

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

**PUBLIC PORTION/CONFERENCE SESSION**

**April 21, 2014**

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 Thomas Sears with the Clerk leading a salute to the flag. Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Steve Cascio, Richard Hrbek, Thomas Sears. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Ken Poller, Attorney. Absent: Peter Calamari, Councilman; Catherine Steinel, Administrator.

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 Ridgewood News, forwarded to the local newspapers, posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

**Mayor Sobkowicz** – Mayor Sobkowicz introduced Cara Ann Murphy from Global Advisors on Smoke free Policy. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that the Township has passed an ordinance for the entire parks, recreation areas and fields to be smoke free. Ms. Murphy is present to donate the signs that are going to be put up in the areas. Ms. Murphy states that her organization donates the signs that are put up in the areas to designate it is a smoke free area. Ms. Murphy states that the Township is the 25<sup>th</sup> community within Bergen County that has adopted 100% smoke free parks, and the 237<sup>th</sup> within the State. Ms. Murphy states now the community will know the healthy steps the Township has taken to protect the visitors and residents that use the parks and recreation areas. Mayor Sobkowicz stated stickers will the ordinance number will also be put on the signs. Mayor Sobkowicz thanked Ms. Murphy.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to approve the March 10, 2014 Public & Conference Session Minutes. (All Vote)  
Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.  
Nays: None.

**GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Hrbek to open the general public discussion.  
Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.  
Nays: None.

**Ray Bernroth, 838 Crest Place** – Mr. Bernroth states that there are many potholes on Crest Place, there is one right outside his driveway. Also would like to know why the sign down that says administrator is. Mayor Sobkowicz replies that the administrator is leaving at the end of May. Mayor Sobkowicz states that she did have an interview today and has interviews all week for the position.

**Rose D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard** – Mrs. D'Ambra states with regard to smoke free, the area outside the building was missed. There are cigarettes outside of the doorway. Mrs. D'Ambra spoke of the hiring of police officers and dispatchers. Would like to know why the Township needs 18 police officers when it is only 3 ½ miles wide. There was a discussion with regard to special police officers, they may work parades or special events and their rate of pay is a lot less. There was also a discussion with regard to the Class 1 and Class 2 police officers. Mayor Sobkowicz spoke of the number of police officers we have at this time, the retirement of one of the officers and that technically we would need 3 more police officers. Mayor Sobkowicz states it is not in an ordinance, it would just be more efficient to get more police officers. There was a discussion with regard to what the special police can or cannot do. There was also a discussion of the interview process, and the background check that

has to be conducted. Mrs. D'Ambra asked what the status of the Township attorney is. Dr. Cascio states that he spoke to the IRS agent handling the case two or three weeks ago and it will be a couple of months. Dr. Cascio also states the IRS has not made a determination yet and there are 7 or 8 attorneys in the State of New Jersey that have the same issue as Mr. Poller.

**John Staada, 770 Ridgewood Road** – Mr. Staada states he took down three dead trees on his property and would like to plant five foot arborvitae trees rather than putting up a fence. Mr. Staada further stated he was told that he had to put \$1000 in escrow for the Township engineer. Mr. Staada states he does not understand why since he is following the guidelines. Mayor Sobkowicz states that this is the first she has ever heard of this particular case. Mayor Sobkowicz took Mr. Staada's contact information and she will get back to him.

**Joe D'Urso, 12 Viola Terrace** – Mr. D'Urso spoke about the televising of meetings and if council is still considering this and asked if there are bylaws for WCTV. Mr. Sears states that he will ask Larry Lifrieri. Mr. D'Urso further states that mostly every town in the area is televising meetings and Cablevision does offer assistance. Mr. D'Urso asked what date the police chief retiring. Mayor Sobkowicz replied as of June 1. Mr. D'Urso would like to know if the Risk Manager needs to fill out a Financial Disclosure Statement. Mr. Poller states according to research he has done, the Risk Manager is not required to file. Mr. Poller stated he asked the Risk Manager if he would mind filing a Financial Disclosure Statement and the Risk Manager doesn't mind filing one. Mr. D'Urso would like to know why the Zoning Board does not have a public portion; it is not posted on their agenda. Mr. D'Urso further states that it is a violation of the Open Public Meetings Act. Mr. D'Urso states that he sent a letter to the chairpersons. Mr. Sears he will address it. Mr. D'Urso would like to know what the current debt load on the library is. Mayor Sobkowicz replied about \$100,000. There was a discussion with regard to civilian dispatchers, and if the Mayor is proactively searching for full time civilian dispatchers. Mayor Sobkowicz replied we have one full time civilian dispatcher and several part timers. Mayor Sobkowicz stated we are in the process of hiring police officers; we need to make sure the shifts are covered. Mr. D'Urso spoke of the civilian dispatcher's rate of pay, and that a civilian dispatcher is much cheaper than a police officer sitting at the desk. Mr. D'Urso states he never realized it in the four years he was councilman but he would like to know why on the website there is no Conference Agenda. Mayor Sobkowicz states that she did have a discussion with the Acting Clerk, but has not had a chance to speak to Mr. Sears about it.

**Mary Ann Ozment, 960 Adams Place** – Mrs. Ozment stated she attended the presentation with regard to the turf field and it was an excellent presentation. Mrs. Ozment would like to know when this topic will be discussed. Mr. Sears states it will not be discussed tonight, but it will be discussed soon. Mrs. Ozment would like to know if money was put into the capital budget for this field and Mr. Sears indicated yes, money was moved into the capital budget. Mrs. Ozment spoke of the sale of the middle school and the monies were put into a special account. Mrs. Ozment would like to know if this account is general funds, since it is almost a million dollars. Mrs. Ozment also indicated that a statement was made by a resident who has since passed away that those monies would be used to fix the fields. There was a discussion with regard to the Lake Association. Mr. Sears stated a letter has gone out for information, but no one has responded. Mrs. Ozment asked with regard to e-recycling why is no longer. Mayor Sobkowicz explained that the dumpster was supposed to be free, but the Township was charged \$3800 per month for dumping fees, in which the Township managed not to pay. Mayor Sobkowicz further indicated the Township is entitled by Waste Management for three dumpsters per year for free. A lengthy discussion followed with regard to e-recycling. Mrs. Ozment asked with regard to police escort for funerals, how is

that determination made. Mayor Sobkowicz indicated she spoke to the Chief about it, and it is done from the Westwood boarder until they arrive here. Mr. Sears states he will find out if there are some written rules. Mrs. Ozment would like her name to be on the list for Zoning Board member. Mrs. Ozment has her certification and Mr. Tucker can confirm that.

**Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue** – Mr. Ullman would like pending ordinances published on the website, so it can be viewed by the public. Mr. Ullman also asked with regard to the conference portion of the agenda, under closed session, it states personnel and litigation. Mr. Ullman states those terms are very vague and he would like to know more information on them. Mr. Sears replied with regard to litigation, it is confidential and cannot be discussed. Mr. Sears continued with regard to personnel that would be review of applications for Township Clerk. Mr. Ullman asked with regard to the litigation by the former Township Administrator, has that issue been settled. Mr. Poller replied, no it has not been settled as of yet.

A motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to close the general public discussion.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

#### **ORDINANCE**

The Clerk read Ordinance #14-05 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 239, LAND DEVELOPMENT, and CHAPTER 243, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON CODE.

A motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer, to introduce and pass Ordinance # 14-05 at second reading by title.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that Ordinance #14-05 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 239, LAND DEVELOPMENT, and CHAPTER 243, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT, OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON CODE be read on second reading and the public hearing be held thereon pursuant to law.

A motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer, to open the Public Hearing.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

**Rose D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard** – Mrs. D'Ambra read parts of the ordinance. Mrs. D'Ambra would like to know if this was included when Hartford Realty did what they did, built a wall and raised the land. Mr. Poller states this ordinance is to strengthen storm water management throughout the town. Mrs. D'Ambra would like to know why the ordinance is being updated since we already have an ordinance which was not enforced. Mayor Sobkowicz states the changes that Mr. Poller suggested protects us from a developer who might be building something on our boarder that affects the Township.

**Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue** – Mr. Ullman read parts of the ordinance. A lengthy discussion followed with regard to storm water maintenance on ½ acres and ¼ acres. Mr. Beckmeyer states that single family homes are exempt.

**Joe D'Urso, 12 Viola Terrace** – Mr. D'Urso asked if this ordinance comes into effect does it need to go in front of the Zoning Board for a variance. Mayor Sobkowicz replied the Planning Board. Mr. Poller states as far as the review, it is the Planning Board and the Zoning Board jurisdiction is still the Zoning Board jurisdiction. Mr. D'Urso asked with regard to the Zoning Board members, are they taking classes. Mr. Sears replied they have up to a year to complete the class to be certified. Mayor Sobkowicz stated they will be notified by the Zoning Board secretary of the classes.

A motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to close the Public Hearing.

Ayes: Councilperson Beckmeyer, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

A motion was made Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer, to pass Ordinance #14-05 on a second and final reading, submit the same to the Mayor for her approval and thereafter be published according to law.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

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: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Local Public Contract Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. seq.) authorizes and permits contracting units, such as the Township of Washington (the "Township") to enter into service agreements for services contemplated below without competitive bidding for same, pursuant to and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(1); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the New Jersey Shared Services and Consolidation Act (N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1 et. seq.), the Township seeks to enter into a shared services agreement with the Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission (the "Commission") whereby the Commission will provide health services of a professional and technical nature to the Township as provided for in the Local Health Services Law (N.J.S.A. 26:3A2-1 et. seq.); and

WHEREAS, the Office of Health of the Township administers certain health service programs for towns within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-Bergen Regional Health Commission has committed to provide services to the Child Health Conference for the towns under the jurisdiction of the Office of Health for the period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington.

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen with respect to providing sufficient money for the payment as stated below and no adequate provision has been made in the 2014 Temporary Appropriations for the aforesaid purpose, and N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for the purpose above mentioned; and

WHEREAS, the total temporary budget resolution adopted in the year 2014 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S. 40A:4-20) including this resolution total \$5,480,039.00 exclusive of debt service; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S. 40A: 4-20;

1. An emergency temporary appropriations be and the same is hereby made for the following:

Dept. of Finance O/E Tax Assessor	\$ 200.00
Dept. of Finance O/E Payroll Services	\$2000.00

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

WHEREAS, the Tax Court of New Jersey and Bergen County Tax Court approved a tax assessment settlement for Block 3201, Lot 2, Qualifier C073C, 173 Woodbury Ct. current owner, Matt Zangeneh, for 2012, and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:3-27.2, overpayments are to be refunded,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, New Jersey that the Tax Collector Elaine Erlewein, be authorized to issue a refund to:

Michael I. Schneck, Esq.  
301 S. Livingston Avenue, Suite 105  
Livingston, NJ 07039

Amount Billed:	\$ 9,160.57
Amount Paid:	\$ 7,460.00
Amount to be refunded	\$ 1,661.72

WHEREAS, Steven Sakovits posted soil movement escrow on premises known as Block 1301, Lot 7, 54 Horizon Court; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated April 8, 2014, C.O. No. 10-055,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated October 14, 2013,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington has authorized to refund the balance of the escrow money in the amount of \$67.50 to the above.

WHEREAS, RJC Abstract LLC posted engineering and soil movement escrow on premises known as Block 4302, Lot 18, 392 Colonial Blvd.; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated April 14, 2014, C.O. No. 11-179,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated September 27, 2012,

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 \$429.50 to the above.

WHEREAS, Donald and Dorothy Dobres posted engineering escrow and a road opening performance bond on premises known as 184 Howard Street; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated January 7, 2014, C.O. No. 13-247,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letters dated December 3, 2013, January 6, 2014 and April 4, 2014,

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 \$245.00 and the road opening performance bond in the amount of \$1000.00.

WHEREAS, Scholl Contracting, LLC, posted engineering escrow on premises known as Block 1301, Lot 7, 54 Horizon Court; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated April 8, 2014, C.O. No. 10-055,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated October 14, 2013;

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 \$564.00 to the above.

WHEREAS, Dawn and Girolamo LoPiccolo posted engineering escrow on premises known as Block 3103, Lots 38, 39,40 and 41, 640 McKinley Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated April 14, 2014, C.O. No. 12-298,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated March 26, 2014,

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 \$510.00 to the above.

WHEREAS, First Hartford Realty Corp posted engineering escrow on premises known as Block 2110, Lot 6 (for CVS); and

WHEREAS, attached is the resolution for the withdrawal of the project going forward, and a project statement with the balances for the return of escrow money,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer,

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 \$6888.99 to the above.

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et. seq.) authorizes and permits contracting units to enter into service agreements for the services contemplated below without competitive bidding for same; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units such as the Borough of Westwood ("Westwood") to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration with other municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Westwood has offered voluntary participation to municipalities (including the Township of Washington) in the Pascack Valley Shared Services Group, a Cooperative Pricing System, for the purchase of goods and services related to the repaving of roadways upon payment of \$500.00 for membership in the Pascack Valley Shared Services Group; and

WHEREAS, Westwood shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, that the Township Council hereby approves the participation of the Township of Washington in the Pascack Valley Shared Services Group, a Cooperative Pricing System, with the Borough of Westwood, for the provision and performance of goods and services related to the repaving of roadways, and hereby authorizes the Mayor to enter into an Agreement to effectuate the above.

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

**CONFERENCE PORTION/PUBLIC MEETING**

**April 21, 2014**

Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Steve Cascio, Richard Hrbek, Thomas Sears. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Ken Poller, Attorney; Absent: Councilman Peter Calamari; Catherine Steinel, Administrator.

**PRIORITY**

**Ridgewood Boulevard North Parking Issues (Attachment)** – Mr. Sears's spoke of the petition by the residents with regard to the parking issues on Ridgewood Boulevard North, with regard to parking on both sides. There was a lengthy discussion with regard to eliminating No Parking signs and amending the ordinance. There was also a lengthy discussion with regard to the diagram. There was also a discussion with regard to no parking 175 feet from the corner. Mr. Sears stated that the five families seemed satisfied and happy with this, but during the holidays they will have to manage with the parking. There was discussion with regard to the ordinance which has been in effect for years. It was determined that Lieutenant Hackbarth will need to comment on this before the ordinance can be changed.

**Gary Vinci, Auditor** – (Mr. Vinci distributed copies of The Township of Washington Revenue Summary and The Township of Washington Comparison Apportionment of Taxes 2009 thru 2014) Mr. Vinci stated the 2014 budget is scheduled for introduction in 2 weeks, but changes can be made a month after that, May 5 is not necessarily the final budget. Mr. Vinci indicated the amount of surplus is 1.1 million dollars. Mr. Vinci spoke of the surplus, the state aid which has been flat for a number of years at \$713,000 and the revenue of the cell tower which is \$80,000. Mr. Vinci stated the values of the homes in 2009 were one billion 900 thousand dollars, and in 2013 it was one billion eight hundred sixty three thousand dollars. State precludes the Township from anticipating more than what was collected last year. Mr. Vinci also spoke of the multi-year comparison document which goes back to 2012 and 2013. Mr. Vinci spoke of the bottom of the schedule, municipal tax levy and library tax levy. Mr. Vinci indicated the levy is increasing \$107,000 and that does not include accounting or the school. Mr. Vinci spoke at length with regard to the tax rates, values of taxable revaluations and comparisons between 2013 to 2014. Mr. Vinci stated the average home in the Township in 2013 was assessed at \$534,000 and the average home in 2014 is assessed at \$464,000. There was a discussion with regard to the assessed values in Westwood. There was also a discussion of how the new assessment will impact the school levy. Mr. Vinci stated the average increase to residents on the municipal will be \$25.00, the average home will see an increase of \$146.00 between school/municipal. A lengthy discussion followed with regard to PERS and PFRS and the funds needed. There was also a discussion with regard to revenues and adjusting the revenues this year. There was a lengthy discussion with regard to the increase in permit fees in the building department. Mr. Vinci indicated the trust account is down \$13,000 and some of it has been transferred to the current fund. Mr. Vinci stated the school budget does not go for a vote. It was discussed in order not to raise taxes \$162,000 is needed. The average home is assessed at \$464,000 and one point is \$46.00. There was

a discussion with regard to getting council together for another budget meeting. There was a discussion with regard to transfers, which can be done by a resolution. Mr. Vinci stated there is about 1.2 million remaining in surplus. There was a lengthy discussion with regard to what has to be moved from the budget, and the amount is \$162,000, last year it was \$186,000. There was also a discussion on looking at the surplus. The collection rate was at 98.5 % for the Township. There was a lengthy discussion with regard to the construction code and how that number was determined. Grants collected last

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year is not anticipated in the budget. When a grant is collected then you can bring those items, which at this time are four items, into the next year's budget. The county tax is based on the equalized market value; there is actually a schedule that the county does prepare. Mr. Vinci stated take last year's market value, adjust for the new construction that took place during the year, review tax appeals that went against the Township, and compare that to the new revaluation.

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer, to go into Closed Session.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

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Elaine Erlewein, Acting Township Clerk

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Thomas Sears, Council President

