

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Acting Mayor Short at 7:35 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Popper, Short, Nedd, Mayor Tobin (arrived 7:50 P.M.), Attorney Jansen, Administrator/Clerk Gallets, Recording Secretary Madden

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Walsh

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.

PROCLAMATION – FALL FAMILY FOCUS NIGHT – Acting Mayor Short, on behalf of the Township Committee, proclaimed October 23, 2008 Fall Family Focus Night, to emphasize the fundamental role of the family.

PROCLAMATION – BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH – Acting Mayor Short, on behalf of the Township Committee, proclaimed October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the public.

Eric Anderson, Independence Township, thanked Administrator Gallets and the Township Committee for adding restroom signs at Palmer Park. Mr. Anderson also inquired about reserving Palmer Park for a Memorial Day family reunion.

Al Hammer, 32 Rock Road, discussed his plan to subdivide a large lot that currently has two houses on it. Mr. Hammer proposed the donation of a contiguous lot to the Township in exchange for the waiver of associated Planning Board fees. **Comm. Short** explained that there are wetland restrictions on the property, and suggested merging the lots. Attorney Jansen had previously opined that Planning Board fees can not legally be waived under these circumstances. The Committee will discuss this proposal at a later date.

Mayor Tobin arrived at 7:50 P.M.

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

MORRIS COUNTY MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND SAFETY INCENTIVE AWARD – 2007 – A Certificate of Achievement along with some grant money was presented to Washington Township in recognition of the Township's performance in the 2007 Safety Incentive Program. Six individuals were recognized as instrumental in securing the award. They are: **Roger Reed, Judy Madden, Jake Hoskin, Fred Goebel, Lt. Monahan and Debbie Burd.**

RESOLUTION #R-141-08 - APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS

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, Nedd, Mayor Tobin

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Walsh

RESOLUTION #R-142-08 – REFUND 2007 AND 2008 TAX PAYMENTS

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, Nedd, Mayor Tobin

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Walsh

***APPROVE MINUTES**

August 13, 2008 Work Session
August 18, 2008 Regular Meeting
September 10, 2008 Work Session
September 15, 2008 Regular Meeting
October 6, 2008 Special 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 Tobin 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. Nedd on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. Popper, Short, Nedd(*), Mayor Tobin

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Walsh

(*) Comm. Nedd abstained from voting on the Sept. 15, 2008 meeting minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE NOTED FOR THE RECORD

Letter from DEP Assistant Commissioner for Natural and Historic Resources Amy Cradic, stating Washington Township was not granted 2008 Recreational Trails Program funding for a trail at Palmer Park.

Letter from Director David Helmer, presenting the Morris County Park Commission's 2008/2009 White-Tailed Deer Management Program Schedule of hunting dates for Morris County Parks.

Letter from Rev. Joseph McCarthy of the Trinity United Methodist Church, stating Public Official Neil Ruggiero was professional, competent, and personable during his inspections of porch repairs and two wood stoves.

Letter from Administrator Gallets, thanking the Township Committee and employees for their support during her husband, Howard's illness, and their thoughtfulness and caring after his loss.

Letter from Pat MacCallum, thanking the Township Committee for the beautiful Movado watch presented by Committeeman Walsh on the Committee's behalf at a retirement dinner given in Pat's honor.

Letter from Edward E. Carpenito, President of the Washington Township Library Board of Trustees, stating the Library Board authorized payment for the Copper Beech Memorial Tree, however, the Board will not be responsible for the tree's maintenance or a replacement if the tree does not survive.

E-mail from Mayor Bud Burnett, stating the Califon Borough Council considers the current Judge and Prosecutor to be professional, knowledgeable and committed to the enforcement and administration of the law.

DISCUSSION

APOLOGY LETTER – Mayor Tobin stated that the Township Committee decided that a couple of professional positions would be evaluated each year as part a routine assessment process. It was decided that the Municipal Judge and Prosecutor would be reviewed this year. Due to miscommunications that occurred, an impression was given that the Township was dissatisfied with these individuals. A letter will be sent to the Washington Township Judge and Prosecutor in formal apology for the e-mail blast solicitation that was sent and in explanation that the solicitation of resumes for these positions was not in response to any dissatisfaction with their services and/or performance. Mayor Tobin further stated that Washington Township municipal positions are not awarded based on any political affiliation, but rather on the basis of who is best for the Township. Comm. Short made a motion to approve this letter, which was seconded by Comm. Popper, with all in favor.

HARRINGTON PARK ACCESS ROAD – Comm. Short stated that Morris County offered \$10,000 to pave the access road at Patriot's Path. It needs to be widened and an easement is needed before the paving can be done.

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FAMILY FOCUS NIGHT – October 23, 2008 poses a conflict for some individuals who will not be able to participate because of a previously scheduled event.

MEETING – Mayor Tobin stated that the Warren Morris Council of Mayors will host a meeting on October 29, 2008.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk