

The Work Session of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:30 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Comm. Tobin, Kaiser, Mayor Short, Attorney Jansen,  
Assistant Administrator Burd,

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comm. Krickus, Comm. Cullen

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on January 5, 2004 and January 30, 2004 and was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on the same dates. This meeting is being held at the temporary Municipal Offices at 55 Fairview Avenue, Long Valley, New Jersey. Notices of this meeting were sent as there were requests.

**PRESENTATION AND PROCLAMATION – RONALD KOUMARAS** - Mayor Short, on behalf of the Washington Township Committee, read aloud a proclamation honoring employee Ronald Koumaras as a true patriot for his dedicated contribution of time and service to his country and the citizens of Washington Township. Mayor Short presented Mr. Koumaras with a plaque as a symbol of our appreciation.

**WEST MORRIS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – BUDGET OVERVIEW** – Mr. John Notte, President of the West Morris Regional Board of Education, presented budget goals for this year. Mr. Notte stated that the total projected spending per student next year is \$13,099. Mr. Notte stated that the current enrollment for 2004 is 2404 students and that number is projected to increase to 2793 in the year 2008. Mr. Douglas Pechanec, Business Administrator for the Morris Regional Board of Education, presented a slideshow illustrating program initiatives, capital improvements and projected spending. Mr. Pechanec stated they have received additional state aide of 3% this year and that the majority of items cut from last year's budget were put back in. Mr. Pechanec informed the committee that the budget vote date is April 20, 2004.

**PUBLIC HEARING – SOIL DISTURBANCE – LANDMARK HOMES – BLOCK 11, LOT 27**

**Mr. David Brooks, 22 Ron's Edge Road, Springfield, New Jersey representing Landmark Enterprises** requested the Township Committee's approval to move 7,000 cubic yards of soil from Mission and Spring Lane to Panther Valley, NJ. Mr. Brooks stated that he had received a letter from Township Engineer Carl Denzler's office commenting on the soil disturbance application and that Sergeant Trevena determined the truck route to be taken.

**Attorney Jansen** stated that the Township Clerk will send a copy of the application to the Municipal Engineer and the Environmental Commission who will submit their recommendations concerning the permit application to the Township Committee within 15 days after the public hearing.

**Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public. There being no comments or questions, Mayor Short closed the meeting to the public.**

**RO-08-04 – BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,455,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,380,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP, FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY – SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,455,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,380,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP, FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS OR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY be read by title upon second reading and a hearing held thereon.

Motion was made by Comm. Tobin, seconded by Comm. Kaiser that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Tobin, Kaiser, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Krickus, Cullen

**Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.**

**Mr. Michael Mulvihill, 68 Rock Road** asked if there was any plan for the use of the 34.05 acres of property being acquired and if there was any consideration of additional recreation purposes.

Mayor Short stated that the property is adjacent to the Middle School and it is being considered for a proposed community center, bypass route and other uses. Mayor Short stated that there has been no discussion of any recreational use for that site.

**There being no further comments or questions, Mayor Short closed the meeting to the public.**

Motion was made by Comm. Tobin, seconded by Comm. Kaiser that further consideration of this ordinance be tabled until the regular meeting on Monday, April 19, 2004. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Tobin, Kaiser, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Krickus, Cullen

**RO-09-04 - BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF LANDS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$265,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$251,750 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION – SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF LANDS IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$265,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$251,750 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION be read by title upon second reading and a hearing held thereon.

Motion was made by Comm. Tobin, seconded by Comm. Kaiser that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Tobin, Kaiser, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Krickus, Cullen

**Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.**

Mr. Steve Zaikowski, 212 Bartley Road stated that a forestry management program should be considered for this land so that the woods are constantly turned over and the underbrush controlled to reduce fire hazards.

**There being no further comments or questions, Mayor Short closed the meeting to the public.**

Motion was made by Comm. Tobin, seconded by Comm. Kaiser that further consideration of this ordinance be tabled until the regular meeting on Monday, April 19, 2004. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Tobin, Kaiser, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Krickus, Cullen

**RO-10-04 - BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,700,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,615,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION - SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,700,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,615,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING SUCH APPROPRIATION be read by title upon second reading and a hearing held thereon.

Motion was made by Comm. Tobin, seconded by Comm. Kaiser that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Tobin, Kaiser, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Krickus, Cullen

**Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.**

Ms. Suzanne O'Neill, 16 Blackberry Place inquired how the town arrived at a figure of \$1,700,000 and whether there was a specific portion of that amount allocated to Falcon Field.

Mayor Short stated that there wasn't a certain dollar amount allotted to any given park facility and the money would be moved around as needed. He stated that the budget contained all the information on how that number was broken out.

Mr. Daniel O'Neill, 16 Blackberry Place asked what improvements were slated for Rock Spring Park.

Mayor Short stated that the playground is being replaced and that whatever part of the playground is still usable and up to codes will be moved to another location.

Mr. Steve Zaikowski, Chairman of the Shade Tree Committee stated that there is still a problem with the drainage at Palmer Fields, and he would like to be involved in the decision-making process for the drainage project. He stated that there would be additional runoff from the golf course. He inquired if the county could pipe all that water down Bartley Road and directly into the river.

Ms. D.S. Chinapen Barkovich, 20 Blackberry Lane inquired if there is a list of problems that occurred during the construction of Palmer Fields so that the same problems are not encountered at Falcon Fields.

Mayor Short stated that the initial construction at Palmer I and II – the three all purpose fields and two baseball fields - was done at municipal cost but the other work was out of our control and was done by an outside developer at his own cost. Mayor Short stated that the final purchase of this property did take place this past week, and the Township of Washington now has ownership of all those fields. He stated that the Township Committee is aware that there is a drainage problem, and the intention is to move all that water into 8 holding ponds on the golf course. He stated that Mr. Zaikowski could be involved in the drainage project.

Comm. Kaiser stated that there are now new State storm water rules that effect Falcon Fields and they are much stricter than what applied at Palmer Park.

**There being no further comments or questions, Mayor Short closed the meeting to the public.**

Motion was made by Comm. Tobin, seconded by Comm. Kaiser that further consideration of this ordinance be tabled until the regular meeting on Monday, April 19, 2004. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Tobin, Kaiser, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Krickus, Cullen

**RESOLUTION #R-69-04 - AUTHORIZE SUBMISSION OF ANJEC SMART GROWTH GRANT APPLICATION**

Mayor Short stated Resolution #R-69-04 will be carried until April 19, 2002. Mayor Short stated that a quorum of at least three members is required to act on this Resolution and Comm. Kaiser, an employee of the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions, has a conflict.

**Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.**

Mr. Steve Zaikowski, Chairman of the Shade Tree Committee stated that he would like to see tree planting specifications standardized and incorporated into the land use guide.

Attorney Jansen stated that the trees are dedicated to the township and hence the imposition of such specifications is no different than drafting specifications for the construction of curbing or sidewalks.

Mayor Short stated that Mr. Zaikowski has an expertise in this area, and suggested he write up his recommended specifications and get them to Debbie to be reviewed by the appropriate people.

Ms. Suzanne O'Neill, 16 Blackberry Place inquired if there would be any impact as a result of the passage of the Highlands Bill on projects such as Palmer Park and Falcon Fields.

Mayor Short stated that he has information on the Highlands that he would be discussing later in the meeting.

Mr. John Carmelengo, 6 Briarwood Road stated that a traffic study should be done on the Falcon Fields project.

Mr. Reed Lubin, 3 Briarwood Road expressed concern that the land where fields 4,5,6 & 7 are proposed at Falcon Fields is being disturbed before the Department of Environmental Protection has a chance to evaluate it.

Mrs. Carmelengo, 6 Briarwood Road stated that a truck had been in the fields for three hours earlier that day and when she investigated, the gentleman that she spoke to at the Department of Public Works admitted that the parking lot might have been enlarged by a foot.

Mr. Ralph DeFranzo, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works stated that dirt had been pushed to the side of the parking lot last year. He stated that what Mrs. Carmelengo is referring to is that they were removing the excess stockpile for the purpose of grading off the parking lot at town hall.

**Mayor Short** stated that the Department of Environmental Protection should be coming within the next two months to take soil borings and observe the vegetation and wildlife. Mayor Short directed Mr. DeFranzo to instruct the grounds people not to cut anything except for mowing the grass on the playing areas.

**Steven Zee, 61 Rock Road** stated that the speed limit on Rock Road should be changed because the area has been developed since the 35 mph speed limit was established, and the traffic actually averages 44 miles per hour. Mr. Zee stated that there are a lot of children in the area.

**Attorney Jansen** stated that by statute there are different speed limits for different districts - residential, suburban business or residential, highway, etc. Any speed limit we set has to be approved by the Department of Transportation.

**Mayor Short** stated that the traffic officer would be asked to do an analysis.

**Ms. Carol Zaikowski, 212 Bartley Road** stated that the methods used to prevent silting off the railroad bed when the Columbian Pipeline was installed are failing. Ms. Zaikowski stated that many trees are dead and pieces are breaking off during high winds and falling into the South Branch of the Raritan River and blocking the Drakesbrook overflow channel, thereby preventing water from passing freely.

**Mayor Short** stated that the Morris County Park Commission is responsible and requested that Ms. Zaikowski draft a letter to his attention outlining the situation and he will take the matter to the county.

**Mr. Roger Wagner, 49 Rock Road** stated that if a traffic study is conducted on Rock Road it should encompass how it affects emergency services, since it is a major thoroughfare for these vehicles.

**Ms. D.S. Chinapen Barkovich, 20 Blackberry Lane** requested clarification on why the Township is not required to conduct a traffic study on their projects.

**Attorney Jansen** stated that the theory is that the municipality is the sovereign, and the sovereign is not subject to its own rules and regulations. It does not have to comply with its own planning requirements such as traffic studies. That is the way the law has been interpreted.

**There being no further comments or questions, Mayor Short closed the meeting to the public.**

**BOND ORDINANCE FOR PATRIOT'S PATH/FALCON FIELD TRAIL EASEMENT** - The Township Committee will table this until more information is available.

**DRIVEWAY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT** - Attorney Jansen stated that minor modifications will be made to the ordinance - specifically to clarify that the proposed deed for the common driveway easement and the cooperative maintenance agreement must be received by the Township prior to the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy. Attorney Jansen stated that the actual form of the maintenance agreement should be approved prior to the issuance of a building permit.

## **DISCUSSION**

**BOARDS AND COMMITTEES - SCHEDULE INTERVIEWS** - members of the Township Committee will interview candidates for appointment to various Township Board and Committee positions at 6:00 P.M. on April 19, 2004.

**CELL TOWER LEASE PROPOSAL** - The Township Committee will consider a proposal authorizing T-Mobile Wireless to lease ground space to construct a cell tower on the Teen Center property. Comm. Kaiser reminded the Committee that there is a COAH obligation that the Township needs to fulfill on that property. The matter will be discussed further at the Township Committee meeting on April 19, 2004.

**ZONING USES - MORRIS MUSEUM** - The Township Committee will consider the proposal of the Morris Museum of Morristown to use 239 Beacon Hill Road for a public use/education site. The Committee will refer the matter to the Washington Township Planning Board.

**ROUTE 57 BYPASS** - The Township Committee will consider the bypass corridor study recommended by the Town of Hackettstown to improve traffic congestion and flow by installing a Route 57/46 bypass at the April 19, 2004 meeting.

**TITLE CHANGE - RECREATION COORDINATOR** - The Township Committee authorized a title change for Eleanora Murfitt-Hermann from Recreation Coordinator to Recreation Director in order to remain consistent with the town codebook. There will be no change in salary.

**PLEASANT GROVE ROAD IMPROVEMENT BIDS** - The Township Committee authorized Engineer Carl Denzler to proceed with the plans and specifications for the improvement of Pleasant Grove Road.

