

The Work Session of the Washington Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Tobin at 7:30 p.m.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and The Morristown Daily Record on January 8, 2008 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** - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### **PUBLIC PORTION**

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

### **ORDINANCE**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT** – This ordinance will be discussed at the November work session.

### **DISCUSSION**

**COLEMAN ROAD – WATER RUN-OFF** – Comm. Walsh and Comm. Short will meet with Mr. Naughtright, a resident of Bartley Road, as well as Municipal Engineer Leon Hall and Superintendent of Public Works Scott Frech at the site to discuss Mr. Naughtright's concerns about water run-off.

**NEWBURGH ROAD BRIDGE RESOLUTION** – The Township Committee is in favor of this project and the resolution will be placed on the October Regular Meeting agenda.

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT, MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY, POLICE DEPARTMENT AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES JOINT MEETING UPDATE** – Comm. Popper stated that the Chiefs of the above referenced departments gathered to discuss operations and ideas to facilitate achieving mutual goals.

**ROUTE 46 TANKER SPILL RESPONSE** – The Washington Township Emergency Departments worked well together to prevent a potentially life threatening situation. Comm. Popper asked that the Committee recognize the tremendous efforts of these departments in its containment. The Committee will issue a Proclamation in November to formally thank them.

**EXHAUST SYSTEMS BIDS** – Bids were accepted for the First Aid Squad's exhaust removal system. These bids were not acceptable due to non-compliance with bid requirements and/or exceeding the funds available. New bids will be solicited.

**2009 STATE OF AFFAIRS** - Mayor Tobin stated that the Township should anticipate that the \$200,000 in State Aid not provided this year may very well be unavailable in 2009. He recommended that the 2009 Committee consider all of its options in the coming year due to these capital restraints. **Comm. Nedd** stated that there may be several positive financial changes in the upcoming year that may close the gap in funding.

**JUDGE/PROSECUTOR RESUMES** – **Comm. Popper** and **Comm. Nedd** discussed going through the resumes and coming up with a final list of five candidates for consideration. **Comm. Short** inquired about a survey of Morris County benefits and salaries. **Assistant Administrator Burd** stated that that information is not readily available. Mayor Tobin stated that when the Committee has arrived at the final five, Califon would like to be involved in the final interview process.

**COMMITTEE AUTHORIZATION OF COMMUNICATIONS** – **Comm. Nedd** stated that due to certain events and situations, a blast e-mail of the solicitation of resumes for Judge and Prosecutor was inadvertently sent out to all members of the Morris County Bar Association. **Comm. Nedd** stated that the blast e-mail impacted certain individuals and **Comm. Popper** stated that the Township never intended the e-mail blast. For the record, both Committeemen stated that there is nothing that is not being properly conducted within our current court system. **Comm. Nedd** moved to issue a letter to the Judge and Prosecutor apologizing for the errors in sending out the e-mail blast. The Committee will draft a letter of apology to the Judge and Prosecutor.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

**Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the public.**

**Ted Erinburg, P.O. Box 84, retired Washington Township Police Chief** stated that he is appalled by the disrespect shown to the Prosecutor and Judge by this e-mail. He stated that this Township has always been known for doing the right thing and has hired some excellent people; and that the review process should have been completed before soliciting new hires. He believes that the Township has lost its way and this process needs to be fixed. **The Committee** stated that instead of simply automatically re-appointing the current individuals, it was a discharge of a fiduciary obligation for the Township to conduct periodic reviews.

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

**NEW HIGHLANDS REGULATIONS** – **Mayor Tobin** stated that the Committee was approached by Julia Summers from the New Jersey Highlands Coalition with an offer to assist in understanding the new regulations. As this is from a special interest group, the Committee will approach Eileen Swan from the Highlands Council for such assistance. **Ginny Kesper, Planning Board Director** stated that the Planning Board is waiting for the technical procedure from the Highlands Council for plan conformance before it makes any decision.

**FUNDING APPLICATIONS for LOW INCOME HOUSING** – The State is currently not accepting applications for funding for low income housing. Further, no plan is in place to prioritize the distribution of funds when they become available. Homeless Solutions will discuss its current situation with the Township Committee in November.

**SURPLUS COUNTY VEHICLES** – The County is offering to municipalities surplus County vehicles at auction before they are offered to the public. The Township Committee does not believe that any vehicles are currently needed, however they will register (at no cost) to participate.

**LEAGUE OF MUNICIPLITIES** – **Mayor Tobin** discussed various League activities which are offered to the Township for participation.

**COAH OBLIGATION** – **Ginny Kesper** stated that our obligation is under 50 units. She will keep the Committee apprised of any updates in the COAH obligation.

**TRIUMVIRATE CLEAN ENERGY CORP.** – Triumvirate has solicited municipalities to participate in a partnering to provide a sustainable renewable energy facility. **Comm. Walsh** will investigate.

**MORRIS COUNTY SHARED SERVICES COUNCIL** – **Assistant Administrator Burd** stated that a firm will thoroughly audit municipal facilities as to how to reduce energy costs. A cost is involved which will vary depending on municipal participation. **Jim Harmon, 7 Abedim Way**, stated that all of the school district buildings were energy audited and they received a lot of beneficial recommendations. Grant funds were available to aid them in complying with some of these recommendations. **Mr. Harmon** will provide the information to the Township Committee.

**TARGET** – **Comm. Popper** was impressed by the opening of the Target store and the role of the Township Departments in completing the project. **Ginny Kesper** was commended on her efforts.

**ROCK SPRING PARK** – **Comm. Short** stated he believes that two telephone polls were installed at Rock Spring Park without appropriate approvals. **Scott Frech** stated that they are actually old poles that are in the process of being removed.

**MOUNTAIN VIEW INN** – **Comm. Walsh** stated that this is now moving toward completion so that the easement can be approved by the Committee. **Attorney Jansen** stated that the Engineer has to prepare the description and the Attorney has to draft the easement and then the Township can approve it.

**VETERANS ORGANIZATION** – **Mayor Tobin** was approached regarding naming facilities for veterans. The Committee feels that once a precedent is set, it may become an issue with other interest groups. The criteria needs to be set for such consideration. The issue will be revisited.

**AUCTION** – **Administrator Gallets** stated that the property auction was held.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

**Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the public.**

**GINNY KESPER, Planning Board Director** stated that the Wastewater Management Plan, which is part of the county plan, needed to be done right away and changes were made to the plan. The time frame for approval is not yet known.

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

**The Committee went into Executive Session at 9:35 P.M.**

**RESOLUTION #R-140-08** – **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – **PENDING LITIGATION: MURATA VS. O'DELL**  
**PERSONNEL: MUNICIPAL COURT STAFFING**  
**COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: PBA**  
**COTRACT NEGOTIATION: PASCALE & CALIFON**  
**ANIMAL CONTROL**

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

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 10:15 P.M.**

**The meeting adjourned at 10:16 P.M.**

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**Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk**