

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, Mayor Tobin, Attorney Jansen, Administrator Gallets, Assistant Administrator Burd

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Nedd

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.

DISCUSSION

POLICE DEPARTMENT RESIGNATION – The Township Committee discussed the resignation of Officer Joe Rooney. The Township Committee has decided not to hire a replacement at this time.

LAND DONATION – NAUGHRIGHT ROAD – The Township Committee indicated an interest in accepting this property (3.7 acres across from Stony Brook Road) as a donation in 2009.

COAH HOUSE - WEST MILL ROAD – The house is rented, however the windows need to be replaced. The Township Committee authorized obtaining quotes for replacement windows. The Long Valley Fire Department expressed a future interest in the purchase of this property at fair market value.

EXHAUST SYSTEM BID – A resolution will be drafted for the Regular Meeting to award a contract for the First Aid Squad's exhaust removal system to the bidder who submitted a bid that is within budget and meets the specifications.

STORM DEBRIEFING – **Mayor Tobin** asked that JCP&L communicate directly with the Police Department and dispatchers, who in turn could contact the Committee members. He asked that the Committee members not independently seek to obtain information from JCP&L. The Committee discussed an emergency system that may involve a cell phone registry and will contact the County to investigate the implementation and cost of such a system. Mayor Tobin further stated that all of the neighboring towns should coordinate shelter information in emergency situations. **Comm. Popper** stated that he attended an OEM meeting regarding the storm and noted that more generators are desired. He also stated that there was concern with the failure to close the High School during the storm, as well as the lack of communication.

OEM VACANCY – Lt. Pat Monahan will be resigning as OEM head and the Committee discussed whether the future OEM head will be a police officer. OEM was not called in to headquarters during the storm and duties were not clear.

HANAKUH LIGHTING - **Comm. Popper** stated that the Hanukah Lighting celebration will be held on December 21, 2008 outside of Splash's restaurant.

COMMUNITY CENTER TASK FORCE – **Comm. Short** stated that the Community Center Task Force is currently inactive and that the Committee should eliminate this Task Force at this time. The Township Committee agreed that the Task Force will remain inactive until a future date.

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS – **Comm. Popper** stated that Mark Napolitano was appointed as a full voting member of the MUA and Anthony LaVista was appointed as an alternate. Comm. Popper suggested that Mr. La Vista take his full voting membership and he (Comm. Popper) would take the alternate position. The Committee agreed. This will be addressed in January 2009.

VETERANS ORGANIZATION – **Comm. Walsh** stated that there was a dialogue regarding street and field naming and that Comm. Walsh and Comm. Short will make a recommendation to the Committee.

CALIFON SHARED SERVICES LANGUAGE FOR ANIMAL CONTROL – Attorney Jansen will prepare an agreement for animal control services. Califon is looking to proceed as soon as possible.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the public.

Ginny Kesper, Planning Board Official, asked that the Committee members take a close look at the COAH house to personally observe the poor exterior condition of the structure.

Michael Bailey, Police Chief, stated that he spoke to Verizon to discuss a mono-pole for communication to be installed by the football field. Verizon will make the pole aesthetically pleasing. **Attorney Jansen** advised that bids must be solicited. He also advised that the Committee should be prepared for the possibility of opposition to the proposed pole. **Ginny Kesper** stated that the ordinance has specific requirements that must be considered. The Committee will take a look at the ordinance.

WAL-MART PROGRAMS – **Mayor Tobin** stated that the Wal-Mart Foundation will be donating funds toward Senior Citizen programs, Toys for Tots and the Environmental Commission.

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

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 9:10 P.M.

RESOLUTION #R-171-08 - EXECUTIVE SESSION – **COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: DPW & PBA**
HEALTH BENEFITS
PENDING LITIGATION: COMBE FILL SOUTH
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: HEALTH
BENEFITS

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Nedd

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 9:59 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk