

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON  
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Washington was held at 7:30 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 7:34 p.m. by reading the following statement

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

The regularly scheduled Public Meeting of March 13, 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; Ken Poller, Attorney; Mary Anne Groh, Administrator and Susan Witkowski, Township Clerk.

The Clerk read the totals of the list of bills:

TOTAL	2016 Reserve	\$75,571.21
TOTAL	2017 Current	\$1,276,401.35
TOTAL	Capital Fund	\$2,005.00
TOTAL	Animal Control	\$212.40
TOTAL	Trust Fund	\$45,394.75

Mayor's Report, March 13, 2017

SHREDDING AND E-RECYLCING

Shredding and E-Recycling will this Saturday, March 18 from 9:00 – 12:00 at the parking lot adjacent to the DMF yard. Hopefully bad weather will not interfere I know a lot of people have been waiting for the recycling and shredding, both on Saturday.

RECYCLING

For January and February of 2016, you recycled one-hundred-ninety-six tons, for this January and February you recycled one-seventy-point-seventy-one tons. However, most of it was paper, so our revenue was a little bit higher than last year.

WASTE MANAGEMENT PERMIT RENEWAL

You probably read a lot of articles in the paper about the DEP hearing that is set for April 27 at Pascack Valley High School. This hearing is to give residents an opportunity to speak for or against renewing the permit for the transfer station in Hillsdale. As you know Mayor Frank and I have written a lot of letters to the DEP, and we have put out petitions for signatures. We are hoping

we are successful, although they do have a draft permit. However, Mayor Frank has learned from his attorney that there are actually twelve permitted, that means twelve companies have a permit, non-operational transfer stations in New Jersey. And the dynamics of that industry has led to this overcapacity. So really, technically what he is saying is there is no need for them to get a permit in Hillsdale. So Mayor Frank contacted Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno and he is hoping she will help us out in this situation.

#### NEW JERSEY TREE RECOVERY CAMPAIGN

Again, the Township signed up to be a part of tree recovery, to replace a tree that has been lost or damaged in Hurricane Sandy. The DMF will be picking up the trees in Paramus on April 21 and you can pick them up here April 22 to April 29, but we will remind you again. I think in a couple of days we will be doing snow storm recovery. I would like to remind you to keep your cars off the road, and tomorrow there is a State of Emergency, please do not drive around and help neighbors that may need some help during this time.

#### MAYORS WELLNESS PROGRAM HEALTHY STEPS

Our Healthy Steps Walking Group, which is part of the Valley Hospital Wellness Campaign, is going very strong with frigid weather on several of the eight Saturdays, with Emily Kratzer and Laura Rifkin were our group coordinators. We started out with ten people, and Valleys says it usually dwindles to seven or eight. We didn't dwindle; we actually ended up with twenty-three walkers. Due to popular demand we are starting a second round of Healthy Steps on April 1 for another eight weeks. If you are interested you can sign up at the library. That is where we meet and it goes from 11:00-12:00 on Saturday.

#### WESTWOOD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

The girls and boys basketball teams made it into the State Championships, North 1 Group 2. Unfortunately the girls lost the final game to High Point with a score of 39-37 and the boys lost the final to Newton in double overtime by a score of 72-67. I am very proud of both teams; they did a really excellent job.

#### RETIREMENTS

Unfortunately, two long-time employees are retiring March 31, Margaret Koesel, Court Clerk and she is also the Recreation Superintendent, she has been here thirty-four years, and Flo Mammolitti, Violations Clerk, Health and Recreation Secretary/Registrar, she has been here fifteen years. Recently, Flo helped us in the tax collection area. They will be honored at our April meeting. They are both are very diligent and knowledgeable in their jobs and serve the public efficiently. Our Administrator has been working on evaluations for employees; she has hired the Sanitary Sewer Operator, the one we had passed away. Our new Tax Collector began working in the Finance Department and has had input with us for the budget. Administrator Groh is also screening applicants for positions and we are in the process of interviewing several of them. Administrator Groh is also currently working with the new auditor, and recently completed a Purchasing Two Class for her to become a QPA.

#### WASHINGTON AVENUE ENFORCEMENT DETAIL.

Council people you have results on the spots where you sit. I know that Councilman Sears was kind of upset when we got the results from the park down at Colonial Boulevard. He was disappointed we didn't have results from details that we do on Washington Avenue. I have several copies if the public wants some. It outlines that during the last four years and two months we have had one-hundred-fifty-nine motor vehicle enforcement details on Washington Avenue. These details were specifically aimed at the following violations, passing over double yellow lines, improper passing, failure to keep right, stop sign and inspection equipment violations. One-hundred-sixty-three and twenty-nine minutes were spent on these details. A total of four-hundred-and-eighty-three vehicles were stopped as a result of these details, with one-

hundred-fifty-one moving violations/summons, one-hundred-seventy-three non-moving violations and two-hundred-forty-seven verbal warnings, it should be mentioned that this doesn't include our radar details. If anybody is interested in some of the figures for this, I do have some extra copies.

