

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, *Krickus, Kaiser, Cullen, Mayor Short, Attorney Jansen, Administrator/Clerk Gallets, Asst. Adm. Burd

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

*Comm. Krickus arrived at 7:45 p.m.

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on January 5, 2004, January 30, 2004 and March 24, 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.

RESOLUTION #R-107-04 – REJECT BIDS – GASOLINE, DIESEL FUEL, HEATING OIL – 2004-2005

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Krickus

RESOLUTION #R-108-04 - AWARD BID – ONE (1) FIRE SUPPORT VEHICLE AND ONE (1) HEAVY DUTY RESCUE VEHICLE

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Krickus

RESOLUTION #R109-04 – AWARD BID – THIRD PARTY ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS – BUILDING INSPECTION UNDERWRITERS, INC.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Krickus

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.

Ms. Carol Lance, 18 Jackie Drive commented that she has been a resident of Jackie Drive for two years and during that time she has experienced two thefts of personal property. She stated that newly planted lilac bushes, a hose reel and 100' of hose were stolen. She feels the Township Committee puts more emphasis on having the police department issuing traffic tickets than on patrolling the neighborhoods. She stated that her calls to the police department have not been returned.

Mayor Short stated that there is no direction by the Township to issue as many tickets as possible. He stated that he believes a neighborhood watch would be the best answer to the problem.

Comm. Cullen stated that there is no excuse for her not having received a call back, and he would make sure that she receives one. He stated that he would speak with Lieutenant Monohan to see what could be done to help her set up a neighborhood watch.

Mr. William Dunn, 18 Arrowhead Drive stated that he has twelve letters signed by the residents of Arrowhead Drive. Mr. Dunn stated that Arrowhead Drive is being patched for the third time this year. He stated that the road is over thirty years old, has not been repaved and that the curbing is all lifting. He stated that the Road Department said the whole development was supposed to be repaved a couple of years ago, but it wasn't.

Mayor Short stated that there are 140 miles of road in the Township. He stated that the Committee realizes that there are a lot of local roads that are in need of repair, and Nestling Pines is very high on the list of roads to be repaired. He stated that in order to keep the taxes in line, the Committee had to determine what to take off the plate this year. Unfortunately, Nestling Pines had to be taken off. Mayor Short stated that the Committee hears his complaints, but due to fiscal constraints, the repairs on Arrowhead Drive won't happen this year. He stated that the Township needs to prioritize road repairs.

Mr. Bill Bell, 4 Rolling Ridge Drive stated that there are other subdivisions older than Nestling Pines that have been redone. He stated that the road being in such poor condition has to be affecting their property values.

Mr. Kevin O'Reilly, speaking for the residents of Paula Drive, stated that Paula Drive requires a complete replacement. He presented the Committee with a signed petition from the residents of Paula Drive.

Mayor Short stated that the process of making the road repair list begins around this time of year. He stated that the Township Engineer drives around looking at different roads and finding the ones with safety hazards. A list is developed. Then, in late November, the Township Committee starts working on the budget. Mayor Short stated that a request was put in by Mr. DeFranzo to have Paula Drive redone but, with the tax situation, we couldn't put more Township money into asphalt this year. He stated that the Township has open public meetings on the budget. He stated that the Township had well over \$5 million in requests this year and could only fund \$1.3 million. One out of every four projects had to be turned down. He stated that the fire trucks and the first aid rescue trucks were of vital importance. Mayor Short stated that there are public meetings which are advertised in the papers, and that there are usually four meetings a month until the budget is settled. He stated that the roads are discussed at these meetings, and that the decisions are made in January and February.

Comm. Krickus stated that residents can call to find out what will be discussed at the next meeting. He stated that "Capital Requests" is generally the meetings you would want to be at.

Ms. Laura Elia, 65 Paula Drive stated that Mr. DeFranzo has never returned one of her phone calls in the last four years. Ms. Elia stated that she lives on the cul-de-sac on Paula Drive, and there is an enormous water problem in front of her mailbox. She stated that she has two sons who have fallen in the street. Ms. Elia stated that the water overflows onto the sidewalk and creates an ice skating rink that kids come to slide on. She asked who is going to get sued if they fall and get hurt. Ms. Elia stated that it is a hazard, and it is dangerous for her children. She stated that two drains have been put in, but they didn't put a third one in on her side of the street. She stated that somebody finally came and took care of her sidewalk.

Mr. Ralph DeFranzo stated that two catch basins were installed last year. He stated additional drainage needs to be done when the budget allows.

Charles Pettineo, 42 Paula Drive stated that he has lived on Paula Drive for approximately 32 years, since the development was built. He stated that the Township is getting more damaged roads because they are neglecting them. He stated that it would pay to spend a little more money in one particular year to take care of the worst roads so that every year the expenditure will at least stabilize rather than grow.

Mayor Short stated that the Committee is very much aware of this, and they had floated a bond around three years ago for \$2 million to do some catch up. He stated the Township was able to get some state grant money.

Comm. Krickus stated that it is very good to hear comments about the need for road repairs and increasing that portion of the budget. He stated that the Township Committee should keep these conversations in mind when making decisions on hiring and spending. Comm. Krickus stated that every decision the Committee makes on spending affects the whole budget, and it affects the ability to address the capital needs of the town.

Comm. Cullen stated that we can typically get about twenty years out of our main roads and thirty years out of our development roads. He stated that the Township does need to maintain the infrastructure. He stated that this year Paula Drive got cut, unfortunately, because the Township needed to buy a new fire vehicle and \$275,000 worth of communication equipment. Comm. Cullen stated that the residents being here at the meeting and bringing up the subject is a good thing. He stated that when the Committee gets to the point of discussing our budget for next year, this conversation will be remembered. He also stated that the Committee can't make any guarantees.

Suzanne O'Neil, 16 Blackberry Place inquired if any changes had been made to the plans for Falcon Fields since last month's meeting; particularly, whether any consideration had been given to her request to have 150' setbacks for the recreational fields from the neighboring properties. She also inquired what changes the Committee foresees to the fields, if any, as a result of the passage of the Highlands Act.

Mayor Short stated that he has not seen any changes at all come through on the setbacks at Falcon Fields. He also stated that it is his understanding that the Falcon Fields project will be able to continue under the Highlands Act.

Comm. Krickus stated that a decision will be made on the Falcon Field setbacks at the Committee Meeting on Monday, June 21, 2004. He stated that the Committee needs to discuss the changes needed in the contract in Executive Session.

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

Comm. Tobin stated that the topic of the Paula Drives and Arrowhead Drives has been a matter of great debate over the last seven or eight years. There are five Committee Members - all with the best intentions and their own perception of what the priorities are. Fiscally, anything you do has a tax impact. He stated that very few projects come forward that don't have merit, and it is difficult to squeeze the merit and the tax dollars into something that is workable. We have had some heated discussions about it over the years. Comm. Tobin urged residents to come out to the budget meetings, because other interest groups all come out for their particular projects. He stated that it has been very rare in twenty-

two years that he has seen any residents come out to a budget meeting. He stated that he doesn't recall anybody ever coming about roads. Comm. Tobin stated that 2005 might be a great time for the residents of Paula Drive and Arrowhead to come and make their voices heard.

Mayor Short stated he wanted to clear up some misinformation that he has been getting a lot of phone calls about. He stated that the Township is not hiring additional police officers. He stated the township is replacing officers that are retiring with officers earning half their salary.

STREAM CORRIDOR – The Township Committee will discuss the Stream Corridor Buffer Ordinance at the Committee Meeting on Monday, June 21, 2004.

FIRE PREVENTION CODE – The Township Committee will discuss the Fire Prevention Code at the Committee Meeting on Monday, June 21, 2004.

SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING OVERLAY ZONE – The Township Committee discussed a proposed ordinance to change the zoning to allow US Homes to build Senior Housing on the Heath Village site at Newburgh/Rte. 24. The Township Committee agreed to table this proposed ordinance until more research is conducted.

DISCUSSION

FALCON FIELDS

The Township Committee discussed a request by residents that a lighting ordinance or resolution be passed denying any potential lighting in the future.

Attorney Jansen stated that the Township Committee could pass an ordinance that would prohibit lighting of the playing fields at Falcon Fields, but future Committees would have the ability to repeal or modify that ordinance. He stated that it can't be made irrevocable. Attorney Jansen stated that the only thing that it would do is provide the need for an ordinance to repeal or amend it. He stated that this would require publication and a public hearing - which would give people an opportunity to be heard.

Comm. Tobin stated that he feels it is important to do this because, if a group offers to put in the lights, the Committee can allow it and that would be the end of the discussion. He stated that if you have an ordinance, you do have to go through the process of publishing, etc. He stated that he thinks it is a safeguard.

Comm. Krickus stated that a precedent would be set where people who are concerned about a particular issue will come before the Committee and request we pass an ordinance so that a future committee would have to repeal it. It could be on a range of issues that we haven't thought of. We would be setting a precedent to have ordinance after ordinance passed.

Administrator/Clerk Gallats stated that it costs roughly \$1,000 to pass an ordinance by the time you get it drafted, published in the paper, codified, etc.

Mayor Short stated that he is not personally in favor of an ordinance. He stated that he is willing to go on record that as long as he sits on the Committee, he will vote against any field lighting proposal for sporting events. He stated that he does not want to spend Township money making an ordinance that can be turned around and repealed for another \$1,000 somewhere down the road.

Comm. Cullen stated that he agrees with Mayor Short's statement.

Comm. Kaiser stated she agrees with Comm. Tobin and would like the ordinance to apply to all of the fields that are not lit at the moment.

Motion was made by Comm. Tobin, seconded by Comm. Kaiser that the attorney write up an ordinance to prohibit stadium lighting on all municipal fields in the township that are currently unlit. Motion was defeated by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. Kaiser, Tobin,

NAYS: Comm. Cullen, Krickus, Mayor Short

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Short stated for the record that three bids were received this past week on the Falcon Fields project, ranging from \$919,000 to \$1.8 million.

LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST – The Township Committee discussed a letter received from Dr. Paul Viggiano regarding an available liquor license/consumption license in Washington Township. The Committee agreed to wait until there is more competition before issuing the license.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES – Members of the Township Committee will interview candidates for appointment to various Township board and committee positions.

NAUGHRIGHT ROAD IMPROVEMENT ACQUISITIONS – The Township Committee discussed acquiring the property on Naughtright Road needed in order to widen the road.

SETTLER'S RIDGE DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT EXTENSION – James Laughlin, Esq. requested a one year extension of the Developers Agreement between his client, Fertakos and Co., Inc., and Washington Township so that his client could address the detention basin repair and the completion of any other subdivision improvements which may be required. The Township Committee considered the request but delayed making a decision pending a satisfactory financial arrangement.

SUMMER CAMP REQUEST – The Township Committee approved a request for two former residents of Washington Township to attend the summer camp program for one year if there are openings after all interested Washington Township residents are accommodated.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT – Mr. Ralph DeFranzo stated that the Township has five years to do the entire survey and mapping of its stormwater system to meet NJDEP regulations, but that fifty percent has to be done within the next two years. He stated that there is a tremendous amount of data to be collected. Mr. DeFranzo also stated that the Township has to submit a comprehensive stormwater management plan within one year.

Mayor Short requested that Comm. Kaiser and Mr. DeFranzo submit a plan to move forward on this project at the July 14, 2004 Work Session.

DRIVEWAY PERMITS – The Township Committee discussed the new procedures for handling driveway permits which will result in better service and lower fees for residents.

Attorney Jansen stated that there will be a need to change the existing ordinance before the new procedures can be implemented.

Administrator Gallets stated that if the ordinance is going to be changed then an application fee should be included, since there is no provision for covering administrative costs.

RECREATION BUILDING DONATION – The Township Committee discussed presenting a Proclamation of Appreciation to the Sharp Concrete Company of Califon, NJ for their very generous donation in connection with the construction of the new recreation garage/office building.

COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS RESOLUTION – The Township Committee agreed to pass a resolution urging the legislature to evaluate the practicality of eliminating the County Superintendent of Schools position and, if practical, adopt a bill abolishing it.

PASCALE PROPERTY – The Township Committee discussed a proposal they had received to make the Pascale property a real hay field in order to get farmland preservation funds.

RAIDERS PRESS BOX – The Township Committee discussed the Raiders Football Association's request to transfer the \$4,000 bond already posted for their lighting project to the press box/field house project that they would like to begin at Rock Spring Park.

Mayor Short stated that one transaction should be closed out and then another transaction started. He stated that there are still two lights on the field at Rock Spring Park that are facing in the wrong direction, and the bond should not be refunded until the problem is corrected.

GRIEVANCE #3 – The Township Committee will schedule a grievance hearing for the July 14, 2004 Work Session if Attorney Salsberg is available.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING RENOVATIONS – The Township Committee will discuss the Municipal Building Renovations at the July 14, 2004 Work Session.

RESOLUTION #R-109A-04 – EXECUTIVE SESSION –
PERSONNEL: ASSISTANT TAX COLLECTOR
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: FALCON FIELDS
LAND ACQUISITION: COMMUNITY CENTER

Motion was made by Comm. Tobin, seconded by Comm. Cullen 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 10:09 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk