

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

SPECIAL PUBLIC MEETING MEMORIAL PARK

August 4, 2015

The Township Council held a Special Public Meeting Session in the Municipal Building, 350 Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Council President Peter Calamari with the Clerk leading a salute to the flag. Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Steve Cascio, Dave Frank, Thomas Sears and Peter Calamari. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Ken Poller, Attorney; Matthew Cavallo, Business Administrator. Also Present: Chris Statile, Township Engineer.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act this meeting was listed in the Township Council Annual Meeting List which was published in The Bergen Record, forwarded to the local newspapers, posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

PUBLIC FORUM MEMORIAL PARK

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. Sears, to open the public forum for discussion on Memorial Park.

Ayes: Councilman Beckmeyer, Cascio, Frank, Sears, Calamari.

Nays: None.

Rosa D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard – Mrs. D'Ambra spoke of the paperwork not having anything on drainage and the drainage issues with regard to the field. Spoke of what should have been done in the past with regard to putting drains at the bottom of the hill. Mr. Statile replied he can only answer questions with regard to the design of the project, but Mrs. D'Ambra did raise a very good point. He spoke with regard to the drainage that will be done with the turf field. Mrs. D'Ambra stated if the drainage was done in the past then maybe the grass would have worked out. She stated the turf field is not a good thing and the taxpayers do not want it at all. She asked has a turf company already been selected. Mayor Sobkowicz replied it will go out to bid. Mrs. D'Ambra spoke at length with regard to the estimates of various items at Westwood Regional for a total being \$3,350,000, which they call excellence in education. She stated we don't want this here; it is just too much money.

Gerald Brown, 559 Jackson Avenue – Mr. Brown asked if this subject is going out for a referendum. Mr. Calamari replied that the council is elected to make decisions and there are mechanisms in place to object to it. Mr. Brown stated his opinion is this is being done backwards and doesn't believe the council has the knowledge or instinct to make this decision. Mr. Brown then spoke of the A&P closing and there is no interest based upon the demographic of the community. He stated spending 2.5 million dollars is not going to bring new families into this community and council should focus on quality of life matters. He stated this field should be put to a vote to the public.

Diane Grimaldi, 441 Van Emburgh Avenue – Ms. Grimaldi stated that council has until August 14th to put this to a referendum, and the public has until August 28th to go to a referendum. She stated this cannot be done as a binding referendum since the bonding of the field has not been introduced. She stated the referendum would have to be put forth by a petition, being a special election that will cost somewhere in the vicinity of \$10,000 extra. She spoke of the Township losing the A&P and the tax base of the Township. She asked Mr. Statile if a cost benefit analysis was ever proposed. Mr. Statile replied no, but there is a cost breakdown of the entire project. Mr. Statile spoke of the grant process. Ms. Grimaldi feels that it is misleading to state everything can be obtained with grants, and she stated she does know quite a bit about grants. Ms. Grimaldi spoke at length with regard to the measurement of the walking path at the high school versus the one proposed for Memorial Field. She stated she wishes options were made available.

Joe D'Urso, 12 Viola Terrace – Mr. D'Urso stated there is no cost analysis and there is also a deadline. He spoke of the money that was spent for the field a couple of years ago, but there was no plan to keep it in place and it was not taken care of. He feels the field will cost over 3 million when done. He spoke of what he feels should be done with the money and the fact that taxes would be affected. He also spoke of the Department of Municipal Facilities' equipment, licensed drivers and employees. He stated that there are more important things to do in the Township other than worry about the kids in football and lacrosse. He spoke of other options, such as with swim club, the Y and the lake. He asked that this subject be put to a referendum. He also stated that Mr. Beckmeyer should recuse himself since he was a football coach since 2009. Stated this is our money and will affect our taxes and our money should be spent the right way and this is not the right way. He stated the field is 5th on the list or less.

Toni Plantamura, 808 Robinwood Road – Ms. Plantamura spoke of the letter and articles that have appeared in the local papers with regard to Mr. Statile being at the July 20th meeting to answer questions. Stated she concurs with Mr. D'Urso with regard to Mr. Beckmeyer voting on this since he was a paid football coach. Stated she is probably going to be putting in a claim to be paid for the six years that she coached in this town. She spoke of fact that football coaches were paid. She asked if sleigh riding will be allowed to be done on artificial turf. Mr. Statile replied he would have to ask the manufacturer of the material, he will get back to Ms. Plantamura with the answer. Ms. Plantamura asked several questions with regard to fencing around the field such as who will control the fencing, access to the field when not being used by a scheduled organization, Green Acres, limiting the use of the field during certain hours, timing of the lights, creating an ordinance to limit the use of the field and access to the trail when a game is going on. Mr. Statile replied it is an open walkway. Ms. Plantamura asked if the Risk Manager will be asked about liability issues if a ball goes out of bounds during a game. Mr. Statile spoke of the purpose of the fence, which is to have control over who goes on the field with drinks and foods. He stated there will be a sign posted with regard to having no drinks on the field, no food and no pets. Ms. Plantamura asked who will be enforcing this; has the Recreation Department been spoken to about this. Mr. Frank stated that there is a turf field down at the high school and there have not been problems down there. Mr. Frank stated that as a council there have been discussions. A conversation followed with regard to council having those discussions. Mr. Beckmeyer stated on February 19, 2010, when Mr. D'Urso was President of the council, sleigh riding was discussed and was closed in the area due to a rash of injuries, and never re-opened due to insurance reasons. Mr. Sears asked Mr. Statile asked where would the gates be located and would they be locked. Mr. Statile stated there will be swing gates on the field, several person gates, which are about four foot wide and also maintenance gates that are wide swing that can be positioned anywhere. Mr. Statile further stated it is up to the Township on how those gates would be controlled.

Agnes Smith, 646 Valley Court – Ms. Smith spoke of her receiving her tax bill and her taxes going up. She spoke of the fact that something cannot be given to someone because they ask for it, they have to work for it. She spoke of her working in the past to get grants for the municipal building, the police station and the library. She spoke of the various things that need to be done, such as the front steps and the microphones. She agrees with Mr. D'Urso that a vote should be taken now so this doesn't go through. She stated that Mr. Calamari should do what is right for the public and the public advises him on what is necessary. She stated it is a disgrace of what is happening to the Township of Washington. She stated there is going to be another election and it is going to be a sad one if this continues.

Michael Sklar, 305 Fern Street – Mr. Sklar stated there is no cost benefit analysis and then explained what a cost benefit analysis as per a definition from the dictionary. He would like to know why a cost benefit analysis wasn't done. Mr. Frank replied the Township does have a lot of information, the

engineer didn't do a cost benefit analysis, but we have been trying to put grass there for years. Mr. Frank quoted Albert Einstein in saying the definition of "insanity" is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. Mr. Frank spoke of trying to put grass in the area, and it not working and it is costly. Mr. Sklar spoke of the field not having changed in 34 years and children should be prepared to play on a mud field and not only a pristine field. Mr. Sklar then asked Mr. Statile to describe, if the project is built, the existing run off rates with the expected improved rates. Mr. Statile stated the field currently has an 11 foot cross slope and that will be reduced to about 7 foot. Mr. Statile also stated that artificial turf is porous. Mr. Statile spoke of the rate of absorption as per a turf field versus a grass field. There was a discussion with regard to water absorption after a dry spell and moisture in the soil. Mr. Sklar asked if a cost benefit analysis will be done on this project, he feels the public is entitled. Mr. Calamari stated, and he is speaking for himself, even if it is not done in turf, the field is a nightmare. He stated the drainage needs to be put in, and either grass or turf, the lights would have to be done since the lights are well past their life expectancy, the newer lights much greener than existing one. Mr. Calamari stated we are looking at from those perspectives also, not just a turf prospective, and those thing need to be done no matter what the surface is, be it natural grass or artificial turf. Mr. Sklar asked who is going to benefit as far as the people that are behind him. Mr. Frank it will benefit the whole town. Mr. Frank spoke of the surrounding towns and their reputations, they have good athletic fields, good programs, library, a lot of things that make up this community, and we have one field to work with. Mr. Sklar spoke of Clark Field and not seeing kids playing baseball anymore. Mr. Frank replied he sees kids at the field all the time. Mr. Sklar stated this is directed to children, and he doesn't see the correlating expense to the usage, that is what the cost benefit analysis is for. Mr. Frank spoke of children today growing up with scheduled activities. Mr. Frank spoke of the lacrosse program, the football program and also the soccer program that want to be there. Mr. Frank stated if more for the town can be done, and support all these programs it is better for everybody. Mr. Sklar stated the people that are behind are the average people of this Township; they do not have little children. Mr. Statile spoke at length with regard to his firm doing cost benefit analysis on other projects. Mr. Statile spoke of an arbitration hearing in which liquidated damages were being sought. Mr. Statile stated the cost to the end is to the user, which would be the children and that is not an easy number to get to. Mr. Sklar stated the cost benefit analysis estimates how it would benefit the taxpayer and the community. He would like a detailed analysis. Mr. Calamari replied they will look into it.

Jim Hanson, 11 Lindenwood Court – Mr. Hanson stated just for disclosure he is running for council. He stated the reason he became involved is he was shown a video of the rain and the drainage coming across the basketball court. He spoke of the condition of the basketball court. He stated as we get older, it is important we have facilities that are safe. He stated he is an engineer, and he did do a lot of research. He has children that do use the field. He stated that the reason grass doesn't grow well on the field is due to the fact that the field is used over 820 hours. He spoke of the drainage issues. He spoke of the path from Washington School to the field being a hazard. He stated his father is in a wheelchair, and cannot be pushed through grass and mud. He asked does this project address the ADA concerns (Americans with Disabilities Act). Mr. Statile replied yes anything that would be done would comply with the ADA. Mr. Statile also spoke of the walking path being a 1/3 of a mile. Mr. Hanson asked if the maintenance ramps be used for wheelchair ramps as well. Mr. Statile replied yes. Mr. Statile also spoke of the bathrooms in the field area. Mr. Hanson asked if the sidewalk between the playground area, past the basketball court, to the field house if that area is currently handicap accessible. Mr. Statile replied no, this project will eliminate those barriers. Mr. Hanson stated we are still in the project phase, and we should listen, learn and look at the current condition. Mr. Hanson stated the town is working hard to keep this field going, and this is the only thing that would

work here. Mr. Hanson asks everyone to keep an open mind, look at the project, and don't make a decision based upon what is written in the paper. Mr. Hanson asks people to make their decisions based on research and to keep an open mind with regard to this project.

Anthony Conti, 490 Ridgewood Boulevard North – Mr. Conti spoke of Clark Field, and the past mayor and council giving that field to the baseball association. Mr. Conti spoke of the couple of times he tried getting onto the field to play baseball and it was locked. He stated he had to go see Agnes Smith and complained to get onto the field. Mr. Conti asked with regard to the county road, run off water is not allowed to go onto a county road. Mr. Statile replied you can't alter drainage patterns with respect to the county road system. A lengthy conversation followed with regard to the current drainage and catch basins. Mr. Statile currently the field does drain through a series of pipes, this project will reduce whatever drains onto the county road at this time. Mr. Statile stated once the artificial field is placed there, the water will go into the ground. Mr. Conti asked you would have to stop the water or eliminate the water. Mr. Statile replied you cannot increase it; you can keep it the same or reduce it. Mr. Conti asked the catch basins would they be an added cost. Mr. Statile replied it is already on the drawing and included in the cost.

William Ferara, 2556 Cleveland Avenue – Mr. Ferara stated he lives directly across from Clark Field. He spoke of the field being locked. He asked about the naming of pavers for the field. Mr. Statile stated it is a suggestion offered to enhance the street scape of the project for Pascack Road, they are memory pavers. Mr. Ferara stated that was done 25 years ago at Clark Field, and the pavers were removed. He would like to know what happened to those pavers. Mayor Sobkowicz replied those pavers were relocated two years ago to the other side of the field house. Mr. Ferara spoke of maintenance equipment that is needed to maintain a turf field and would like to know if that comes with the field. Mr. Statile replied the field is groomed once a month by a machine that comes with the field. Mr. Statile stated every two to three years a company comes to aerate the field. Mr. Ferara spoke of when the library was being refurbished there were three separate proposals, a referendum was held and people voted. Mayor Sobkowicz replied the library was not a referendum, there was a ballot in The Citizen Newsletter and each family was allowed one vote. Mr. Ferara replied he feels that should be done now.

Cynthia Cannon, 804 Manhattan Avenue – Ms. Cannon asked what type of infill was provided for in the 2.2 million dollar estimate. Mr. Statile replied using the least priced one, crumb rubber. Ms. Cannon spoke at length with regard to air temperatures and turf field temperatures. She also spoke with regard to a Penn State study and FieldTurf study with regard to turf temperatures. She also spoke of thermal burns and the watering of the turf field. She spoke of infrared thermometers and who would be responsible to field the temperatures. She stated the field has been a wreck for a long time and would like this to be put out to a vote so the people can decide. She asked why there are cooling towers. Mr. Statile stated they are misting stations for people using the field, they are put there as a convenience, but are not required. She spoke of the cleaning of the field and who would take care of the maintenance of the field after it is cleaned. Mr. Statile replied in River Vale it is brushed once a month by a DPW worker, it takes one man four and a half hours. She spoke of SBR being the supplier of the crumb rubber. Mayor Sobkowicz stated the cork or coconut would be alternate bids. Ms. Cannon spoke of heat stress, toe turf and also read from an article with regard to the Women's World Cup team playing on turf. She spoke of signs around turf fields stating to take clothes off in the garage, go home and take a shower due to the rubber pellets. She stated we want our kids to be safe and would like this put up for a vote.

Sean Dunn, 759 Clinton Avenue – Mr. Dunn spoke of the Memorial Park Facility Improvement Sheet. Mr. Dunn asked is the \$60.00 per home over 15 years or is that \$60.00 per year. Mr. Calamari replied \$60.00 per year. Mr. Dunn stated that would be \$5.00 per month. Mr. Dunn spoke of the past

when he played sports on the field and coached on the field. He stated the field was in much better condition back then, but now there are a lot more programs for the children and a lot more people in the Township. He stated his daughters play lacrosse and it is embarrassing and dangerous. He spoke of other towns putting in turf fields. He spoke of the turf in the past and the turf now is better in terms of the cushioning and the rubber. He spoke of not being in agreement with regard to the temperatures of the turf. He stated he cannot put a price tag on his children's safety. He stated with regard to maintenance, it is we the coaches that maintain the field. He spoke of the lining of the field on a weekly basis and the fact that the lacrosse field has to be lined before every game, sometimes six times in a day. He stated he played on this field, it is getting worse and he cares for the safety of his children more than his own safety. He stated \$5.00 a month is a no brainer to him.

Vic Fadini, 698 Kennedy Drive – Mr. Fadini asked if the \$60.00 figure a gross figure or is that a net figure after the reduction of cost for maintaining the sod field is taken into consideration. Mr. Calamari replied it is a gross number. Mr. Fadini spoke of the savings in sod and maintenance which would bring it to \$30.00 per household which translates to \$2.50 per month. He stated the \$60.00 per household is not taking into consideration the resodding and maintenance of the field. Mayor Sobkowicz spoke of the bonding, if the field goes through, capital, expenses and the regular budget.

Kathy Vinci, 548 Jackson Avenue – Ms. Vinci stated she is a proponent for this field. She has volunteered for soccer in the past and her children dealt with the issues of the field. She stated the reason soccer is not using the field is because the field was extremely wet all the time and games and practices were cancelled, that is why what was called Washington Township Soccer no longer uses the field. She stated her father has lived in the Township for 55 years, he goes to all the games and he feels what happens in our town, versus other towns, effects what he can sell his property for because there are families of all ages coming to see these games, and it not only effects the children, but effects everyone that lives in this town.

Julie Lipnick, 184 Finnerty Place – Ms. Lipnick stated that Mr. Spezial stated a few meetings ago he doesn't care if the field is grass or turf; it just needs to be fixed. Ms. Lipnick asked if council has done their homework and if spreadsheets were done with regard to the Sand Cap natural turf field. She spoke at length with regard to the various things that need to be done to a turf field with regard to maintenance. She asked if the DMF workers will maintain the turf field. Mayor Sobkowicz replied yes. Ms. Lipnick stated that records would have to be maintained by the DMF workers to keep the warranty in place. She asked if the Mayor is willing to increase the size of the staff of the DMF in order to take care of this investment in this town. Mayor Sobkowicz replied she doesn't believe the staff needs to be increased to maintain the field since at this time a lot of time is spent by the DMF at Memorial Field now. Mayor Sobkowicz also stated spreadsheets were done on costs and the maintenance on grass by current DMF workers will be reduced. Mayor Sobkowicz stated yes a turf field does require maintenance but not as much as we put in at this time. Mayor Sobkowicz spoke at length with regard to the current maintenance of the field, such as striping/lining that is done on a daily basis. Mayor Sobkowicz spoke of a Saturday morning when the lights were out on the field and it cost over \$3000 to fix. Mayor Sobkowicz stated the lighting that will be done by Musco the bulbs rarely go out and if they do come and replace it. Ms. Lipnick asked if a Turf Field Specialist will be hired or will someone from the DMF be trained so as not to void the warranty. Mayor Sobkowicz replied we are sending someone to school this Fall, not for this, but our workers do take online classes and we will look into that. Ms. Lipnick asked when the turf field needs to be replaced how it will be disposed of. Mr. Statile replied since these are the new generation fields, not the older generation, they will be brought back to the manufacturer and recycled. He stated some communities with older generation fields take what is left over of the turf itself and reuse it.

Stephen Vecchione, 927 Ridgewood Boulevard East – Mr. Vecchione stated that Memorial Field does need to be improved and different options need to be looked at. His suggestion to the council and the Mayor is to put this up for a vote for the people to decide.

Michael DeSena, 347 Beech Street – Mr. DeSena spoke of the past field maintenance. He asked when the last time the field was aerated, seeded and fertilized was. Mayor Sobkowicz replied that sodding was done in 2013 for \$125,000, and every time it is reseeded it if rains it does run off. There was a discussion with regard to maintenance costs. Mr. DeSena stated for the past two years nothing has been done to the field to make it better and playable for our athletes. Mr. DeSena stated in 8 to 10 years the field would need to be replaced. Mr. Statile stated this is a 2nd generation field, they have only been in service for 8 years, and these fields can to 15 to 20 years. Mr. DeSena spoke of the replacement of the field at \$475,000 and if council is prepared for the next 15 to 20 years to put away \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year for the replacement cost. Mayor Sobkowicz replied that the Township does have reserve accounts and she would put in the budget she gives to council every year. She stated she does watch every dollar and believes in the long term this will be beneficial. Mr. DeSena stated he is not against the field, but does believe there is a lot of false information out there. Mr. DeSena named the various items in the wish list which total to approximately ¼ of a million dollars. A discussion followed with regard to the 2.2 million dollar estimate of the field, the bonding, engineering fee and what is included and not included.

Sandy Philips, 321 Hudson Street – Ms. Philips asked about the walking trail. Mr. Statile showed Ms. Philips where the walking trail is located on the diagram. Ms. Philips spoke of the council's mission document. She asked with regard to Town Day, what the cover would cost and what it would cover. Mr. Statile replied it varies from \$1.00 to \$3.50 per square foot, it would depend on where the town wants it located and it is put in by hand. Mayor Sobkowicz stated for Town Day we may just want to put it under the main tent where people eat. Mr. Calamari stated he hopes they may be able to rent the cover from the same place where the rides and tents are rented. Ms. Philips asked how many kids are registered in the recreation program. Administrator Cavallo replied he will get that information for Ms. Philips. Ms. Philips spoke of the cost to bond the project and she feels it would be in the town's best interest to put this to a vote and be done with it. She spoke of the \$250,000 for the various other items and believes the project will cost about 3 million.

David Kral, 54 Hemlock Drive – Mr. Kral stated he has been and out of the Township and his family lived in the Township 57 years. Stated he is an architect, also gave a background on his previous employment in the Commonwealth of Virginia as an architect and master planner. Spoke of the information presented and feels there should be a whole lot more. Spoke of what he has done in the past with regard to the bond counsel when he presented in Virginia before it went to vote. Stated nothing he has seen tells him the detail that needs to be known at this point. He asked why this idea is being presented when he feels it may cost another million dollars or so. He stated to him this is a schematic phase and a lot more information is needed. He feels if he brought this information to a bond counsel he would laughed out of the room. He stated he was an EMT in Virginia, Commander of the Bike Team and a member of the East Hanover Rescue Squad. He spoke of his time on stand-by at turf fields and grass fields. Stated the turf field gets very hot and he did see a greater number of children with heat exhaustion, injuries and MERSA after sliding on the plastic grass and the grass fields didn't have those problems. He stated this is a safety concern and a whole lot more detail is needed on this.

Scott Spezial, 785 Washington Avenue – Mr. Spezial stated he is one of the proponents for this field. He stated there are many problems on the field and many, many things have been tried. He stated people are speaking against the field and not offering a solution to fixing the field. He stated he is in his 37th year of coaching in the Township. He spoke of the condition of the field being unsafe and the drainage that is non-existent on the field. He stated seed

is put down it washes away along with the pesticide and herbicide that runs off the field down to the sewer line and lake. He stated he has over 100 cheerleaders that have to practice on the basketball court since there is no room on the grass. He spoke of the various sports programs that use the field. He stated when it rains you cannot go on the field and when it is hot the field bakes. He stated the field is used over 850 hours and grass is only good to be played on 300 to 400 hours. He stated he has been in the grass industry for over 37 years and what is happening to the field is called compacture. He spoke of the field being sodded over six times and patching that was called for by the previous council which is no longer good. He stated he represents the kids and the facility and for those who have not been to the facility, the place is a disaster. He stated that two million gallons of water are used on the field per year. He spoke of the zones and the time that the field is being watered. He spoke of the droughts that have occurred in the past. He spoke of the field being covered in geese feces and the children playing on that field and then bringing that into their homes. He spoke of the lighting being outdated. He stated that this would be an ADA compliant facility. He spoke of looking into the swim club and Sherry Field which are both flood plains. He spoke of the money currently being spent, which is already costing taxpayers. He stated this facility is something the entire Township can be proud of, there will be unlimited use, less maintenance and it will save taxpayers money over a long period of time.

Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue – Mr. Ullman stated for disclosure he is running for council in November. Mr. Ullman spoke of the letter to the editor that Mr. Calamari wrote. He spoke of the Section 20 costs and also spoke of the 2.2 million number. He spoke of the condition of the field house and asked if there is going to be rehabilitation to the field house and what that might cost. He also spoke with regard to a line item of \$6,000 to \$7,000 to move the scoreboard, the current condition of the scoreboard and the cost for a new scoreboard. He spoke of the \$67,000 which is Mr. Statile's fee. Administrator Cavallo stated the \$67,000 would be if the project went through full bidding and going out to have bid documents. Administrator Cavallo stated that Mr. Statile has only been authorized so far up through concept, he has not been paid yet and Administrator Cavallo is estimating Mr. Statile's bill to be in the \$20,000 to \$25,000 range of what has been done so far. Mr. Ullman asked if any of the 2.2 million includes soft costs. Administrator Cavallo replied no. Mr. Ullman asked if 10% would be a good number for any additional fees. Administrator Cavallo replied Section 20 costs, yes. Mr. Ullman spoke of a member of the administration quoting the project would be 1.85 million with a 2.2 million projection. A lengthy discussion followed with regard to the placement of the football field with the lacrosse field. Mr. Beckmeyer spoke of the high school field and the lacrosse field, what will be at Memorial Field and games going during the same time. Mr. Ullman asked if the pitcher's mound is included. Mr. Statile replied it is portable and a nominal cost. Mr. Ullman stated he hopes we talk about the real numbers, not some fictitious number people like to throw around.

Robert Bruno, 697 Hillcrest Road – Mr. Bruno stated he is running for council. Mr. Bruno spoke of the letter to the editor by Mr. Calamari. Mr. Bruno asked if Mr. Statile was involved in the gas station application. Mr. Statile replied he was not, but he was involved in the CVS application. Mr. Bruno asked on a scale of 1 to 10 how would Mr. Statile rate the infrastructure of this Township. Mr. Statile replied he has not done assessments. A discussion followed with regard to the estimate for Memorial Field. Mr. Bruno spoke at length with regard to the 2014 audit and the adverse opinion. Mayor Sobkowicz stated every year the auditor gives an opinion and items are corrected. She further stated at this time the Township has the highest bond rating, the highest surplus we have ever had and a strong financial future. Mr. Bruno stated the action plan should have been completed and the books in order.

Eamonn Twomey, 187 Devon Road – Mr. Twomey asked if Mr. Statile looked into using the NIKE grind as an option. Mr. Statile replied we did reach

out to the vendors to try to get some numbers. Mr. Twomey spoke of the NIKE grind product which is a better more stable and cooler solution and asked if Mr. Statile had a cost option on the product. Mr. Statile replied he has not done a cost on that. Mr. Statile stated it is an environmental benefit since it is recycled sneakers and it will add some cooling effects. Mr. Twomey asked if council could come up with the option of going with the NIKE grind as a solution. Mr. Calamari replied that is something we plan on looking at. Mr. Twomey spoke at length with regard to himself and Mr. Spezial coming before the council in the past. Mr. Twomey stated he has probably spent over 200 nights a year on the field. Mr. Twomey stated that this council has made more progress than the previous council in the last year and a half than the last six years. Mr. Twomey spoke of this being an investment in the entire town not. He spoke of the field in River Dell which is 14 years old, and it is about 3 years from being replaced. He stated these are not NFL players on the field, these are little kids. He spoke of the bond and the fact that once the field needs to be replaced, the drainage and the lights will still be in place. He stated has taken videos of the field and drainage is a major issue. He stated he has been coaching for ten years in this town and he coaches not only to make the children better citizens but also better people. He stated he coaches football and lacrosse and has never been paid, he does it for the love of the kids in the hopes that one day these kids will do something better for someone else. He spoke of in the future when residents sell their homes and the Township then would be equal to other towns. He spoke of the generation that is now of the marrying age who are the first generation to play on artificial turf. He spoke of when he played high school football at Bergen Catholic, won the State Championship, 13 of his teammates were from Washington Township and that is the reason why he moved here. He implores council that this is a field for anyone. He then spoke of the various programs and the amount of children in each program, which is a rolling number of approximately 900 kids. He stated even if it is 200 kids it should be about the 200 kids. He spoke of the past monies spent on the field to maintain it. He stated now is the time, everything is in place. He stated as a council and community this is what needs to be done.

A discussion was had with regard to time limits from members of the audience.

John Hannan, 564 Jackson Avenue – Mr. Hannan spoke of attending council meetings in the past and a five year plan is needed. He stated there are other items in the town that are vital to the Township. He asked if there is a five year plan that would encompass Memorial Park. Mr. Calamari replied he doesn't believe we do, but we do know the roads are getting done now, study is being done on the DMF building and the firehouse is being evaluated for future needs also. He stated the number of 2.2 million is unrealistic and spoke of the high school field costing 3.2 million. He spoke of the numbers he is hearing. He stated he doesn't believe this is fair to the people of the Township to say this is what it is going to cost when you know that is not the number. He stated people should be informed and should be part of an overall evaluation of things that should be needed in the town and priorities should be set. He also spoke of the financial statements. He stated when more debt is added the credit rating starts to get a little bit softer. He spoke of the cost per year per household. He stated this meeting has shown to him that there is no plan or if there is a plan it is not being shared with the people.

Gordon Thumodo, 14 Roberts Court – Mr. Thumodo stated resident over 45 years and has gotten to a point where he is ashamed to say he is from Washington Township. He stated that council was presented with a petition signed by several residents of the Township months ago. Mr. Calamari replied we have not been presented with a petition. Mr. Thumodo stated it seems fairly obvious from everyone that he heard tonight that they want a referendum. Mr. Beckmeyer replied there are also people that do not want a referendum that want this voted on tonight. Mr. Thumodo stated maybe a

petition should be started for a recall of council because council is doing what they want and not what the residents of this town want. He spoke at length with regard to this council making the township the laughingstock of Bergen County. He spoke of the gas station and if it has been cleaned up. He stated we are spending only a million dollars on roads but two million dollars on a field, and he doesn't see the logic in that. He spoke of the condition of the roads and the consortium. Mr. Thumodo stated that things that have to be taken care of, such as positions, and then we will talk about this. He stated there are more important things to be done to this town and this is not it. He stated that council is ruining the town and no one seems to care about it.

Mr. Calamari – Stated before the public forum is closed would council like to see anything addressed or does council have any comments.

Dr. Cascio – Stated he does have questions for Mr. Statile. He asked what would be the logic of putting the 90 foot baseball field in the northeast corner, which is the corner of School Street and Pascack. Mr. Statile replied the two ball fields would have to be placed on either corner of the recreation area. Dr. Cascio asked is there a reason why it can't be put on the northwest corner. Mr. Statile replied it is a possibility. Dr. Cascio spoke of the concern of the sun affecting the players. Dr. Cascio asked if the lights would be done by PSE&G and would there be a cost for the town in getting the transformers. Mr. Statile replied that is included in the cost, using the existing services that are there now, there is not going to be a debt load increase. Dr. Cascio stated the cost doesn't include bleachers. Mr. Statile there are provisions, but they are not included. Dr. Cascio asked if the cut out includes the pad. Mr. Statile replied we were going to use a bench system which has smaller footing that is layered with stone or some other product. Dr. Cascio asked what is the estimate for that bleacher system. Mr. Statile replied \$65,000 which would include everything. Dr. Cascio asked how much would the cost be for site supervision. Mr. Statile stated it would depend when it is bid, what is involved and the cost of the project. Dr. Cascio asked what is the average percent. Mr. Statile replied the average percent is 1 % to 2 %. Mr. Statile stated the \$65,000 is to bring this to bid. Administrator Cavallo stated it is bid ready for the project. Dr. Cascio asked not a percentage of the total cost. Mr. Statile replied no.

Mr. Beckmeyer – Stated we hear about priorities and he will go on the record right now to state that our children, the youth of this Township to him is the most important priority that we have, more important than DMF buildings and storing trucks. He stated he is an engineer and has seen construction yards and their vehicles are parked outside. He stated they refrain from parking inside due to the fact when the trucks are started the diesel fuel gets everyone sick. Stated we have an issue with usage, and unless we want to throw the kids off the field and limit it to 300 hours we cannot grow grass there. He stated the main item for cost effective was grass. He asked can we grow grass that will sustain 800 – 1000 hours a year and the answer is no we can't, and that is crossed off the list, that is the reason why we didn't do a cost analysis. Mr. Beckmeyer asked Mr. Statile if we went over 400 hours what would happen to the grass. Mr. Statile replied you would start having wear sections and exceeding 800 hours you have to replace patches of the field. Mr. Beckmeyer stated the whole project would be 1.9 million with grass, but using the amount of \$150,000 every two years to replace the grass adds up to leaps and bounds of what we are talking about in cost. He stated if we cannot grow grass there, why consider it. He spoke at length with regard to other towns where turf fields were installed, the savings that were had, and having the 3 or 4 DPW workers that would work on the field now cleaning the streets or doing other things. He spoke with regard to the bond and it all comes down to the number that the general contractor puts his bid in. He stated we bond for 2.4 million, if it comes in at 3 million then we can't do the job since we don't have the funds. He stated we are not putting things into the project that we don't have now. He stated it is the playing surface where the kids play that we need to improve. He stated with regard to the maintenance of the field, it is four and

a half hours, one guy brushing the field. He stated we can then put the workers in other places in our town to do other things.

Mr. Sears – Stated he is impressed with everyone that came out tonight, the pros and the cons. Stated yes, the children, taxes are important in this town. Stated more homework needs to be done. Stated the numbers are valid and he thinks some can be cut. Stated the most important thing is we have to fix this field. Stated everyone has said this field is an embarrassment and needs to be corrected. Stated there were a lot of great questions tonight, there was compassion for the children and the seniors of this town and the whole town. Stated the most important thing that he has gotten out of this tonight is there are things we should be able to do a lot better and we are doing it. Stated we are human, can't make all the greatest decisions in the world. Stated he is going to do some more homework on this. Stated he wants to thank everyone that came here tonight, it was really an eye opener tonight.

Mr. Frank – Stated he received his tax bill and complained just as everyone did. Stated it is not easy to sit up here, he is new to this, he is learning a lot and he is doing it because he wants the town to be better as well. Stated there are things we are working on and we are making progress. Stated the estimated cost of \$60.00 per year is reasonable, and he would vote for the field because we will have a problem down the road. Stated he knows the grass doesn't work and it leaves us with one option which is turf. Stated he doesn't believe the presentation was tight tonight, and that will be worked on. Stated he doesn't have connections with anyone, he is here trying to do the right thing.

Mr. Calamari – Stated he doesn't like spending good money after bad money for the taxpayers. Stated he feels other than a total renovation of the field/park we are just throwing good money after bad at this point. Stated he is a third generation resident of this town and feels we may be short siding for future generations. Stated his grandparents would come out and watch games, and his parents would watch his children play in addition to himself. Stated he feels the town is a bit of multi-generational, and residents want to see the field good for the next generations and those to come. Stated he feels it adds to the property value when people do evaluate this town against other towns. Stated he went to the high school this past week and spoke to the grounds manager who was nice enough to speak with him for about ten minutes. Stated the grounds manager indicated they sweep their fields about three or four times a year and that is it for the maintenance. Stated the grounds keeper is totally thrilled with it over what they used to have. Stated the grounds keeper indicted the heat is a noticeable issue but nothing anyone has gotten sick over or anything like that for an event. Stated the grounds keeper indicated not having the geese and what they leave behind is a God send. Stated the grounds keeper may not have been the right person to ask, but he could not attribute injuries to the turf over a natural grass field.

Mayor Sobkowicz – Stated one of the goals in this plan is to make it Memorial Park so that more people in town would be willing to come and use it. Stated she attends a lot of games and if you ever want to come and spend a nice afternoon or evening, it is a great community showing. Stated as Mr. Calamari mentioned people all ages come out. Stated by putting the walking track there we want to encourage people to come to the area, get more exercise and use it. Stated new benches are coming with the grant that was received for the pavilion. Stated she wants to assure everyone financially we are in a very strong position. Stated our net debt is a little over six million dollars, and we pay about \$937,000 a year to pay it off. Stated in 2018 it will drop to \$640,000. Stated if there is any time we can do a project of this nature it is now because first of it is needed and with the rates way out for bonding of some notes we received .8 %, it is good time to embark upon a project. Stated with regard to the roads, last year we spent close to \$700,000 on the roads, which included the fire house parking lot, and this year we have \$750,000. Stated the council did authorize to go out to bid on our own even though it is five cents more a ton we are on an earlier schedule, a month earlier than the consortium is. Stated with regard to the roads every year we are going to spend an amount

and try to space it out over several years so the roads are not all due at one time. Stated this year's tax increase on home assessed at \$464,000 is \$13.00 a year. Stated if residents look at their tax bill percentage of where the taxes go 11% goes to the county, 63% goes to the school, 2% goes to the library and 24% goes to the Township and the Township was the lowest in the entire Valley. Stated Westwood's increase was \$56.00 for a home assessed at \$387,000. Stated we are doing very well and we do have a plan. Stated she has tried to keep the debt under 10% so there is flexibility with the budget every year and that is the reason we are able to do the tax rate we have, which is only .9% we are well under the 2% required by the governor. Stated we are doing a good job of planning our budget every year, which includes a three year plan that is submitted to the State as to what we are going to purchase. Stated fortunately we are getting new equipment for the road department, they may not be kept inside, they may be kept outside but the vehicles we are getting rid of are 21 years old, 20 years old and 18 years old and they have served the town very well. Stated she appreciates things that have been brought up, and hopes some misconceptions have been cleared. Stated the scoreboard is mentioned in the plan and we will probably get someone locally to sponsor the scoreboard with their name on it, so that cost will probably be pulled out. Stated we do have some give and take in the plan we have here. Stated she would like to thank everyone for coming and some good points were raised. Stated that even if recommendations are received by the auditor, that something wasn't done this month and has to be done every month it does get rectified by the next year. Stated it does not adversely affect our rating which is double AA plus, which we went to two years ago due to our favorable outlook. Stated we have a lot of things to be proud of and she really does hope that residents go to the field, go look at it. Stated she really wants to be able to call it Memorial Park. Stated a grant was gotten for the playground. Stated the pavilion has a brand new roof and it has been painted. Stated the new tables arrived today, which was all from a grant. Stated the black fence surrounding the perimeter of the whole area was a matching grant that the town received. Stated the next grant application will be for the basketball court to get rid for the indentation. Stated a grant was received for the sidewalks along Pascack Road. Stated we are working really hard to make this a great center of town. Stated she hopes everyone will take a good look at it and try to work along with us.

Mr. Beckmeyer – Stated with regard the consortium they were taking too long and we probably would not have gotten the roads done until next season. Stated we went on our own and it was 5 cents more a ton. Asked how many tons did the town bid on the project. Administrator Cavallo replied it comes out to \$287.00. Mr. Beckmeyer stated by us going out to bid it cost us \$287.00 but we are getting the roads paved it the Fall, not waiting another Winter and going into the Spring. Stated we tried the consortium but we couldn't wait any longer.

Dr. Cascio – Stated he appreciates everyone coming out, whether you are for the field or you don't care for the field. Stated he understands it is a very hot topic, thanks everyone for their input and appreciates council taking time to look into it since it is a hard decision. Stated there is a lot of interest in going to a referendum for this so he would like to make a motion to go to public referendum for the general election in November. Stated whether anyone seconds it or not it is up to. Mr. Calamari asked do we have a second. Mr. Calamari stated motion fails.

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer, to close the discussion on Memorial Park.

Ayes: Councilmen Beckmeyer, Cascio, Frank, Sears, Calamari.

Nays: None.

Mr. Calamari – Stated a five minute break will be taken before we go to the rest of the meeting. He thanked everyone for coming and appreciated hearing from everyone.

Time noted: 10:03 p.m.

Reconvened: 10:13 p.m.

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.

Dr. Cascio – Stated he would like to get the agenda out beforehand since he just received this tonight.

A conversation followed with regard to Resolution No. 15-233.

The Consent Agenda was presented and adopted on a motion by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer.

Ayes: Councilmen Beckmeyer, Cascio, Frank, Sears, Calamari.

Nays: None.

Resolution No. 15-232

Tonnage Grant Application

WHEREAS, The Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L. 1987, c.102, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grant may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs, and

WHEREAS, It is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to Implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act: and

WHEREAS, The recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to making and keeping accurate verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, A resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for the 2010 Recycling Tonnage Grant will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to recycling and to indicate the assent of Township of Washington, Bergen County to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

WHEREAS, Such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township of Washington, Bergen County hereby endorses the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates Elaine Erlewein to ensure that the application is property filed: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated recycling trust fund to be used solely for the purposed of recycling.

Resolution No. 14-233

Memorializing a Fixed Price for the Sale of Garbage Bags

WHEREAS, the Township residents pay a private hauler for their household garbage pick-up.

WHEREAS, the residents have historically paid a local retailer for garbage bags supplied by the hauler. This retailer has recently declared bankruptcy and has ceased selling the garbage bags.

WHEREAS, the Township will be required to purchase the garbage bags from the hauler for resale to the residents and the Township Council has a need to memorialize a fixed price for the sale of garbage bags by the Township.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, County of Bergen, New Jersey that the following fee schedule shall apply to the sale of garbage bags by the Township of Washington:

Small bags - \$ 5.00/pkg of 10

Large Bags - \$10.00/pkg of 10

Resolution No. 15-234

Emergency Appropriation – Garbage and Trash Removal

WHEREAS, an emergency has arisen with respect to Garbage and Trash Removal and no adequate provision was made in the 2015 budget for the aforesaid purpose, and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-46 provides for the creation of an emergency appropriation for the purpose mentioned above, and

WHEREAS, the total amount of the emergency appropriations created including the appropriation to be created by this resolution is \$200,000 and three (3) percent of the total operating appropriations in the budget for the year 2015 is \$328,696, and

WHEREAS, the foregoing appropriation does not exceed three (3) percent of the total operating appropriations in the budget for 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, (by not less than 2/3 of all governing body members affirmatively concurring) that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-48:

1. An emergency appropriation is hereby made for Garbage and Trash Removal in the amount of \$200,000.
2. That said emergency appropriation shall be provided for in full in the 2016 budget and is requested to be excluded from CAPS, pursuant to NJS 40A:4-53.3c(1).
3. That two (2) certified copies of this Resolution be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Dr. Cascio, to open the general public discussion.