#### SALT SHED

The engineer and I met with nine residents from the Jackson Avenue area to update them on the status of the salt shed which is basically that we are still working on a plan for the new DMF building, which hopefully will include the salt shed there and we do not have to put it behind the neighbors.

#### PROSPECT SEWER

I know that the residents in this area are very anxious to get this resolved. I did make a call to Marie this afternoon, when I found out from the engineer that the camera will take place next Monday morning. We don't have the exact time yet, but we will know by the end of the week and I will call you again.

#### STREET SWEEPING

Hopefully, our streets will be swept by Paramus either the last week of March or first week of April.

#### BUDGET 2017

The Administrator and I spent a lot of time preparing the initial document for review by the Council. The Administrator still has to continue getting more information, figures and prices as requested by ourselves and the Council to update things as we go. Initially the budget had a decrease of about \$60.00 on the municipal portion of a house assessed at \$464,000.00. We do have an ambitious capital plan this year, including DMF building, which is our priority, and Fire Department also has a big chunk of the capital. Everyone is working hard here on the Council keeping the taxpayer in mind and trying to finalize everything in a timely manner. The State does not give us a lot of time.

#### DMF

They will be very busy tomorrow; they spent the day today and the last couple of days preparing for the storm. You will be receiving your debris flyer Wednesday or Thursday, basically the debris program starts on April 3 and once a month also starts on April 3, depending on your zone. Salters and plows were deployed on February 9 for the eight inch snow event; February 12 was primarily an ice storm. We actually used one-hundred-seventy-five tons of salt that day and plows were used later to clear the roadways. Two trees came down in the wind storm of February 13 at Ridgewood Extension and South Chestnut and they took care of those. The storms did keep the department busy with cleanup of branches and debris from the catch basins. Two catch basins broke in Ridgewood were actually repaired, and they did fill potholes near high traffic school zones in town. The next time we do white goods pick-up is March 15, which you have to have an appointment. You can call 664-3268 to get on the schedule. We did recently have some mild temperatures, and the Road Department got a head start cleaning up parks, fields and some of our lots. Members of the DMF completed their annual required safety training videos, which included Bloodborne Pathogens and two others additionally completed a landscaping safety class.

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT

On February 22 the Police Department finalized their Annual Safety Poster Contest at the awards ceremony, where the winners from grades K-6 received monetary awards totaling \$2,400.00 for their drawings and safety themes. I thank the residents and businesses who contributed to the prizes. A lot of work goes into this, it is an all year project, from art in schools, to teachers, to the evaluators and finally to the awards ceremony. I am very proud that our department was only one of the eleven towns out of the ninety-nine to get the

Award of Excellence from the American Automobile Association. Also, our officers had training on cell block management and suicide awareness, and today we started gun qualifications. Also Chief Hooper is looking into the use of drones for searches; Bergen County has five available that they will lend us if we need them. For the months of January and February the Police Department had a total of twelve-hundred-and-thirty-two calls to service.

#### RECREATION

Currently children and adults are registering for lacrosse, men's over thirty-five softball and baseball. In addition, I have been approached by Bergen Catholic High School for a shared service area for baseball. I met with the head of baseball, their Recreation Director and we are looking into that possibility.

#### JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT TROOP 5192

They are going for their Bronze Award. They have a box as you walk into Town Hall for gently used books, they are focusing on literacy. So if you have any to donate that would be great.

#### PASCACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL MAYOR'S MEETING

We all attended and the topic of the day was none other than Fair Share Housing requirements for the town, it is a very difficult situation that will bring a lot of changes into our town. However, right now there are some bills in the assembly to put a freeze on it for the rest of the year, I think they should just freeze it permanently, but that is not up to me. I would rather they just discontinue the program.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department will have their Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Memorial Field at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 15. The department continues to focus on training; they had a Pascack Valley drill at the YJCC on Sunday, March 12. That department had a total of twenty-three to services from January to February.

#### VOLUNTEER

I thank Bob Stickle, owner of LifeSavers for changing all of the batteries in our defibrillators at each of our field. He is very generous with his time and expertise.

#### AMBULANCE CORPS

The Ambulance Corps had a total of eighty-two calls for January and February. Please consider becoming a member, it is a lot of work but you would be performing a great service.

#### LIBRARY

The library continues to sponsor great events. They had Mardi-Gras recently. You should look at their website; they do have some great things going on there.

#### WALL OF HEROS

If you know of a Veteran who currently lives here or who did live here, we are expanding our Wall of Veterans in the Senior Room. You have to bring proof of service and picture to Bernadette at Town Hall. This week we also had at the Pascack Valley Mayor's meeting, the guest speaker was Gurbir Grewal, Bergen County Prosecutor and he focused on the heroin and opioid epidemic. In 2016, there were three-hundred-eight reported overdoses in Bergen County, two-hundred-twenty-one were not fatal, and eighty-seven were fatal. The Prosecutors Office is sponsoring a seminar it is called "Hidden In Plain Sight" and it is right here at the Westwood Regional High School on April 25 from

7:00 – 9:15 p.m., but you have to be eighteen to attend.

## REPORT OF COUNCIL

Councilman Cascio stated as always the Mayor has covered everything in great detail. He would like to add, your Council, the Mayor and the Administration is working very hard on the budget to keep your taxes low, and using your tax dollar effectively. My opinion is the resident can always use their tax dollar better than the government in town, but again we are trying to keep your taxes low so you can stay here and live comfortably. Last Saturday, he met with our new congressman, Josh Gottheimer, and he was discussing Federal Grants and how municipalities and his district can utilize his office. He is making a number of his staff available to us to go out and search for grants so we can keep our federal tax dollars here. Congressman Gottheimer was explaining that Bergen County and New Jersey residents for every dollar they spend, in federal taxes, they get sixty-seven cents back, as opposed to West Virginia they get almost four dollars for every dollar spent, and he is trying to equal out that equation for us. He will be reaching out to his office on a weekly basis to see what is available to us. It was also suggested that most towns that do get monies from grants have a Grant Writer, and that is something that this Council is discussing. It is always best to have someone who knows how to work the system, so to speak to get your money back and I believe we are going to pursue that as a Council.

Councilman Sears stated the Fire Department would like to remind residents if you have a fire hydrant on your property please clear it out. To update everyone on the Friends of Clark Field, we are planning to put eleven Cherry Blossom trees and two of the plum type of trees. We have already sold six of the Cherry Blossom trees and collected over \$1,000.00 towards the park. Please support us as we would like to get this in for the Spring. He asked has the camera inspection been done with regard to Prospect Avenue. Mayor Sobkowitz replied it will be Monday morning, she doesn't have the exact time, but Northwest is coming to do the camera. Councilman Sears stated the last time the camera inspection was done was 2010, and it all points to the same problem that happened a few months ago, so he will be interested to see what this shows.

Councilman Calamari stated as a follow-up to Prospect, in Mr. Azzolina's report in 2010, he asked the DMF to do a couple of things routinely, such as performing routine maintenance on this section of sewer by jetting the same on a quarterly basis, and perform a video inspection of this section of the system as well as any other known problem areas on an annual basis. He asked when someone leaves the Road Department, does someone follow-up, is there a book or schedule of things to complete. Mayor Sobkowitz replied they do now, they do spreadsheets.

Councilman Ullman stated he has no report this evening.

Councilman Bruno stated the appointment of the alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjustment declined the appointment; as such Council will be going out for an alternate again. He stated today is March 13; the late fees begin for dogs and cats. As of this time six-hundred-eighty-five dogs and forty-one cats have been registered. With regard to the budget process, it is his second year and it is a learning curve. We actually go line by line and as we do we learn more and more. As Councilman Cascio stated, we are working hard to keep taxes down, we do have an extensive Capital Program we are looking at, but he feels that there are pockets of money that we can tap into that hopefully will not draw too much tax dollars. To Councilman's Calamari point, he did send an email when he read Mr. Azzolina's report as to whether or not we were following up on the maintenance, which was recommended and he doesn't believe it was done. He would like to get the reports from Mr. Statile so we can keep going on that issue.

## GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

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

Nays: None.

