

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2018

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 Michael DeSena called the meeting at 7:32 p.m. by reading the following statement

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

The regularly scheduled Public Meeting of February 5, 2018 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.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL

Council Members Robert Bruno, Steve Cascio, Arthur Cumming, Michael Ullman and Council President Michael DeSena. Also, present: Peter Calamari, Mayor; Mary Anne Groh, Administrator; Ken Poller, Township Attorney; and Susan Witkowski, Township Clerk.

The Clerk read the totals of the list of bills:

TOTAL	2017 Reserve	\$249,260.93
TOTAL	2018 Current	\$5,724,604.41
TOTAL	Capital Fund	\$74,540.66
TOTAL	Animal Control	\$0.00
TOTAL	Trust Fund	\$197,524.88

The 2018 Current Amount reflects February/March payments to the Board of Education. Currently, there are no bills from T&M Associates for this year, there is a bill from the Special Master for 2018. There is an outstanding bill from T&M Associates from last year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(Councilmen Cumming and DeSena to abstain from the 2017 minutes)

A motion was made by Councilman Cascio, seconded by Councilman Bruno to approve the following minutes:

October 30, 2017	Public Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2017	Conference Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2017	Public Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2017	Conference Meeting Minutes

Ayes: Councilmen Bruno, Cascio, Ullman.
Nays: None.
Abstain: Councilman Cumming, Council President DeSena

A motion was made by Councilman Cascio, seconded by Councilman Cumming to approve the following minutes:

February 10, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes – Budget
February 20, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes – Budget

Ayes: Councilmen Bruno, Cascio, Cumming, Ullman,
 Council President DeSena.
Nays: None.

MAYOR'S REPORT, March 5, 2018

Schools

Mayor Calamari stated on somber note, he would like to state our hearts and prayers go out to all of those effected in the recent school shootings. He has instructed the Township Police Department to work with the schools, and the Westwood Police Department to explore any and all options necessary to keep our schools and children safe.

Firehouse

A contract has been signed for an architect to study options for the firehouse, and the first meeting has already taken place with the Fire Board and the architects.

Intersection

As per the engineer, this is what has been done. Field survey work has been completed as required for the establishment of the right of way lines, that information is currently being plotted, and a review of the records of the deeds for the various parcels abutting the intersection is taking place. The right of way limits, once calculated, will be added to the new topographic map, all of this should be completed by the end of this week.

Budget Process

The budget process is going very well. He is happy to report that for a refreshing change, we are agreeing on just about every item. Representatives from the Police, Fire and DMF Departments have finally been permitted to attend the budget meetings, to supply immediate answers to questions so we can get through the budget process quicker than ever. The Director will be here tonight regarding that area of the budget.

Shared Services Agreement Ridgewood

Ridgewood should approve our shared services agreement for vehicle maintenance at their Wednesday night meeting. After that is done, it will be circulated to the Council and hopefully approve it at our next regularly scheduled meeting. This will give the Township another option for our vehicle maintenance needs.

Civilian Dispatching

Three full time civilians are employed, and a fourth individual will be starting in the next couple of weeks. Adjustments will then be made to the schedule to have the desk fully staffed by civilians, 24/7 365 days.

Commuter Parking

Hoping to have a significant announcement by the next regular council meeting.

New Jersey Department of Transportation

Happy to report that the Township has been selected to receive funding from the New Jersey Department of Transportation fiscal year 2018 Municipal Aid Program for Robinwood Road in the amount of \$178,112.

Hillsdale Transfer Station

Unfortunately, the transfer station in Hillsdale has restarted limited operations. A letter from the Mayor of Hillsdale has been posted on our website, and also sent it to the residents whose email addresses we have on file. He indicated to the Mayor of Hillsdale we will work with him to get the station closed for good before it resumes full operation.

Coptic Orthodox Church

He stopped in on Friday to welcome the new Church in the Township that purchased the old Bethany Property, the Coptic Orthodox Church.

Committees

Residents have approached him about starting related committees in the Township, for example event, and things of that nature. He stated if anyone has any ideas, please reach out to him. This is our Township, so all suggestions will be considered and acted upon.

Public Service Announcement

Casino Night at Our Lady of Good Counsel is this coming Saturday, please support this event.

Community Events

He attended a question and answer session with the second-grade students at Washington and George School. He had a great time, they had some great questions and they filled him on town history. He also happy to attend and give out awards to the Police Department's Poster Safety Contest, it was a lot of fun interacting with the kids.

Green Team

The Green Team has asked him to read a statement to keep the residents informed on what they are doing:

Sustainable Jersey could not find any records of our accomplishments for the Township, so on February 5th we opened "Our Dashboard" to track the Township's progress. Team meetings will be held monthly. Accomplishments are being added to the Township dashboard, for example new lighting that was installed in the library. Resolutions and/or Ordinances will be requested to be passed, for example unnecessary vehicle idling. The Green Team has been working with Green Teams from our neighboring communities. New programs are being worked on in conjunction with the library to teach children the importance of keeping a clean community. A new community garden program is being lead by team member Rick Sonntag, a review of several locations is

taking place for a dog run. We have met with a contractor and are working with the Health Department on what needs to be addressed. Team Members Scudieri and Sears are reviewing the requirements and have met with two other towns that already have dog runs. We have met with a vendor that will pick up e-recycling and provide bins free of charge to the Township, Dan Scudieri will lead this project. Locations are being reviewed to place bicycle racks to reduce automobile pollution. To meet one of the dashboard goals we will be reviewing the DEP waste, health and waste of the vehicles. Dan Scudieri will also take the lead of this program. A review of our recycling processes in Township facilities is underway. The Township has also now joined a group called "HUB" which is a group of towns in north jersey that share ideas and environmental issues that effect north jersey. We will now have access to other towns goals and needs like ours. This group will have its 6th Annual Watershed clean-up and we will be participating for the first time, the date being Saturday, April 28th, and we will be cleaning up the waterway from Woodfield Road to Ridgewood Road, and south of the shopping center. Please check the Township web page for details and to volunteer, community service hours will be available. This project also meets the requirements for a County grant which has been submitted and accepted. The Township has also joined a state program called "CSIP" Community Stewardship Incentive Program, which is headed by the New Jersey Forest Service. In that program we will have access to hazard tree assessment, tree maintenance and removals, tree plantings, tree recycling, storm water management, storm damage assessments, training and access to grants which can go as high as \$30,000. Arrangements have been made for our 1st Township assessment on March 7th, weather permitting, which will review the trees in our parks, fields and other Township property. The Township will also be receiving a \$3,000 grant to assist us in establishing our 5 year-plan. We would like to thank the Mayor for his leadership and support of the Green Team, a special thanks to Township Administrator Mary Anne Groh for her help, support and guidance on Green Team issues and ideas and establishing a town email address for the team. Also, a special thanks to Township Clerk Susan Witkowski in supporting the Green Team and assisting with the Ordinance that support the goals of the Green Team. We will soon be opening up the "Green Team Facebook" site.

Mayor Calamari stated that ends their blurb and his report.

Councilman Ullman asked would it be possible to request the Police, once trucks are transiting in the Township (Waste Management Station) to strictly enforce our traffic regulations. Mayor Calamari replied it has already been done.

REPORT OF COUNCIL

Councilman Ullman stated at the Council's February 20th meeting, Councilman Cumming read a statement. In that statement Councilman Cumming made a number of accusations that are without merit, or substantiation. Councilman Cumming stated "I am deeply concerned about the continuous, secretive and improper meetings and that he "will not knowingly participate in any clandestine meetings." Councilman Cumming refers to "us" and he is, including himself, because he is part of the Council, and Councilman Cumming did not name anyone, that there are "obstructious activities and Machiavellian efforts that are taking place by the four members of Council." He would like to say and state for the record that he has not participated in any meeting that would call into question breaking the Sunshine Laws, that would be a meeting of 3 or more Councilmen discussing Council business behind closed doors, without it being recorded or without the meeting being open to the public. He stated these are serious accusations, we are being accused of breaking the law. He did not see any substantiation, specifically about the meetings and he does not believe they have merit. He would like to go on the record and state that. Secondly, if we are going to talk about covert activities, obstructionist nature, things happening behind closed doors and not in the public domain, he would like to review the

briefly a timeline and put it on the record, just so it can be seen what we, on the Council have to deal with. On January 21st, Councilman Bruno sent an email, the email was waved around by Councilman Cumming, and it was further waved around by Mr. Poller, who was aware of the email. The email was a message from Councilman Bruno regarding a \$3,000 expense, change of government. On February 14th, a few weeks later, Mr. Poller sent an email to all Council indicating that is, it is not an excuse to violate Open Public Meeting Act, often referred to as Sunshine Law, he is referencing communication. There have been concerns that some email communications may have crossed the line with respect to the Sunshine Law. On February 15th, he addressed a note to Mr. Poller "Thank you for your email. There has been concern that some email communications may have crossed the line with respect to the Sunshine Law. I make a request; can you please provide Sue with specific examples for circulations for the Council. Can you also include an explanation as to why these communications are in violation?" To date, as of March 5th he has no reply, however on February 20th, both Mr. Poller and Councilman Cumming have this document and say we are violating the Sunshine Law, violating the Law of the State and the Law of the Land. His question is if this all took place before February 20th, if on February 15th, he requested examples and explanation, that is not provided, yet, Councilman Cumming and Mr. Poller are having a dialogue about this. He asks where the exposure is, or where is this discussion happening between Councilman Cumming and Mr. Poller. He would think if a member of Council asks Mr. Poller for an explanation, and he does not give it, he can only assume there are no examples. Yet, Councilman Cumming and Mr. Poller are waving them around, talk about a lack of transparency.

Mr. Poller stated what goes on with these emails, a meeting is not a meeting where people physically get together, and meet in room, a meeting is also electronically, by phone, emails and things of that nature. It is also indictive that there were communications and consultations, for example when ordinances are drafted and brought out of the clear blue sky, when other people have not been part of it, and yet we are told that the Council wants this introduced. In addition, to myself, the Township Clerk has been concerned about the communications with the emails. He stated some of these things may be inadvertent, but the idea of sending an email, and getting involved in a conversation with Council people, and asking for responses to take actions or make decisions, of Township business by email, not a meeting, that is a violation of the Open Public Meetings Act. In addition, the Administrator has also reached out to me about her concern with violations of the Sunshine Law and asked about making sure this is not being violated. The Township Clerk then ordered booklets to kind of button this thing up. He can go back to the emails to figure out what emails go over the line. He stated with Councilman Cumming there was one communication subject, which he gave to the Township Clerk for an OPRA request, it was Councilman Bruno's email. That email (Councilman Bruno's) is a violation of the Open Public Meetings Act because it is a communication to the entire Council, talking about taking action of going out and hiring someone, talking about spending public funds, \$3,000, and asking for decisions to be made, and if he did not hear otherwise he was going to take action and go find whatever attorney he was looking for. He is not supposed to be doing that, that is a violation and a concern. The year started with the Ordinance for the intersection, but the one Department Head proposed Ordinance came out of the blue with an email that basically said the Council, which might be for introduction the following Monday. It was never discussed, never came up in a Conference Session, but Councilman Cumming, said in his words he was never even consulted. The ordinance was a well drafted ordinance but was incorrect as a matter of law for the form of government, but it was something that someone just took from Hillsdale and stated let us use that, he can tell a lot of time, energy and discussion went into that ordinance. Mr. Poller stated he did give the Township Clerk his letter tonight. The point is when Council has discussion by email, by text, phone or go into a restaurant together, and discuss Township business it is a violation of the Sunshine Law. The email

that Councilman Bruno sent around is the prime example of why that is not supposed to be done, it is making decisions, having discussions and talking about spending money. Mr. Poller stated that Councilman Bruno told him it was in the temporary budget, but that has nothing to do with spending the money and taking action, those are the violations, not that the money was in the budget. Councilman Ullman stated if Councilman DeSena and Councilman Cascio have a discussion, on any subject, such as painting the Council Chambers, and after they have a discussion, one of them approaches him and states we would like to paint it green, that is a violation of the Sunshine Law. Mr. Poller replied, no if two people are doing it that is not a violation, but if three get involved, it is a violation. Council is not supposed to have two Council members discussing, and then go to another member to avoid the Sunshine Law, it is the spirit and intent of the Sunshine Law that Council is not supposed to have an effective majority of Council members involved in making decisions and doing things that are not done at the Public Meetings. Once that happens, effectively you can have a majority of people that can do something and it is has never been before the public, you can spend money, you can take action and discuss things. Mr. Poller realizes it is a hard thing to police for yourselves, because people want to talk. There is a lot of literature and cases about using emails, texts, phones, and those are actual meetings, even though it is not a meeting per se, where you come here, it is a violation of the Sunshine Law. He stated the point he is trying to get at, as he believes Councilman Cumming is trying to get at, the speech he wrote on his own, he didn't have anything to do with it, but this is the thing we are trying to avoid. He stated there are other people on the dais trying to address it and alert everyone not to do it. Councilman Cumming stated the email of the 15th, which was addressed to Mr. Poller but not answered, he has no knowledge or awareness of this at all, he did not see it. Councilman Ullman stated Councilman Cumming was not copied, it was request by himself to after Mr. Poller raised the issue, he specifically asked Mr. Poller to provide examples, and none were provided, without examples he was surprised when Councilman Cumming brought it up and Mr. Poller had it in his folder. His question is if there is an example that Mr. Poller is aware of, you are aware of, and we ask a specific question, because at this point it had not been discussed what the communication was, why was that not provided to the Council. Councilman Cumming stated he had three examples that night with him, but he does not have them tonight, since he was not prepared for this debate. Mr. Poller stated he could have gotten back to you, he did have the email, but he was going to ask Administrator Groh, but he did not get around to doing it to run a query on the emails. He does not receive the emails to Council, and he is not included, he receives it because it comes through someone. He stated he was going to either have to query the Township Clerk or Administrator Groh to do a search of the emails, then he would have gone through the emails, to be honest with you there were more pressing things to do. Council President DeSena stated moving forward we now know what we can or cannot do, the Township Clerk has ordered the booklet about the Sunshine Law procedures and policies, which should be received by Thursday. He does not believe this is going to be an issue going forward now that we are aware of the issue, he would like to end the discussion on this subject.

Councilman Cumming stated he has been involved with the Green Team working on various projects, which is very exciting. He also attended a meeting with the architects and about 12 firemen at the firehouse to review their needs, what they could use and what may be a structure at some point or additions to the current structure. He learned a great deal and spent some enjoyable time with them.

Councilman Bruno stated he does have a statement since his name seems to be thrown around, other than the other hundreds of emails that go around:

At the last Council meeting, and it's titled "Harper Valley PTA" a/k/a "Washington Township Faulkner." At the last Council meeting, Councilman Cumming wrongfully accused me of an illegal action, and also wrongfully accused the other Council members of having secret meetings. Nothing that I

had mentioned in an email regarding the change in the form of government, hadn't been discussed several times prior in 2018 and 2017. The \$3,000 that Councilman Cumming referred was budgeted in the Council Department and presented at the budget meeting that was publicized right here in this building. It was also included in the Temporary Budget and approved by the Mayor and the Administrator. The amount was approved and voted on by all Council members, including Councilman Cumming. Any two council members can meet to discuss whatever they'd like to. As Council President DeSena stated, he and Councilman Cascio, two members, not three, not four, put forth a holdover ordinance for review. We all received a draft at the same time. Councilman Cumming wants to serve the public and provide for a better town, this was clear when Councilman Cumming did not consent to the attorney, the planner, the Recreation Director and the Public Safety Director. So, what is the next step if he feels these are not appropriate personnel? Complacency as the former Republican stood for. As for secret meetings, the Mayor meets with the County and has a resident join the discussion and does not inform the Council. The Mayor signed an architectural contract for the firehouse, which I am sure was reviewed by the attorney, who we all know writes ordinances, and again the Council was never informed by the Mayor or the attorney. Under our form of government, which seems to work sometimes for some of the governing body, the Council approves contracts. I made this point clear at a Council meeting earlier in the year. We the Council were to approve all contracts. The Mayor meets with the engineer to discuss Memorial Field, again no communication with the Council. The Council President, Mr. DeSena, is the most qualified person to be involved with all three of these matters, yet no communication. Last year the Mayor had secret communication with Westwood District School, while he was representing and negotiating on behalf of the Church through his private email address for parking spots, which had ultimately been paid for with taxpayer money. Again, the Township Code of Ethics, the attorney was asked to comment and never did, coincidence or purposeful omission. Retaining services and signing contracts without approval of the Council, is this really working with the Council? The attorney, Ken Poller, felt he should read my email, which he just so happens to have to discuss the violations and the Sunshine Laws. I asked what about the other hundreds of emails that he feels violates Sunshine Laws. Why did Councilman Cumming pick mine out of the bunch as suspect? In New Jersey, there is a Bill that codifies recommendations set forth in the Controllors Report by the legal fees paid by New Jersey local governments. The Report and Bill, applicable to local units of government and school districts focuses on four primary categories of guidance, developing policy and procedures regarding the procurement use of management of legal counsel, conducting a competitive procurement for legal counsel, drafting formal written contracts with legal counsel and managing contracts with legal counsel. Clearly, job descriptions of duties for in house salary attorneys, to help ensure adequate supervision and distinguish tasks to be performed by in house attorneys, and those delegated to outside legal counsel. It continues to say the controller report shall promulgate rules and regulations concerning best practices for formal contracts between local units and outside legal counsel, which shall address at a minimum the following matters, and there are several of them, but one of them specifically says prohibit block billing, which is a practice of grouping together multiple activities or tasks under one-time entry. The attorney was block billing the Township for years, which I insisted be changed immediately when I reviewed the attorney bills in 2016. He wasn't signing off on Law Department bills. The attorney is considered an employee, yet no Township email address, no Township phone number, which is strictly a direct contradiction to what the employee manual states, which I am sure was reviewed and approved by the attorney, which begs the question, is the attorney an employee, an outside contractor or both? Again, a W-2 or a 1099. The new auditor made it clear that all monies paid are considered salary, the total year requested/recommended is approximately \$140,000 this year. Putting forth slanderous and defamatory remarks, and frivolous statements will no longer be tolerated and will be dealt

with accordingly outside of the meeting. Official actions will be taken. This was nothing more than grandstanding, with scripted dialogue and another cheap shot. Don't throw stones if you live in glass houses. That concludes my statement.

Councilman Cascio stated he had the opportunity to read to the kindergartners and first graders at George School in Washington, it was great to sit down with Dr. Seuss books, and it was a fun experience. He also attended the Board the Education meeting on Thursday with Council President DeSena. He stated they support the school with any decisions they make about public safety, and especially to prevent something that happened in Florida and other places. He mentioned to the School Board that the Township would be more than amicable in working together financially if they decided to put in a SLEO 3, which is a Special Police Officer who is retired, and Mr. Poller also went over it a few Council meetings ago, and how that works. He stated we want to make sure that our students, faculty and staff of the school are safe, anything we can do to ensure that, he is sure that the Council as well as the Mayor would want that to happen.

Council President DeSena stated both himself and Councilman Cascio attended the Board of Education meeting, and Dr. Gonzalez put on a wonderful presentation. He stated it was brought to his attention, and it was disheartening, is that the Township of Washington does not have a LEAD Program for its elementary schools. The LEAD Program has replaced the former DARE Program. He would like to make a plea to this Council, and the Mayor that we somehow figure out a way to bring the LEAD Program back to our elementary school children through our Police Department. He has sent out emails to the Mayor, Chief Hooper and Lieutenant Skinner. He stated it is a wonderful program, having Police Officers go to our elementary schools and participate. Mayor Calamari stated he did speak to the Police Department, and he gave them the green light to proceed with the program. He does appreciate that Council President DeSena and Councilman Cascio attended the Board of Education meeting. A link will be put on the Township website for anyone who is interested in joining the Green Team.

Mayor Calamari stated he would be remiss, he doesn't want to drag it out, but with Councilman's Bruno's comments about him, there are a lot false and inaccurate statements that he will not go into right now. Councilman Bruno asked which ones are false and inaccurate? Mayor Calamari replied he will not go into them right now. Council President DeSena stated gentlemen let us move on.

PRESENTATION

Township of Library Public Library

Laura Rifkin, Library Director

Ms. Rifkin stated she has provided two documents, one is the Library's Annual Report 2018, which recaps the different events at the libraries, some numbers to know about thing that are going on, as well as a recap of the Friends of the Library, the Library Board and employees. The second document that shows the back history from 2011 to 2017, how far the library has come, different numbers that we have gone through. As of the end of 2017, 65% of the Township currently has library cards. Program attendance went over 10,000 people this year, which is phenomenal. In 2015, a door counter was installed, and as of the end of 2017, we had 98,835 visits throughout the year, which is 8,000 per month, 200 per month up from last year. The "Friends of the Library" donated a lot this this past year, everything from furniture, museum passes, concerts, programs, online subscriptions. She thanked everyone who donates to the "Friends of the Library" as well as the friends themselves for their raffle baskets, book sales, and everything else. The library did subscribe to HOOPLA, which is an online digital streaming service, as well as CLOUD library, which has e-books, e-audios, e-

videos, those types of things. The library also received a local history grant of \$2,000, it was a matching grant. The library matched the \$2,000 and those monies were put into the local history room, that collection is being digitized, and in the next six to eight weeks there will be a link on our website to search some of the historical documents. Thanks to Council, the library had funds available to replace four of our seven HVAC units, repairing our air conditioning needs from last year. 2018 is the 50th anniversary of the library. She thanked the Contemporary Women's Club of the Township, who started the whole process of municipalizing the library back in the 1960's, and the library was formalized in 1968. The Contemporary Women's Club continues to donate to the library, such as with museum passes, programs, decorating the library door every season, and showing continued support for the library. The library started their "Born to Read" campaign this past January, parents come into the library and receive a tote bag with various materials, such as guiding their children into lap/sit programs, board book, library bib, contact information, they also get a tour of the children's library while they are there, along with an explanation of various programs that the library has for newborns through toddlers. The library also has a "Friday Friends Group" that meets every Friday, that has a certain portion for play time along with mom socialization, as well as a lap/sit that one of the library staff members runs. The library also launched a new library website this past January to coincide with the 50th anniversary. There is a lot of new information, and there are also links for all of the Township's social media, such as the Ambulance Corps, Fire Department, Municipal Alliance as well as the Township's website. The library is starting our "I love my Library" campaign, and on the first page of the website different programs, different organizational groups are holding up that poster to show the diversity of how many people in the Township use the library. Currently, the library hosts 15 to 25 library programs per week, plus hosting another 3 to 6 committees, such as Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts Troops are having their meetings in the library as well. PSO Groups are starting to reach out to the library, along with helping out with different fundraising drives for donations and things. We will be doing prom dresses for the high school, along with different activities that people are finding a nice connection with their library. The library hosted the "Coffee with a Cop" event back in February and did a special leap day for the kids. The Police Officers came in and did fingerprinting, read books, colored with them, and had a great time. A big "Thank You" to the DMF, they have been doing a phenomenal job in helping us plow our parking lot. Coming up this year, we have our big Annual "Saint Patrick's Day" celebration, with Irish soda bread and tea, along with great music. "National Library Week" will be in April, and there will be a lot of great programs coming up. The Children's Department and the Teen Department are really knocking it out of the park, we are having more children and teen's events, and responses that we have ever had before, and the library is thrilled to have the parents also come in to see what the library has to offer. Regarding BCCLS she does sit on the Executive Board, and there is currently a motion on the floor before the membership to develop our own back-up system for delivery amongst the 76 libraries. A new RFP is being put out by the State, and as a system we are rerouting our budget in order to facilitate the delivery better. It will be temporary fix until the new vendor comes into play, and it was a warning sign. Northern New Jersey was hit the hardest, and the items are coming from everywhere. Drivers and sorters were lacking and it grew into a major issue. She was able to get a list of the patrons that had items on hold for so long, the library purchased additional materials, as well as bumping up HOOPLA circulation, so patrons could download things immediately. The hiring of the next Executive Director for BCCLS is currently in the process, which is coming up in a few weeks. Mayor Calamari asked Ms. Rifken to introduce the other members of the Board that are present. Ms. Rifkin stated Cindy Mazanec is the President this year, also present are Fred Voss, Julie Keating and Mary Ann Stickel.

Municipal Alliance

Ms. Rifkin stated the Municipal Alliance grant does have what they call "Early Secondary Education." Both of the elementary schools currently get a "Footprints for a Life" program. The grant updates in July, it is a July 1 to June 30 grant year, so something can be included with the DARE Program. The "Footprints for Life" program is a six-week course that all third and fourth graders get to go through at both of the elementary schools, which begins in February into March. It addresses the root causes the lead up to the problems of underage drinking, drug abuse and bullying, things of that sort. They work with the teachers in the individual classrooms, and there are activities involved, reading stories, acting role playing scenarios, practice kindness, and things like that to each other. There is a large area the grant covers, most active is the high school. The elementary school tends to request speakers, that principals reach out to. She thinks something can be organized that is a little bit more structured for the high school, since their schedules are very chaotic from one year to the next. In trying to fit all different events, there may be a way to develop a DARE Program where there are guidelines so it can fall into place, so she will reach out. Council President DeSena stated everyone is on board, and it is a great program.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

Ayes: Councilmen Bruno, Cascio, Cumming, Ullman,
Council President DeSena.

Nays: None.

Mary Ann Ozment, 960 Adams Place – Mrs. Ozment stated on Valentine's Day someone did come and check on the cracks in the roadway on Adams Place. She stated they put little white marks on four cracks in the street, but there are two more additional cracks that are forming. Administrator Groh stated the former engineer who supervised the program did come out. She also stated that Mrs. Ozment can reach out to her instead of waiting for a Council meeting for an answer. Mrs. Ozment replied she would rather do it at a Council meeting. Mrs. Ozment stated she worked in the Township for 28 years, and was a Clerk for 11 of those years, and after Council meetings, Mr. Poller, the Administrator and herself would leave, and Council would then have a caucus session. She stated she did reach out to the League of Municipalities and was told a caucus of the same party can meet to discuss issues, but it should never be done on municipal property. She is surprised in the last four years Mr. Poller is bringing this up, but she never heard him warn Council in those 28 years. She finds the accusations very upsetting. She stated many times when Councilmen came out of this room, Township business had been discussed and she knows that for a fact.

Michael LaGratta, 176 Fern Street – Mr. LaGratta stated he lives on the same side of Westwood High School. He stated after the last snowstorm, he could not get into his driveway with his truck due to the amount of snow boulders that were blocking his apron. He stated five of his neighbors also had the same issue. He also saw tire marks on his lawn from the plow, and he did take photos and showed them to Casey of the DMF. He spoke of the speed that the plows come down his road. He did have this problem in the past, the issue was resolved but now it is back to what it was. Councilman DeSena stated that he and the Mayor have had conversations about this issue, and the DMF has been instructed to consistently plow curb to curb. Mayor Calamari requested that Mr. LaGratta provide the photos. Mr. LaGratta spoke of his frustration of the snow plows coming back and throwing snow back onto the driveways. Council President DeSena stated some residents do snow blow the snow back onto the roadways, and if the neighbors up the hill doing that, then Mr. LaGratta's residence would get that snow. He stated no resident should be snow blowing snow into the roadway. A conversation followed on the speed in which the snow plows come

down the street. Mr. LaGratta was also advised in the future if there is a problem to reach out to Bill Lawlor of the DMF.

William Ferrara, 2556 Cleveland Avenue – Mr. Ferrara stated he has been watching the budget meetings and thanked the Mayor for budgeting monies to remove dead trees, but there are also dead branches that need tending to. He spoke of the million dollars reserve that is as a result of the sale of the middle school, and the discussion seems to be trending towards doing something with the school. He stated unless Westwood is willing to put in the same amount of money, the Township would be subsidizing Westwood with Township money if that is done. He suggests next time the Westwood Board of Education gives their annual bill, to take that million dollars, give it to them, decreasing the amount owed so that everyone in the Township would get a share of the money. He stated in September of 2016 Mayor Birkner came to the Council meeting arguing to have the cheerleading team work with the Township, and during that he also offered the use of their facilities. He stated Council should contact Mayor Birkner to take him up on that offer.

Cynthia Cannon, 804 Manhattan Avenue – Mrs. Cannon asked what the status of the plume under the home that is two doors away from her home. She would like to know what the status is, and how the Township could have gone so long in being non-compliant in testing that well. Mr. Poller replied it is not an active well, that home was taken off the well. The Township is going to Court in two weeks to obtain a court order to gain access to the well. Letters were sent to the homeowner by the Township, the Health Department, as well as the Administrator did go to the home, and now the Township is going to go to Court for a Court Order. Mrs. Cannon spoke of her worries because of the location and disclosure of this matter when she sells her home, as well as health reasons. Councilman Bruno spoke of how this matter came about two years ago, when Bill Lawlor came to make a presentation. At that time Council received a letter in May which was dated January from Quest, that is why the DMF project is on hold. Letters were also sent to the Administrator, Mayor and the attorney. All of the testing has been done, with the exception of this one piece of property. Council President DeSena stated once access is granted to this property (blue house) the lab analytical will be completed, it will then be submitted to the State of New Jersey for their concurrence, and then the Township will receive a letter no further action. The analytics cannot be completed until this home (blue house) is sampled. Councilman Bruno stated this subject was spoken about in the minutes of October and November minutes that were just approved.

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

Ayes: Councilmen Bruno, Cascio, Cumming, Ullman,
Council President DeSena.
Nays: None.

CONSENT AGENDA

All of the following items have been determined to have the unanimous consent of Council and will be enacted in one motion. Should any item require independent consideration, any Council Member may have such item removed from the Consent Agenda.

