

April 11, 2007

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Cullen, Short, Tobin, Nedd, Mayor Walsh, Attorney Jansen, Administrator/Clerk Gallets, Assistant Administrator Burd

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and The Morristown Daily Record on December 28, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

LIQUOR LICENSE – OPEN BIDS - Angela Bello, Cornerstone Tavern & Grill LLC placed a bid for \$275,001.00, and enclosed the requisite 20% certified check and affidavit as to the source of funding. The Township Committee will consider a resolution of approval at the April Regular Meeting.

WEST MORRIS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – BUDGET OVERVIEW – Jeff Emery, Board Member, introduced Julia Clements, Committee Finance Chair; Doug Pechanec, Business Administrator; and Dr. Michael Raj, West Morris Board Member. Ms. Clements made a presentation to the Township Committee of the details of the available revenues balanced with their educational objectives as stated in their mission statement. The Board's philosophy is to provide a reasonable budget, minimizing the impact to the taxpayer while maintaining the quality of education. The budget increase is stated as 3.78%. Voting on this budget will take place on April 17, 2007.

***Comm. Cullen recused himself from the Board of Education Budget Overview at 8:14 P.M.**

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION – BUDGET OVERVIEW – Superintendent Gerry Vernotica, Michelle Skurchak, Board of Education President, and Brian Bumpus, Vice President of the Washington Township Board of Education and Finance Chair were in attendance to present to the Township Committee the K-8 District budget. Mr. Bumpus stated that the mission statement is a commitment to a community of lifelong learners. This school year, an emphasis will be placed on continuous facility improvement and maintenance. The budget increase is 3.5% over last year. Three items are proposed for this year's focus: non remote transportation, after school athletics, and co-curricular activities. The budget increase is noted as the lowest in the past ten years. Costs are increasing per year 20 to 25%. The state has not always matched the level of funding expected. It was noted that there is significant funding for classified children. Special education is not readily planned for in the budget. Should an unanticipated special needs situation arise, funds are borrowed from other areas of the budget. Voting on this budget will take place on April 17, 2007.

***Comm. Cullen returned to the meeting at 9:00 P.M.**

Mayor Walsh suggested a five minute break at 9:01 P.M. Mayor Walsh continued the meeting at 9:07 P.M.

ORDINANCE

GREEN ACRES FUNDED PARKS – FEES

Mayor Walsh stated that the fees for park use by Township residents versus nonresidents is at issue. Eleanora Murfitt, Director of Parks and Recreation, recommended that there should be no fees assessed for park use as there is little or no use in the past by nonresidents. Rock Spring Park, Washington Township's only funded park, requires a fee of \$25.00 per hour for the use of that field. The Township Committee decided to eliminate the fees for use of this park for both residents and non-residents. Attorney Jansen suggested that the Township Committee send the proposed ordinance to Green Acres prior to introduction. The fees for use of the pavilion at Rock Spring Park will not be affected.

BOND ORDINANCE

The Township Committee agreed that Ordinance No. RO-12-07 , entitled "BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$1,315,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,250,000 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," will be discussed and voted upon at the Regular Meeting.

SALARY RANGE

The Township Committee agreed that this item will be discussed and voted upon at the Regular Meeting.

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

DISCUSSION

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY EVENTS ORGANIZATION PARKING FOR FIREWORKS

– This item will be discussed at an undetermined future date.

RESEVOIR ROAD PROPERTY – The Township foreclosed on this property approximately one and a half years ago. A house exists on this property which has been abandoned for twenty years. The Township Committee will consult with the Building Department as to whether this structure should be razed. The property's acreage is .11, and the Township Committee agreed that it will sell the property.

COLONIAL INVESTMENT FORECLOSURE - The land in question is a parcel on West Valley Brook Road, currently before the Board of Adjustment. Administrator Gallets explained that the Township has a lien on the lot, and that the property owners have requested that the Township not foreclose on the property. The owners have agreed to pay all the back taxes owed, thus making the property a viable lot for the construction of a house. The Township would benefit from future tax collection on the proposed home. The property owners recently paid the Township \$5,000.00 for the last extension, and have offered to pay the Township's Attorney fees expended on the matter. Administrator Gallets suggested a future six month extension period. The Township Committee agreed and a resolution will be brought to the Committee at the Regular Meeting.

PROMOTIONS – POLICE DEPARTMENT – Chief of Police Michael Bailey, requested that the positions of Sergeant, Corporal and Lieutenant be filled. Chief Bailey explained that the Police Department's Captain will leave his position on May 1, 2007, and his duties have been distributed to several individuals. The promotional process allows for a sixty day window to prepare for the required testing. Chief Bailey requested that the Committee post the test now, instead of waiting until the May 1st departure date, so that the test can be administered in June 2007, and any resulting promotions be formalized in June or July 2007. The Township Committee agreed to Chief Bailey's request for immediate posting of the promotional testing.

FIRST AID SQUAD PARKING - Administrator Gallets stated that the Long Valley First Aid Squad has approached the Township requesting a one acre lot next to their building be utilized for parking. Administrator Gallets stated that she believes the First Aid Squad is not interested in its purchase, but instead, its lease. Comm. Short confirmed that a long term lease could be offered to the First Aid Squad. Attorney Jansen stated that a long term lease would be the most economical approach, and that he would prepare a lease to be circulated to the Long Valley First Aid Squad for review. Initially, Long Valley Fire Companies 1 and 2 planned on using the parcel. The Fire Companies requested the services of Township professionals (Engineer and Planner) to make the land viable for their purposes. The Fire Companies stated that they would reimburse the Township for such professional services, however, Administrator Gallets stated that this \$2,000.00 invoice is still outstanding. The Fire Companies were never billed, and Administrator Gallets inquired as to whether the bill should be forgiven. The Township Committee agreed that the invoice has already been absorbed by the town and the budget has been closed. The Township Committee directed that the Fire Companies will be sent the invoice for informational purposes with the notation that it has been waived by the Township.

SENIOR CITIZEN BUS – Administrator Gallets stated that the large bus designated for senior citizens is rarely used. She stated that there are several options for the bus; Byram Township has indicated an interest in its purchase, the bus could be put up for sale on the new Gov connect service, or the bus could be held for use as a trade-in when a smaller bus is purchased. Comm. Nedd noted that holding the bus for future trade-in value is not economical, as insurance, maintenance, and other costs are incurred while the bus is not in use. The Township Committee agreed that the bus should be sold, and that Byram Township should be contacted in addition to listing the bus for auction on Gov connect. As Department of Transportation grant money was used in the initial purchase of the large bus (approximately twenty years earlier), Attorney Jansen stated that the terms of the grant should be checked to ensure that there are no conditions related to its sale.

TEWKSBURY/WASHINGTON ASSESSMENTS – Mayor Walsh stated that Luis Serpe wishes to have his lot assessed and taxed by Tewksbury Township rather than Washington Township. Attorney Jansen stated that the Board of Adjustment set forth in the resolution of approval that Washington Township would provide services, and assess and collect taxes on the property. Attorney Jansen further stated that there is no known authority that would allow Washington Township to transfer responsibility for tax assessment and collection to Tewksbury Township. Attorney Jansen stated that there are statutes that allow such an arrangement if the municipal boundary line bisects the property, which is not the case. This property is entirely within Washington Township. The Township Committee is unable to aid Mr. Serpe, and will send him a letter to this effect.

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DRIVEWAY WAIVER – LANG – Mayor Walsh stated that he and Comm. Short physically visited the area in question to investigate the sight distance issue, and that they conveyed that some work needed to be done. Mr. Lang and his representatives are looking to obtain a determination on the lack of wetlands. Mr. Lang, et. al. were unable to attend this meeting and requested that the sight distance issue be discussed at the next Work Session in May.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR – Mayor Walsh stated that it is proposed that Police Lieutenant Patrick Monahan be appointed Emergency Management Coordinator, with Kurt Warner and Jennifer Steinel to be appointed as Deputy Emergency Management Coordinators. Chief Bailey suggested that the Emergency Management Coordinator should have fire, police and first aid experience. These appointments will be discussed in closed session at the April Regular Meeting.

OEM CONVENTION BILL – Mayor Walsh stated that a Requisition Form for the reimbursement of \$553.76 was received from Keith Heimburg, for his attendance at the Congressional Fire Services Institute Annual Caucus in Washington, D.C. The Township Committee was concerned that at the time of his attendance, Mr. Heimburg was no longer employed by the Township as the Emergency Management Department Head. On this basis, such reimbursement from the Township was denied, and a letter will be sent to Mr. Heimburg to that effect. Mayor Walsh will discuss the matter with Mr. Heimburg, and formal action will be taken by the Committee at the April Regular Meeting.

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

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER COVERAGE

Comm. Cullen stated that a recent benefit was held for scholarships in the names of two young people, Kyleigh D'Alessio and Tanner Birch, who died in a car accident earlier in the year. He noted that there was no formal mention of this event in the local paper. Comm. Cullen stated that he wanted to honor and record the names of those officers who attended the event on their own time: Earl Barnes, Brian Bigham, Christopher Bratus, Peter Cecere, Adam Feichter, Kirk Griffin, Mark Niemynski, Robert Oranchak, Philip Seabeck, and Reginald Wright.

MUNICIPAL PLAQUE

Comm. Cullen inquired of Mayor Walsh if a location had been determined for the installation of the Municipal Building's commissioned plaque. Comm. Cullen stated that a good location would be directly outside of the courtroom in the second lobby. Mayor Walsh agreed and asked Administrator Galletts to commence the undertaking.

BOY SCOUT MOTOR OIL PROJECT

Comm. Short stated that the Environmental Commission would like to have a one time event on April 28, 2007; a Motor Oil Project. The Boy Scouts will be collecting motor oil on this date, door to door with an adult, and bringing the material to Washington Township's recycling center. Mayor Walsh suggested that the date conflicts with the Village Association's scavenger hunt, and might be reconsidered. The Township Committee supported the idea.

D.A.R.E RECOGNITION DAY

Comm. Tobin stated that today is national D.A.R.E. Recognition Day. He opined that the D.A.R.E. program does an excellent job in the schools, has had two online seminars, and recently held a local seminar regarding the increasing illegal use of prescription drugs.

LONG VALLEY FIRST AID SQUAD PROCLAMATION

Administrator Galletts stated that the Long Valley First Aid Squad has asked for a proclamation at the Regular Meeting as it is their fifteenth anniversary.

SOIL DISTURBANCE – OLD TURNPIKE ROAD

Administrator Galletts stated that a letter was received from Joanne and Thomas Fahy, 142 Old Turnpike Road, regarding a soil disturbance issue. Their neighbor, the Tafones, were the initial complainants and are upset with the large riding rink built to hold 2 horses. The Fahys stated that they are considering breeding them. They are not, however, recognized farmers. The letter states that the Fahys believed they were exempt from the soil disturbance ordinance because it was for agricultural purposes. Attorney Jansen stated that exemption should have been

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requested before undertaking the work. Administrator Gallets will write back to the Fahys, explaining that they must pursue a soil disturbance permit. Township Engineer Leon Hall will investigate the neighbor's lawn.

SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN FIRE DEPARTMENT PROCLAMATION

Comm. Nedd inquired about the request from the Schooley's Mountain Fire Department for a proclamation for Jeff Lloyd in recognition of 35 years of service. The Township has received the request and the Committee inquired as to whether the proclamation should be presented at a meeting or an event. Comm. Nedd will inquire and convey the information to the Township Committee.

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 10:00 P.M. upon approval of the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION #R-72-07 - EXECUTIVE SESSION – Contract Negotiations: Mendham Dispatching; Library Land Acquisition: South Four Bridges Road
Contract Negotiations: Califon Police Services**

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, Tobin, Nedd, Mayor Walsh

NAYES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 10:44 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 P.M.

Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk