

The Work Session Meeting of the Washington Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Tobin at 7:10 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Comm. Short, Walsh, \*Nedd, Mayor Tobin, Attorney Jansen, Administrator Gallets, Assistant Administrator Burd  
(\*Comm. Nedd arrived at 9:10 p.m.)

**MEMBERS ASBENT:** Comm. Cullen

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on January 3, 2006 and was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on the same date. This meeting is being held at the Washington Township Municipal Building, 43 Schooley's Mountain Road, Long Valley, New Jersey. Notices of this meeting were sent as there were requests.

**FAIRMOUNT FIRE COMPANY - FIRE TANKER BID** - Dave Steinel, Assistant Chief, advised the Township Committee that only one bid was received for the Fire Tanker, which was opened yesterday at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Sidel stated that he was told that the Township Committee needed a letter by Friday, stating the truck committee's recommendations on the bid that was received. Mr. Steinel stated that he would like some guidance from the Township Committee, whether the one bid that we have is acceptable.

**Mayor Tobin** - stated that the consensus of the Township Committee is to take another look at the specs and to go out to bid again.

**Attorney Jansen** - stated if the truck committee is going to revise the specs, if they are going to make them broader, that is a legitimate basis to reject the bid.

**Mayor Tobin** - requested Attorney Jansen to review the Fire Tanker Bid with Mr. Steinel, prior to the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting.

**Attorney Jansen** - suggested that the truck committee should start looking at the bid that was submitted to see if it complies with the technical specifications or whether there were any exceptions taken that render the bid non-responsive.

**Attorney Jansen** - advised the Township Committee that they do not have to act immediately, the bid is good for 60 days and we can even get an extension on that. Mr. Jansen advised the Township Committee that the bond ordinance has not been finally adopted and then we have to wait 20 days after the bond ordinance is adopted, before we can certify to the availability of funds.

**DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION AD HOC COMMITTEE** - Kim Kaiser gave a brief overview of the goals and objectives of the Downtown Revitalization Committee.

**TRAIL EASEMENT - HARRINGTON PARK - UPDATE** - Comm. Short gave a brief update on the trail easement. Discussion on the trail easement at Harrington Park was postponed until the June 14, 2006 Work Session Meeting.

**SALARY ORDINANCE** - The Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY at the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting. (\$500.00 Township Committee)

**SALARY ORDINANCE** - The Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY at the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting.

**BORGENICHT LAND ACQUISITION** - The Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE RO-34 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION BY PURCHASE OR CONDEMNATION OF A PORTION OF BLOCK 34, LOT 46 AS SHOWN ON THE OFFICIAL TAX ASSESSMENT MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON" at the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting.

**Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the public for comments or questions on any matter.**

**Chuck Totten - Totten Family Farm** - stated that he has a meeting with the Tax Assessor on May 11, 2006, to request that he be assessed at the average fair market value of preserved farmland in the area. There are 51 preserved farms in the area. Mr. Totten stated that he is in compliance with the deed easement for farmland assessment.

**Mayor Tobin** - stated that the Township Committee will wait to see the outcome of the meeting with the Tax Assessor.

**Don Ebert & Mike Deo, 232 Pleasant Grove Road** - Mr. Ebert advised the Township Committee that when he and Mr. Deo purchased the property four years ago there was a Forest/ Woodland Management Plan on the property. Mr. Ebert stated that after they bought the property, they were notified that they were not allowed to cut any more trees down, because of the conservation easement.

**Comm. Short** - suggested that Mr. Ebert and Mr. Deo appear before the Environmental Commission and the Planning Board, with a copy of their approved Forest Management Plan and a plat showing where the conservation easements are located on the property.

**Mayor Tobin** - suggested that Mr. Ebert and Mr. Deo proceed with Comm. Short's recommendation and then come back to the Township Committee.

**Mayor Tobin closed the meeting to the public, there being no further comments or questions.**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES – US HOMES** - Joel Kobert, Esq. and Doug Angloff, Project Manager appeared on behalf of their client U.S. Homes – Greenbriar at Riverview, to discuss Township Committee related issues on the Planning Board resolution.

**Doug Angloff** stated on June 22, 2005 the Planning Board approved a preliminary site plan by US Home Corporation, Inc. to construct a 360 unit age restricted development on Block 19, Lots 5, 6 and 7 (Newburgh and Schooley's Mountain Road) subject to a number of conditions. Condition NN reads as follows: " The Condominium Association or its predecessors, successors or assigns shall enter into a contract with a private ambulance service to provide non-emergency ambulance/medical transport services for the proposed 360 unit development. The contract regarding private non-emergency ambulance/medical transport services shall be reviewed and approved by the Planning Board Attorney. All emergency services for the proposed development shall be provided by the Township of Washington. In consideration for the additional burden placed on the Township of Washington emergency services, the Applicant has offered to donate \$150,000 to the Township of Washington toward the purchase of emergency equipment. Said donation shall be paid at issuance of the first building permit for the multi-family dwellings. In addition the Applicant shall convey for no monetary or other consideration to the Township of Washington or its designee as determined by the Township, approximately 2 acres of land for the purposes of location of an emergency services substation. Upon application for final major site plan approval, the Applicant shall simultaneously apply for minor subdivision approval to subdivide a parcel measuring approximately two areas to be conveyed to the Township or its designee for use for an emergency services substation as depicted on the plans approved in this resolution. At such time as the Applicant closes title on the property, the applicant shall simultaneously convey said 2 acre parcel to the Township or its designee. The Applicant shall pay to the Township or its designee a maximum of \$10,000 for the design of a two bay substation building to be located on the donated land. The Township or its designee shall be responsible for the actual design of the building and the acquisition of the requisite approvals for construction. After all requisite approvals are obtained at the request of the Township or its designee, the Applicant shall promptly construct the two bay substation building on the donated land for a maximum cost for construction, material and labor to the Applicant of \$100,000. The two bay substation shall be built so that Certificates of Occupancy can be obtained simultaneously for the two-bay substation and the first multi-family dwelling unit. Upon receipt of final approval, the Applicant will enter into a Developer's Agreement at which time the Applicant and the Township Committee shall address issues relative to payment of utilities and funding of the maintenance of the emergency services building within the Developer's Agreement."

**Comm. Short** - stated that representatives of the Washington Township Committee, Planning Board, Fire Department and First Aid Squad met at Schooley's Mountain Firehouse and discussed the location and design of the emergency service substation. During this meeting we reviewed the needs of the Washington Township Fire Department and First Aid Squad. Building requirements were discussed and a draft site plan was agreed upon. The draft site plan indicates the chosen location of the two-acre lot as well as the size of the building (50' x 61' and 43' in height) and the preferred placement of the building on the two-acre lot. The size of the building was based on the size of the apparatus that the substation could house and the fact that it should be able to house any one of the township's emergency services equipment, including a ladder truck, to meet the fire fighting needs of this development and surrounding uses. The building placement took into account the residential uses across Newburgh Road and therefore, the access doors face the side of the property, an industrial area. It was the opinion of the representatives at this meeting that it would be more efficient for US Home to design the site and the building instead of making the \$10,000 contribution indicated in the resolution as they know the property and would be able to design using the same materials as the Greenbriar at Riverview project. Normally, the township would not be building this type of structure, there is no need for us to have a substation in this area, but the need arose because of the 360 units coming into this area.

**Mayor Tobin** - We will refer to a committee or we will discuss these issues at a later date.

**Joel Kobert, Esq.** - stated that once we have the hard numbers for the cost of the building, I will contact Administrator Gallets to get on the agenda for a Work Session Meeting.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM** - The Township Committee agreed to pass a resolution supporting \$4.3 billion in fiscal year 2007 funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program at the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting.

**POLICE ARBITRATION** - The Township Committee agreed to pass a resolution supporting cap limitations on Police and Fire Arbitration at the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting.

**CORTLAND ESTATES – DEVELOPER’S AGREEMENT EXTENSION - JORDON COURT -**

**Mayor Tobin** - instructed Administrator Gallets and Deputy Administrator Burd to contact the homeowner to find out if their objection is to having the pine trees removed at all or just not at their expense. Mayor Tobin stated that he would also like something in writing from Mr. Zaikowski, Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission, in regards to shade tree plantings. Mayor Tobin also requested a letter from Leon Hall, about the issue of sidewalk connection to Parker Acres road, removal of 3 trees and whether the road should be paved now or deferred until later in the construction season, until the remaining four houses are closer to completion. Postponed until the June 19, 2006 Regular Meeting.

**HISTORIC COMMISSION BUDGET REQUEST** - Administrator Gallets advised the Township Committee that she received a memo from Eileen Stokes requesting money to replace the Preservation Award signs, which were donated by Weikert Realtors in 1971. The Historic Commission is requesting \$300.00 for the signs and \$100.00 to attend preservation seminars. The Historic Commission has no budget, so the money would have to come out of Committee Projects. The Township Committee will discuss the request of the Historic Commission at the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting,

**RADIO ANTENNAS - WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP** - Michael Bailey, C.O.P. advised the Township Committee that he received a quote from Communications Services with regards to the antenna’s needed to be purchased for the Chester Borough water tower site. Cingular will be removing the old antennas from this site and placing used antennas on a temporary tower at no or minimal cost to the township. Chief Bailey stated that when Cingular makes the transfer back to the water tower, we should replace the existing antennas with new ones, so at a future date we will not have to pay for the installation of replacing the antennas. Mayor Tobin instructed Assistant Administrator Burd to check with Kevin Lifer, C.F.O. to see if there are any unused available funds in capital projects. The consensus of the Township Committee was to purchase the two new antennas at a cost of \$1,628.00 and if there are no unused funds in capital projects, the money will come out of the Police operating budget.

**SMART FUTURE GRANT** - Deputy Administrator Burd informed the Township Committee that Washington Township has been approved to receive a Smart Future Grant in the sum of \$10,000.00. This award will provide funds for the historic downtown area with its registered structures to help to fully develop its potential for tourism and to establish continuity with a new architecturally sympathetic commercial area. Comm. Short stated that he will work with Gail Werner on this project.

**COIN TOSS - WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY EVENTS** - The Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance entitled “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY PERMITTING CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS TO SOLICIT CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE ROADWAYS SITUATE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON” at the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting.

**DRAKESTOWN/MINE HILL ROAD** - Mayor Tobin stated that three of the Mount Olive Township Council Member’s want to attend our June 14, 2006 Work Session Meeting to discuss improvements on Drakestown/Mine Hill Road. Scott French, D.P.W. Supervisor is going to meet with Mount Olive’s D.P.W. Supervisor to take a look at what is involved. Mayor Tobin stated that all we can do this year is listen to their concerns and get the feedback from the two D.P.W. Supervisors, as to what would be necessary for the improvements and potentially look at it in the 2007 budget.

**9:10 p.m. Comm. Nedd arrived at this time.**

**2006/2007 DEFEATED BUDGET - WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT – K-8**

**Mayor Tobin** - stated that Comm. Nedd and Comm. Walsh reviewed the Washington Township School District K-8, 2006/2007 defeated budget.

**Comm. Nedd** - stated in reviewing the budget, the guiding principles were: (1) Maintain BOE priority for classroom instruction (2) Recognize salaries and benefits, subject to contractual obligations, make up 77% of the overall costs (3) Recognize facilities and operating expenses are also increasing (4) The budget is impacted by the opening of a new elementary school (5) Recognize long term commitment to facility improvements and maintenance (6) Support BOE curriculum and instructional initiatives (7) Respect the expressed will of the voters.

**Comm. Nedd** - stated the Township Committee line items recommendation are Salary Breakage \$96,675.00 - Grade 5 Instrumental Music \$115,347.00 - Middle School Activities \$60,900.00 - Transportation for Athletics \$10,800.00 - Co-curricular Activities \$21,225.00 - Total cuts \$304,947.00.

**Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on the school budget.**

**Tammy Kenny, 41 Sierra Drive** - stated that she is President of the Music Parent's Association at the High School and a very advent supporter of the music programs within the district. Ms. Kenny provided a survey of 15 surrounding school districts, indicating that taking away instrumental music in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade is out of the normal. Ms. Kenny stated that once we remove instrumental music in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, we will be the only district that begins that program in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Sam Akin, 98 East Mill Road** - stated that 77% of the school budget is salary and benefits. Mr. Akin stated rather than cutting an instrumental music program out of one grade, we need to say maybe it's time for teachers and everyone else who works in the school, to start contributing to paying for dependent's health care costs.

**Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the Board of Education and the Administration staff for questions or comments on the school budget.**

**Dr. Gerald Vernotica, Superintendent of Schools** - Dr. Vernotica stated that his comments are made as a non-voting member of the School Board, just as the Administrator, who has a vision for our programming. First and foremost, we would like to thank the Township Committee, for their time and effort and we understand the challenges in this difficult process. Dr. Vernotica stated that he was as impressed with the diligence that was taken by Mr. Nedd and Mr. Walsh. Dr. Vernotica stated that as the Superintendent of Schools I have the obligation, basically to make a matter of record, where we want to go with our schools and go through a number of points, so that we can recognize that we are all in this together. Let's look at what our schools have brought to us, what our schools will continue to bring to us and what our schools will provide us in the future. Dr. Vernotica stated that it saddens him that programs for children could be cut, based on a loss of 111 votes. I think the will of the taxpayers is to have a quality program in schools, because as you know, people move into Long Valley for the quality of life and for the schools. There will be a breaking point, and this is what I want as a matter of record, where we will actually start to see decreasing property values by the types of things we do not offer. I would ask the Township Committee, and implore you, please, let's save these programs. I felt obligated to make it a matter of record, that one of my visions for the children was to improve upon the arts programs. There is a very strong coalition between the arts and intelligence.

**Brian Bumpus, 352 Pleasant Grove Road** - stated that he would like to make it clear that he points out his comments tonight, as a private citizen, not as a School Board Member, nor do I represent the School Board in my concerns. Mr. Bumpus stated that he disagrees with the Township Committee on taking a flat budget and making more cuts and hopes the Township Committee will strongly reconsider their decisions.

**There being no additional questions or comments Mayor Tobin closed the meeting to the public.**

**Mayor Tobin** - stated that the Township Committee will discuss a resolution concerning the Township Committee's review of the Washington School District Annual Budget for the 2006/2007 school year at the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting.

**Comm. Short** - stated that he would like Comm. Nedd and Comm. Walsh's recommendations in writing prior to Monday night's Township Committee Meeting, so that Mr. Jansen can incorporate them into a resolution for the Township Committee's consideration.

**Comm. Short** - stated that he and Mayor Tobin reviewed the West Morris Regional High School District Budget for the 2006/2007 School Year, which was defeated. Chester Township, Chester Borough, Washington Township and Mendham Borough have all agreed that there should not be cuts in the original budget. Comm. Short stated that he and Mayor Tobin recommend approving the original budget with no cuts. Unfortunately, on a regional budget, it has to be unanimous, we need all five towns to say yes, before the budget goes to Trenton. Mendham Township is not in agreement. The Township Committee will consider a Resolution at the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting to adopt the West Morris Regional High School District Annual Budget for the 2006/2007 School Year.

**IN REM FORECLOSURE EXTENSION** - Administrator Gallets stated that the Township Committee was in the process of a foreclosure on Block 9, Lot 34 and the property owner asked for a postponement until May 5, 2006. The property owners have requested another extension, until July 5, 2006 in order to get all of their approvals done. The consensus of the Township Committee was to grant an extension on the foreclosure proceedings until July 5, 2006. Attorney Jansen will prepare a resolution for the Township Committee's consideration at the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting.

**HISTORICAL MUSEUM TREES** - Comm. Nedd advised the Township Committee that the Historical Society has identified 2 Norway Spruce trees, in front of the Washington Township Historical Society building, which were inspected by Steve Zaikowski, Chairman of the Shade Tree Committee, recommending that the trees be removed. The consensus of the Township Committee was to have Scott French, D.P.W. Supervisor, remove the trees, at a cost of \$2,000.00, which will come out of the D.P.W. budget.

**NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING POLICY** - Mayor Tobin stated that this will be discussed at the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting.

**REVAL PROPOSALS** - The Township Committee will consider a resolution entitled "RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AUTHORIZING THE AWARD AND EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

CONTRACT FOR APPRAISAL SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE REVALUATION OF REAL PROPERTIES IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON” at the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting.

**COUNTY PARKING ON RAILROAD** - Comm. Short stated that he spoke with Russ Felter and he assured me that this is a project that is moving forward, there will be between 18 and 20 parking spaces.

**COUNTY PARKING/FENCING – ORT FARM** - Comm. Walsh stated that this project is in progress, fencing will be going up, allowing people to access Patriot’s Path.

**CONSERVATION EASEMENT LANGUAGE** - Kevin Walsh discussed his concerns with the broad language in the conservation easements. The consensus of the Township Committee is to have the Environmental Commission and the Planning Board look at the issues.

**Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments.**

**Sam Akins, 98 East Mill Road** - suggested including the Agricultural Advisory Board to look at the issues.

**Howard Popper, 12 Gentry Trail Drive** - expressed the Planning Board’s feelings about conservation easements.

**Kim Kaiser, 40 East Valley Brook Road** - stated that she agrees with the theory of keeping the conservation easements, but when we review them, I also think we should take into consideration the changing science. I would recommend language that would allow for the removal of invasive species. Ms. Kaiser stated that when we review the conservation easements, we have to take into account, new easement language that takes into account what is better for the ecology.

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

**LIQUOR LICENSE BID** - Mayor Tobin advised the Township Committee that the liquor license bid will be discussed at the May 15, 2006 Regular Meeting.

**GAZEBO DONATION** - Mayor Tobin stated that discussion of the gazebo donation will be postponed until the June 14, 2006 Work Session Meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE NOTED FOR THE RECORD**

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Letter from Chester Borough Administrator/Clerk Valerie A. Egan and a check in the sum of \$58,100 representing the Borough of Chester’s Payment for 911 dispatching services for 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

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**Diane S. Gallets, Clerk**