Tony Napoli, 447 Prospect Avenue, George & Joanne Toole, 452 Prospect Avenue, Marek Dziarmaga, 448 Prospect Avenue – Mr. Napoli thanked the Administrator for the diagram of the street. Administrator Groh stated we will be getting the full size copies from the engineer and she will then forward them. He thanked Council for reading the report and the maintenance was never kept up, if it was we would not be having these issues. He thanked the Council for scheduling the camera for this Monday. A discussion followed on monies being appropriated in the budget for this issue. Mr. Napoli asked what the engineer found in his observations of the area. Mayor Sobkowicz replied he found the grease to be a problem, and he also found something with the pipe, with stones being present, that he believes is compromised. Administrator Groh stated Mr. Azzolina's file was reviewed, along with maps and an inspection was scheduled. A report will be forthcoming after the inspection is complete. Mr. Napoli asked how can the residents be sure that the maintenance is completed every month. Mayor Sobkowicz replied our new superintendent is very meticulous. Mr. Napoli asked for the superintendent to email the maintenance the first of every month. Mayor Sobkowicz replied she would like to wait until the camera inspection is completed and there is a report. Administrator Groh stated she doesn't know if it is a monthly requirement, we would like to get Mr. Statile's input and then move forward. Mr. Napoli spoke of his concerns of maintenance not being done in the past and he feels it should be done on a monthly basis. The contract with Northwest Bergen was discussed. He stated all three properties have inlets in their backyards, and a drainage retention system. He stated in 17 years he has never seen anyone come out and clean it out. He feels this is the Township's responsibility. Mayor Sobkowicz replied they will look at that also. A conversation followed on the printout, which states drainage easement. Mrs. Toole stated she is happy that the camera is coming Monday, but the Mayor did indicate to her on February 7 that it was coming that week, then as of the 27th, it was coming back that week, so she hopes it comes to fruition on Monday. Mayor Sobkowicz replied the engineer wants to be there for it. Mrs. Toole asked how long until the report is received. Mayor Sobkowicz replied we will get the CD right away, from the camera, she doesn't know if it will be that day, then the engineer will go through that. Mrs. Toole stated she would also appreciate a call, as the Napoli's have been getting, regarding this situation. Mrs. Toole did bring a copy of the bill for sanitizing on that day to submit, but the insurance company that represents the Township has a copy as well. She would like to know when this will be paid, since they are consistently calling her for payment. Mayor Sobkowicz replied she doesn't know it will have to be looked at. Administrator Groh stated she was just made aware of the fact that it was outstanding, we were under the impression that the insurance company was responding directly with you, since you made the claim with them, but we will follow-up with them. Mrs. Toole didn't know what the procedure was with regard to getting the bill paid, the cost is \$2,500.00 and it is from 911 Restoration. Mr. Dziarmaga stated he is very happy that the problem is finally recognized, our position is recognized and we are having this conversation. He hopes that this problem is resolved, since he is a doctor he observes problems and fixes them. He stated he hopes this report is clear, and we can move forward. Five years ago the insurance company would not pay because it was accidental; this occurs every five years and is not accidents. Councilman Sears stated he would like minutes to reflect that Mrs. Toole presented a set of bills to the Mayor and the Administrator. Mr. Toole suggests that the engineer be present at future meetings, instead of all of this back and forth. Mayor Sobkowicz stated when we receive the results, we will all meet together. Council President Bruno stated if the engineer is going to present a report, he needs to be present for the residents. He stated a commitment

needs to be made that the engineer be present for this meeting. The residents stated whenever the engineer is available, they will be there. Councilman Cascio stated he will also attend that meeting.

Steven Tekirian, 273 Colonial Boulevard, Jason Beck, 218 Colonial Boulevard, Frank Luna, 281 Colonial Boulevard, Pat Perno, 226 Colonial Boulevard –

