

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

**PUBLIC MEETING/PUBLIC SESSION**

**OCTOBER 3, 2011**

The Township Council held a Public Portion/Public Meeting in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Council President Fred Goetz with the Clerk leading the salute to the flag. Members present: Steven Cascio, Joseph D'Urso, Richard Hrbek, Fred Goetz. Mr. Beckmeyer arrived at 8:09 p.m. Absent: None Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Kenneth Poller, Attorney. Absent: Lilly Chin, Acting Administrator.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, this meeting was noticed with the Ridgewood News, posted on Municipal Bulletin Board and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

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

**REPORT OF MAYOR**

Mayor Sobkowicz talked about town day and said that after months of planning, the town could not have ordered the weather to be what it was. The rain stopped before 10:00 a.m. and started to rain again at 4:45 p.m. More people attended than last year, and there was something for everyone this year. Wanted to thank Dina Burke and Tom Sears for all their hard work. It was second to none. She said that they were rearranging things as late as Friday night because of the potential rain on Saturday. It seemed that the residents enjoyed the day. Thanked the Council for cooking and the generosity of all the vendors. Said that she attended the dedication of the sports complex at the high school on September 23, 2011. It rained that day and rain is good look. The Cardinals won that evening game. Vicky Beck resigned last week as a member of the Library Board of Trustees. The mayor said that she did an outstanding job on the board. She stated the Victor Wroblewski was confirmed as the replacement on the board. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that there will be an e-recycling/paper shredding day on Saturday, October 22 from 9 – 12. Mayor then gave kudos to the Knights of Columbus and Oritani for their help with the Farmers Market. People have asked to extend the market for 2 additional weeks but the decision was to have a mini market instead. Rio Fasciano has attended FEMA classes in reference to Hurricane Irene and he is finalizing reports from each department. Funding is not yet certain for municipalities. Mayor Sobkowicz then discussed the generator and that Tom Sears spent a great deal of time on the bid that went out. The bid opening is October 4, 2011. Also Mr. Sears has been working on various safety issues and has implemented various procedures such as evacuation plans, and signs for the different floors of town hall. She thanked the Council for approving the resolution opposing S-2950 and A-4128 which allows for modification to land use approvals because of changed economics. Stated that she attended a meeting with the County and Highway Authority in reference to GSP 168. The County has approved the removal of the 2 driveways for the house on Washington Avenue that belongs to Mr. Malaszuk. They will put a driveway off Jackson Avenue for the resident. This will help with the flooding at his house. Also the acceleration lane will be eliminated. The stop sign will remain instead of a yield sign. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that the week of October 3, 2011 is Respect Week which concerns anti-bullying laws.

**REPORT OF ADMINISTRATOR**

No Report

### **REPORT OF COUNCIL**

**Mr. Hrbek** - Stated that the mayor covered most of the items. Thanked Dina for her time with the farmers market. Mr. Hrbek stated that he was there often. Said he was glad that it was a success and thanked her for her work on town day. Said that he attended the dedication ceremony for the new sports complex at the high school and that it rained but that the rain brought good luck and the football team won the game. He said that the next football was scheduled for Thursday of this week.

**Mr. D'Urso** - Thanked Dina and Tom for their hard work on town day. He said that it was 100 times better than last year. Said that Rich Hrbek did a lot of close up cooking at town day. Also attended the dedication ceremony at the high school. The new field was long overdue. Said that it enhances our town and is a great facility. Congratulated Vicky Beck for all her long years with the library. Said she is his neighbor. Thanked administration for having the senior citizen park cleaned up. He said it looks great.

**Dr. Cascio** - Said that it was a great town day and thanked Dina for her hard work. Also suggested that residents visit their local merchants when shopping.

**Mr. Goetz** - Congratulated the administration for a successful town day and thanked Dina for all her hard work. Congratulated the high school on the new sports complex. Also stated that he attended a meeting with Rich Hrbek on issues for the town. He said that he also attended a seminar about doing more with less and said that he would be sharing some of the thoughts that he got from the seminar at a later date.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Hrbek to approve the September 12, 2011 Public Minutes of the Township of Washington.

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

Nays: None

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

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

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

Nays: None

**Rose D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard** - Gave pictures to the Council to pass around concerning 284 Coolidge Avenue. Said that she attended the August 31, 2011 Planning Board Meeting about a house on 284 Coolidge and the reconstruction of a one story house destroyed by fire. She said that the steel beam of the house seemed to be melted like the beam in the World Trade Center. She said that the resident was fixing cars in his garage. She also said that a resident came and complained but was told that it was too late. She said that if the fire had gone a different way then the whole block would have gone up. She talked about the fact that someone must have seen something when it came to what was going on at that house. She said that the house is going to be reconstructed. She questioned why nothing was done. She then went on to discuss the League of Municipalities Conference and she was assured that the amount is only \$400 per employee who is attending. She then asked why our administrator was not present. Mr. Goetz stated that he did not have the answers.

**Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue** - Had a question about permanent bonding. He asked who was responsible for testing about

money that was spent in reference to an ordinance under Section 4D. He was referring to Ordinance #06-7. He said that the town has paid interest for 5 years under the BAN and now will be paying for 8 more years of interest with the permanent bonding. Mrs. Do said that the town cannot exceed the amount in the ordinance. Mrs. Do said that the auditor checks to see if anything goes over the amount and would have commented if that happened. Mr. Ullman then asked about the new generator that went out for bid. He wanted to know if the committee gave the administration any type of report that the public could look at in reference to the type of generator. He was told by Mayor Sobkowicz that he could look at the specs. He said he had the specs and it talked about size but did not talk about the area to be used. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that the generator could handle the entire complex. A discussion followed about Hurricane Irene and what happened when the generator blew up and everyone had to be removed from the municipal complex. Mr. Ullman then said that in May 2010 the Township purchased a 3-wheel sweeper and he thought the money was coming from the 2010 clean community grant and found out that it didn't come from just that money. Mrs. Do said that the money did come from clean communities but that they are run on a fiscal year 10/1 – 9/30 so that we used the money from 2009, 2010 and the remainder from 2011. Mrs. Do said that she knew that Mr. Ullman questioned the state about the funds and that Mrs. Chin investigated clean communities and received a letter stating that she could do what she did. Mr. Ullman stated that he did receive a copy of the letter. Mr. Ullman then stated that the Council thought that they were using grant money from 2010 only for the 3-wheel sweeper. Mr. Ullman then questioned the use of money in the Ordinance #07-11 for computers for town hall. Mr. Ullman asked what the town has been doing with the money in that ordinance since 2007. He said that we would be paying interest since 2007. Mrs. Do was not sure if the town had already gone out for bonding with the ordinance or that the money was just in capital. Mr. Ullman went on to talk about \$44,000 in notes on the ordinance, and the fact that we have been paying interest for the past 5 years. Mrs. Do said that we were receiving more in interest than we were paying out. She was asked if we are making money on our borrowing money and was told yes. He asked that Council look at this ordinance and other ordinances that have not been used. Questioned why we have these funds on our books for such a long time. Wanted to know why we were doing this? Felt that the municipality should try and retire this debt. Mrs. Do said that the auditor has recommended in the past two audits that the Township go out for permanent bonding, which is what the town is doing now, and then cancel out the old ordinances. At this point Mr. Goetz asked the Mayor if the Council could get a copy of the report about the use of the generator and what was the recommendation.

**David Snyder, 91 Windsor Circle** – Talked about the freeholder agreement and then about Exit 171. Said he realized that there might be a little more to resolving that exit but that we have to work on Exit 168 now. Talked about the cell tower and said that he was pleased that there seemed to be progress. Said that someone hit the bus shelter across from Seasons. Said it should be fixed. Mayor Sobkowicz said that the person who hit the shelter comes from New Hampshire and has no insurance. Mr. Snyder talked about tree limbs on Pascack Road across from the JCC which are over the wires and looks terrible. Also said that tree limbs should be taken down on Season's property. Said that he did not agree with new CCO ordinance and that it would be an problem for residents. He asked the Council to rethink the ordinance. Feels that there are other priorities in town. Talked about Exit 168 and the accelerated lane and how he was happy to hear that it will not be put in.

Mr. D'Urso talked about possible litigation and how the police chief in Woodcliff Lake talked about the road not being able to handle all the traffic if the exit was opened up. He also said that it could take years to resolve the Exit 171 problem. Mr. D'Urso said that Woodcliff Lake is not going to just open Exit 171. He said that the town has to move forward with the corner of Pascack Road and Washington Avenue. Mr. Poller stated that he got information about the 171 exit to be discussed later with the Council.

**Linda Murphy, 675 McKinley Avenue** - Spoke about the gas station and the 4 boarded-up windows. It seems that no one has asked them to clean up the station and fix it up. She said that there is no number to call them. Said that there is a \$29.95 oil change sign that should not be there. She said that people running this gas station do not care about how this station looks. Also complained about Seasons property and the recent cutting down of trees. She mentioned about the cutting down of the trees that were dead to Mrs. Chin and she said she was not aware of that happening. She talked about the amount of cars that use the intersection and the added amount of cars if the corner properties are approved. She said that the corner property should be looked at very carefully. Said that it is hard for the fire trucks to get out when there is a call now and how the department will be affected by the corner properties. She went on to talk about an oil spill.

**Dina Burke, 157 Honeysuckle Drive** - Said that it wasn't just her that should be congratulated. She said there were 150 – 200 volunteers, plus the high school honor society, council members, etc. She said that they had about 1900 people attend and they stopped counting at 3:30 p.m. She thanked the Council for cooking and for their thanking her for her work at town day. She also thanked the National Guard for the free climbing wall, etc. Said that she saw that the Citizen was going to be talked about in the Conference Session and said that if the Council was looking to save cost that the Citizen could use some of the space to advertise. It would save about \$300 per issue. The size would be that of a business card. She stated that it would not cover the full cost but would help. Said that the Citizen goes to approximately 3400 homes and even though this is a technical world, not every resident has a computer and not many have signed up through our website for service to get e-mails. The only means we have for getting information to residents is the reverse 911. Also residents are moving away from land lines and just have cell lines. It would be that we would only hit certain areas if the Citizen is only done on line. Mrs. Burke then went on to talk about Exit 168 and asked if anyone thought about a ramp. Said that she came off the exit recently and that there is a blind spot. A ramp would help.

There being no further comments or questions, a motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Hrbek to closed the Public Discussion.  
Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek, Goetz  
Nays: None

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following resolutions were part of the Consent Agenda and were made available to the Governing Body and the Public prior to the meeting.

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

WHEREAS, across the nation, traffic crashes caused 32,788 fatalities in 2010, and are the leading cause of death for young people ages 15 to 34; and

WHEREAS, in New Jersey, 556 individuals lost their lives in traffic crashes in 2010; and

WHEREAS, alcohol related crashes accounted for 20 percent of the State's traffic fatalities, which speed related crashes for 2010 climbed to 35,039 from 23, 011 recorded in 2009; and

WHEREAS, motorcyclists, bicycle riders and pedestrians face increased risks on New Jersey's roadways, as people opt for alternative modes of transportation; and

WHEREAS, 72 motorcyclists, 13 bicyclists and 141 pedestrians ere killed in New Jersey in traffic related crashes in 2010; and

WHEREAS, safer driving behaviors such as buckling up, every ride; obeying posted speed limits; stopping for pedestrians in crosswalks and using crosswalks when walking; avoiding aggressive driving behaviors; never driving impaired; wearing proper safety gear when riding a motorcycle or bicycle; and, focusing solely on driving by avoiding distractions, can dramatically reduce the number of traffic related injuries and deaths;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Mayor and Township Council for the Township of Washington do hereby proclaim October 10, 2011, Put The Brakes On Fatalities Day and call upon everyone to put these lifesaving behaviors into practice to improve safety on the roadways in our community and throughout the State.

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Township treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the following recreation funds:

Kristen Manberg  
14 Lindenwood Court  
Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Pee Wee Football -	\$175.00
Flag Football	- <u>\$ 40.00</u>
TOTAL	\$215.00

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Township Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the following recreation funds:

David Agar  
576 Cypress Street  
Township of Washington, NJ 07676

Flag Football - \$45.00

Raffle License #823 for Dumont High School Project Graduation was approved by the Township Council of the Township of Washington.

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Mary Ann Ozment, Township Clerk

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Fred Goetz, Council President