

January 15, 2007

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

RESOLUTION #R-27-07 – A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF TAXES TO A LIENHOLDER

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

AYES: Comm. Cullen, Short, Tobin, Nedd, Mayor Walsh

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

RESOLUTION #R-28-07 – AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE MORRIS COUNTY ADAPTIVE RECREATION PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR 2007

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

AYES: Comm. Cullen, Short, Tobin, Nedd, Mayor Walsh

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

RESOLUTION #R-29-07 – RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, MORRIS COUNTY TO ADOPT THE AFFIRMATIVE MARKETING PLAN

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

AYES: Comm. Cullen, Short, Tobin, Nedd, Mayor Walsh

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

RESOLUTION #R-30-07 – TRANSFER OF FUNDS

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

AYES: Comm. Cullen, Short, Tobin, Nedd, Mayor Walsh

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

RESOLUTION #R-31-07 – REFUND 2006 AND 2007 TAX PAYMENTS

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

AYES: Comm. Cullen, Short, Tobin, Nedd, Mayor Walsh

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

RESOLUTION #R-32-07 – AUTHORIZE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEER LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM (LOSAP)

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

AYES: Comm. Cullen, Short, Mayor Walsh

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: Comm. Tobin, Nedd

RESOLUTION #R-33-07 – AUTHORIZE FILING OF 2007 RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION

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

AYES: Comm. Cullen, Short, Tobin, Nedd, Mayor Walsh

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

January 15, 2007

Memorandum from Washington Township Police Chief Michael Bailey, presenting the Police and Communications grants awarded in 2006 totaling \$146,150.64, and grant applications pending or denied.
Letter from Special Counsel Fred Semrau, requesting that we forward a check in the sum of \$1,500 payable to Coffey & Associates Attorney Trust, representing payment for the Combe Fill South Landfill litigation.
Letter to from The Arc/Morris Executive Director William Testa, with a check in the sum of \$1,150.25 payable to Washington Township representing their year-end contribution in lieu of property taxes.
Letter from Rutgers Editorial/Media Specialist Larry Brown, presenting an Honorable Mention Certificate awarded for our submission to the 45th Annual Municipal Public Information Contest.
Letter from President and CEO of The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation David Grant, stating that at the request of employee Ross Danis, the Trustees have granted Washington Township \$1,000 for the development of the proposed Dog Park and \$500.00 to be dedicated to the Teen Center.

DISCUSSION

RARITAN HIGHLANDS COMPACT REPRESENTATIVES

Comm. Short has been attending meetings. He stated that there are three representatives needed; an Administrator for control of the project, an Environmental Commission member for input, and a Township Committee member. These meetings are held during daytime hours and the representatives need to be available. The Raritan Highlands Compact is a nonbinding compact of the nine western Morris County towns.

Mayor Walsh accepted the position of Township Committee representative.

HOLIDAY TREE REMOVAL

Comm. Short has been discussing the removal of holiday trees from the Washington Township streets with Department of Public Works Superintendent, Scott Frech. Comm. Short stated that trees and holiday debris tend to blow around and litter the streets. He suggested that if residents cut the trees in half and pay a fee, the Department of Public Works will remove the trees at their convenience. Comm. Short stated that thirty seven towns in Morris County have a program for the removal of trees and Washington Township does not. He added that given the number of private waste removal companies utilized by the Township, a coordinated effort is currently not in place. He suggested that for the year 2008, the Department of Public Works, in conjunction with the Environmental Commission, put aside days where Township residents can cut their trees in half, and bring them to a designated location (i.e., the Department of Public Works' garage) where the Department of Public Works will place them in a chipper and dispose of them accordingly. Comm. Short wanted the Township Committee's input.

The Township Committee was inclined toward the idea as long as it was without tax implications, and that Scott Frech felt it could be accomplished.

Scott Frech, Department of Public Works Superintendent, stated that with the proper guidelines in place, he believes that this tree drop off system is feasible.

CARRY OVER VACATIONS

Comm. Nedd felt that requests from individuals to carry over vacation days should be discussed in closed session.

Administrator Gallets stated that it could be discussed in February 2007, and that individuals are still able to take 2007 vacation days.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WAIVER – FIRST ENERGY/JCP&L

Administrator Gallets stated that two Long Valley residents were unhappy with the proposed electrical substation that would be situated near their homes. She stated that she is aware that these residents have contacted a Committee member.

Comm. Cullen stated that two people in that area had appealed to him directly. He suggested that the Township write a letter in opposition to granting the Individual Transition Area Waiver under the Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act rules. Comm. Cullen stated that the residents are objecting to the substation being so near their homes and he is inclined to agree with them.

Mayor Walsh inquired of Attorney Jansen if this letter is feasible.

Attorney Jansen stated that comments could be submitted as long as they were timely. Once the application is submitted, and notice is given, comments need to be received within two weeks of such application. Notice of the application was dated December 15, 2006. He felt that comments could still be submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

Comm. Short is in favor of sending a letter to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the Mt. Olive Planning Board.

The Township Committee members agreed that a such letters of objection should be sent.

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COMCAST CABLE FRANCHISE

Mayor Walsh confirmed that dates need to be set for the Comcast cable franchise negotiations.

Administrator Gallets stated that the Township Committee needs to know who the negotiators will be. As of last year it was Mayor Walsh and Comm. Nedd.

Comm. Nedd stated that he would be a negotiator along with Comm. Cullen, who is currently assigned to the cable committee.

Comm. Cullen requested that if any Township Committee members have any comments or suggestions, he would like to receive them.

Administrator Gallets stated that they had also been meeting with Verizon and suggested that the Committee inquire as to what they could do for our town.

Comm. Nedd stated that Verizon had listed the top two hundred plus municipalities that they were going to target to initiate the Phase 1 rollout of their fiber optics network. As a low density municipality, Washington Township did not qualify for the initial implementation. Comm. Nedd agrees with Administrator Gallets that the Committee should inquire as to what are Comcast's overall plans.

Administrator Gallets stated that Assistant Administrator Burd will e-mail everyone with the dates for negotiations.

Comm. Cullen stated that farmers in the valley did not benefit from cable early on due to such companies' reluctance to lay cable to reach so few people.

Comm. Tobin stated that Comcast's predecessor needed to be persuaded to bring cable over the mountain initially to provide service to valley residents as it was too thinly populated. Such residents could not always afford the service.

Attorney Jansen stated that municipalities have offered service providers shorter franchise periods (renewals) and these offers were not well received.

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

Administrator Gallets stated that the last time costs were compared was twenty years ago. She added that Recording Secretary Madden took one of the Township's legal notices from last year and forwarded it to the Daily Record with a price request for such an item. Administrator Gallets stated that the Daily Record returned with a price quote of \$115.00, with each affidavit costing an additional \$25.00. The Observer Tribune's actual price per advertisement is \$88.23, which includes one affidavit. Administrator Gallets commented that there is usually at least one affidavit. She did remember that the Daily Record's print was different in that it took less lines to place the advertisement (they charge by the number of lines). Administrator Gallets stated that she would leave the decision to the Committee.

Comm. Cullen stated that it seemed as though the cost per year would be approximately fifty percent higher, and not worth the additional cost.

Comm. Tobin commented that the Committee reviews this subject roughly every five years, and that each Committee member has had some complaint with the Observer Tribune over the years. He felt, however, that the Daily Record does not have a great deal of local news coverage. Comm. Tobin stated that the Observer Tribune still provides the best news coverage in our town.

Attorney Jansen stated that Comm. Cullen had asked him to look into whether the Observer Tribune must be named as the official newspaper. He noted that the Observer Tribune is published in Chester. Since it is not published in town, Washington Township can name a different official newspaper. However, Attorney Jansen, reiterated that the issue becomes one of economics and the best coverage and circulation.

Mayor Walsh suggested they make a motion to designate the Observer Tribune as the official newspaper of Washington Township for 2007.

**RESOLUTION #R-01-07 – DESIGNATION OF THE OBSERVER TRIBUNE AS THE OFFICIAL
NEWSPAPER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON 2007**

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

AYES: Comm. Short, Tobin, Nedd, Mayor Walsh

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: Comm. Cullen

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

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Attorney Jansen stated that the law requires that a member of the Environmental Commission also be a member of the Planning Board. At the January Reorganization Meeting, Comm. Nedd's name was filled in as a member of the Environmental Commission because he is also a member of the Planning Board. Attorney Jansen and Administrator Gallets were concerned about whether this appointment met the requirements of the law. Attorney Jansen checked the law and stated that it clearly did not contemplate the action that the Township Committee took in naming Comm. Nedd as a member of the Environmental Commission. NJSA 40:56A-1 clearly states that the Environmental Commission member would be a Class IV Planning Board member. Comm. Nedd is a Class III member of the Planning Board, therefore, Attorney Jansen stated that the Township Committee should name a member of the Environment Commission to be a Class IV member of the Planning Board.

Administrator Gallets added that it would also be possible to take a Class IV member of the Planning Board and make that person a member of the Environmental Commission to fulfill that requirement.

