

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

**PUBLIC PORTION/PUBLIC MEETING**

**May 5, 2014**

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 Thomas Sears with the Clerk leading a salute to the flag. Members present: Peter Calamari, Steve Cascio, Richard Hrbek, Thomas Sears. Glenn Beckmeyer arrived at 8:06 p.m. 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.

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

**REPORT OF MAYOR**

Mayor Sobkowicz thanked the Fire Department for sponsoring the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 19 at Memorial Field. It was an enjoyable time and also a large crowd turned out for the event. An annual inspection will be conducted at this time and council will be reviewing the work of the various departments. Thanked the new Fire Chief Bill Biliias for inventorying everything in the Fire Department. Fire Chief Biliias broke everything down on a spreadsheet and it will make our job easier. Mayor Sobkowicz thanked the Fire Department for doing that. Ambulance Corps has received 5 or 6 new members, but they can use volunteers to work during the day. Between the Ambulance Corps and the Fire Department we have 13 to 14 new members. Thanked Cara Ann Murphy from the county for donating the Smoke Free signs, they are ready to be installed. April 26 was Opening Day for softball and baseball. Mayor Sobkowicz thanked Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Hrbek, Calamari and Sears for attending. The weather held and it was great to see friends, neighbors and families spending the day together. Mayor Sobkowicz thanked all those who volunteered doing the cooking. The Road Department was there monitoring activities, the Fire Department had an awesome American flag display and the Ambulance Corps was there in case help was needed. Mayor Sobkowicz attended the Knights of Columbus honoree night, honoring those who have done a great job for our community and the greater community. The Knights of Columbus recognized Tom Lawton, Gary Pinke and Anthony Baldini. The Police Department CERT Team currently has five or six applications at this time, would like to get up to ten. The last meeting for the Planning Board was April 30, and the change to the Storm Water Ordinance was approved by the Planning Board. The Shredding and E-Recycling Event will be held on Saturday, May 10, between the hours of 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. April is the first month this year that we did not recycle more than last year. Mayor Sobkowicz would like to remind everyone that the revenue we receive from recycling helps to pay for the program, and in addition we receive money back from the state based on the amount we recycle. Mayor Sobkowicz thanked Let It Grow and the Imbarrato family for the donation of trees to Sherry Field and Clark Field. On Govdeals the Township did sell a 2007 Crown Victoria for \$900.00 and a 2008 Crown Victoria for \$1,100.00. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that Council passed a resolution to enter the Pascack Valley Shared Services Road Program. Phase 1 of our road program will begin later this month, May 21<sup>st</sup> or May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Christopher Statile is the engineer for the Pascack Valley Group as well as for our town on this project. Mr. Statile is currently inspecting each of the streets on our list and any problems we had written down. Pascack Junior Police Academy will be held the week of June 24, from

8:30 am to 2:30 pm with the official graduation on Friday, June 27. Applications are available at the Township, Westwood or Hillsdale police departments. The Township has received the JIF award for 3 years in a row and the reason for that is we provide Safety and Training Videos, and in April we had three. Mayor Sobkowicz would like to thank Vic Fadini for being proactive. Mayor Sobkowicz stated due to the State's shortfalls and the State budget, as has been advertised, the State has been downgraded by Standard and Poor's. Unlike the State, Standard and Poor's has raised the Township's rating from double AA to AA+, due to the Township's financial and debt factor scores. Municipal budget is being worked on and the most increase will be \$25.00, and hopefully it will be finalized on Thursday. The school portion of the budget is estimated to be \$146.00 based on a house assessed at \$464,000. Mayor Sobkowicz stated the Township is paying less than Westwood, but Westwood has more students, so the Township is paying more per student. A lot of towns in the area are trying to figure out a better formula. Bids for Recycling Organic Waste and for the purchase of Gas and Diesel Fuel are due May 21. Due to retirements and medical absences, 16 officers are available to cover shifts. With the retirement of the chief at the end of the month, and the appointment of a new chief, the Township will only have 15 people to cover shifts. Mayor Sobkowicz spoke of the interview process, what that entailed. Mayor Sobkowicz was involved with the second round of the interview process. As a result of the ordinance, in order to hire a new police officer a regular officer needs to be promoted. Police Officer Lawton was promoted to Sargent, and Officer Osenbruck, who was a dispatcher, was hired and sworn in. On May 6, at the Senior Center, we will swear in a new officer as well as a special officer. The Summer Recreation Program began last week. There are various options available. The regular hours are 8:30 am- 2:30 pm and there is also before care and after care available. As of this time we have 21 children registered for the full day and about 7 registered for the various options. The Recreation Department worked very hard last year to make it an even better program and this year we have a parent's group that are met with who suggest activities.

## **REPORT OF COUNCIL**

**Dr. Cascio** – No report this evening.

**Mr. Hrbek** – Mr. Hrbek thanked the Township Baseball and Softball Program. It is a volunteer organization and they do an absolutely tremendous job. Mr. Hrbek also congratulated Officer Lawton and Osenbruck on their promotions. Mr. Hrbek stated he did receive an email at 10:30 that day for the event that took place at 4:30, but he did try to pass a text along with his congratulations. Mr. Hrbek spoke at length with regard to dispatching, the options that were explored and the hiring of police officers. Mr. Hrbek stated he believes the best option would have been joint dispatching with Westwood, at a cost of \$132,000 plus some additional costs, which would run about \$200,000. Mr. Hrbek stated currently it is \$60.00 per hour, which during the course of the year is about \$530,000, compared to \$200,000 that is a substantial savings. Mr. Hrbek stated he made the concession last year, civilian dispatching was going to be done at a considerable savings, and it is a way to free up police officers. Mr. Hrbek spoke at length with regard to the training of dispatchers. Mr. Hrbek also spoke of the salary ordinance, and the passing of that ordinance. Mr. Hrbek states there was no attempt to hire three full time dispatchers. Mr. Hrbek feels he has been deceived as well as the public. Mr. Hrbek believes before hiring more police officers we should wait until the budget is finalized, until we have the money in the police salary ordinance. Mr. Hrbek states he always has tried to be a voice of reason, working as a team. Mr. Hrbek believes that he and the people of the Township were deceived by this whole concept of civilian dispatching.

**Mr. Calamari** – Mr. Calamari did attend Opening Day for Baseball and Softball and also attended the event at the Knights of Columbus. Mr. Calamari states based on what he saw at these events, volunteerism is alive and well in the Township of Washington. Mr. Calamari states if you see a volunteer pat them on the back and say thank you.

**Mr. Sears** – Mr. Sears stated he also attended Opening Day for baseball and the Knights of Columbus ceremony. Mr. Sears states they were both great events. Mr. Sears spoke about the budget, and the hard work has gone into the budget by the council to get the budget ready. Mr. Sears states he is concerned about the school budget. We are trying to make the best of your tax dollars to keep the tax rate down. Mr. Sears feels that the school budget is out of control. We are taking money away from emergency services, DPW, and trying to keep the tax rate down. Mr. Sears does not feel the school board should be part of controlling the school budget.

**Mr. Hrbek** – Mr. Hrbek states that he thought he read in the Community Life of the Patch that the actual increase was \$48.00 or \$49.00 not \$147.00.

**Mayor Sobkowicz** – Mayor Sobkowicz states we received the sheet last week in the budget meeting with the auditor and that is what the auditor predicted the number to be. Mayor Sobkowicz spoke with regard to the hiring of full time dispatcher in the beginning of the year; currently we have a dispatcher who is almost full time and several part timers. Mayor Sobkowicz further states we would like to put another dispatcher on, but due to the injuries in the police department and the retirements, the most important goal right now is to cover the shifts. Today we had to have some officers go out and do overtime for PSE&G and United Water. Having a full time Special Police Officer will really help fill in where necessary. Mayor Sobkowicz further states nobody was deceived, things happen. We need to be prepared and a little flexible. Mayor Sobkowicz also states with regard to the interview process for police officers, it is very time consuming. We received seven applications from the Township and many from outside of the Township. Mayor Sobkowicz further states we tried to get Police Officers that were already PEFC Certified so we would not have to send them to the Police Academy for six months; they already went on their own.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Calamari, seconded by Dr. Cascio to approve the March 24, 2014 Public & Conference Session minutes.  
(Councilman Beckmeyer Abstain.)

Ayes: Councilpersons Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

A motion was made by Mr. Calamari, seconded by Mr. Sears, to approve the April 7, 2014 Public & Conference Sessions.  
(Councilman Hrbek Abstain)

Ayes: Councilpersons Calamari, Cascio, Sears.

Nays: None.

#### **GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

**Joe D'Urso, 12 Viola Terrace** – Mr. D'Urso states he checked and at this time only the Public Session minutes are posted on the website, not the Conference minutes. Mr. D'Urso thanked Councilman Hrbek for saving him time in his five minutes. Mr. D'Urso believes it just makes better business sense to hire civilian dispatchers. Mr. D'Urso states that there was a great offer on the table with Westwood and it did not work out. Mr. D'Urso spoke of the average salary for the civilian dispatchers and monies put into the budget

to hire civilian dispatchers. Mr. D'Urso states monies can be used to make improvements in this town. Top priority as of now should be the hiring of civilian dispatchers. There was a discussion with regard to the new officer hired, had he been through the academy. The new officer hired needs two classes and he will attend them when they are offered. There was a discussion with regard to the amount of money spent on overtime. There was also a discussion with regard to the outside billing line, which has a little over \$200,000 and how that money was used by the prior council to keep taxes low. Mr. Sears indicated the council is going to be looking into that.

**Ray Bernroth, 838 Crest Place** – Mr. Bernroth would like to know if the whole town has been revaluated. Mr. Sears states that the tax bill in August will take into account the revaluation. Mr. Bernroth states that Crest Place is still full of potholes, would like to see them fixed. Mr. Bernroth spoke of the No Smoking signs. Mr. Bernroth is a former smoker and it would be nice if smokers can have a spot to smoke.

**Mary Ann Ozment, 960 Adams Place** – Mrs. Ozment would like an update on her question on what is the protocol for funerals. Mr. Sears indicated he did contact the police, and didn't receive a response back. Mr. Sears will have an answer for Mrs. Ozment at the next meeting. Mrs. Ozment would like to know where the money from the sale of the middle school is, special account or general account. Mayor Sobkowicz states it is in a special account at PNC and it stays there. Mrs. Ozment spoke of the budget and its lateness and would like to know if anyone has contacted the state to get permission since the budget is very late. Mr. Sears states hopefully it will be done this Thursday. Mrs. Ozment asked is the police chief leaving. Mr. Sears states he is leaving, and believes he submitted his papers. Mrs. Ozment would like to know if she can see a copy of the administrator's resignation letter. Mr. Poller replied that is a personnel matter and believes it is exempt. Mrs. Ozment states she will ask the administrator if her resignation letter can be made public.

**Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue** – Mr. Ullman states with regard to the pending ordinances at the last meeting he stated they were not online, but he was looking at the wrong place. Mr. Ullman apologizes to the clerk since he was mistaken. There was a discussion with regard to the emergency services moving their antennae's to the cell tower. A preliminary test needs to be done with regard to the repeaters that are located at George School and IHA. All hookups were finished last week. There was a discussion with regard to the Township not having an engineer. The Planning and Zoning engineer is Paul Azzolina and for special projects we hire an engineer that goes with that project. There was a discussion with regard to Christopher Statile, who has offered some opinions on the firehouse. Mayor Sobkowicz states a bill has not yet been received from him. There was a discussion with regard to the threshold an engineer can be paid, which is not more than what is in the budget. A lengthy discussion followed with regard to the threshold of \$17,500 and if it is over that it would have to go before council in a resolution. Mayor Sobkowicz states general engineering would be covered by general engineering, big projects that go out to bid may need approval for the engineer on that project. There was a discussion with regard to the resolution passed for professional services, and the CAP of \$17,500. Mr. Poller states it is really more project specific, specific projects come up that need a specific engineer. Mr. Poller agrees that right now we are in an unusual situation, and that normally an engineer is appointed at the beginning of the year. Mr. Ullman would like this looked into.

**Diane Grimaldi, 441 Van Emburgh** – Ms. Grimaldi asked what, as it is indicated on the website, are the unforeseen circumstances with regard to the non-collection of e-recycling at the town dump. Mayor Sobkowicz explained that the dumpster was offered for free, but a bill was received for the dumping fees which amounted to \$8000 for a couple of months. There was a discussion

with regard to Shared Services with Westwood, which has to be renewed every year and it was not renewed. Mayor Sobkowicz explained that the Township was responsible for half of the dumping fees, and she did not know how many residents from the Township were using that, since it was a shared service. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that the deal was not such a good deal. Mayor Sobkowicz states with Waste Management the Township gets three free shredding and e-recycling events per year at no cost. Ms. Grimaldi asks with regard to the barricades, which have been there for months at Pascack Road, why are they there. Mr. Sears replied Public Service is digging a trench.

**Mr. Hrbek** – Mr. Hrbek would like to note he did attend the Community Day Meeting in Westwood in which the Township received a grant for retiling the Senior Center Floor. Mr. Hrbek would like to state in the By-Laws of the Pascack Valley Chapter for Bergen County, if you do not have a representative at the meeting, you are not eligible to receive the grant. Mr. Sears thanked Mr. Hrbek for representing the Township.

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, Calamari, 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 Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Dr. Cascio.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

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. 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 \$5,524,960.21 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:

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Maint. Of Buildings       | \$ 6,000.00 |
| Fire O/E Gas (Natural)    | \$ 3,000.00 |
| Fire Dept. Hose Testing   | \$ 2,500.00 |
| Fire Dept. Physicals      | \$ 700.00   |
| Municipal Alliance Grant  |             |
| State Share               | \$ 1,071.21 |
| Fire Hydrant Service      | \$15,000.00 |
| Fire Dept. Repairs        |             |
| Chief's Car               | \$ 1,300.00 |
| Gasoline & Diesel         | \$10,000.00 |
| Police/Community Policing | \$ 350.00   |
| Dept. of Recreation       |             |
| O/E Misc. Programs        |             |

Summer Rec. \$ 5,000.

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

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 (a) allows for the award of a contract without public advertising for bids if the aggregate does not exceed, in a contract year, the total sum of \$17,500; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington Health Department (the "Township Health Department" requires the services of a biomedical waste removal company; and

WHEREAS, Stericycle, Inc. with offices located at 4010 Commercial Avenue, Northbrook, IL 60062, has provided a one year service agreement, beginning on May 1, 2014, for medical waste removal services to be provided for the Township Health Department for a contract price below the bidding threshold; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Treasurer has encumbered the funds which are available and allocated in 2014 Temporary Budget Account # 401-42-330-500.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Township Council hereby approves the biomedical waste services agreement with Stericycle, Inc. and authorizes the appropriate officer of the Township Health Department to execute the one year service agreement between the Township of Washington Health Department and Stericycle, Inc. for the above stated purpose.

WHEREAS, Certified Refrigeration LLC posted soil movement escrow on premises known as Block 4427, Lot 6.01, 2 Morgan Court; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated April 24, 2014, C.O. No. 01-522,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated April 22, 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 \$140.50 to the above.

WHEREAS, Joseph and Brenda Battaglia posted engineering escrow on premises known as Block 4427, Lot 6.01, 2 Morgan Court; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated April 24, 2014, C.O. No. 01-522,

WHEREAS, there are not outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated April 22, 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 \$335.00 to the above.

WHEREAS, Jon and Aileen Jerman posted engineering escrow on premises known as Block 1205, Lot 1, 699 Van Emburgh Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated April 17, 2014, C.O. No. 13-433,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated April 14, 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 \$412.00 to the above.

After Closed Session, a motion was made to go into Open Session by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Calamari, to accept the settlement of JIF and their attorneys for the payment of \$55,000 to the plaintiff in the Chin versus the Township of Washington, Fred Goetz lawsuit.

Ayes: Councilpersons Cascio, Calamari, Hrbek.

Nays: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Sears.

