

The Work Session of the Washington Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Tobin at 7:31 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Popper

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

SENIOR RESOURCE CENTER – Ms. Paige Urban, Program Coordinator made a presentation to the Township Committee to introduce their Chester based program and services to the community. The center offers information and referral, and support services for seniors and caregivers who are trying to navigate the system of programs available.

Comm. Walsh stated that, as part of the Mayor's Wellness program, he would encourage Ms. Urban's participation in the subjects that are geared toward senior citizens.

A link to the Senior Resource Center will be on the Washington Township website.

FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT – Mervyn Haines, Environmental Commission representative and Joseph Dunn, Director of Morris County Soil Conservation District made a presentation to the Township Committee regarding the management of Township owned woodlands. Mr. Haines explained that he hopes to fund this management effort through grants, and possibly generate revenue for the Township through a timber harvest. Mr. Dunn is also a forester and he explained to the Township Committee the services he represents, which include forest management. He explained that there are opportunities to undertake good planning and good implementation of forest management, which is driven by the Township's goal. Mr. Dunn further emphasized that proactive forest management is essential to the ongoing health of the woodlands.

Comm. Walsh invited Mr. Hines and Dunn to the next Open Space Committee meeting to coordinate their efforts to help the environment and create public access to the woodlands. **Mayor Tobin** stated that the Shade Tree Committee and the Scouts should also be involved in the process.

The Township Committee was in favor of undertaking a forest management plan to properly manage the lands owned by the Township.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

ORDINANCES

FEE ORDINANCE – ZONING FEES – Attorney Jansen explained that this proposed ordinance would establish the process for obtaining a zoning permit as well as the associated fees. 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 TO AMEND CHAPTER 111, LAND USE PROCEDURES, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON WITH RESPECT TO FEES" at the April 21, 2008 Regular Meeting..

BOND ORDINANCE – The Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance entitled, "BOND ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$982,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$935,000 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" at the April 21, 2008 Regular Meeting.

OPRA – **Comm. Walsh** stated that he spoke to **Information Specialist Bob Kelly** to establish guidelines for information storage. **Comm. Nedd** stated that Google offers the hosting of e-mail for no cost and the archiving of such information for a low cost. **Comm. Nedd** and **Walsh** will further investigate this service with the help of **Mr. Kelly**.

EMPLOYEE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION OVERVIEW – Over a month ago, **Comm. Walsh** stated that he met with Department Heads to get a feel for how our employees and departments are perceiving upcoming changes in health benefits and salaries. He suggested we find ways to bring something back to the employees, such as the Mayor's Wellness campaign, summer hours, etc.

CLEAN COMMUNITIES – **Comm. Walsh** stated that 236 individuals and 19 organizations participated in this year's clean-up day. Volunteers collected 200 bags of refuse. **Recycling Coordinator Nancy Salvatore** and all of the participants were commended by **Comm. Walsh** for doing a great job.

COMMUNITY CENTER – **Comm. Short** stated that progress in establishing a community center is slow. Economic conditions, environmental approvals, the withdrawal of the U.S Homes application, among other factors are contributing to the slow progression. The proposed 33,000 square foot facility on a portion of a 35 acre parcel is intended to provide a center for community activity, information and wellness. The money needed to develop the site is currently not available.

The sale of a portion of the tract is being considered to generate money. It would have to be by open public sale at auction. An overlay zone needs to be established.

SUPERIOR OFFICERS

Administrator Gallets stated that the Superior Officers negotiation session will take place on May 6, 2008 at 10 .m.

LIBRARY LETTER

Comm. Nedd stated that a bill signed on April 7, 2008 states that before a Library can give excess funds back to the Township, it has to go to the State Library Board for approval. There are other onerous requirements that also must be met. The Washington Township Library does not have the amount of surplus that the bill requires before a give back can be contemplated.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the Public.

Walter Cullen, 9 Laurel Drive stated that, with respect to the community center, revenue generated from the sale of land could be used to pay down the mortgage as opposed to putting it in the general fund.

Mr. Cullen also asked the Township Committee to send a thank you letter to the local PBA for their participation in the benefit basketball game at West Morris High School.

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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT

Debbie Burd, Assistant Administrator stated that the Township will need to adopt a professional services resolution for work to be done in connection with the Historic Preservation Grant. It will be prepared for the Regular Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 P.M.