The Township hand delivered a survey to forty residents of Colonial Road from Ridgewood Road, down to Lincoln Place, of the forty, twenty-five voted in favor of bringing back the parking ban for a limit of two hours. A conversation followed on the fifteen that didn't respond. Councilman Sears stated this is a major safety issue and it is just growing. Mr. Perno spoke of the being a longtime resident and what has been occurring with the parking in his neighborhood, the difficulty pulling out of his driveway and the landscaping companies not being able to park. He stated he passes the high school every morning and notes that there are spots available. He spoke of the field in front of the high school, the making of additional for parking for vehicles. He spoke of the inconvenience to the residents of his neighborhood. Mr. Beck stated he has photos of students making U-turns, knocking down garbage cans and stopping in the middle of the street. It is an emergency road, and if cars are parked on both sides an ambulance/fire trucks and police cars cannot get down the road. Councilman Sears spoke of going on a call and driving down that block a vehicle was parked facing the opposite side of the street picking up students. Mayor Sobkowicz stated there was an average of 26/27 cars in the morning, and 27/29 at lunchtime, the survey went as far as Lincoln, summons were given. A conversation followed on what occurred during the snow storm last month with snow being removed in the area. A conversation followed in having an open dialogue with the school. Administrator Groh stated Keith Rosado had contacted her to ask questions about the impact on the potential affordable housing on the school population. She then spoke with him about the parking, and why children cannot be accommodated on the campus, and he replied there is no room. She suggested the grass field in front, and was told that is used for band and sports practices. Mr. Rosado stated there are five acres of wetlands in the back that is protected, and he will not move his driveway either since it will be at a cost. Councilman Ullman stated whether the school or the Township spends it, it does sound like someone may have to spend some money, he believes that there should be some constructive dialogue, and perhaps invite them to an upcoming meeting. He stated the issue will not be resolved by putting up "No Parking" signs. Mayor Sobkowicz stated in 2012 the Township wanted to apply for a "Safe School Route Grant" and emails were sent to the high school. The grant would be for the high school to be able to align the driveway, so more cars would be able to fit, but the high school was not interested. Administrator Groh stated that Mr. Rosado did suggest alternate side of the street parking, and she did pass that along to the police. The Police Department is exploring some possibilities. The streets in the ordinance were discussed, the ordinance not being enforced due to there being no signs on the streets and the ordinance being changed last year. Council President Bruno stated there will be a meeting with the high school and a member of Council will be present. A conversation followed on how fast the signs for "No Parking" will be put up once the Ordinance passes.

Toni Plantamura-Rossi, 808 Robinwood Road – Ms. Plantamura spoke of the parking situation at the high school. She feels juniors should not be allowed to bring their vehicles to school and students should not be parking in a residential area. She commented on the housing mandate resolution which was presented by Holly Schepisi and her feelings of what is going on in the Pascack Valley area. She stated she would like to see a reduction in her taxes because her quality of life is being diminished due to traffic. She spoke of the Sony building in Park Ridge, which is slated for 700 units, with 450 affordable housing units on 37 acres. She stated the Parkway and the County is not doing anything to alleviate the traffic for the highest tax State in the country. She asked if Councilman Calamari reached out to the high school about their

turf field. Councilman Calamari replied he did receive an email from the Administrator, they haven't had any issues with the field, and they do have it inspected a few times a year for wear. At this point the high school doesn't see themselves doing anything with Field Turf. Ms. Plantamura asked if the traffic officer will be at the next meeting. Mayor Sobkowicz stated as soon as he goes through all the data, he will come to a meeting. Mayor Sobkowicz spoke of a bill that Holly Schepisi has that she is not happy about, that would exclude from Fair Share vacant land analysis and Builder's Remedy, it would exclude all of those office campuses. Ms. Plantamura feels this is social engineering. She spoke of the members of the Memorial Field Committee, which was written about in the press, and the lack of women on the committee. She read the list of the members on the committee, and would like to know why her name has not been included. Mayor Sobkowicz replied she will let Ms. Plantamura know tomorrow. A conversation followed on the members on the committee and who is anti and pro turf field.

Mary Ann Ozment, 960 Adams Place – Mrs. Ozment thanked the Council for televising the budget meetings. She stated since 2008 the same items have been in the Capital budget, it has occurred year after year and nothing is done. She stated 8 years the Mayor has been Mayor, nothing has changed and she hopes with this Council things will be done. She asked who maintains the Township fire hydrants. Councilman Sears replied SUEZ, and they are paid \$157,000 a year for maintenance and they do paint them. She stated in her neighborhood the hydrants are in bad shape and she would appreciate someone looking into that. She spoke of the transfer station, and how the Mayor is concerned about that, but no one helps the Township with the problems we are having with Washington Avenue and Pascack Road, no one is coming to the Township's aid. A conversation followed on the calendar, which is now 7 weeks late and not funding a calendar for next year.

William Ferara, 2556 Cleveland Avenue – Mr. Ferara thanked the DMF for replacing the swing link chain on a swing after he called. He also suggested power washing the park equipment. He spoke of soil testing which he feels should be done before the cherry trees are planted at Clark Field. He has reached out to Rutgers and Bergen County, and received two names which he will forward to the administration. He spoke of the crumb rubber which was put down first and eventually chips were put down. He spoke of an article with regard to affordable housing which was in The Record which stated that the Township has settled in the Courts. Attorney Poller stated two resolutions were approved last week, which is the first step. The next step would be for the Court to review them to determine if they are fair and compliant with our obligations. Mr. Ferara spoke of notes and bonds issues for roads and amounts paid in loan and interest. He suggested next time money is borrowed, to borrow up to the loan limit. A discussion followed on police dispatching, currently there are two full-time dispatchers, who receive medical, dental and pension, and one part-timer and a police officer taking over when they are not available. The Council has increased the line item in the budget so another full time dispatcher can be hired so the police officer can patrol the roads. Mr. Ferara suggested the Township acquiring the YJCC, and making it a recreation center along with moving the Township offices, DMF and salt shed. Currently the YJCC is assessed at 17 million, fair market value being 13 million.

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

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

Nays: None.

Council President Bruno stated Season's trees died due to chips being put high around the base of the trees, and he feels this might be the case at Clark Field. Council does realize there have been items in the Capital Budget for years, and

we are trying to do it so it benefits the Township. His intention is to have a schedule and action plan so it can be monitored.

INDIVIDUAL RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Councilman Cascio, seconded by Councilman Sears, to discuss Resolution No. 17-157.

Administrator Groh stated after the Temporary Budget is done, the method of appropriating funds between then and when Council adopts the full budget is by the means of what is called an "Emergency Appropriation." These were items that were not known or contemplated at the time the Temporary Budget was prepared which was at year end, it was done at the reorganization meeting. Each line item spending between now and the beginning of May were evaluated, contemplating that the budget will be adopted by the end of May. Administrator Groh explained every line item in Resolution No. 17-157. She stated these amounts were known, but when the temporary budget is adopted there is a cap at a certain percent. If these amounts were included in the Temporary Budget the percentage would have been exceeded, so this is a way to account for these items. These items are due at the end of this month. The BCUA line item was discussed, which was a steep increase. The current budget does have the higher amount. Councilman Sears spoke of being confused of the \$1,500 that is being asked by the Fire Prevention Bureau (Uniform Fire & Safety) because there are two accounts, one for fees and one for penalties, and according to state law, money is allowed to be used on the fees to buy uniforms and supplies that is needed to keep the Fire Prevention Bureau going. Administrator Groh stated we take the money in and we have to show it as an appropriation, everything spent has to come out of a budget line item, nothing was spent last year and nothing was appropriated for that Department. The budget has to include whatever Council has done by Emergency Appropriation, if it is done by Temporary Budget, it does not.

A motion was made by Councilman Ullman, seconded by Councilman Calamari to approve Resolution No. 17-157.

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

Resolution No. 17-157: 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 \$3,725,778.46.

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:

<b>FINANCE – TAX COLLECTOR O/E</b>	\$1,091.00
<b>DEPT OF ENGINEERING O/E</b>	\$10,000.00
<b>UNIFORM FIRE &amp; SAFETY O/E</b>	1,500.00
<b>WCTV</b>	200.00
<b>FIRE DEPT – PREVENTATIVE MAINT.</b>	1,750.00
<b>BERGEN COUNTY UTIL CONTR CAP EXP</b>	33,769.46
<b>PERS</b>	129,488.76

<b>MAINTENANCE OF LIBRARY PENSION</b>	27,960.24
<b>PFRS</b>	579,953.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$785,712.46</b>

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

A motion was made by Councilman Cascio, seconded by Councilman Calamari, to approve Resolution No. 17-158.

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

Resolution No. 17-158: Authorization of Overpayment of Property Taxes, Block 4250, Lot 13, 181 Cosman Street

WHEREAS, an overpayment for the 1st Quarter 2017 property taxes was received from Barbara Wintner, occupant of Block 4250, Lot 13, 181 Cosman Street, and;

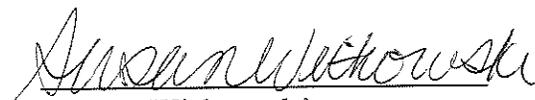
WHEREAS, under the N.J.S.A. 54:3-27.2, tax overpayments shall be refunded to the payer, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, New Jersey, that the Tax Collector be authorized to issue a refund to the above in amount of \$2752.00.

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: 8:56 p.m.

  
Susan Witkowski  
Township Clerk

  
Robert Bruno  
Council President

Approved: May 22, 2017

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON  
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2017

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

Change in agenda order to accommodate Colonial Boulevard residents present at meeting.

Council

Parking Colonial Boulevard Ordinance Amendment – A conversation followed on the survey which was distributed/received to residents in the area, which was from Ridgewood Road to Lincoln Place and the Police recommendation. Attorney Poller stated Council will have an Ordinance at the next meeting which will limit two hour parking on Colonial Boulevard from Ridgewood Road to Lincoln Place. Attorney Poller stated it will be introduced at the next meeting, and a public hearing will then be scheduled. A conversation followed on introducing a resolution which would make the ordinance effective immediately, which requires four votes, and introducing the ordinance at a budget meeting, whereby a public notice would be necessary.

A motion was made by Councilman Sears, seconded by Councilman Cascio to proceed with the ordinance.

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

Nays: None.

A conversation followed on factoring in the cost for the signs in the budget and the timeline for the ordinance to become effective.

Administration

Staffing – Administrator Groh stated there are quite a few openings and resumes were received. Four interviews have been scheduled for Wednesday, with a fifth being scheduled for three different positions. Mayor Sobkowicz has met with a few people that she has received the applications directly. Hopefully, by the next regular Council meeting we will have new employees on board. There are two candidates for the Court Administrator position, but by law there are certain people that must participate in the screening process, which includes people from the County, and those dates are trying to be worked out. Council President Bruno stated a State of Emergency has been called for tomorrow for non-essential employees, the staff is not required to come in tomorrow. Mayor Sobkowicz replied they don't have to come in.

DMF Repair Status/DMF Trucks – All of the trucks are in service, the DMF knew the storm was coming. One truck that had a brake issue, that has been repaired. Administrator Groh stated she called DMF and asked if there are any issues with the trucks and they replied no, they are all in service. The Senior Van Driver, who has a Commercial Driver's License, was hired for the storm. The hiring of an outside firm, such as a landscaper, was discussed for a snow storm of this size to complete certain roads.

Firehouse Repairs – Councilman Sears stated regarding Firehouse Repairs, he is happy to report all of the birds are back, the money that was approved for the siding has not been spent. Administrator Groh stated she asked the Engineer, Fire Chief and volunteers, indicated he may know some people, we have not yet received any proposals. The retaining wall project, we have a

contract with a contractor, we are waiting for the proper certificates of insurance. Administrator Groh did reach out to the Chief in connection with the Capital Budget discussion for the Fire Department and he believes, contrary to what was discussed at the meeting, that the fire truck comes before the firehouse. She did ask the Chief who he would like to participate in the walkthrough with the engineer and she has not heard back from him. Mr. Statile will help with the issue of the siding at that time of the walkthrough. Councilman Sears stated Mr. Statile can reach out to him at any time, he will be happy to take him, he will speak to the Chief tonight.

Town Hall Repairs – Administrator Groh is waiting for the DMF to get her an estimate from Jay-Cue who did some siding work that had been damaged in windstorm. They have not been responsive, she can call someone else, but their quote was reasonable. Jay-Cue does need to come back to put sealant on the roof, but that does need to be done when the temperature is above forty degrees. Mold was tested, it is not at a harmful level. Tom Clossey is currently the Acting DMF Superintendent, but Bill Lawlor is in charge. A certification is needed to be the Superintendent. A conversation followed on the process of obtaining a proposal. Under this form of government, anything above \$40,000, by law a bid is required and under \$16,000 multiple quotes are required, and it is up to the discretion of the Mayor and Administration. Administrator Groh spoke of estimate she had received for the clay for the ballfield. Councilman Ullman spoke of the frustration of not getting quotes and the slow responses.

Fire Apparatus Repair – Councilman Sears stated the repair company did come out and fix the tower ladder, the hydraulics and the valve was not the problem, the two cylinders that support the raising of the tower seem to be the problem. The truck will be taken back to Suffern, NY and it will cost a lot of money to get it fixed. At this time the tower ladder is still out of service until we get a quote. This needs to be kept in mind when the budget is done since money is needed for that. At this time the truck can respond as a pumper, but the extension ladder cannot be used. We do have a mutual aid with other towns.

Roads-Traffic Report Status per Council President email–Council President did forward to the Mayor an email on this subject. He would also like to discuss with Captain Hackbarth the intersection of Van Emburgh and Washington with the blinking light. He has noticed stop signs that blink and would like to know who would take care of that. Mayor Sobkowicz stated he would evaluate it and let the County know. Captain Hackbarth is the officer that goes to the County traffic meetings.

#### Finances

Councilman Bruno asked Administrator Groh if she can run a Detail Custom Budget Report, including requisition items for him. Administrator Groh replied yes, she will get them to him.

#### Miscellaneous

VFW Building–Attorney Poller stated we are setting up a closing to transfer the property to Habitat for Humanity. The documents were sent to the Special Court Master, she is involved since it is a COAH related matter. Once that is done, Habitat takes over in terms of moving ahead. They have received approval from the Board, all they have to do is go to the construction office. Jacey Raimondo did come back to Habitat. Attorney Poller stated Ms. Raimondo did reach out to him, and he did send her a copy of the deed. As soon as he gets feedback, we can move forward.

#### Council

##### Ordinances and Legislation

Codification-Attorney Poller stated he is currently working on it.

Form of Government–Attorney Poller stated he sent two things, one was the types of forms of government, he highlighted what he believed were the important aspects Council would want to look at to see what the differentiation was between different forms of government. He also provided the methodology for implementing a change, whether it is by Study Commission or by Direct Petition. A conversation followed if there is still time to put this subject on the General Ballot in November. Attorney Poller stated Council can make the November ballot if the change is decided, but he would like Council to first read what he forwarded.

Grant Writer–Councilman Cascio stated the congressman has two or three people in his office that are working exclusively with municipalities for grant that are out there on the Federal level, and they will also direct to State grants as well. They will help us write grants if needed, but they do suggest that the Township hire a grant writer. There are different methods of hiring them for their remuneration, whether it is a percentage, flat fee or per project. The grant writers are versed and they know what is out there. He feels some money should be appropriated in the budget since there are a lot of needs the Township has and the Township cannot fund.

Parking Permits–Firehouse–Councilman Sears spoke of the survey of surrounding towns, parking complaints and safety issues at the commuter parking lot which results in cars backing out onto Pascack Road. He would like to have 30 to 32 spots and pay the current rate, they would get a permanent number, permanent spot for the year, which would then eliminate Police pulling in to see if tags are hanging, and make it a lot safer for residents that are parking there. There would be a certain set of permits and not overselling, and this would be for 2018.

Anti-Nepotism Ordinance–Councilman Cascio stated there are numerous towns in the State that have this, regardless of the form of government. He suggested that other Council members register with E-Code, which makes it very easy to do a search. He stated he will forward a master list Mr. Poller to review for the next meeting or the following meeting.

Pay to Play Ordinance-amend–Councilman Cascio stated he had suggested two years ago that it be amended to zero, which was retracted. He stated the State offers \$300 for any person that wants to contribute but he wants it to go back to zero contributions. He stated this is not high on his priority list, and we can scratch this off for now.

Parking Colonial Boulevard–Ordinance amendment–Already discussed.

### Resolutions

Salt Storage Bid -Letter to Residents and Responses Meeting – Mayor Sobkowicz stated she has met with the residents, we are trying to incorporate the shed with the building so it doesn't have to go in the parking lot. Administrator Groh stated the bid is going to expire, but you still have until the end of the month. If Council is inclined to proceed with that bid you would have to take action at the next meeting or abandon the project or take some other action. Administrator Groh did ask for their consent, and she did receive 30 days extension, she can see if that can be done again, but her concern is the DEP. A conversation followed on asking for another extension and if the parking lot has been marked with the approximate dimensions of the shed. Mayor Sobkowicz stated she will reach out to the swim club. She stated Oritani would be a better location and the Dog House location is also another viable option since it is close. Administrator Groh stated she doesn't believe the bid can be transferred to another location, but she will reach out to Mr. Statile. Sherry Field was an option, but it is wetland and there is an active stream. A conversation followed on vacant land/parcels of land that the Township owns. Administrator Groh stated she will send Council an inventory of land the

Township owns. Parcels of land are offered to adjoining neighbors with an option to buy if the lot is buildable.

Road Opening Permit-Waiver by Council-71 Salem Road-Council would need to pass a resolution for the opening, there are only two more weeks until April 2.

#### Miscellaneous

Council Duties – Council President Bruno stated he will forward a list.

Grant Writer Correspondence – Addressed by Councilman Cascio.

Minutes- Already addressed.

#### Financials

Budget – Currently being worked on.

Audit/LOSAP – Council President Bruno will reach out to Mr. Mai.

#### Resolution No. 17-159: Closed Session, March 13, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Any matter involving the purchase, lease or acquisition of

real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds, where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed – **Property Acquisition/COAH**

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

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

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

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

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

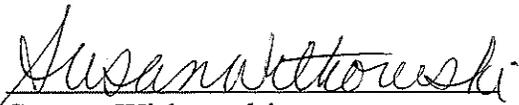
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that notice is hereby given that the Township Council may find it necessary to take action at the conclusion of the executive/closed session; that such action if taken, will occur in open session; that you are invited to stay in the Municipal Building during the executive/closed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

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

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

MOTION		SECOND		COUNCIL	AYES	NAYES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Bruno		Bruno		Bruno	X			
Calamari		Calamari	X	Calamari	X			
Cascio		Cascio		Cascio	X			
Sears	X	Sears		Sears	X			
Ullman		Ullman		Ullman	X			

Time noted: 9:47 p.m.

  
 Susan Witkowski  
 Township Clerk

  
 Robert Bruno  
 Council President

Approved: May 22, 2017