Attorney Jansen concurred.

Comm. Nedd attended that last Environmental Commission meeting wherein he was informed that if a member of the Planning Board was also a member of the Commission, there would be no need for a Township Committee liaison to the Commission. Comm. Nedd felt that as Comm. Short is very involved in the Commission, and attends the meetings, their resources were being duplicated by Comm. Nedd's attendance as well.

Comm. Short stated that as he is very involved, he would serve as liaison. He added that a member of the Planning Board still needs to be brought over as a member of the Environmental Commission. The Committee will have to work on this matter. Comm. Short further added that the Commission is advisory to the Planning Board, not the Township Committee.

Mayor Walsh confirmed with Comm. Nedd that he is resigning as the Committee's appointee to the Environmental Commission, and that Comm. Short will continue as a member.

Mayor Walsh opened the meeting to the public for question or comments on any matter. There being no comments or questions, Mayor Walsh closed the meeting to the public.

MENDHAM DISPATCH SYSTEM

Comm. Tobin referred to a letter from the Administrator of the Township of Mendham, indicating that they are switching off their dispatch system. The letter was very complimentary. He inquired of Chief Bailey as to the actual termination date.

Chief Bailey confirmed that although January 16, 2007 was the original cutoff date, he had received a letter this morning stating that Mendham Township would be with the dispatch system for another week (January 23, 2007).

Comm. Tobin asked Administrator Gallets to contact Steve Mountain, Mendham's Administrator, thanking him for his time, the letter and compliments to our dispatch. Comm. Tobin also asked that she request a check for \$375.00 per day for every day Mendham Township is on our Dispatch system from January 1, 2007 until they leave. Comm. Tobin also wants the letter to include a request for the \$19,000 balance due from 2006.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING DEDICATION

Comm. Cullen stated that about one and a half years ago the Committee authorized the purchase of a plaque, and that the Committee had discussed at length whether the architect's name should be placed on the plaque. The Township went ahead and purchased such a plaque, and the municipal building has not yet been formally dedicated, nor has the plaque been put up. Comm. Cullen feels that is now is the appropriate time to do so.

Mayor Walsh stated that he and Administrator Gallets will work together to such an end.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Comm. Cullen requested an update regarding the land swap between Washington Township and the Board of Education.

Comm. Short responded that the Board of Education has not responded to his last e-mail.

HIGHLANDS COUNCIL PLANNING BOARD MEETING

Comm. Short stated to Administrator Gallets that a meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 24, 2007. He stated that an e-mail sent out by Assistant Administrator Burd, requested that the Highlands Council come before the Township Committee on this date. It is a Planning Board meeting, at which Comm. Short will give public testimony, and he would like the Committee to be well informed in supporting him. He stated that they will review the actual revised plan. There is a public input meeting at Voorhees High School on Wednesday night which Comm. Short plans to attend. Planner David Banisch has the plans, maps and all pertinent information on the new plan. Principals from the golf course would like to look at certain information from the Highlands plan. Comm. Short will relay this information tomorrow.

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Administrator Gallets confirmed the January 24, 2007 date for the meeting and strongly suggested that the Township Committee members attend. She confirmed that the Environmental Commission and Health Department will be notified.

COMPUTER RECYCLING

Comm. Short stated that computer recycling has become a hot issue and was in the newspaper this past weekend. The Township does not offer such a program at this time. The County does offer computer recycling on select days of the year. Comm. Short stated that computers, television sets, etc. are currently dumped in a landfill. He would like to investigate instituting such a program through the Environmental Commission and through the County, perhaps once or twice per year.

Comm. Cullen stated that he was interested in recycling batteries, and brought that idea up several years ago. At that time, he was informed that it was not feasible to have the Department of Public Works collect them. Comm. Cullen was advised that batteries are now recycled through the Library. Comm. Cullen would like it noted on the Township website that batteries can be brought to the Library for recycling.

TOBACCO USE

Attorney Jansen stated that Comm. Cullen has recommended the introduction of an ordinance to prohibit the use of tobacco on Township recreational facilities. Attorney Jansen stated he feels confident that the Committee could adopt such an ordinance. He commented that he consulted the GASP website, and many such ordinances were adopted by other municipalities. Attorney Jansen will prepare an ordinance for discussion at the February Work Session.

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 8:40 P.M. upon adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #R-40-07 - EXECUTIVE SESSION – PENDING LITIGATION: TOTTEN

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

AYES: Comm. Cullen, Short, Tobin, Nedd, Mayor Walsh

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 9:14 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk