

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of Washington was called to order by Mayor Walsh at 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Cullen, Short, Nedd (7:40 p.m.), Mayor Walsh

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Jansen, Administrator/Clerk Gallets, Deputy Clerk Madden

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on January 8, 2007 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 ALLEGIANCE

EAGLE SCOUT AWARD – Mayor Walsh, on behalf of the Washington Township Committee, presented a plaque to Scout Christian Russell Fiedler in recognition of his achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout.

RO-16-07 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 3, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO ESTABLISH AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE - SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 3, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO ESTABLISH AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE be read by title upon second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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: Comm. Tobin, Nedd

ABSTENTIONS: None

Mayor Walsh opened the meeting to the public.

Kim Kaiser, 40 E. Valley Brook Road, recommended minor revisions to the ordinance.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 3, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO ESTABLISH AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE be adopted upon final reading and that said ordinance be published in the Observer Tribune according to law.

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: Comm. Tobin, Nedd

ABSTENTIONS: None

RO-17-07 – AN ORDINANCE GRANTING RENEWAL OF MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO COMCAST TO CONSTRUCT, CONNECT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY - INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE GRANTING RENEWAL OF MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO COMCAST TO CONSTRUCT, CONNECT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY be introduced and read by title on first reading by the Township Committee.

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, Nedd, Mayor Walsh

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

ABSTENTIONS: None

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE GRANTING RENEWAL OF MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO COMCAST TO CONSTRUCT, CONNECT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, MORRIS COUNTY, NEW JERSEY be adopted upon first reading.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at a meeting of the Township Committee on July 16, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington Township Municipal Building, 43 Schooley's Mountain Road, Long Valley, New Jersey at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorized to advertise said Ordinance in full in the Observer Tribune according to law.

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, Nedd, Mayor Walsh

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

ABSTENTIONS: None

RO-18-07 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 137, PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS, OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WITH RESPECT TO THE LONG VALLEY DOG PARK - INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 137, PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS, OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WITH RESPECT TO THE LONG VALLEY DOG PARK be introduced and read by title on first reading by the Township Committee.

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, Nedd, Mayor Walsh

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

ABSTENTIONS: None

That the foregoing raffle applications be approved, subject to the Mayor signing the Findings and Determination Forms.

***APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP – FAIRMOUNT FIRE COMPANY**

Applications have been received for membership in the Fairmount Fire Company from Kevin E. Barnes, Cory Stuart Waller and Colin Lee Wertman.

That the foregoing applications for membership be approved and be forwarded to the Fairmount Fire Company.

***APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC EVENT – NEW JERSEY FAMILY MEDIEVAL AND FANTASY FESTIVAL**

An application has been received from the New Jersey Family Medieval and Fantasy Festival for an event to be held on Saturday, June 9, 2007 from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and Sunday, June 10, 2007 from Noon to 7:00 P.M. at St. Mark the Evangelist Parish concert field located at 59 Spring Lane, Long Valley, New Jersey. Recommendations have been received from the Police Department, the Board of Health and the Zoning Officer.

That the foregoing public event be approved subject to the conditions of the Police Department, the Board of Health and the Zoning Officer.

***APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC EVENT – LONG VALLEY VILLAGE ASSOCIATION**

An application has been received from the Long Valley Village Association for a concert to be held on June 28, 2007 from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. at Rock Spring Park located on East Springtown Road, Long Valley, New Jersey. Recommendations have been received from the Police Department, the Board of Health and the Zoning Officer.

That the foregoing public event be approved subject to the conditions of the Police Department, the Board of Health and the Zoning Officer.

***APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC EVENT – LONG VALLEY SPORTS ASSOCIATION DOG PARK COMMITTEE**

An application has been received from the Long Valley Sports Association Dog Park Committee for a Dog-Oriented Fair to be held on June 30, 2007 from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. at the Long Valley Middle School, West Mill Road, Long Valley, New Jersey. Recommendations have been received from the Police Department, the Board of Health and the Zoning Officer.

That the foregoing public event be approved subject to the conditions of the Police Department, the Board of Health and the Zoning Officer.

***AUTHORIZE SPECIAL ABC PERMIT – FAIRMOUNT FIRE COMPANY**

An application has been received from the Fairmount Fire Company for permission to dispense alcoholic beverages at a fundraising event to be held on August 18, 2007 from 7:00 P.M. to 12:00 P.M. at the Fairmount Fire Company, 12 Parker Road, Long Valley, New Jersey. Noted that the Chief of Police has signed the permit application.

That the foregoing special permit for a social affair be approved and the Clerk be authorized to sign the permit application and forward it to the applicant for submission to Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

***APPROVE MINUTES**

April 11, 2007 Work Session
April 16, 2007 Regular Meeting

***PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS**

That the vouchers be approved and that the Treasurer shall issue warrants in payment when there are sufficient funds to meet them. The bill list is on file in the finance office.

***MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

That the following monthly department reports be accepted and placed on file in the Township Clerk's office:

Washington Township Board of Health, Washington Township Municipal Court,

Washington Township Police Department, Washington Township Tax Collector

Mayor Walsh asked the members of the Township Committee and the public if they would like any item(s) to be removed from the consent agenda. There was no response.

All items preceded by a (*) were approved as part of the consent agenda on a motion made by Comm. Short, seconded by Comm. Cullen on the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

ABSTENTIONS: None

CORRESPONDENCE NOTED FOR THE RECORD

Letter from County Administrator John Bonani, stating Washington Township's 2008 Municipal Alliance allocation is \$16,029.00.

Letter from County Administrator John Bonani, stating Washington Township's Alliance will receive \$2,500.00 in supplemental funding to aid in the implementation of substance abuse prevention programs in Morris County.

Letter to Mayor Walsh from Ms. Judy Doyle, Director of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, thanking the Mayor for participating in the first New Jersey Mayors Healthy Cook-Off on June 6, 2007.

Letter from Ms. Kelli O'Connor, Program Specialist of the Morris County Agriculture Development Board, stating 79 Coleman Road, Block 18, Lot 16, owned by Mr. John Naughtright, has been permanently preserved through the New Jersey Agriculture Retention and Development Program.

The State University of New Jersey Rutgers School of Social Work Certificate awarded to Ms. Gail Werner for Completion of the Certificate Program in Senior Services Management on June 13, 2007.

Letter to Senior Citizens Program Coordinator Gail Werner from Ms. Chrisanne Montgomery, President of the Long Valley Junior Women's Club, presenting a \$200.00 donation to be dedicated to our Senior Programs.

Letter to Senior Citizens Program Coordinator Gail Werner from Ms. Traci Bauer and Ms. Chrisanne Montgomery, Co-Presidents of the Long Valley Women's Club, stating the club has allocated \$500.00 to fund bicycle rodeos in connection with the Washington Township Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education Project.

DISCUSSION

TAX OFFICE STAFFING – **Amy Monahan**, Tax Collector, stated that the Tax Office is in need of an employee. She opined that there is a turnover issue because part-time employees are not able to handle the temporary full-time hours when they are required, nor are they able to handle the wide array of tasks that exist in the Tax Office.

Administrator Gallets stated that the position has always been part-time. **Mayor Walsh** expressed concern about the high turnover and suggested that the office needs to be appropriately staffed, which may require a full time hire. **Comm. Nedd** agreed that a full-time resource is needed and suggested that a current full time position be eliminated from another area where it is not needed.

Comm. Short stated that the tax collection rate has improved, and the Committee did not budget for a full-time position. He recommends a part-time position be filled for the time being, and that a survey of local tax collection offices be undertaken to adjust the salary accordingly. He opined that the Committee should then budget for a full time position in the Tax Office for next year.

Mayor Walsh stated that in conversing with CFO Kevin Lifer, if a full time person is hired without benefits, there would be no fiscal impact on the 2007 budget. He opined that a full time person is essential for such an important revenue generating department.

Chief Bailey stated that the full time position at the Police Department is necessary and should not be considered to be a part time position.

The Township Committee agreed to advertise for a full time position and will look to reduce a current full time position to part time, or eliminate it entirely.

BUDGET UPDATE - CFO Kevin Lifer was not able to attend this meeting.

ELECTION PAPER TRAIL – BALLOTS – **Administrator Gallets** stated that the Morris County Board of Elections advised that there may be an attachment to the voting machines which creates a paper trail. If mandated, Washington Township will be provided with the necessary equipment. The Committee agreed that it does not like the idea and will voice its concern in letter form through Administrator Gallets.

SEWER HOOK UP – BLOCK 18, LOT 1.08 – **Administrator Gallets** stated that along Bartley Road, there will not be any empty lots added to the sewer service area, only those with existing septic systems.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR - Administrator Gallets stated that the Township has always paid a third party for this service. A retired electrical official would accept the position, to be paid hourly, at an annual salary cap of \$15,000. These are dedicated funds and this approach would not impact the budget. The Township Committee agreed to go forward with this hire.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

SUPERIOR OFFICERS - Comm. Cullen stated that he will advise the Committee what transpired in a recent meeting.

BYPASS - Comm. Short inquired if the Township had heard from the County regarding the bypass. Administrator Gallets stated that she believes they are drawing up a contract.

MUA – Comm. Nedd stated that the Woods’ family has not received an update letter from the MUA. Mayor Walsh stated that Tom Horn was going to update Kim Lane and the Woods’ and provide a time line, specifically with respect to long term infrastructure improvements. No such letter has been sent, but there has been a continuous dialogue. Mayor Walsh suggested a letter to those parties involved would be appropriate.

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m. upon approval of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #R-120-07 - EXECUTIVE SESSION – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: SUPERIOR OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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, Nedd, Mayor Walsh

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

ABSTENTIONS: None

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk