asked if the advertisement went out for Tax Collector. Mayor Sobkowicz replied it went out as of today, and it is in The Record and the League of Municipalities website. Mrs. Ozment asked what is the status with regard to the DMF Superintendent position. Mayor Sobkowicz states that applications have been received and interviews are beginning next week. Mrs. Ozment asked if the Township has a Recreation Director. Mayor Sobkowicz states no, we do not. There was a discussion with regard to the position of Police Chief, the chain of command and how long can that be done for. Mrs. Ozment states that Mr. Bruno might be a perfect Director of Finance, since he does hold all of the credentials. There was a discussion with regard to what streets would be done. Mayor Sobkowicz states the bids are starting to come in, but a start date has not been set. Mrs. Ozment states in the Township Code it states the Township needs to have an engineer. Mayor Sobkowicz states that Mr. Statile is the engineer. Mrs. Ozment asked if anyone is planning to do any negotiation with the DMF, who have no contract and the Police Department whose contract is up this year. Mayor Sobkowicz states with the Police Department not at this time, but the DMF is negotiating, the former administrator did meet with them.

A motion was made by Mr. Calamari, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to close the general public discussion.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

Mr. Hrbek states he does have a few questions on the budget that Ms. Curran may be able to answer. There was a lengthy discussion with regard to FEMA, and where the money which is reimbursed goes back into the budget. Mr. Hrbek states the revenue sheets there are not statements, fees and permits. Mayor Sobkowicz states this is not as detailed as the one that was worked on during the budget. Ms. Curran explained anticipated revenue and

2014 miscellaneous revenue. There was a discussion with regard to trust account and current budget account. There was a discussion with regard to
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May the monies received from the sale of the middle school and where that money is located. Ms. Curran states that the interest from that money is on sheet 4, interest on investments and deposits. There was a lengthy discussion with regard to LOSAP and the amount appropriated. Mr. Hrbek asked with regard to the letter attached by Lerch, Vinci & Higgins stating that they are not guaranteeing any of the numbers are correct and that they cannot be held accountable. Ms. Curran states that is a standard letter.

BUDGET INTRODUCTION

A motion was made by Mr. Calamari, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to approve the following resolution increasing the Mayor’s budget:

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: Councilperson Cascio.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the following items of budget submitted by the Mayor for the year 2014 be and are hereby increased by the Township Council by the amounts set forth below:

	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
<u>REVENUES</u>		
Miscellaneous Revenues		
Licenses – Alcoholic Beverages	\$ 12,000	15,000
Fees and Permits-Other	185,000	190,000
Uniform Construction Code Fees	175,000	185,000
Uniform Fire Safety Fees	14,000	17,000
Bergen County Municipal JIF		1,000
Reserve Body Armor Fund		2,669
Reserve for Over the Limit Under Arrest		10,093
Reserve for CDBG Grant		1,139
Reserve for Pandemic Flu		7,743
Reserve for Recycling Tonnage Grant		72,194
Police Outside Billing-Other Trust Fund		35,000
<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>		
Mayor and Council		
Other Expenses (Council)	5,350	5,750
Engineering Services		
Other Expenses	47,000	57,000
Land Use Administration		
Planning Board		
Salaries & Wages	8,275	8,875
Zoning Board of Adjustment		
Salaries & Wages	19,615	19,765
Police Department		
Community Policing	1,100	1,300
Acquisition/Leasing of Police Vehicles	73,010	87,010
Office of Emergency Management		
Other Expenses	2,000	2,500
Fire Department		
Maintenance Program	27,500	33,000
Department of Municipal Facilities		
Salary and Wages	669,034	672,034
Other Expenses	65,700	67,100

Other Public Works Function		
Shade Trees	4,500	5,500
Public Health Services		
Salaries & Wages	72,169	72,519
Recreation Services Program		
Other Expenses	172,100	175,200
Prior Years Bills		
Finance	1,525	16,644
Joint Health Services (Contractual)		
Other Expenses	18,912	19,112
Bergen County Municipal JIF		1,000
Reserve for Body Armor Fund		2,669
Reserve for Over the Limit Under Arrest		10,093
Reserve for CDBG Grant		1,139
Reserve for Pandemic Flu		7,743
Reserve for Recycling Tonnage Grant		72,194
Interest on Notes	21,063	23,313
Judgements		31,000

A Motion was made by Mr. Calamari, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to approve the following resolution introducing the 2014 Municipal Budget.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

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 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said budget be published in The Record in the issue of June 16, 2014 and that a hearing on the Budget will be held at the Municipal Court Chambers on June 30, 2014 at 7:30 o'clock p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached.

Elaine Erlewein, Acting Township Clerk

Thomas Sears, Council President

