



**Suzanne O'Neill, 16 Blackberry Place** quoted the Township Recreation Director's 2004 assessment of the need for new recreational facilities in town in which she stated that her only concern was the inability to rest soccer fields during the Fall soccer season and that additional all-purpose fields would alleviate this concern.

**Robert Malone, 11 Falcon Lane** stated that with regard to Falcon Fields, he does not believe the Township should exempt themselves from their own rules concerning a traffic study in town. He also requested that the Township wait until they hear back from the Department of Environmental Protection on all matters before commencing any work or funding issues on this matter. He requested that the Township fully review the recommendation from the Planning Board and that they accept these recommendations verbatim.

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

## **DISCUSSION**

**NON-CONTRACTED EMPLOYEE BENEFITS** – Comm. Tobin stated that the non-contracted employees in Washington Township had submitted a request that the committee consider making improvements to their benefits including additional vacation time, holidays and personal days. He stated that, during a previous meeting, the Township Committee had agreed to the additional week of vacation starting at year 20. Comm. Tobin stated that he had met with three employee representatives to go over the results of the Committee's discussion and they reported that instead of getting the five additional days at year 20, it was preferred that one additional day be given each year beginning at year 17 up to year 20 to benefit employees earlier in their careers. Comm. Tobin also stated that Assistant Administrator Deborah Burd had conducted a survey confirming that well over half the towns in Morris County provided three personal days to their employees versus the two personal days that Washington Township currently provides.

**Mayor Short** stated that the Committee would review the numbers and present a decision at the Committee Meeting on May 17, 2004.

**CELL TOWER LEASE PROPOSAL** – The Township Committee discussed T-Mobile Wireless' request to lease ground space to construct a cell tower on the Teen Center property. Mayor Short stated that there is a need for improved communications in the valley, and that the revenue would be excellent for the township. Mayor Short instructed Administrator Galletts to inform T-Mobile Wireless that the Teen Center property has been set aside for COAH housing, but that the Committee is open to discussing any other sites in which they may be interested.

**Comm. Kaiser recused herself from the conversation concerning the Wastewater Management Plan Amendment.**

**WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT** – The Township Committee will discuss the request to include Valley View Chapel and Valley Shepherd, LLC for inclusion in the sewer service area at the May 17, 2004 Committee Meeting.

**Comm. Kaiser returned to the meeting.**

**HIDDEN HILLS – DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENTS** – The Township Committee agreed to extend the time limitations imposed upon K. Hovnanian at Washington, L.L.C. for completion of the bonded improvements in Sections 1-4 of the Hidden Hills Community with the condition that they post cash instead of bonds as performance guarantees.

**STEPHENSBURG ROAD BRIDGE** – The Township Committee discussed safety issues concerning the Stephensburg Road Bridge. Mayor Short instructed Department of Public Works Superintendent Ralph DeFranzo to request Morris County engineers to inspect and repair the bridge.

**ROUTE 57 BYPASS** – Mayor Short stated that he had met with officials from the Town of Hackettstown and informed them that Washington Township is not interested in a Route 57/46 bypass.

**Comm. Cullen recused himself from the discussion concerning Park Use Fees.**

**PARK USE FEES** – The Township Committee discussed whether the fee charged to the Musconetcong Valley Camp Association for their 10-week summer program at Rock Spring Park is appropriate. Washington Township Recreation Director Eleanora Murfitt-Hermann will research the fees charged by the County to make sure that the fee charged to the Musconetcong Valley Camp Association is similar.

**Comm. Cullen returned to the meeting.**

**TAX OFFICE POSITION** - The Township Committee agreed to Township Administrator Galletts' request to reduce the hours of the assistant tax collector and authorize the employment of a typist position for the minutes of meetings.

**KOHLER POND FENCE** - Mayor Short directed Mr. Ralph DeFranzo, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, to look for a way to disperse the piles of topsoil at Kohler Pond.

**POLICE – HIRING RECOMMENDATION** – The Washington Township Committee will consider Chief Ted Ehrenburg's request to approve the hiring of three police officers instead of two in order to prepare for an upcoming retirement.

**Mayor Short recused himself from the discussion concerning the Mission Road Gate.**

**MISSION ROAD GATE** - The Township Committee discussed a resident's request to remove the gate blocking Mission Road.

**Mayor Short returned to the meeting.**

**SOIL DISTURBANCE – MISSION ROAD** – The Township Committee will consider a resolution to allow Landmark Homes to move 7,000 cubic yards of soil from Mission and Spring Lane to Panther Valley, NJ.

**The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 10:10 P.M. upon approval of the following resolution:**

**RESOLUTION #R-86-04 – EXECUTIVE SESSION –  
ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE: MUSEUM – BEACON HILL ROAD**

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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, Cullen, Krickus, Kaiser, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 10:15 P.M.**

**The meeting adjourned at 10:16 P.M.**

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**Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk**