

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

**PUBLIC PORTION/PUBLIC MEETING**

**March 11, 2013**

The Township Council held a Public Portion/Public Meeting in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Council President Steven Cascio with the Clerk leading a salute to the flag. Members present: Joseph D'Urso, Richard Hrbek, Steven Cascio. Absent: Fred Goetz. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Catherine Steinel, Administrator. Glenn Beckmeyer arrived at 7:40 p.m.

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.

The Clerk read the total of various bills paid, a copy of which is attached and made part of these minutes.

Mayor Sobkowicz indicated she noticed that the Report of Mayor was taken off the agenda. Council President Cascio indicated that the auditor is coming at 8:30 pm and is paid by the hour, so Council President Cascio asks that all reports be held until the next meeting. Mayor Sobkowicz indicated she had her report ready and that it is only 7:30 p.m. She indicated she is very disappointed in the Council President's actions this evening. Council President Cascio indicated he is sorry that Mayor Sobkowicz is disappointed. He does not want to take any chances regarding the time since the auditor is on the clock and we pay him by the hour, so that is what we are going to do tonight.

**GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

A motion was made by Mr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. D'Urso to open the Public Discussion.

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

Nays: None.

**Paul Imbarrato, 191 Linwood Avenue** - Indicated he is here on behalf of the Township Little League and Softball program. He would like to go through some of the field improvements that will be done this year. Little League field is changing from a 40/60 field to a 50/70 field and this transition will be taking place in the next few years. The league would like to change Clark Field and would have to increase the skin infield ten feet back and make the pitchers' mound longer. He said that they also would like to do a couple of other improvements like to continue pouring concrete from the snack stand to connect with the bleacher pad behind the third base dugout. There is also a program of existing pavers that are in the playground area that need to be lifted and repositioned. The other improvements that they will doing at their expense is that they are going to be putting a ½ inch of stone around the walking track, as they do every couple of years. The Town supports them by donating and bringing the clay to them. He said that they have volunteers that come out every couple of Saturdays to help install the clay. He said that they are also going to be putting sod behind the front of the back stop behind home plate. With regard to Gardner Field, he said they were looking to put a canvass on top of the girls dugout, because there have been complaints that it gets too hot for the girls. At Sherry Field the Little League needs to replace the snack stand. It is a wooden movable structure, like a shed and they would like to put it on the existing gravel area that is next to the flag pole. They feel that it is a better place to have the snack stand, because a lot of people from the minor league field do not walk over to the peewee fields to purchase food. He said that this is pretty much the wrap up of what Little League is doing this year. This

zero dollars to taxpayers. Little League will fund all of these improvements. There was a conversation between Mr. Hbrek and Mr. Imbarrato regarding the following items: the square footage on the impervious surface that is going to be added, which is about 300 feet, 40 square yards; the canvas that will be put up for Gardner Field which will be taken down by baseball when the season is over and the snack stand at Sherry Field which will be removed. Mr. Hrbek asked about the snack stand at Memorial which has a tarp on the roof. Obviously the roof is leaking and Mr. Hrbek asked if anything was going to be done with that snack stand. Mr. Imbarrato indicated he will get back to Mr. Hrbek regarding that snack stand.

**David Snyder, 91 Windsor Circle** - Mr. Snyder indicated he wanted a couple of extra minutes, but understood we are at five. He said he was addressing everyone's platform for 2014 which is now upon us. Next year at this time there will be some new faces and some old faces at the meetings. One of the things that he has been talking about as an outsider is that the town should videotape meetings; not for grandstanding but for the public to be able to look at, if they can't get out to attend a meeting. He has asked for this for three years but nothing has been done except to say that we don't have the money. Woodcliff Lake has spent \$800.00 for their system, and they are doing it. There is no reason that we can't do it along with the Zoning Board and Planning Board meetings because it is very important. He really hopes that will be part of the agenda but maybe you will surprise him and have it before the end of the year. He then talked about being a realtor and that he was very concerned with property value in this town. He said he lived in this town for 13 years. Exit 171 on the Parkway is a problem in that the residents of Woodcliff Lake do not want cars to make a right turn at the exit and that leaves most of the traffic getting off the Garden State Parkway on to Washington Avenue. It is time for legal action against Woodcliff Lake. Our exit will be getting worse now that the Zoning Board has approved a convenience store at the Five Star Gas Station and the Getty Station is changing hands. Also the CVS application is still going on. He said that he was very disappointed about what is going on and he wanted Council members and the Mayor to know what he felt because they appoint the Zoning Board & Planning Board members. He then said that he knows that the cell tower is coming but he wanted to know if someone can just answer what month is it going up. Mayor Sobkowicz indicated that the cell tower was approved, and it is going to take two months to get permits and three months more to build it. The next thing he asked about was the budget on landscaping. He asked Mayor Sobkowicz about this and stated that this is a little line item. There is no reason why the town can't have plants in front of the municipality to make it look fresh year round. Obviously he said that his main concern is Exit 171. He said that this needs to be addressed. Feels that if CVS is approved that the town's value will drop. He asked if the municipal building is paid for or if there is still a bond on this building. Mayor Sobkowicz indicated that this building is part of the debt. Dr. Cascio indicated to Mr. Snyder that his time has expired. Mr. Snyder thanked the Council.

**Rosa D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard** - Mr. D'Ambra indicated she wanted to speak about the sidewalks on Washington Avenue. A lot of people fixed the sidewalks, but 905 Washington Avenue refused to fix their sidewalk. She said she brought the paperwork request to Bernadette for Mr. Tucker to call her and nothing has happened. She said that the Township has ordinances so people can walk on the sidewalks along Washington Avenue without having to go into the street. She wanted to know why nobody is paying attention. She spoke to Bernadette and she was told that a letter did go out to the resident and the resident told that there haven't been sidewalks there for 40 years. She said that she had pictures and that there were sidewalks there for forty years. Ms. D'Ambra said that the resident is making the sidewalks deteriorate just so they don't have to shovel snow along Washington Avenue. She said that there

was no use in having town ordinances if no one is paying attention to them in the town. Dr. Cascio asked if she has submitted pictures and he was told yes. Mrs. D'Ambra stated she submitted paperwork going back two years. She said that she wanted to know who these people know in the administration, past and present, because nothing is being done. Mrs. Steinel indicated that she wrote the resident a letter and the son came in. The owner of the house is 90 years old and the son claims the sidewalk has not been there for over forty years. Mrs. Steinel said that deferred it to Ken Poller to see if we have legal authority to force them to install a sidewalk. That's where we are now. Mrs. D'Ambra said she should be able to walk along Washington Avenue. They have installed big boulders there, as they are worried about the grass, and they are not worried about people walking. She said she wanted something done. Mrs. D'Ambra also stated if she falls on the sidewalk and the owner comes out and pushes her into Washington Avenue, she is going to sue the Town.

**Mr. Kevin Bryant 230 Mill Street, Westwood** – Mr. Bryant also introduced Coach Greg Anthony. He said he was present to give an update on the Westwood Track and Field Program. It was formed in 2006 and takes athletes from every town in the area and 34% of the current athletes in the program are from Township of Washington. He said that there were 9 coaches right now. Unfortunately, none are from Washington Township. Throughout the whole program we have never had a coach who is a resident of Washington Township. We have four coaches who do not have children; two high school students and four happen to be Boy Scout leaders. Mr. Bryant indicated the program was formed by John Keenan, current Superintendent of Schools, Pascack Valley and John Murdock, the track and field coach of Pascack Valley. Mr. Bryant went on to say how the children are ranked in the program via State of New Jersey ranking and National Ranking. He also indicated that the program does work with disabled athletes as well as being the gym program for several home schooled children from the Township. He went on to talk about the expenses to run the program such as insurance, and fees. The program pays for fees for track meets and equipment. He went on to explain about having a track meet at Westwood High school and all the difficulty he had in trying to get in contact with the school and then with our police department to inform them of the upcoming track meet. He said he also called the Our Lady of Good Counsel Church about parking there on the day of the meet and Father Cinque said that there would not be a problem parking in the church parking lot. He said that he finally spoke to the chief again on May 30, four days before the meet to inform him about all the volunteer parents and police officers who were willing to help. Unfortunately one of the police officers had been called to work, so he was not able to help us. The Chief left me a message the next day and he indicated he spoke to the Mayor, who indicated that a Police Officer would be required and the track program would be billed. Mr. Bryant stated he has been in emergency services for 30 years. He figured for what that officer cost, we would have to sell more hot dogs than he planned for. Mr. Bryant stated the Chief left him a phone message just about two o'clock that same day after struggling to communicate with the police department for all that time. He said that his wife was working from home and received a knock the door from a Township police officer who hand delivering a letter to his house. For the clarity of the record, the letter stated that a police officer was needed for security purposes at the track meet. The meet was held and the meet was cancelled after three hours due to two lightning storms. The police have a minimum of overtime of four hours. Mr. Bryant evacuated the stadium himself two times. At the end of the second evacuation a police officer finally emerged from his car asking what is going on. At that point, the stadium had been emptied twice. Two days after the meet, an invoice was delivered to me for \$1319.00 for services of this police department. He went on to give a

breakdown of the different expenses. Dr. Cascio indicated he would have to stop Mr. Bryant at this time. Mr. Bryant said that he thinks he made his point without finishing. Dr. Cascio indicated he would give him an extra 30 seconds. Mr. Bryant indicated he did receive a phone call in September from a borough employee, asking him about non-payment of the invoice. He said that he did not have any money and that any profit that was made paid for the rental of the bathrooms. He stated that he did not turn a profit. In spite of that, in January he wrote a five hundred dollar check against the invoice. He then received a letter from the attorney of the Township, telling him if I did not submit full payment there would be formal legal commencement against him, since he was president of the organization. Mr. Bryant stated that he would not be having any track meets here in the future.

**Peter Calamari, 28 Gabriel Way** - Mr. Calamari does not ask this question to be antagonistic, but just for information. Can he give his five minutes to the mayor and council to hear their reports? Mr. Calamari thinks it is important to hear reports that are made, as we did not hear them last meeting. Mr. Cascio indicated that reports do not need to be heard at every meeting. Mr. Calamari stated he thought they were on the agenda the last meeting Mr. Calamari apologized if he is wrong, but he thinks it is important to hear the reports. Mr. Calamari would like to give his five minutes to Mayor and Council to hear their reports, three minutes to the Mayor, two minutes to Council to hear their reports. Mr. Cascio said this was not allowable.

**William Thomson, 560 Hoover Avenue** - Mr. Thomson indicated he was here maybe two months ago and Jackie Do had wanted to meet with the board as there was a question as to who was signing the checks, because according to our charter, one of the signatures is the treasurer. There were two signatures and one was not the treasurer so we are clearly working outside the charter of this community. Mr. Thomson's question is who signs the checks as we are here on March 11? Mr. Cascio answered that he is not in that office so he will ask the administrator how that is being handled at this time since the treasurer's seat is vacant. Mrs. Steinel stated while we have an acting CFO one of our signatures is our tax collector as she is a bonded employee for which if there is any error in the tethering of the checks we are bonded by our insurance, as she is a bonded employee. She executes along with the mayor regular payments to vendors. Payroll is either executed as of now by either the mayor or myself. Mr. Thomson asked Mrs. Steinel if she is comfortable with that statement. Mrs. Steinel replied that whether or not it is in compliance with the borough code, what other choice does she have. Mr. Thomson asked how long can this community function outside of this Charter? We are in March. He asked if we can go to August or November. Mr. Cascio indicated that question needs to be deferred to Mr. Poller who cannot answer that question today. Mr. Thomson asked if the Council can ask for a written opinion on this. Mr. Cascio indicated that the Council can ask for a written opinion from Mr. Poller on how long it's appropriate to have a temporary position of treasurer in our form of government. I am sure we will get that response as soon as possible hopefully by next week. Mr. Thomson asked if we are interviewing for the positions, CFO, treasurer and whatever else we are missing here. Mr. Cascio replied that he is not aware of CFO or treasurer; and did ask if someone is aware of that? Mrs. Steinel indicated that the Township has received a few resumes, but with our schedule here and with working on the budget she and the Mayor haven't had time to schedule interviews. The ad is still on the web and we have also received a resume as late as last week. We also have the Deputy Clerk position advertised on the link of the municipalities. Mr. Thomson thanked Mr. Cascio.

**Raymond Bernroth, 838 Crest Place** - I just would like to say I would offer his phone to call Mr. Poller, but it might not work in here. Mr. Cascio thanked Mr. Bernroth for his offer.

There being no other questions or comments, a motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. D'Urso to close the public portion of the meeting.  
Ayes: Councilmen Beckmeyer, D'Urso, Hrbek, Cascio.  
Nays: None.

### **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.

The Consent Agenda was presented and adopted on a motion by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer.  
Ayes: Beckmeyer, D'Urso, Hrbek, Cascio.  
Nays: None.

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen with respect to providing sufficient money for the payment as stated below and no adequate provision has been made in the 2013 Temporary Appropriations for the aforesaid purpose, and N.J.S. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for the purpose above mentioned; and

WHEREAS, the total temporary budget resolutions adopted in the year 2013 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L 1951 (N.J.S. 40A: 4-20) including this resolution totals \$4,588,285.00 exclusive of debt service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S. 40A 4-20:

Emergency temporary appropriations are and the same is hereby made for the following:

Fire Department	
Physicals	\$ 185.00
Joint Health Services	
Contractual-Stipend	\$9464.00

BE, IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolutions be forwarded to the Director of the Division Local Government Services.

WHEREAS, James and Kelly Golden posted engineering escrow on premises knows as Block 1302, Lot 3, 460 Emburgh Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated February 13, 2013, C.O. No. 12-075,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated February 19, 2013.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington is authorized to refund the balance of the escrow money in the amount of \$363.00 to the above.

WHEREAS, Robert and Christine Hoerter posted engineering escrow on premises known as Block 2406, Lot 36, 375 Ridgewood Boulevard North; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated February 12, 2013, C.A. No. 13-054,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated February 19, 2013,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington is authorized to refund the balance of the escrow money in the amount of \$608.00 to the above.

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WHEREAS, Manuel and Isabel Iglesias posted engineering escrow on premises known as Block 3301, Lot 27, 443 Pascack Road; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated October 15, 2012, C.A. No. 12-360,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated February 19, 2013,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington is authorized to refund the balance of the escrow money in the amount of \$559.00 to the above.

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MaryAnn Ozment, Township Clerk

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Dr. Steven Cascio, Council President