

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

PUBLIC PORTION/CONFERENCE MEETING

December 16, 2013

The Township Council held a Public Portion/Public Meeting in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council President Steve Cascio with the Clerk leading a salute to the flag. Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Fred Goetz, Richard Hrbek, Steven Cascio. Absent: Joseph D'Urso Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Ken Poller, Attorney. Absent: 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.

GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Goetz, Hrbek, Cascio

Nays: None.

Ray Bernroth, 383 Crest Place – Mr. Bernroth saw that the cell tower is up but understands it is not working yet, He said to let us gets it finished. Saturday night he had tickets to go to Newark to see a certain orchestra, and drove to Newark at 20 miles an hour. On Sunday morning on his way to church, Crest Place was a sheet of ice, all the way up to Pascack. Stated that if they can clear everything else in town he does not understand why they could not put salt down on Crest Place. Next time they put salt down, please do not forget Crest Place. Dr. Cascio stated he will bring it to the attention of the administrator. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that we did receive a lot of compliments with regard to the snow and ice removal within the Township this weekend. The Mayor also stated next time you see ice on the road, please call the police department and they will have someone come out and take care of it. Mayor Sobkowicz also stated she did ride around quite a bit herself, and believes it probably melted and then refroze. Mayor Sobkowicz further stated there are always people on winter watch ready to come out. Stated he didn't know that, and thanked the council for taking him first.

Rosa D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard – Mrs. D'Ambra would like to discuss the school path bridge which is never cleaned properly by the road department. The last time she walked there was on Sunday, two o'clock in the afternoon to go to the store and it was a sheet of ice. The Mayor said that the school path is cleaned now. Mrs. D'Ambra said that the DMF don't clean where you get off on each street and you have to jump over ice. Stated that the people that are working in the road department can get out and shovel. You don't need a truck all the time and it is hazardous to someone that walks in that area. Stated that the Township is in the newspaper again regarding the swim club and would like to know what we are doing about that. Also would like to know who do these people know that there are these trucks on that property. That is not right and the town has to do something about it. Also stated it has been going on for a couple of years, maybe more. She does not live down that end. Spoke of 905 Washington Avenue and that the sidewalk has never been fixed and would like to know who they know in town that they do nothing about their sidewalk when everybody else on Washington Avenue has to keep their sidewalks nice. Stated that there is something going on in this town that things are not being done correctly. We are not all perfect. People keep complaining and nothing is getting done. Dr. Cascio stated with regard to 905 Washington Avenue that he understands that several letters have been mailed to the resident and he is not sure what the process is. Dr. Cascio

further stated that the administrator, who is not here tonight, would be the person who would be able to answer that question. Dr. Cascio stated with regard to the swim club itself, Mr. Tucker and a couple of members from the swim club met down at the swim club two Saturdays ago and Dr. Cascio believes that the swim club is going to go for a zoning variance on that piece of property to put some commercial vehicles down there. Mrs. D'Ambra then stated about the people that live in the area and that they don't want to look out there window and see trucks and garbage. Dr. Cascio replied that is his understanding of what was going to occur, that they have to go in front of the zoning board and Dr. Cascio does not know if the swim club put an application in yet. Mrs. D'Ambra then asked who owns the swim club. Dr. Cascio replied the members own it. The members hold a bond on it. Mrs. D'Ambra stated something is not right, it has been going on for the last ten years and little by little it is getting worse. Mrs. D'Ambra further stated before you know it we will have garbage trucks in people's backyards. Dr. Cascio stated at this time there are no garbage trucks on the property. There are nine trailers, one pick-up truck and a mobile home. Mrs. D'Ambra asks are they supposed to be there. Dr. Cascio replied according to the ordinance right now, no. Mrs. D'Ambra thanked everyone, stated that this is the last council meeting for the year and wished everyone good tidings.

Anthony Conti, 490 Ridgewood Boulevard North – Mr. Conti stated he heard the explanation of the swim club and finds it disappointing to say the least. Stated that the meeting was Sunday, and it was a planned meeting and since it was a planned meeting trucks and trailers were pulled out of there before the meeting, He said that he does not think a planned meeting was the way to go. Stated that there no containers there. They did get rid of the dumpsters and there is also a generator there with lights on it. Dr. Cascio stated that this is the swim club's equipment. Mr. Conti stated that this affects himself and one other person more than anyone. He further stated that if council is going to look to some sort of way to help the swim club, he then suggested that each member put a trailer in their driveway, and the landscaper can pick it up in the morning and drop it off at night and then start and work on the equipment on Sunday. They can turn that money over to the swim club. Stated that this can be done instead of changing the zoning and he would have to look at the pile of trash in his backyard. Also stated the reason he came here tonight is he received an anonymous letter about some sort of dome that was going over the swim club so they can use it for the winter. This is what started all of this nonsense. Stated that he received an anonymous phone call and in that phone call it was stated that he is being targeted by an employee of the Township that the Township is going to look for violations at his home so they can report him. Asked if the council will stand behind him the way it is standing behind the swim club if he is so targeted by this employee which he has no idea who they are talking about. Dr. Cascio stated he does not believe the council is standing behind anyone. Mr. Conti stated from September, when this all started the council has pushed it off. Further stated there have been no fines, no violations or anything else and there is a cease and desist, but no date of enforcement. Mr. Conti stated under the first amendment, freedom of speech, he is allowed to come in here and say he has a problem and somebody should help. Now he is being told he is being targeted by an employee but no one will stand behind him. Dr. Cascio stated he does not believe council has stood by anyone, it is within the purview of the administration to send out an officer and it is up to that officer to bring fines, penalties and bring it to the attention of the administration. Mr. Conti would like to know where those fines are. Dr. Cascio stated that is an administrative issue and that would be the mayor, administrator, and the enforcement officer. Dr. Cascio further stated that letters have been issued, there have been

meetings, and it is within their purview now, not the council. Mr. Conti would like to know why Dr. Cascio was at the meeting Sunday if council has no bearing on this. Dr. Cascio replied he was just listening and was at the meeting as a citizen. Mayor Sobkowicz stated first of all there was a cease and desist order put on that property and it was five days from that time, and council voted to put the cease and desist order in abeyance and the council can't put the cease and desist order in abeyance. It is an administrative function. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that she has all the information with regard to the inspections that were made, and the violations, and the Mayor will try to schedule a meeting with Mr. Castino and there will be a deadline for removal. Mayor Sobkowicz asked Dr. Cascio what he was doing at the meeting since Dr. Cascio stated this is an administrative function. Dr. Cascio replied he went there as a citizen. Mr. Conti asked if while they are applying for a variance the swim club was allowed to keep the stuff in the back while the application is going through. Mr. Poller stated they have to comply with what the administrative officers have required and if they don't then the administration officers, the code enforcement official is authorized to file a complaint with the court.

Peter Calamari, 28 Gabriel Way – Asked if Dr. Cascio was at this meeting as a citizen, was this meeting open to all citizens and was it a public meeting. Dr. Cascio replied as far as he knows. Mr. Calamari asked why wasn't Mr. Conti invited and how did Dr. Cascio receive his invite, how did he know this public meeting was going to take place. Mr. Conti stated that everyone saw him standing in his backyard but no one invited him to the meeting. Mr. Calamari stated that it was very inappropriate that Dr. Cascio was there since it seems he was there representing a government body, unless Dr. Cascio made that disclaimer to everyone at the meeting that he was there as a citizen. Dr. Cascio replied that yes, he did make that disclaimer. There was a discussion with regard to the conference session tonight and the position of council president, and if that is supposed to be done at a reorganization meeting. Mr. Calamari stated why the two outgoing council members would have a say. Mr. Calamari also asked with regard to the meeting dates, why was the reorganization meeting on the 6th instead of having it the first or second. When this council was voted in on January 2 of this year that was a Wednesday. It was explained that it is the first and third Monday of the month and residents are accustomed to coming to meetings and the attendance would be low since it would be off schedule. Mayor Sobkowicz stated traditionally, in the past when new council comes they would be invited to sit at the table and participate so they get accustomed to coming to meetings, getting packets and so on. Mr. Calamari stated he just wants it on the record that you treated yourselves very nicely, now that two are going off, you have decided to change the meeting for the first Monday. Mr. Calamari continued that everyone seemed to get here January 2 of this year, putting it in the newspaper and getting people to attend actually worked even when the date was changed. Mr. Calamari stated in spite of what was said at the last meeting, that we were congratulated and wished luck that was a shallow congratulations.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Goetz, Hrbek, Cascio.

Nays: None

CONSENT AGENDA

After a brief discussion, Numbers 4 and 5 (appointments for the Zoning Board of Adjustment) were tabled for the next meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. Hrbek to vote on Item #1, a transfer, of the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Hrbek.

Nays: Councilpersons Goetz, Cascio.

The transfer did not pass.

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. Goetz to vote on Item #2, a transfer, of the Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Hrbek, Cascio.

Nays: Councilperson Goetz.

The transfer did not pass.

A motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to pass the following resolution of the Township Council.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Goetz, Hrbek, Cascio

Nays: None

WHEREAS, the Township Council of the Township of Washington (the "Township") awarded New York SMSA Limited Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless ("Verizon") the bid for the Wireless Telecommunications Facility to be located at the Township's Municipal Complex (the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, construction of the Wireless Telecommunications Facility has begun and utility service is required therefore; and

WHEREAS, Public Service Electric and Gas Company ("PSE&G"), a public utility company of the State of New Jersey, engages in furnishing utility service to subscribers in the State of New Jersey, and has requested a Grant of Easement from the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Township agrees to convey an easement to PSE&G for its use in connection with providing utility service to the Property and the facilities located thereon, all in accordance with and for the purposes set forth in the Grant of Easement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED, that the Township Council of the Township of Washington hereby approves the Grant of Easement attached hereto and any insubstantial changes that the Township Engineer, Township Administrator and Township Attorney agree should be made thereto, and hereby authorizes the Mayor of the Township of Washington to execute such Grant of Easement.

Mary Ann Ozment, Township Clerk

Steve Cascio, Council President