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer, to approve the following resolution.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

WHEREAS, Catherine Navarro-Steinel was hired by the Township of Washington (the "Township") in January 2012 as the Township's Business Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the terms of employment of Catherine Navarro-Steinel were negotiated by Mayor Janet Sobkowicz and former Councilman Joseph D'Urso in December 2011, which included accumulating vacation and sick days; and

WHEREAS, Catherine Navarro-Steinel has notified the Township of Washington that her last day as the Township's Business Administrator will be May 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department has calculated the unused vacation and sick days due to Catherine Navarro-Steinel pursuant to her terms of employment; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Treasurer encumbered the funds which are available and allocated in 2014 Temporary Budget Account #4-01-30-415-000; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council wishes to authorize the payment of such unused vacation and sick days due to Catherine Navarro-Steinel in the amount of \$14,564.55 as calculated by the Finance Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, that the Township of Washington hereby approves the subject payment of \$14,564.55 to Catherine Navarro-Steinel, and hereby authorizes the Department of Finance to issue a check to Catherine Navarro-Steinel in said amount to be signed by the Mayor thereafter for the above stated purpose.

A motion was made by Mr. Calamari, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer, to close the Public Session and adjourn.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

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Elaine Erlewein, Acting Township Clerk

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Thomas Sears, Council President

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

**CONFERENCE PORTION/PUBLIC MEETING**

**May 5, 2014**

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

**PRIORITY**

**Lake Association** – Mr. Sears did not receive any response from the letter he sent from the Lake Association. Mr. Sears further stated it is not in the best interest of the town at this time. Mr. Sears is asking for each councilperson to say Yay or nay to continue with the Lake Association. Dr. Cascio recuses himself since he is part of that association. There was a discussion as to when the letter went out. Mr. Sears states that they did not give the Township a cost analysis, a presentation was made. Mr. Sears further stated as far as the Township's financial responsibility, going forward on this subject is not financially sound for the town to take on this responsibility. Mr. Sears would like to have a letter written to the Lake Association representative indicating that council is not interested at this time to pursue any agreement or take over the lake. Mr. Beckmeyer states the fact that we didn't receive anything from them we can't go forward it might as well be dropped. Mr. Hrbek agrees, the financial liabilities far outweigh any benefit to the town. Mr. Calamari agrees and does not see any benefit, in taking all the risks into account. Mr. Sears states he told the representative of the Lake Association to get back to council as soon as possible. Mr. Sears states we have three votes that council is not going to pursue this.

**Repeal No Parking Ordinance on Ridgewood Boulevard North (Attachment)** – Mr. Sears spoke of the petition that came from residents and the Police Department did respond with their suggestion. Mr. Sears is going to meet with them tomorrow. (A visual printout of where the "No Parking Ordinance" would be repealed is provided). A lengthy discussion followed with regard to the diagram that was presented. There was a discussion with regard to adding No Parking on the northeast side of that intersection and extend No Parking on the northwest side to make sure the intersection stays clear. There was a discussion on keeping the original signs.

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer, to modify the ordinance as discussed.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Calamari, Cascio, Hrbek, Sears.

Nays: None.

**Firehouse Parking Lot** – Mayor Sobkowicz stated Christopher Statile went over to the location to take a look at it, give us an opinion. Mayor Sobkowicz wrote up what was said by Mr. Statile. Mr. Hrbek states it should incorporate the drainage and retention system, this only accommodates the

actual roof drains. Mr. Hrbek also stated it is a county road. There was a discussion with regard to the firehouse and the impact it would have on the fire house. There was also a discussion with regard to where the nearest catch basin is, the catch basin that collapsed and the catch basin that is buried. There was also a discussion with regard to the floors in the firehouse and the bays. Dr. Cascio states if the firehouse is going to get done, why the parking area do first. There was a discussion with regard to doing the parking lot first, since it is a commuter parking lot, by the time the big projects get going. It is asked of Mr. Beckmeyer if he would go and take a look at the firehouse parking area. Mr. Hrbek states that Chestnut, just passed Clark, is just as bad as Sussex, worse than Colonial. Mr. Hrbek further states if we have any extra money at the end of the project, these roads need immediate work.

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

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Elaine Erlewein, Acting Township Clerk

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Thomas Sears, Council President