

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 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 7:36 p.m. by reading the following statement.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

The regularly scheduled Public Meeting of October 16, 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 website.

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

Council President Bruno stated that the Westwood Board of Education is present to talk about the middle school expansion. He would like to be clear that this is presentation for information purposes. If anyone has any questions, feel free to call them directly for any information. In addition, there is a Closed Session this evening; the amended resolution is on the table.

The Clerk read the totals of the list of bills representing September 1, 2017 through October 12, 2017:

TOTAL	2016 Reserve	\$0.00
TOTAL	2017 Current	\$4,842,292.29
TOTAL	Capital Fund	\$90,005.85
TOTAL	Animal Control	\$25.20
TOTAL	Trust Fund	\$14,776.72

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

June 26, 2017	Public Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2017	Conference Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2017	Public Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2017	Conference Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2017	Closed Session Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2017	Closed Session Meeting Minutes

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

Mayor's Report, October 16, 2017

SHREDDING AND E-RECYCLING

Reminder: Shredding and E-recycling (sponsored by Waste Management) is this Saturday, October 21, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the parking lot at Town Hall. It is a great time to bring debris to the Yard, have your papers shredded, and get rid of electronics. However, walk-ins will not be allowed because when it is very crowded, there are safety issues (close calls.) You must stay in your vehicle.

TOWNSHIP LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE

You received the pamphlet indicating that the program begins on October 30 for Zone 1 and every week thereafter November 6 for Zone 2 and November 13 for Zone 3. Please read the brochure for specific information such as: procedure on County Roads, last day to place leaves at the curb, keeping leaves away from catch basins, etc. We will post a map on the website showing what streets are estimated to be completed each day of the upcoming week. Charlie Devine gave us the suggestion.

LINWOOD AVENUE

The County milled Linwood Avenue Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; raised the manhole covers and storm drains; and will be paving at 7 a.m. Tuesday morning, October 17, most likely beginning at Pascack Road and will continue that day until it is complete at the Ridgewood end. Please find an alternate route as the roadway will not be available until later in the day.

ROAD PROGRAM 2017

Due to the fact that prices came in lower than expected, we will be able to pave additional roads including Tulane, Amherst, and Madeline and put in ramps at Amherst.

ENGINEERING

Town Engineer Chris Statile formulated a site plan for drainage repairs at the Police Department which are very necessary. The plan includes draining water away from the foundation walls, removing large overgrown pine trees which are dumping needles that clog the gutters, installing a shed roof to be placed over the lower stairway to prevent rain and snow from flooding the lower platform which runs into an interior sump pump. This part would actually reduce DMF costs to shovel snow and spread salt after snowstorms. Also, the irrigation system for the landscaping would need to be reset or repaired. The preliminary cost estimate is \$39,530.

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

I am very pleased with the work of our acting superintendent Bill Lawlor who just finished a management course and will be starting a new one next week.

The same goes for the members of the department: landscaping and cleaning town lots and unabated properties, painting athletic fields, collecting household debris the final one being September, and white goods and metal—the last one until the end of leaf season is October 18.

Preparation for Leaf Season is underway; the two front loaders were serviced, filters changed, greased fluids replaced, and new cutting edge blades installed. Sanitation trucks have been serviced as above including replacing tires as needed. The leaf vacuum was also serviced including replacement of the worn vacuum tube.

Two employees completed their mandatory Blood Borne Pathogen training. Additionally, employees were trained in safety techniques using online and video tools.

On September 27, monthly sewer inspections were completed and scheduled lines were flushed and enzymes added to the system. An inspection of the Municipal Building resulted in the replacement of emergency lighting batteries.

The department prepared for Town Day by making sure that supplies were in place for this event as well as assisting in the setup and working all day to ensure a success.

REMINDER

This is the last week (October 16-20) for pickup of grass and garden debris; however, you can still bring it to the Yard on Tuesdays during the day and Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

We hired a new technical assistant for the building department; she was interviewed by the administrator and building official and will be starting next week.

GRANTS

I asked Mary Anne Groh, Administrator, to compile a list of grants received in the last several years; we are still in the process of unearthing them. However, I am pretty confident of the ones we have for 2014 to 2017. The total is approximately \$860,877.46 with application fee costs of \$14,642.50, representing about 2% of the total. Hopefully, as we compile more data, it will serve as a way to evaluate future opportunities.

GRANTS/OEM

We recently received a grant award payment of \$14,277, which is the remaining 10% of the monies the Township spent for Super Storm Sandy recovery. We had received the 90% (\$143,059) following the storm. I thank officer Rio Fasciano for his diligence in preparing the paperwork required to apply for storm-related funds from FEMA. He does an excellent job.

TEMPLE BETH OR

There will be an inaugural Mark Samitt 5K Run to be held on Sunday, October 29, at 9 a.m. that will begin and end at Temple Beth Or. It is a USATF certified race. Registration ends on October 26 and is \$25. Proceeds from the run will benefit Temple Beth Or and The Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF).

GREATER PASCACK VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

I attended a Meet the Mayors event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and held in River Vale. There were three issues/topics we had to address: Fair Share Housing, supporting local businesses, and deer/coyote problems. I summarized our current status of Fair Share as well as my opposition to the Fair Share program; talked about how we promote local businesses at Town

Day and support them all year and the Grand Opening of Foodtown. I noted that our deer/coyote problem is not as active as Saddle River and River Vale but asked the police department to provide data on the issue.

FAIR SHARE HOUSING

Recently, the Township was asked to move a court overlay from one property to another. Of course, my answer was no because this would give a developer the right to put in fair share housing without going to the appropriate board.

BEST PRACTICES WORKSHEET

I thank Mary Anne Groh and Joi Apar for completing the Best Practices worksheet this year. As usual, it requires a lot of time and effort to complete and send to the state.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

From January to October 12, the department answered 6,450 calls. The Department has completed its first portion of the semi-annual firearms training and will continue the remainder at the North Arlington Police Range as the Bergen County Police Academy Range is closed indefinitely due to safety/health concerns. We were very fortunate to get the North Arlington facility because for the second round we need a 100-foot range and the only other alternatives were Fort Dix and Picatinny Arsenal, both a long way from here. In addition, all officers continue to go to the Bergen County Police Academy for the Mandatory Mental Health Training which must be completed by the end of the year.

The new school Crossing Guard for Pascack and Ridgewood Roads, James Tonner, has been fully trained and is currently on his own.

Our new replacement Radar Speed Trailer is finally on its way! It not only does radar speed surveys but can post messages as well since it comes with a programmable message board. This gives the department the capability of placing the trailer at various locations with important message to residents and drivers about future road work or events.

A strict 9 p.m. curfew will be enforced on October 30 and 31. Anyone in violation will be brought to Police Headquarters for appropriate action and will only be released to a parent or guardian. This "Zero Tolerance Policy" for Mischief Night and Halloween is very important for the safety of residents and the protection of private property.

The e-ticket system went live on September 27 and is in the 6 primary patrol vehicles. A 2018 patrol car (Ford explorer police package) is on its way. As soon as it gets here, all the necessary equipment such as computer, camera, and radios will be moved into the new car.

STREET SWEEPING

Our next street sweeping will be scheduled for one week after the end of leaf pick up, which would be December 11.

WALL OF VETERANS

If you know of a veteran who lived in the Township at some point or still lives here and would like to have his/her picture, please send or bring to Bernadette at Town Hall.

PHYSICAL WELLNESS PROGRAM

I am happy to report that the Healthy Steps program organized by Valley Hospital Community Outreach in January of this year and scheduled to end in April is still going strong on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. We meet at the Library.

GRAND OPENING NICHOLAS/FOODTOWN MARKETS

The 4-week opening of Nicholas Markets was grand! Each week they featured products at great prices. The Honeycrisp apples at .99 cents a pound was memorable! I thank them for bringing this anchor store to the Township and thank all of you who support it! Please continue to do so. It is very important to have such a store in our town.

TOWN DAY

Wow! What a great day for the Township...rides, Carnival games, Fishbowl game, popcorn, petty zoo, pony rides, food and information vendors, balloons by Raquel, music, Elvis impersonator, and on and on. The committee, chaired by Dina Burke, did a fabulous job planning and implementing. All the volunteers worked hard! The residents had a great time! And the weather cooperated for the 8th year in a row.

AMBULANCE CORPS

From January 1 to October 12, our Ambulance Corps was dispatched 387 times. The members of the Corps are always working hard to get new members to provide more service to the residents.

In the last few months, the department looked at ambulances and did select one which was recently ordered. It's great!

FIRE DEPARTMENT

From January 1 to October 12, the Fire Department was dispatched 154 times. Their service calls include fires, rescues, accidents, utility issues, and etc. The department sponsored a Texas Hold'em event on Friday, October 14, to raise funds for the department. They also participated in a Touch a Truck event at the Library for Fire Prevention Month on Tuesday, October 10. Children and their parents went to the Library after school to sit in a Fire Truck and complete some fire prevention crafts. It was a great afternoon for everyone!

RECREATION

Our cheerleader squads, football teams and flag football are in full swing and have been doing very well! Congratulations! Signups for basketball are complete.

WRHS TEAMS

All the fall sports at the high school are doing very well also with the football team being ranked third in the north jersey area.

LIBRARY

The Library is sponsoring its Annual Haunted House on Saturday, October 28, following the Fire Department Ragamuffin Parade which begins at 10 a.m. The STEM program is now every Wednesday until November 8. Each week features different experiences in coding and building. The next Cartooning Class is

November 27 for grades 3-6; work with John to improve your skills. I remember Jon Gnagy who taught us how to draw on the TV screen, do you? Now, I guess it would be on YouTube.

REPORT OF COUNCIL

Councilman Cascio stated his heart goes out to the victims of the terrible tragedy in Las Vegas. He would like to thank the Board of Education for coming to the meeting to speak about the proposed expansion of the middle school. He would also like to thank the Mayor for her detailed report.

Councilman Sears stated he also expresses his deepest sympathy to all of the incidents that have been going on in the United States. Thanked the Town Day Committee for the outstanding job they did, close to 3,000 people showed up at Town Day. He is currently in the process of completing an application for a grant for the Ambulance Corp Emergency Trailer Response, the cost being approximately \$25,000. He is working with a grant writer, and hopefully the application will be complete before the deadline in November. The library hosted Habitat for Humanity last week for the public to come down and get information regarding how to apply for the Veteran's homes. He stated it heartbreaking to see a two term Afghan Veteran living in a one room apartment with his wife and child. He received a letter from a resident on East Glen Avenue requesting Council take up reducing the speed limit from 35 mph to 25mph. He is asking Council for a discussion on this topic. After receiving a call from a resident who almost was ran over by a vehicle at the bus stop of Spice Street and Washington, he reached out to the County and as a result the County is looking into striping a pedestrian crosswalk in that area.

Councilman Calamari stated he would like to echo Councilman Cascio and Councilman Sears regarding all these unfortunate incidents that are going around in our country. As a country we need to address our mental health system in a better way. He stated Town Day was a great day and a great event.

Councilman Ullman thanked all of those who volunteered for Town Day, it was an excellent event. He spoke of his disappointment that the Mayor and/or committee for whatever reason decided to deny the application for the Board of Ed to attend Town Day to discuss the expansion and referendum. He is glad they are present tonight and look forward to the presentation.

Council President Bruno thanked all of the volunteers that put Town Day together, it was very nicely done and a spectacular event. He stated we will have the informational presentation before the Public Session. If anyone should have any questions after the presentation, please direct those questions to Dr. Gonzalez.

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

Middle School Expansion Referendum

Present: Superintendent of Westwood Regional School District, Raymond A. Gonzalez, Ed. D; Board of Education Trustees Stephen Kalish, Paul Liddy and Board President, Darlene Mandeville; and School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Keith Rosado .

Dr. Gonzalez stated this presentation is part of a Board of Ed series that has been planned. The voters of the Borough of Westwood and Township of Washington will have an opportunity to weigh in and let their voices be heard on December 12, 2017 if we are to continue moving down this path of moving the 8th graders out of the current Junior/Senior High School and combining the 6th, 7th and 8th graders for a true middle school. Currently, Westwood is one of two districts in the entire State that has does not have a middle school and the only one in Bergen County without a middle school.

The following is the Power Point Presentation by the Westwood Regional School District entitled "Creating a True Middle School."

Vision

The vision of the Westwood Regional Jr./Sr. High School, serving the diverse communities of the Borough of Westwood and the Township of Washington, is to provide a sound and comprehensive education. This education process will ensure that our students have the knowledge, skills, and experiences which will enable them to make future life choices. It is our long term goal that each student will use this knowledge, these skills and these experiences to reach his/her potential and thus become an actively contributing productive member of the global community.

Why a true Middle School?

Middle level education serves a distinct developmental period, one in which youth undergo major changes in every aspect of their being. Because youth adolescents move through the many maturation and development states and individuals at such widely varying times and rates, and because the values, attitudes, interests, and habits of mind they formulate have lifelong implications providing an appropriate education program for this age group is an especially challenging yet critically important task.

Importance of a True Middle School

A true middle school supports the academic, developmental, and social emotional growth of the whole child. Bringing together students in grades 6-8 will afford Westwood Regional School District students a complete program and strong foundation for a successful high school experience and future.

Academically Engaging

Curriculum engages students in topics and themes that have meaning to middle level learners with cross-curricular implications.

Developmentally Targeted

Programs focus on the needs of young adolescents, including physical and mental health and wellness, decision-making, and character education.

Fostering Independence

Young adolescent voices need respect and an avenue for empowerment, whether in the classroom or at the school-wide level.

Personal Education

Middle school students thrive when they are supported by small learning communities where team of teachers work together to meet their needs.

Socially and Emotionally Appropriate

Instructional techniques facilitate the growth of the whole child with a cooperative and personal approach.

Broad Elective Options

Students are beginning to develop their true identities, and need exposure to a variety of potential strengths and future careers.

Significant Facility Improvements

Middle level education serves a distinct developmental period, one in which youth undergoes major changes in every aspect of their being. Because youth adolescents move through the many maturation and development stages as individuals at such widely varying times and rates, and because the values, attitudes, interests, and habits of mind they formulate have lifelong implications providing an appropriate education program for this age group is an especially challenging et critically important task.

- Expanding Student Support.
- Dedicating Space for performing arts program.
- Right-sizing the gym and installing locker rooms.
- Increasing the size of the food preparation area.
- Integrating wired and wireless technologies.
- Modernizing the information Media Center.
- Conforming to energy efficiency standards.
- Expanding in-district special education programs.
- Enhancing building security and access controls.

How does this benefit our elementary schools?

All students in our elementary schools from both towns will converge in the Middle School where they will benefit from the expansion of the programs, supports and facilities.

The educational and social-emotional foundation established in our elementary schools will continue for a full three years in the new Middle School to help our students prepare for their high school experience.

How does this benefit our High School?

Moving the Eighth Grade to the Middle School will provide the High School the opportunity to more effectively utilize space to accommodate programs suitable for a high quality 9-12 high school. For instance, with additional space the High School will be able to:

- Expand the Media Center to serve as the primary hub for research and collaboration for our students and staff.
- Expand Special Education programs to support the continuous education of students within our district.
- Expand opportunities to promote student wellness by introducing space to support cardiovascular fitness programs.
- Allow for more effective schedule options when students select courses.

How does this benefit our Community?

An investment in a True Middle School is an investment in the Township of Washington and Borough of Westwood and makes both communities more attractive to potential home buyers.

Facility upgrades, such as expanded and improved gymnasium, will provide an additional resource for our towns' recreation program.

Adding the Eighth Grade will align our Middle School with grades 6-8 configuration found in the majority of districts in New Jersey.

Dr. Gonzalez explained the renderings of both the first floor plan and the second floor plans.

Mr. Kalish thanked Council for the opportunity. He has been an elected official from the Township of Washington for 25 years, and is excited about this opportunity to improve the educational experience. Brochures are available, along with a poster board in Town Hall.

Dr. Gonzalez stated our next Board of Ed meeting will be this Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Hurley Auditorium/Theatre at the Westwood Junior Senior High School for anyone who has additional questions, along with our website www.wwrdsd.org which also has information. A presentation was given last week

at the Council meeting at the Borough of Westwood, and 20 additional presentations will be given to various groups. Dr. Gonzalez invited everyone to come out and vote on December 12, 2017 and thanked everyone for their time.

Council President Bruno thanked everyone for their presentation.

A five minute break was taken for microphone adjustments.

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.

Ray Bernroth, 838 Crest Place – Mr. Bernroth spoke of posing a question to the Superintendent of Schools regarding the need for a middle school. He stated his children (who are now 51 and 49) graduated from the middle school, and afterwards they felt they didn't need a middle school and combined the students, and now they feel they need a middle school after all. He thanked Councilman Sears for trying to get him examined by the VA, so a ramp can be built to his home. He also spoke at length for the need of signs at pedestrian crossings as well as clearly delineated crosswalks for pedestrians.

Bob Gilson, 288 Beech Street – Mr. Gilson stated he is concerned with the change in the commuter parking lot. He stated he is disappointed that there was no consideration given to those who park there. He spoke of the restrictions in other towns, and the difficulty of commuting from the Township into New York City. He urges Council to give further thought to the parking issue in this Township for the future so this town can be a place where people want to come and live and commute to New York City. He suggested waiving the \$50.00 annual burglar alarm fee for disabled residents since the fee is waived for senior citizens.

Drew Krafte, 69 Fordham Avenue, Wyckoff – Mr. Krafte stated he is a retired 20 year member of the Township's Police Department. He stated while he was an active Police Officer on November 10, 2002 the Police Department received a 911 emergency call. The following is a documented true account of that call:

Dispatcher: Dispatcher 911 what is your emergency?
Resident: Yeah, my n*gg*r, I've got a n*gg*r bleeding from the head here can you help me out?
Dispatcher: I'm sorry you have a what?
Resident: A n*gg*r bleeding from the head, can you help me out?
Dispatcher: You have someone bleeding from the head?
Resident: Yeah, his name is John Malva.
Dispatcher: He is bleeding from the head?
Resident: Yes, his name is John Malva.
Dispatcher: Is he conscious?
Resident: Oh we don't care, can you help me out?
Dispatcher: You don't care?
Resident: It's a cultural thing.
Dispatcher: Okay, we will be right there.
Resident: Alright.

Mr. Krafte stated on March 2, 2003, Mr. Bruno plead guilty to that charge of giving a false report to law enforcement in this exact courtroom where he would like to now serve as Mayor. The Police Officers who responded that night also had to deal with Mr. Bruno repeatedly pointing his fingers in their faces and he had to be told to step back, this shows a total lack of respect to our Police Department. Locally, a Paramus Police Officer gave his life to responding to a false 911 call, and he finds it disheartening that Mr. Bruno is now sitting as

Council President and representing this Township. He started his police career in Westwood and had the privilege to have served under Chief Robert Burrows, who has been recognized as having the distinction of being the first African American Police Chief in Bergen County. In his 20 years of police work here, this is the only time he can recall a resident of this town using the n-word in the description of a victim of an assault. He is here tonight to bring this past matter to the attention of the Mayor and Council, but more importantly to the residents of this town. He is not a resident but he still does and will always have strong feelings and ties to this Township. He most certainly does not feel that this Township deserves to have a Mayor, or as Mr. Bruno's current standing as a Council President, a person who outwardly shows such a blatant racist nature and failing to understand the emergency nature of our 911 System. In closing he would like to leave the Mayor and Council copies of the 911 transcripts and the charge is to read on your own.

Council President Bruno stated since Mr. Krafte addressed him, he would like to address Mr. Krafte. Council President Bruno stated first of all the script is inaccurate, number one, that is not how the phone call went down, someone wrote that up, he didn't write that up. The description about what he said was a spoof on the Denzel Washington movie Training Day. He stated he thought he had called his nephew, when the police came he admitted it was his mistake, he apologized for the confusion, and apparently they didn't want to hear that. He went to Court, but it was inaccurate, what they said and what they wrote. He stated he fought it, he paid \$7,000 in fines and Court fees, the judge felt it was not in his favor. He stated there was nothing racist about it; it was a comment that was made from a movie where he thought he was spoofing with his nephew. He wonders if Mr. Krafte is the one who sent him the anonymous letter without signing it. Mr. Krafte replied absolutely not, he would never not sign a letter. Council President Bruno replied Mr. Krafte has addressed him, and he has addressed Mr. Krafte thank you for coming. Mr. Krafte would like to add that transcript is a true document. Council President Bruno replied it is not a true document, he can tell you it is not a true document because he knows what he said and that's not what is on there. Mr. Krafte replied if you submit an OPRA Request that is the document that is received. Council President Bruno thanked Mr. Krafte for coming, he appreciates it.

Julie Lipnick, 184 Finnerty Place – Ms. Lipnick asked who is responsible for the recent striping of the two lanes on Washington Avenue. Mayor Sobkowicz replied the County. Ms. Lipnick spoke of an incident she encountered while driving to work, cars going as far back as Jacquelyn Road. She stated the cones may have to put farther back. She stated it is sad that people do not take this seriously. Administrator Groh stated on the Consent Agenda, there is a resolution approving a DOT grant application in the amount of \$654,087.50 for the intersection.

Sharon McDonough, 642 Jefferson Avenue – Ms. McDonough stated the girls soccer team is doing very well, they are 11-1-1 and suffered their first loss in a County game. She spoke of Councilman Sear's asking for Mr. Gonzalez's resignation and not paying attention to Mr. Gonzalez's presentation, not looking up and as a resident she finds that disheartening. She feels Councilman Sears has created chaos where there should not be any. She spoke of the privilege the Seniors have of parking at the high school, and she feels it is not up to the Council to tell the school they should rent from the Church and pay for parking. She also spoke of the need for the middle school. Councilman Sears stated he has already sat down with Mr. Gonzalez and attending one of these meetings.

Toni Plantamura, 808 Robinwood Road – Ms. Plantamura asked why the December 12 date was chosen for the school referendum vote, why was it not done during the General Election. Mayor Sobkowicz replied traditionally December is the month where most referendums pass. Ms. Plantamura asked

if there is an anti-nepotism ordinance in this Township. Mr. Poller replied yes, the ordinance in essence of it is anyone in office cannot appoint a relative to a position where they have the ability to make the appointment. He stated it has nothing to do who can run for office. Ms. Plantamura spoke of the various positions held by the Calamari family in the Township. She stated Councilman's Calamari's father is the head of the Planning Board as well as the Republican County Committee; a relative was on Council in the 1970's, brother who is a Police Officer, Aunt who was the head secretary to the Planning Board, as well as nieces and nephews in the County Committee. She stated residents will not be getting change if a family is basically running Washington Township. She stated if certain people get elected to this office, she will be asking for a change of government via a referendum. Councilman Calamari spoke of being proud that his relatives have worked in the Township and enjoyed town spirit and they have received no undue benefit from serving this community. These positions have been elected positions and he finds it interesting that Ms. Plantamura wants to change the form of government only if he is elected Mayor.

William Ferara, 2556 Cleveland Avenue – Mr. Ferara asked if the DOT Grant is a 50/50 grant. Administrator Groh replied non-matching, whatever they have in their pool of funds. She stated this is a plan that was developed by the engineer based on the information he received. Mr. Ferara asked is this the total. Council President Bruno stated Council was told that the Township needs to buy the land, which we have been trying to find out the appraised value of, and also provide the engineer. He spoke of what has been budgeted in the past. Administrator Groh stated the actual infrastructure is 1.154 million dollars without the land; the grant is for the actual cost. Mr. Ferara suggests that before Council votes on the legislative proposal resolution, they read Senator Weinberg's proposal in The Bergen Record. He asked if there is going to be an election debate. Council President Bruno stated both parties were given the opportunity to spend five minutes with WCTV, with no debate, the Calamari team preferred not to do that. He has reached out to the school for a venue; the Woman's League for a moderator and is shooting for a November 1 date.

Scott Spezial, 785 Washington Avenue – Mr. Spezial stated he came to speak about Memorial Field, but he will now speak about the documents he just received from the Police Officer. Council President Bruno asked that Mr. Spezial ask to speak with him privately, he feels this is a politically motivated situation and asks that Mr. Spezial not bring this up again or he will call the Police and have him removed. Mr. Spezial stated he has a right to speak. He was told this is a document that was OPRA'd, that Mr. Bruno called a fake 911 call, used racial language, racial discussion about someone who has a different skin color, argued with Police, lost in Court and paid a summons. He stated calling in a fake 911 jeopardizes the police, paramedics and public as they raced to your home. He stated this is the entire recording of the 911 call. Council President Bruno asked if Mr. Spezial has the recordings? Mr. Spezial replied as a resident he does not want Mr. Bruno to represent himself and his town/community. Council President Bruno replied then Mr. Spezial does not have to vote for him. Mr. Spezial spoke of his concern of those who see things in the same light or represent Mr. Bruno, such as Councilman Cascio who is going around town during this election time representing your side. Council President Bruno spoke of the document not being accurate and if the Court records are pulled you will see what happened.

Joe D'Urso, 12 Viola Terrace – Mr. D'Urso stated this is dirty politics, and hats off to you for bringing this gentleman here, it is disgusting. He stated everyone has something in their past. Councilman Calamari and Councilman Sears both asked if Mr. D'Urso is accusing them. Mr. D'Urso stated he is not, but this is deplorable. He spoke Councilman Cascio being dragged into this by Mr.

Spezial. Councilman Sears stated he and Councilman Calamari had nothing to do with this, zero to do with this.

Cynthia Cannon, 804 Manhattan Avenue – Mrs. Cannon stated there is no reason for this mudslinging. She stated she does not know where this gentleman got his information from, but it is very convenient that it shows up before an election for Mayor, but this information did not come out 2 or 3 years ago. She spoke of her neighbor, Mr. Ron Freeze, a Veteran who has since passed away and his disgust with the condition of the flag in Council Chambers, the white strips being dirty. Councilman Ullman stated he believes it has something to do with the lighting in this room, but certainly we can get a new flag. Mayor Sobkowitz stated the flag does look cleaner/different once it is in the light, but getting a new one is not a problem.

James Hanson, 11 Lindenwood Court – Mr. Hanson asked why is Memorial Field not on the agenda this evening when he was told by Mr. Bruno at a prior meeting that it would be on the agenda. He stated he would like to make a statement to his family, friends, his children and the children of the Township of Washington that what he heard tonight disgusts him and it is not a representation of his family, friends or neighbors, even to say it was a joke is not funny. There was a heated exchange between Mr. Bruno and Mr. Hanson of words and Mr. Bruno asked Mr. Hanson to leave the Court room. The exchange continued and Mr. Bruno called the Police for possible removal of Mr. Hanson. Council President Bruno stated the reason why Memorial Field is not on the agenda is due to the fact that the majority of the committee members voted not to present it to the Council. Lieutenant Skinner entered Council Chambers. Councilman Calamari stated that just because this is inconvenient for Council President Bruno, this is no reason to have someone removed. Council President Bruno asked Lieutenant Skinner to stand by for the rest of the meeting.

Sandra Bruno, 697 Hillcrest Road – Mrs. Bruno stated this is dirty politics. She spoke of a letter received in her mailbox telling her (Mr. Bruno, her husband) to resign his seat and drop out of the race immediately, and that is a veiled threat which comes at a time when there is a battle for Mayor. She stated her husband on a weekly basis would call their nephew and spoof movies, and dialed 9 then a 1 as he would normally do when he was at work to get an outside line. She spoke of the Police entering her home pointing their fingers in an accusatory fashion. She stated this man is the best man for the job. A heated discussion occurred between Council President Bruno and Councilman Calamari regarding letting Mrs. Bruno speak, interrupting her and preferential treatment. Councilman Calamari stated that Council President Bruno has lost control of this meeting.

Eamonn Twomey, 187 Devon Road – Mr. Twomey spoke of Council President Bruno not attending the last 8 Memorial Field Committee meetings. A conversation followed on why the subject of Memorial Field was not on the Agenda. Mr. Twomey spoke of the short term solution which was submitted, that is to sod the field and the timing. Administrator Groh spoke of a conversation she had with Mr. Statile regarding just sodding the football field and the cost. Mr. Twomey spoke of sodding in November, which has been done in the past, and trying to use the field at the Knights of Columbus, which does not have lights.

Rosa D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard – Mrs. D'Ambra spoke of the monies that goes into the school system by both the Township and Westwood. She stated if you look at the pie chart, the school system is moving everything over. She stated one of the things she does not understand is why the football field was done before the proposal of the middle school. She stated something is wrong when a football field is more important than a middle school. She also suggested a Council member attend Board of Ed meetings.

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

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

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.

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

Councilman Sears asked that he be recused from Resolution No. 17-308.

Councilman Cascio would like to table Resolution No. 17-317 for another meeting.

As per Councilman Ullman's request, a discussion followed on Resolution No. 17-316, which is the resurfacing along Robinwood Road. Administrator Groh explained the grant application, and listed the items intended to improve the condition of the roadway infrastructure. Exit 168 is related to Robinwood Road, and it is a non-matching grant.

A discussion also followed on Resolution No. 17-314, the leaf pusher which was in the Capital Budget. The DMF Superintendent is currently reviewing the state contract to see what is available. A conversation followed on the Safe Streets resolution which was adopted, as a result expanded the scope of the application, making it more comprehensive. Councilman Calamari requested a copy of the application.

Resolution No. 17-317 was tabled for the next meeting and Resolution No. 17-308 will have a separate vote.

A motion was made by Councilman Ullman, seconded by Councilman Sears to approve the following resolutions: 17-309, 17-310, 17-311, 17-312, 17-313, 17-314, 17-315, 17-316 and 17-317.

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

Nays: None.

Resolution No. 17-309

Authorize to refund the overpayment of third quarter taxes, Block 3407, Lot 14, 94 Sussex Road in the amount of \$3,948.92

WHEREAS, Mr. Jack Inserra, who resides at 94 Sussex Road, Block 3407, Lot 14, and;

WHEREAS, Mr. Jack Inserra was granted a permanent disability resulting from service connected injuries as declared by the United States Veteran's Administration pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:04-03.30, which grants total exemption from local property taxes, and;

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 17-304, approved by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, New Jersey, on September 25, 2017, allowed for the cancellation of the pro-rated balance from the 2017 Property Tax Liability and all future tax bills to be cancelled, and;

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector, Ashley Morrone, after cancelling the tax liability, has determined that the above is due a refund for overpayment of 3rd quarter taxes in the amount of \$3,948.92, and that the Tax Collector be authorized to issue a refund in that amount to the above.

Resolution No. 17-310

Authorize to refund the balance of engineering escrow, Block 2321, Lot 19, 416 Jackson Avenue, in the amount of \$363.00

WHEREAS, Maria Golduber posted escrow monies for engineering work done on premises known as Block 2321 Lot 19, 416 Jackson Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the project falls within the guideline where neither a Certificate of Occupancy nor a Certificate of Acceptance is needed; and

WHEREAS, outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated August 18, 2017 have been satisfied; and

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

Resolution No. 17-311

Authorize to refund the balance of engineering escrow, Block 2308, Lot 21, 544 Hoover Avenue, in the amount of \$412.00

WHEREAS, Belinda Madera posted escrow monies for engineering work done on premises known as Block 2308 Lot 21, 544 Hoover Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the project falls within the guideline where neither a Certificate of Occupancy nor a Certificate of Acceptance is needed; and

WHEREAS, outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated June 29, 2017 have been satisfied; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington is authorized to refund the balance of escrow money in the amount of \$412.00.

Resolution No. 17-312

Authorize to refund the balance of engineering escrow, Block 3309, Lot 1, 205 Sussex Road, in the amount of \$608.00

WHEREAS, Brian & Jennifer Boel posted escrow monies for engineering work done on premises known as Block 3309 Lot 1, 205 Sussex Road; and

WHEREAS, the project falls within the guideline where neither a Certificate of Occupancy nor a Certificate of Acceptance is needed; and

WHEREAS, outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated August 18, 2017 have been satisfied; and

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

Resolution No. 17-313

Authorize to refund the balance of engineering escrow, Block 4404, Lot 1, 315 South Chestnut Street, in the amount of \$557.71

WHEREAS, John & Laurie Andrisano posted engineering escrow monies for work on premises known as Block 4404 Lot 1, 315 South Chestnut Street; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated August 30, 2017, CO #15-088 & 15-088+A; and

WHEREAS, outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated August 23, 2017 have been satisfied; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington is authorized to refund the balance of the escrow money in the amount of \$557.71 to the above.

Resolution No. 17-314

Authorize Advertisement for bids for mason dump truck with leaf pusher and plow

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Township of Washington have determined to purchase a mason dump truck with an articulating leaf pusher and plow (hereinafter "the Truck"); and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the purchase price of the Truck will exceed the bid threshold and that the Truck may not be available under any Contract with the State of New Jersey, so that the Township desires to advertise for bids for the "Truck";

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that the Business Administrator is hereby authorized to advertise for bids for the Truck.

Resolution No. 17-315

Authorize to submit and execute grant agreement with NJDOT for intersection improvements project at Pascack Road and Washington Avenue

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington desires to receive \$654,087.50 in funds from the New Jersey Department of Transportation Highway Trust Funds' Municipal Aid program for the purpose of making safety improvements at Pascack Road and Washington Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Township Engineer has developed a plan of action and cost estimate to improve at Pascack Road and Washington Avenue through the addition of physical safety improvements; and

WHEREAS, the project will also improve safety to the local schools and commuter lines, thus leveraging the requested funds;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Township of Washington, formally approves the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application MA-2018-Washington Township-0040 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of Washington.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of Washington and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Resolution No. 17-318

Authorize advertisement for bids for drainage repairs to Police Department building

WHEREAS the Police Department building has been experiencing problems related to ineffective drainage of stormwater; and

WHEREAS the Township Engineer has evaluated the problems and developed plans and specifications to remedy the drainage issues;

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council of the Township of Washington have determined to make the repairs recommended by the Town Engineer to remedy the drainage issues; and

WHEREAS, the Township has a need to advertise for bids for such repairs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council that the Business Administrator is authorized to advertise for bids for said repairs based on plans and specifications developed by the Township Engineer.

A motion was made by Councilman Ullman, seconded by Councilman Cascio to approve Resolution No. 17-308.

Ayes: Councilmen Calamari, Cascio, Ullman, Bruno.

Nays: None.

Recuse: Councilman Sears.

INDIVIDUAL RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 17-308

Authorize to refund the overpayment of third quarter taxes, Block 2412, Lot 1, 265 Hoover Avenue in the amount of \$1,464.11

WHEREAS, Mr. Garret Pinke, who resides at 265 Hoover Avenue, Block 2412, Lot 1, and;

WHEREAS, Mr. Garret Pinke was granted a permanent disability resulting from service connected injuries as declared by the United States Veteran's Administration pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:04-03.30, which grants total exemption from local property taxes, and;

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 17-305, approved by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, New Jersey, on September 25, 2017, allowed for the cancellation of the pro-rated balance from the 2017 Property Tax Liability and all future tax bills to be cancelled, and;

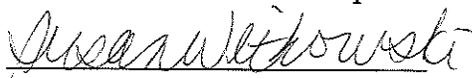
WHEREAS, the Tax Collector, Ashley Morrone, after cancelling the tax liability, has determined that the above is due a refund for overpayment of 3rd quarter taxes in the amount of \$1,464.11, and that the Tax Collector be authorized to issue a refund in that amount to the above.

