

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

PUBLIC PORTION/CONFERENCE MEETING

MARCH 26, 2012

The Township Council held a Public Portion/Conference Meeting in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Richard Hrbek with the Clerk leading the salute to the flag. Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Steve Cascio, Joseph D'Urso, Fred Goetz, Richard Hrbek. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Kenneth Poller, Attorney, Catherine Navarro-Steinel, Administrator.

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.

BASKETBALL PRESENTATION: 6th grade Basketball Coach, Peter Neary, spoke about his championship winning team of boys who recently won the top spot in their division, which is the second toughest division in the league. He gave the boys and their parents the credit for their dedication to academics as well as basketball. Many of the boys have recently been champions in other sports as well. He said that they are a special group and the town will hear about many more wonderful accomplishments from them in the future. Mayor Sobkowicz congratulated them and said that she had just left the Dragons soccer awards dinner and that she is proud of all of them. She said that the township's sports teams have been winning many honors in the past few years. She called each of the boys up by name for pictures and read a proclamation that will be given to each boy on the basketball team.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Dr. Cascio to approve the minutes for February 6, 2012, Conference meeting.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Councilman Beckmeyer

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. D'Urso to approve the minutes for March 6, 2012 Budget Work session.

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Councilman Goetz

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. Goetz to approve the minutes for March 13, 2012 & March 16, 2012 Budget Work session

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

Nays: None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek.

Nays: None

Rosa D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Blvd – Mrs. D'Ambra read a letter that she wrote to the Pascack Press regarding Mr. Kourgelis's proposed development on the corner of Pascack Road and Washington Avenue and the condition of the properties. She said that Mr. Korgelis has been doing whatever he wants on the properties for years and is destroying the character of the town. She asked that the piece of property remain residential.

Scott Spezial, 785 Washington Avenue – Mr. Spezial stated that he was elected by the Recreation Board as the representative to present a plan to

redevelop Memorial field. He said that the field is an embarrassment to the community. He said that sodding the field has a failed history. Geese are an ongoing problem and treatments to get rid of them have not worked. He talked about many problems concerning the current state of the field, field house, basketball court and other items. The Recreation Board recently unanimously voted to have the field brought into the 21st century by completely rebuilding and resurfacing the complex. He stated that there will be a track for senior citizens and non-sports involved residents. Memorial field can be the crown jewel of the Township. He spoke about using alternate fields while Memorial field is being built and said that the Rec board does not want to pay for the high school field use. The Rec board is against buying the two adjoining properties. He went through the history of the promise of building a new field during the past administration. Mr. Spezial said that the field should be built now, not next year. He went through cost analysis and said that the project could be done at less cost than in 2007. Savings would come from less maintenance and product cost. He referred to a spreadsheet showing a breakdown of annual costs to maintain the field versus an artificial turf surface and how much it costs now per home compared to the Crown Jewel project. He said that a turf field could be finished from bonding to bidding to building as fast as closing the field for sod to take root. He said that the administration should learn from the past mistakes. Mr. Spezial showed pictures of problems on the field and pictures of what the field could look like. Mr. Hrbek said that there is a committee working with Dr. Cascio that is doing a field master plan and looking into a project like the one Mr. Spezial is proposing. Mr. Goetz answered Mr. Spezial's question about the cost of the field saying that a plan is needed, must be done right and to be done right takes planning. Mr. Spezial stated that the field is in such bad shape that it is dangerous. Mr. D'Urso asked the Mayor for her recommendation on what to do about the field now. Mayor Sobkowicz said that we should go with the turf field now due to several positive financial indicators. Mr. D'Urso said that he is in favor of turf.

Eamon Twomey, 187 Devon Road – Mr. Twomey said that the timing for either renovation of the field will be the same timing. He stated that Lacrosse will play on the field this season as is if the Council agrees to the turf tonight. Dr. Cascio said that the master plan preparer will come to the next meeting to bring in different lay outs for a turf field and invited everyone to come back and see the presentation. He said that Memorial field should be done before any other field.

Steve Malazuk, Washington Avenue – Mr. Malazuk showed the Council the new plan he received from the county. He asked the Mayor if she remembered what was promised to him before the GSP exit project. He asked about the parking ordinance restrictions on Jackson Avenue. He said that he cannot get out of his driveway safely now. The Mayor asked Mr. Malazuk to bring the plans to the administrator on Wednesday.

Jamie Powell, 426 Calvin Street - Mr. Powell spoke about the county dispatch program and gave reasons why it does not fit our needs. He stated that cars are dispatched in under 10 seconds at this time. He said that a call taker takes a call, sends it to a dispatcher; he dispatcher calls the local police with the information. It will take longer than 10 seconds. He spoke about the Fire Department's need to have a strong fire ground that the county will not provide. He said that the county will not dedicate a dispatcher to the township and will not monitor the DMF. Mr. Powell asked the Council to talk to the emergency service departments.

James Zaconie, 668 Clinton Avenue – Mr. Zaconie stated that he is a Fire Coordinator for Bergen County. He has firsthand experience with county dispatch and does not want the town to sign up for the shared dispatch service with them. He would rather the town go into a shared dispatch service with a neighboring town like Westwood.

Dan Loftus, 329 Ridgewood Blvd. North – Mr. Loftus gave an account of an emergency situation that occurred at his home several years ago. He said that the police and ambulance response time was less than two minutes which

saved his wife. He said that by going to the county dispatch system the response time will increase.

Peter Calamari, 28 Gabriel Way – Mr. Calamari said that he is concerned that the town is going to rush into county dispatch. He would like the town to explore civilian dispatch as an option more seriously.

Naomi Theizs, 74 Salem Road – Mrs. Theizs said that she is speaking on behalf of the Volunteer Ambulance Corps and agrees with the fireman. The EMS would like to keep dispatching local.

William Cicchetti, 472 Ridgewood Road – Mr. Cicchetti stated that he is the Director of OEM for the Township and feels blindsided. He said that no one has come to him to discuss dispatching. He spoke about the two test runs that were recently done with Westwood. It is important that we do not rush into anything. He wants to sit down and discuss the options on behalf of all emergency services in town.

Councilman Joe D'Urso – Mr. D'Urso stated that he is very interested in civilian dispatch and the Council has put money into the budget each year for dispatchers which never gets used. It is a lack of respect that dispatchers are not scheduled. He said that there could be police layoffs if citizen dispatchers are used.

William Cicchetti - Chief is not opposed to putting dispatchers on the desk when there are only three officers on schedule or to cover vacation time. He said that this year a program for dispatching has been set up.

Councilman Rich Hrbek – Mr. Hrbek said that civilian dispatch has been looked at for many years. There are a number of options available and are being looked into. Public safety is the most important issue and no one is going to rush into a discussion.

Mayor Sobkowicz – The Mayor spoke about specific amounts of money that was used for manning the desk during the last few years and projected in the next two years.

Sargent John Calamari, 99 President Road – Sgt. Calamari said that the officer manning phones often knows the resident that called and can provide service in a personal nature. Quality is remembered when price is forgotten. He said this should also be thought about in the field project as well. Cost saving measures should be looked at slowly and carefully. All the emergency crews offer personalized service to the residents and that will be given up if the town goes into any shared service.

Officer Vincent Montalbano, 271 Walnut Street – Officer Montalbano said that he had three experiences with the county dispatch and described what occurred during each time. In all three instances the experiences were negative. Officer Montalbano asked that the Council have a public meeting to explain the shared systems and how they will be cost effective to the Township and how they will work.

Bea Napier, 324 Hudson Avenue – Mrs. Napier said that she has been an ambulance member for more than 35 years. She said that the town and surrounding towns are like a family, they know the local roads and shortcuts, and they help each other out when in need. She asked that the dispatch not go to the county.

Officer Jason Gugger, 142 Walnut Street- Mr. Gugger said that he is an ex fire chief and police officer. He stated that when a person calls the Washington Township police station for dispatch now the officer that answers the calls will recognize and respond to an emergency situation that the caller is in and respond better than someone from county dispatch.

Lieutenant Gregg Hackbarth, WT Police Department - Lt. Hackbarth stated that if the Township goes over to county dispatch then we will become susceptible to delays in answering calls. He gave an example of the October snowstorm where ten days' worth of calls came in in one days' time. The police prioritized the calls and were able to handle each situation. He said that the county phone lines were having problems with dropped calls during that time. Lt. Hackbarth said that the Township will not maintain the quality of service if it goes to the county for dispatching.

Perry Solimando, 236 Fern Street – Mr. Solimando said that he thinks that the county dispatch plan is the worst plan the town could go with. The county has their own problems with consolidation. The local police know the area.

Mary Greene, 510 West Saddle River Road, Ridgewood – Ms. Greene said that the local touch of emergency services for people in the community is important. She has put the local police number on speed dial on her cell phone so that she does not have to call county. County dispatch does not know the streets. Personal knowledge is important.

James Zaconie, 668 Clinton Avenue – Mr. Zaconie said that it is his understanding that the town will have to give up its own FCC license if the Township goes with the county dispatch. Once we lose our FCC license it is difficult to get back.

There being no further comments or questions, a motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Dr. Cascio to closed the public portion

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

Nays: None

ORDINANCES:

The clerk read Ordinance 12-06 entitled: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF NEW EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY THE FRIE DEPARTMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$21,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISDSUANCE OF \$20,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRATION.

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Dr. Cascio to introduce and pass Ordinance 12-06 at first reading by title.

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

Nays: Councilperson Goetz

The following resolution was presented and adopted on a motion by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer.

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

Nays: Councilperson Goetz

WHEREAS, Ordinance 12-06 entitled: BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF NEW EQUIPMENT FOR USE BY THE FRIE DEPARTMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$21,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISDSUANCE OF \$20,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRATION was introduced and passed at first reading by title at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Washington on the 26th day of March 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that further consideration for final passage and public hearing of said ordinance shall be held on the 9th day of April, 2012 at 7:30 o'clock in the evening, prevailing time, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be reached in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road, Township of Washington, NJ at which time and place all persons who may be interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance;

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

The clerk read Ordinance 12-07 entitled: CALENDAR YEAR 2012 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK.

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to introduce and pass Ordinance 12-07 at first reading by title.

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

Nays: None

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

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

Nays: None

WHEREAS, Ordinance 12-07 entitled: CALENDAR YEAR 2012 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGHET COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK was introduced and passed at first reading by title at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Washington on the 26th day of March 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that further consideration for final passage and public hearing of said ordinance shall be held on the 9th day of April, 2012 at 7:30 o'clock in the evening, prevailing time, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be reached in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road, Township of Washington, NJ at which time and place all persons who may be interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance;

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Before the consent agenda, Mr. Goetz requested that resolution 2, 3, 4 be removed. There was a short discussion about #3, Temporary Emergency Appropriation, and #4, Transfer, and after the discussion, they were again made part of the Consent Agenda.

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 firehouse parking fees of \$50.00 to the following:

Victoria Burke	Brian Molta
222 Sussex Road	172 Cosman Street
Twp. Of Washington, NJ 07676	Twp. Of Washington, NJ 07676

Thomas Strickland
107 Cosman Street
Twp. Of Washington, NJ 07676

WHEREAS, Title 40-A:4-58 of the New Jersey Statutes provides if it should become necessary during the first three (3) months of the fiscal year, to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the respective sum appropriated therefore and there shall be an excess in an appropriation over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose setting forth the facts, adopted by not less than 2/3 votes of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to make the following transfers in the 2011 Budget Appropriations:

	FROM	TO
Dept. of Law		
Other Expense	\$6,600.00	
Financial Service Fee		\$6,600.00

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 2012 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 2012 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S. 40 A:4-20) including this resolution total \$8066,400.00 exclusive of debt service; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.40AS:4-20 an emergency temporary appropriation be and the same is hereby made as attached.

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

WHEREAS, the local capital budget for the year 2012 has not been adopted; and

WHEREAS, it is desired to amend said adopted capital budget section,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, County of Bergen, that the following amendment to the adopted capital budget section of the 2012 Budget be made:

CAPITAL BUDGET (Current Year Action)

1 PROJECT	3 ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	2012	
		5b Capital Improvement Fund	5e Debt Auth.
Acq. Fire Dept. Eq.	\$21,000	\$1,000	\$20,000
TOTAL ALL PROJECTS	\$21,000	\$1,000	\$20,000

6 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAM 2012-2017

ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE AND FUND REQUIREMENT

1 PROJECT	3 ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	5 FUNDING AMOUNTS PER YEAR	
		Budget Year 2012	
Acq. Fire Dept. Eq.	\$21,000	\$21,000	
TOTAL ALL PROJECTS	\$21,000	\$21,000	

6 YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAM 2012-2017

SUMMARY OF ANTICIPATED FUNDING SOURCES AND AMOUNTS

1 PROJECT	3 Estimated Total Cost	4 Capital Improvement Fund		7 BONDS & NOTES General
		BONDS & NOTES General		
Acq. Fire Dept. Eq.	\$21,000	\$1,000	\$20,000	
TOTAL ALL PROJECTS	\$21,000	\$1,000	\$20,000	

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that two certified copies of this resolution be filed forthwith in the Office of the Director of Local Government Services.

BUDGET INTRODUCTION

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso seconded by Dr. Cascio to approve the following budget resolutions:

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

Nays: None

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 2012 be and are hereby decreased by the Township Council by the amounts set forth below:

	FROM	TO
<u>REVENUES:</u>		
Consolidated Mun. Property Tax Relief Fund	\$ 6,420	0
Public & pri. Program Offset with Appopr.		
Community Deve. Block Grant	4,950	0

APPROPRIATIONS:

Dept. of General Administration:

Salaries & Wages	\$ 190,578	\$ 185,745
Township Council		
Other Expense	5,450	5,350
Finance-Treasurer		
Salaries & Wages	126,129	122,837
Revenue Administration		
Salaries & Wages	46,410	44,611
Engineering Services		
Salaries & Wages	1,100	1,000
Department of Public Affairs		
Salaries & Wages	1,100	1,000
Other Expense	19,600	16,600
Zoning Board of Adjustment		
Salaries & Wages	19,354	19,222
Other Expense	10,086	8,608
Uniform Construction Code		
Other Expense	16,150	5,750
Police Department		
Salaries & Wages	2,925,807	2,877,757
Other Expense	46,900	46,400
Office of Emergency management		
Other Expenses	10,300	2,500
Fire Department		
Salaries & Wages	1,100	1,000
Other Expenses	30,010	28,110
Department of Municipal Facilities		
Shade Tree	5,000	1,000
Holiday Decorations	5,500	2,500
Department of Recycling		
Salaries & Wages	1,100	1,000
Other Expenses	300,000	270,000
Community Services Act	37,000	32,000
Recreation Services & Programs		
Salaries & Wages	72,993	71,228
Golden Seniors Committee	12,000	11,300
Maintenance of Parks		
Park & Other Expenses	70,000	65,000
Sewer		
Other Municipalities-Contractual	120,000	100,000
Public & Private Programs Offset b6y Revenues		
Community Development Block Grant	4,950	0

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 2012 be and are hereby increased by the Township Council by the amounts set forth below:

	FROM	TO
<u>REVENUES:</u>		
Energy Receipts Tax	\$ 707,123	\$ 713,525
Public & Pri. Programs Offset w Appropriations		
Joint Health Services	52,444	53,493
Clean Communities Program		14,653
Sewer Charges	30,000	35,000
Amount to Be Raised By Taxation:		
Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	8,909,871	9,022,281
<u>APPROPRIATIONS:</u>		
Township Clerk:		
Salaries & Wages	70,383	74,399
Other Expense	10,750	14,500

Financial Administration		
Miscellaneous Other Expense	15,100	17,500
Tax Assessment Administration		
Salaries & Wages	48,654	48,892
Legal Services		
Salaries & Wages	66,203	66,529
Planning board		
Salaries & Wages	7,721	7,841
Uniform Construction Code		
Salaries & Wages	98,763	97,034
Insurance		
Liability Insurance	165,400	175,400
Workers Compensation Insurance	162,000	169,000
Group Insurance for Employees	807,000	810,050
Police Dispatchers		
Salaries & Wages	55,000	77,500
Contractual Dispatching	0	95,000
Police Department		
Maintenance of Desk Record System	14,000	16,000
Aid to Volunteer Ambulance Company	34,000	41,500
Municipal Prosecutor		
Salaries & Wages	6,945	7,000
Department of Municipal Facilities		
Salaries & Wages	655,889	658,779
Other Expenses	50,850	56,350
Street Sweeping	17,200	18,000
Vehicle maintenance		
Other Expense	101,600	105,600
Board of Health		
Salaries & Wages	66,154	69,534
Maintenance of Parks		
Rental of Athletic Facilities	4,000	15,000
Resurfacing of Memorial Field	0	40,000
Celebration of Public Events	0	19,500
Utility Expenses & Bulk Purchases		
Street Lighting	84,000	97,000
Water	9,100	14,000
Municipal Court		
Salaries & Wages	72,523	72,723
Other Expenses	8,495	9,095
Sewer		
BCUA - Contractual	670,000	674,000
Reserve for Ambulance - Pagers	0	7,000
Public & Private Programs Offset with Revenues		
Clean Communities	0	14,653
Debt Service		
Interest on Bonds	190,000	199,102

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 2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said budget be published in the Ridgewood News in the issue of April 6, 2012 and that a hearing on the Budget will be held at the Municipal court Chambers on April 23, 2012 at 7:30 o'clock (P.M) or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached.