

The Work Session of the Washington Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:38 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Harmon

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to The Observer Tribune and The Morristown Daily Record on January 6, 2009 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 Short opened the meeting to the public. There being no comments or questions, Mayor Short closed the meeting to the public.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET PRESENTATION – **Michael Rachnian**, Washington Township Board of Education Member and the Finance Chair, presented the Washington Township Board of Education's proposed budget, with the assistance of Liz George and Superintendent John Sakala.

WEST MORRIS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL BUDGET PRESENTATION – **Kathy Schram**, Finance Committee Chair, presented the proposed budget for the West Morris Regional High School, with the assistance of Jeff Emery, L. Doug Pechanec and John Notte.

ORDINANCES

BUILDING FEE ORDINANCE - 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 56, BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON" at the April 20, 2009 Regular Meeting.

CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS – At the April 20, 2009 Regular Meeting, the Township Committee will consider the introduction of the following ordinances; "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 192, TOWING, WITH REGARD TO CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS"; "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 9, CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS"; "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 143, PEDDLING AND SOLICITING"; and "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 185, TAXICABS AND LIMOUSINES WITH REGARD TO CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS."

FEE ORDINANCE – HEALTH DEPARTMENT AMENDMENT – The Washington Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance to amend the municipal fee ordinance after the Washington Township Board of Health has adopted a revised fee ordinance for vital records.

DISCUSSION

TEWKSBURY INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – The Township Committee discussed Tewksbury Township's request to hold the line on an increase in costs for this year. After the interlocal agreement has been amended to correct an error, the Committee will authorize the execution of an agreement to continue to provide emergency services to Tewksbury Township.

PASCALE FARM – At the April 20, 2009 Regular Meeting, the Township Committee will consider a resolution to authorize an amendment to the agreement to convey the development rights on Block 60, Lots 1 and 5 to the Morris County Agriculture Development Board. The property, known as the Pascale farm and consisting of 51.54 acres, will be preserved as farmland.

TOWING SERVICES – **Police Chief Michael Bailey** discussed his memo to the Township Committee which stated his intent to suspend the flatbed towing privileges of Mr. Bob Clay, the owner of Clay's Garage located on West Mill Road. The Chief stated the towing vehicle is considered unsafe for this service. Chief Bailey stated reinstatement of Mr. Clay's towing privileges will be considered at a May hearing. He stated the owner of a garage located in Chester has offered to provide towing services until Mr. Clay's towing privileges are reinstated.

BATTING CAGES – The Township Committee discussed a proposal to replace and install batting cages in various municipal parks. The Committee approved the request, provided disturbed areas are restored.

POLICE CAR – The Committee discussed the need to replace a police car due to a collision which caused extensive damage to a vehicle. Police Chief Bailey will provide the amount that will be covered by insurance, the cost for the purchase of a new vehicle, and the additional expenditure needed to replace the damaged vehicle. The Township Committee will provide the needed funding in the 2009 municipal budget.

MUNICIPAL COURT REPORTS – **Comm. Popper** recommended that future court reports reflect year to date information rather than just monthly statistics. Administrator Gallets stated the data is available, and Mr. Popper's recommendation will be addressed.

FURLOUGHS – **Comm. Walsh** will pursue furloughs for municipal employees who are union members.

HAMMER ASSOCIATION – **Comm. Walsh** stated the Hammer Association will provide bike safety awareness information at the fireworks event.

OPEN SPACE – It was noted that the Township Committee previously authorized the maintenance of the open space fields located in Washington Township with funds from the Open Space Trust Fund.

FIRE TANKER – The Committee discussed ongoing repairs needed on the recently purchased fire tanker. The Township Committee will consider the adoption of a resolution to authorize the sale of the old fire tanker at the April 20, 2009 Regular Meeting. Fire department volunteers requested that the Committee authorize the sale of the old tanker after the new truck is in working order.

FEDERAL GRANT – The Township Committee discussed the possible repercussions of the submission of a federal grant application to obtain funding to be used to hire an additional police officer. The Township Committee will revisit this matter.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 9:20 P.M.

RESOLUTION #R-69-09 - EXECUTIVE SESSION – ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE; STAFFING REORGANIZATION DISPATCHING LITIGATION; WARGA VS. TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON; ROSS VS. TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Harmon

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 10:04 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 P.M.