Ayes: Councilmen Beckmeyer, Cascio, Frank, Sears, Calamari.

Nays: None.

Cindy Cannon, 804 Manhattan Avenue – Ms. Cannon spoke of the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts being charged to use the Community Room and her disappointment that they are being charged. Mayor Sobkowicz stated the school is charging them and now everyone is coming here to use the Community Room and there are expenses. Ms. Cannon stated the \$40.00 charge is something since the Girl and Boy Scouts are a civic group and a volunteer group. Mayor Sobkowicz replied that the school is charging them \$300.00 and that is why they are using the Community Room. There was a discussion as to why the school is charging them. Mayor Sobkowicz spoke of the various activities that were held at the Community Room for the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts in which they have not been charged. Mayor Sobkowicz further states that is why everyone is coming here because every other town charges for the use.

Sharon McDonough, 642 Jefferson Avenue – Ms. McDonough stated the schools don't charge if a custodian is on duty. Ms. McDonough stated she came back from vacation and there is a sign in front of her home that states 3

hour parking. Stated 23 years she has lived in town and now there is a sign that says she is only allowed to park for three hours between the hours of 9 - 6. Administrator Cavallo replied the last signs that were installed when the last road ordinance was done. Ms. McDonough stated the sign is right across from the VFW. She stated with a caretaker coming to her home to take care of her mother a few hours a day the restricted parking is a problem. There was a discussion with regard to how the sign is affixed to the ground/pole. Mr. Calamari stated they will look into it.

Joe D'Urso, 12 Viola Terrace – Mr. D'Urso thanked Councilman Cascio for trying to put a voice out there with regard to the referendum. Mr. D'Urso spoke at length with regard to showing solidarity among the councilmen and the motion. Mr. D'Urso asked what is the amount of the Emergency Appropriation. Administrator Cavallo stated it is for \$200,000 and explained the Emergency Appropriation. Mr. D'Urso stated that something needs to be done with regard to Memorial but he is not in favor of it right now. He spoke of what needs to be done and studies that were done in the past. He stated that he agrees with Councilman Beckmeyer with regard to equipment sitting outside. He spoke at length with regard to the roads that need to be fixed. He spoke of his past volunteering in the basketball program and volunteers being paid in the past which is something that was stopped. He spoke of council looking into dispatching to save money. He stated Memorial Field is way overused, he knows grass cannot grow there but there needs to be a plan.

Sandy Philips, 321 Hudson Avenue – Ms. Philips spoke of her Tax Appeal and the fact that there is no one in the office to answer her questions. Mayor Sobkowicz stated she was on sick leave but is back. Mr. Poller asked Ms. Philips if she had spoken to the assessor. She replied she had. Mr. Poller replied the tax assessor is the main person to speak to and Ms. Philips does have the right to file a tax appeal to the Tax Court. Mr. Poller stated some people do hire a lawyer. Ms. Philips asked the status on the A&P. Administrator Cavallo replied we don't really know at this point, they are looking for a buyer along with 13 other store in the State of New Jersey. Ms. Philips asked if this affects the town's tax base. Mr. Poller replied the immediate future he doesn't see it but he doesn't know about long term. A discussion followed with regard to the light by the A&P.

Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue – Mr. Ullman asked will the auditor be in to answer questions from the public. Mr. Calamari replied he doesn't believe so, no. Mr. Ullman asked if someone can explain the reason for the adverse opinion and the qualified opinion, as it relates to the GAP adjustments, pages 1, 2 and 3, and also the LOSAP. Administrator Cavallo replied pages 1, 2 & 3 are boiler plate, titled Independent Auditors Report. Administrator Cavallo stated he will get an answer from Mr. Vinci on that but his understanding of the audit pages 1, 2 and 3 and is the introduction of all municipal audits. A lengthy discussion followed with regard to bond anticipation notes and the audit. There was also a discussion with regard LOSAP if a separate audit is necessary. Administrator Cavallo spoke of a report that came out on June 30th with regard to LOSAP that it could be an audited issue, but it is not required. Mr. Ullman spoke of the condition of the flag pole and plaque memorializing James McKenna at Memorial Field being completely obliterated by brush and growth. Administrator Cavallo replied he will look into it. There was a discussion with regard to long term debt, long term permanent debt and the use of capital funds. Mr. Ullman gave an example of purchasing a police vehicle for \$10,000 and the payment structure. Administrator Cavallo spoke of his conversation with the bond counsel. Administrator Cavallo also spoke of what was done with past councils with regard to transferring monies from the current budget into the capital budget and what is being done by this council. There was also a discussion with regard to the CAP Debt Schedule which is prepared by Lerch, Vinci & Higgins. Mr. Ullman stated sound financial decisions should be made because at some point we are going to have to pay the piper.

Scott Spezial, 785 Washington Avenue – Mr. Spezial spoke of the letter to the editor by Mr. Calamari which was actual factual, not just opinion. Stated what was said about the field house was information from long ago, since then it has been fixed. He spoke at length what was done to the field house on the outside and inside. Stated the idea of the kitchen was brought up years ago, it is not something that is required. Stated we also picked up about 18 parking spaces when it was completed and it has not looked better. Stated as far as funding the field house, it is not necessary as far as the recreation department is concerned.

A motion was made by Mr. Frank, seconded by Mr. Sears to adjourn.
Ayes: Councilmen Beckmeyer, Frank, Sears, Calamari.
Nays: Councilman Cascio.

Time Noted: 10:52 p.m.


Elaine Erlewein
Township Clerk


Peter Calamari
Council President

Approved: September 14, 2015