Resolution No. 18-171 has been removed since Township's endorsement is not needed. Upon further discussion this morning between the Administrator and the gentleman who presented it for the Agenda, they have mostly client coming out of Hackensack, so the Township's endorsement is not necessary. The office is located in the Township behind the Town Center. It is a hub, and case managers are sent out to do the work. They already have a resolution from Hackensack endorsing it, so they do not need the Township's endorsement.

Administrator Groh's concern is that the resolution purported to commit local funds of \$72,000, and then she started asking questions. Upon further discussion, they pulled it altogether and there is no impact to the Township at all.

Councilman Bruno asked who is the LOSAP Administrator. Administrator Groh replied Ms. Joi Apar.

A motion was made by Councilman Cascio, seconded by Councilman Cumming, to the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Councilmen Bruno, Cascio, Cumming, Ullman,
Council President DeSena.

Nays: None.

Resolution No. 18-169

Approval of Certification List of Qualifying Volunteer Ambulance Corps LOSAP for 2017

WHEREAS, The Township adopted Ordinance No. 99-10 which created the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP); and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:14-191 requires that the Township of Washington Volunteer Ambulance Corps furnish the Township Council with an annual certification list of all volunteer members who have qualified for credit under the award program for the previous year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, County of Bergen, New Jersey that the Township Council hereby approves the list of the volunteer members of the Township of Washington Volunteer Ambulance Corps certified by the Corps LOSAP Coordinator and President for the year 2017, a copy of which list is attached here as Exhibit A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this list has been posted for at least thirty (30) days at the office of the municipal clerk and at the emergency services squad facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after the thirty (30) day posting period the Township Treasurer will issue a check to cover volunteers on the attached list to Lincoln Financial.

Resolution No. 18-170

Approval of Certification List of Qualifying Volunteer Fire Department for LOSAP for Year 2017

WHEREAS, The Township adopted Ordinance No. 99-10 which created the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP); and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:14-191 requires that the Township of Washington Fire Department furnish the Township Council with an annual certification list of all volunteer members who have qualified for credit under the award program for the previous year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, County of Bergen, New Jersey that the Township Council hereby approves the list of the volunteer members of the Township of Washington Fire Department certified by the Department LOSAP Coordinator, Chief and Director for the year 2017, a copy of which list is attached here as Exhibit A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this list has been posted for at least thirty (30) days at the office of the municipal clerk and at the emergency services squad facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after the thirty (30) day posting period the Township Treasurer will issue a check to cover volunteers on the attached list to Lincoln Financial.

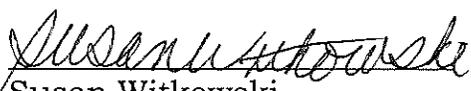
Councilman Ullman requested copies of the Fire Department worksheets, since it is under the new point system. Mayor Calamari replied he will provide them.

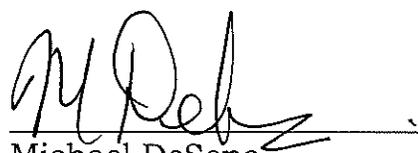
A motion was made by Councilman Ullman, seconded by Councilman Bruno to adjourn to Conference Agenda.

Ayes: Councilmen Bruno, Cascio, Cumming, Ullman,
Council President DeSena.

Nays: None.

Time Noted: 8:45 p.m.


Susan Witkowski
Township Clerk


Michael DeSena
Council President

Approved: June 18, 2018

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
CONFERENCE PORTION/PUBLIC SESSION

March 5, 2018

Members present: Robert Bruno, Steve Cascio, Arthur Cumming, Michael Ullman, Council President Michael DeSena. Also present: Peter Calamari, Mayor; Mary Anne Groh, Administrator; Ken Poller, Attorney; and Susan Witkowski, Township Clerk.

Administration

Recreation Fees – Mayor Calamari stated he will defer to Mr. Twomey at the budget meeting.

Council

Memorial Field Update – As of March 5, 2018, the Council still has not received a report. Mayor Calamari stated since the committee could not agree on a short-term report for the field, he has formed a subcommittee to get through the playing season that will make recommendations as to what they think should be done. He stated he will head up the committee, and members are Bill Lawlor, Dan Scudieri, Art Cumming, and Mr. Azzolina, the Township engineer. Soil testing will be done to get a baseline of all of the fields. The test kits are available through Rutgers, 24 of them. The results will show what is needed on the field so no monies are wasted with wrong fertilizers, etc. Bill Lawlor has indicated he would like the Council to look into purchasing our own aerator. The subcommittee will help the Township get through the upcoming season, is it not to replace the long-term goals of the field or the existing committee that is in place. The sub-committee will be able to act very quickly to get things done before we run out of time. Councilman Bruno stated the current committee has done a lot of work and the Mayor should have conversations with those members, in particular with Ms. Cannon, who has done a lot of work. Council President DeSena asked that Mr. Twomey, who is in the audience tonight, and knows best on much usage the field gets, to be a part of the committee. Mayor Calamari agreed that Mr. Twomey's input would be requested. Council President DeSena spoke at length of the importance of resting the field and finding another avenue for the children to play (The Arena, Sports Dome, another town) or perhaps having the children practice at those locations and playing games on the field. Mayor Calamari spoke of the intent of the sub-committee, and the members who are knowledge based, Art Cumming, Horticultural degree, Bill Lawlor, DMF, maintenance of the field, and Dan Scudieri, DMF Director. A conversation followed on getting another study done, such as the MKW study, but something more current and up to date on field usage. Council President DeSena stated he would like to be involved in that, along with putting together an RFP/RFQ. A conversation followed on having the sprinkler system up and running, which will be the first priority after the frost.

Washington and Pascack Intersection – Council President DeSena stated he was saddened that the County Executive did not include in the 2018 State of the Union address the intersection of Pascack and Washington. Council President DeSena stated he would like a letter sent to the County Executive. A conversation followed on what would be the process, next step. Council President DeSena stated the photo provided in January, the overlay on the Google Earth Map, will be put on a map showing the actual property line of all of the properties the Township either needs to acquire, or not acquire, then the Township will be asked by the County to prepare those land acquisitions, with Mr. Poller and Mr. Azzolina, the Township engineer being involved. Tax assessments will be done of those properties worth, and an offer will then be made. Once all of the land the County says is needed for the project is acquired,

then it will be put into final design. Councilman Ullman asked is it premature to have a project plan at this time, what other steps are there. Council President DeSena stated once the survey is done, which will hopefully be completed by the end of this week, Mr. Azzolina will submit that to the County of Bergen. The traffic engineer will then start putting the alignments down of the proposed roadway improvements in all the directions, identify the property acquisitions that are needed, identify what utilities need to be relocated, and complete the design once the properties are acquired. The County will not do any further design until a letter is received by them stating the properties have been acquired. Once those acquisitions are identified, and secured, the County Traffic Department will then complete the design in its totality, the project will then go out to bid, a contractor will be selected, and the project can proceed. Council President DeSena stated a letter is needed to be written by the Mayor to Mr. Tedesco, the County Executive, than a meeting can be set up with Mr. Tedesco and Mr. Femia, which he also would like to be involved in this meeting then this project can move forward, some of the funding can be put in place into the 2018 budget. If the land needed is acquired by June, early September, it would be early 2019 that a shovel can be put into the ground. Council President stated the intersection is ranked the 4th worst in the State of New Jersey.

Cash Reserves – Councilman Bruno stated it is self-explanatory, he is asking before the budget process what we have and what we can use. Administrator Groh stated that Ms. Morrone did indicate some of the reserves may be subject to “Riders by Dedication” and the Clerk did pull those resolutions. She stated those riders do not restrict the spending, but it looks like most of them related to dedication in that current year’s budget, and there was a limit as to how they were dedicated. She spoke of the resolutions and ordinances that were pulled by the Township Clerk and her assistant, which had no dates and no numbers. A lengthy conversation followed on what can be used from those reserves, and having Ms. Morrone looking into this before the budget process begins, within two weeks. Mayor Calamari stated he will try to get both Ms. Morrone and Mr. Mai together on a conference call with himself to see what the results may be and forward that information to Council via email. Councilman Ullman stated it is a priority for the Council to understand what is untouchable, and what can be done with all of these pockets of money. He stated these are important questions that have been lingering for years. In the 2018 budget, there will be a salary for a full time CFO.

Email to Attorney Poller – conflict of interest and labor attorney – Mr. Poller stated he was on vacation this week, but he will reach out next week.

Dog House Property Update – Mr. Azzolina and Mr. Mazanec both went to the property, and did a thorough inspection of the property, and it is an issue. There are two vehicles on Township property, a truck and an RV. A shed has also been built, and there is a question of what the shed is being used for and if that is a permitted use. There are excess leaves on the property, which might have been put there by the landscaping company that is renting the place, which should not be done. It appears that the parking lot encroaches on Township property. Mr. Poller stated there are many issues that need to be addressed, and Mr. Mazanec is going back there again, and there will be a discussion about summons and if letters need to be issued. The Township does own two small pieces of property in that area, but the question is the use of the property itself as well as the impact of the pieces of the properties the Township owns. Mr. Poller stated there is a recreation vehicle on the property, and he did see a photo of a boat. Mr. Azzolina will be going out there to lay out the markers and survey the property.

Labor Attorney for PBA contract – Will be discussed in Closed Session on March 19th.

WTPD LEAD Program in Schools – Already discussed, will move forward

Ordinances and Legislation

Change form of government – Mr. Poller did provide four forms of government. Councilman Bruno requested Council start looking into it.

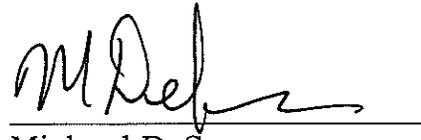
Review ordinance – home occupations – Will be discussed at the March 19 meeting.

Financials

2018 Budget Discussion followed Conference Meeting.

Time noted: 9:21 p.m.


Susan Witkowski
Township Clerk


Michael DeSena
Council President

Approved: June 18, 2018