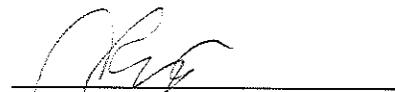
A motion was made by Councilman Ullman, seconded by Councilman Calamari to adjourn to Conference Agenda.

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

Nays: None

Time Noted: 9:39 p.m.


Susan Witkowski
Township Clerk


Robert Bruno
Council President

Approved: February 5, 2018

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
CONFERENCE MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2017

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

Administration

Road Programs-post paving update – The item is in the tracker, first line of the tracker on the Capital Projects. The streets/curbs added are Madeline, Tulane and Amherst.

Hull Terrace – A conversation followed on whether this is a private road or a Township street. Mr. Poller stated to his recollection it is not a dedicated street. The road was paved by the Township back in 97/98, but it was not paved correctly which resulted in water issues for the residents. The street has a Township street sign, snow has been removed by the Township and the Mayor has also authorized leaf pick up. A conversation followed on what would need to legally be done if Council decides they want to make Hull Terrace a Township street. First it would be an administrative function, the residents would need to consent and Council can take then action. Councilman Calamari spoke of his concern since there are other private roads in the Township and he is wondering why this street? Mayor Sobkowitz replied because it was paved by the Township, and not paved correctly. Council President Bruno stated services have been done by the Township, and the Township did pave the street, which ruined the properties since it was not done correctly.

Technical Assistant/Building Department Update – Someone has been hired, she will start on October 23 (Monday) she does have experience in a Building Department, the only difference being the data base.

Email Security/former employees/tag line – Administrator Groh stated we are addressing things as they come up, and this is all part of the computer project.

Council

Project Tracker

Mayor Sobkowitz stated she will have an update at the next meeting regarding dispatching, testing has been done, and she is now doing financial documentation and the cost. She is currently completing a study on what to do with dispatching.

Ordinances and Legislation

Amend Section 173 of the Code – sidewalks – A conversation followed on the property maintenance code and giving some ability to the Code Enforcement Official to address the maintenance of sidewalks in the property maintenance code. A discussion followed on introducing an Ordinance at the next Council meeting, so it will be available for the Code Enforcement Official. Councilman Ullman spoke at length of the burden that may be put on homeowners and Council taking careful consideration before implementation. Administrator Groh spoke of the potential liability to the Township if sidewalks became the

Township's responsibility. Mr. Poller spoke of Gary Mazanec (the Code Enforcement Official) using his judgment when considering an unsafe condition. Mr. Mazanec will be asked for a memo on the criteria that he uses to determine that a sidewalk is unsafe or dangerous. Mayor Sobkowicz spoke of what was done in the past regarding sidewalk repair, especially where trees uproot sidewalks, and it was the resident's responsibility. Mr. Poller stated he would like to give the property maintenance code official the tools to get a bad situation addressed. Administrator Groh stated under the common law a homeowner is responsible for maintaining the sidewalk.

No Knock Ordinance – A conversation followed on how the information would be passed on to the canvasser, via a permit list, decal on the home or a list on the website, along with what organizations would be exempt. Councilman Cascio stated he is of the opinion that this No-Knock Ordinance is not necessary since people knock on doors very infrequently. Councilman Sears stated in the past few months he has had various canvassers come to his home, and they did not have permits. Councilman Calamari stated he feels a list is a good idea, since the canvasser would know right away they cannot go to a person's home. Currently, a vendor applies to the Police Department for a permit and does pay a fee, \$25.00 for peddlers/distributors per year, and \$250.00 per year for solicitors. Councilman Cascio spoke of his concern of who would maintain the list along with the cost of printing out those lists. Police Chief Hooper will be contacted for his opinion.

Commuter Parking Ordinance – Mr. Poller stated basically the old ordinance was brought back, but added was the applicant needs to come in person and show identification. Once the permit is issued, the applicant will be made aware via a letter with the tag that a space is not guaranteed, it is on a first come first serve basis. A conversation followed on the annual fee of \$100.00, along with putting a limit on the number of permits issued. Councilman Ullman asked that Mr. Statile look into the configuration of the lot, since vehicles are backing out onto Washington Avenue. Introduction of the Ordinance will be at the next meeting.

Resolution No. 17-319
Closed Session, October 16, 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.

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. **POTENTIAL LITIGATION, COAH**

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. **PERSONNEL-CHIEF OF POLICE CONTRACT**

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.

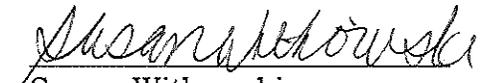
The Township Council anticipates that an open session will be necessary.

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: 10:20 p.m.


 Susan Witkowski
 Township Clerk


 Robert Bruno
 Council President

Approved: February 5, 2018