

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:36 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Popper, Harmon (7:37 P.M.), Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short, Attorney Jansen, Administrator/Clerk Gallets, Senior Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary Madden

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on January 8, 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.

Comm. Harmon arrived to the meeting.

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARDS – Mayor Short, on behalf of the Washington Township Committee, presented awards to **Scouts Jessica Lynn Hughes and Corinne Kathleen Woeste** in recognition of their receiving Girl Scout Gold Awards.

EAGLE SCOUT AWARDS – Mayor Short, on behalf of the Washington Township Committee, presented awards to **Scouts Robert L. Falcone and Evan Wykoff** in recognition of their achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.

Stu Slifkin, 9 Wolfe Run Court, expressed concern about an abandoned house on Fairmount Road and referenced a letter he had written which was circulated to the Committee. **Mayor Short** stated that the property would be addressed later in the evening.

Harlin Parker, 525 Naughtright Road, questioned the Committee's reasons for abolishing the position of Finance Liaison. **Mayor Short** explained that the CFO is really responsible for the duties previously believed to be held by the Finance Liaison.

Kevin Nedd, 65 Kim Lane, inquired why there is a significant difference in the size of the annual tax levies of the Washington Township Board of Education versus that of the municipality. He continued that this disparity has carried over in the size of the respective tax levy increases in a given year. He commented that for the first time in 15 years, Washington Township tax levy increase exceeds that of the Board of Education. **Mayor Short** responded that the final budget has not yet been passed and he finds it difficult to answer the question. **Comm. Tobin** commented that the school decreases in state aid were not as dramatic as the decrease in municipal aid. He opined that perhaps the disparity is due to some type of "catch up" in the budgetary process, and that the comparison is not necessarily apples to apples. **Comm. Walsh** stated that everyone has worked hard and that one year cannot be singled out relative to other years in which the school levies were much higher. **Comm. Popper** did not feel it is appropriate to speculate on a work in progress at this time.

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

RO-2-09 – CALENDAR YEAR 2009 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) – SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled CALENDAR YEAR 2009 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) be read by title upon second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled CALENDAR YEAR 2009 ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14) be adopted upon final reading and that said ordinance be published in the Observer Tribune according to law.

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

RO-3-09 – AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (DPW) – SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (DPW) be read by title upon second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (DPW) be adopted upon final reading and that said ordinance be published in the Observer Tribune according to law.

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

RO-4-09 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 137, PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON – SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 137, PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON be read by title upon second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.

Walt Cullen, 9 Laurel Drive, stated that he does not feel the field usage fees are appropriate. Things need to change at the State and Federal level. He also stated that he feels the Committee is making a mistake not going to the 4% cap limit and that shortfalls have arisen.

Jim Skurchak, 8 Salisbury Lane, asked the Committee to reconsider the ordinance as he feels this ordinance could potentially double the tax increase per household.

Cameron Esemplare, 26 Squire Hill Road, said that this discussion was held before with sports groups. She feels that the Committee has done a terrific job and that a \$10 fee is not the end of the world and we need to support and maintain our fields.

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

Mayor Short commented that the fee is not popular and will hopefully not be forever. He further stated that out of 38 municipalities in our county, at least thirty are charging fees of some type to play on fields. Given the Township's investment in the fields, the only way to maintain them at this time is to charge the fees, or let the fields deteriorate.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 137, PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON be adopted upon final reading and that said ordinance be published in the Observer Tribune according to law.

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

RO-5-09 – AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (CWA) – SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (CWA) be read by title upon second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (CWA) be adopted upon final reading and that said ordinance be published in the Observer Tribune according to law.

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

RO-06-09 – 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 - INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that 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 be introduced and read by title on first reading by the Township Committee.

Comm. Popper stated that the Fairmount Fire Company was under the impression that the old Pierce tanker was not going to be sold until the new truck was in perfect order and all other apparatus was in good working order. They were also under the impression that the old tanker would be in their possession until it is sold. Comm. Popper did inform them that this was not the Committee's understanding, and was not part of the dialogue. Scott Frech, DPW Superintendent responded to Comm. Popper's question that the new tanker is fully functional. The old tanker needs to be stripped and photographed at the DPW garage as soon as the truck is put up for auction. A "reserve" will be discussed in closed session.

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short
NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS: None ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #R-71-09 – RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE JERSEY™ GRANT FUNDED BY WAL-MART

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short
NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS: None ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #R-72-09 – AUTHORIZING THE AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT TO CONVEY THE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS ON BLOCK 60, LOTS 1 AND 5 OWNED BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO THE MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short
NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS: None ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #R-73-09 – RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PARTICIPATION IN THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY™ MUNICIPAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short
NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS: None ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #R-74-09 – SALARIES – WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 469

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short
NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS: None ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #R-75-09 – AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT WITH K.B. OGDEN SIDING AND WINDOWS FOR REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO COAH HOUSE AT 73 WEST MILL ROAD

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short
NAYS: None ABSTENTIONS: None ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION #R-76-09 – TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES' BENEFITS – 2009

***APPROVE MINUTES**

February 9, 2009 Special Meeting
February 18, 2009 Special Meeting
February 24, 2009 Special Meeting
March 11, 2009 Work Session
March 16, 2009 Regular Meeting
March 18, 2009 Special Meeting
April 14, 2009 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

All items preceded by a (*) were approved as part of the consent agenda on a motion made by Comm. Walsh, seconded by Comm. Popper on the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

* **Comm. Harmon abstained from voting on the April 14, 2009 meeting minutes.**

** **Comm. Tobin abstained from voting on the February 9, 2009 meeting minutes.**

CORRESPONDENCE NOTED FOR THE RECORD

Letter from DEP Acting Commissioner Mauriello stating our 2009 Clean Communities entitlement is \$30,560.21.
Letter from Morris County Engineer establishing a Mid Block Cross Walk on West Mill Road for Columbia Trail.

DISCUSSION

FAIRMOUNT FIRE VEHICLE – CHIEF'S USE – The item has been withdrawn from the agenda for this meeting..

INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES LETTER – This proposed letter from the Environmental Commission will be placed on the website but they would also like to place a notice on the tax bill, or send out a separate mailing. Funds from the \$250 designated for educational information will be used to disseminate the letter to all residents within the 45 square miles of our municipality. The letter addresses removing invasive plant species.

SEPTIC SYSTEMS – A new State mandate regarding septic systems will shortly be imposed wherein residents will be required to pump their septic systems every three years or face penalties.

AGE RESTRICTED HOUSING – The Governor is expected to sign legislation that will allow age restricted housing to be turned into regular housing. Welch Farms and US Homes were mentioned as being age restricted projects.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

FAIRMOUNT AVENUE HOUSE – Resident Stu Slifkin mentioned earlier in the meeting his concern for public safety on a specific property on Fairmount Road. The house is not livable and has not been occupied for 15 to 20 years. The Township holds a tax sale certificate on the property, however, under the Uniform Construction Code or

the Township's local ordinance, certain procedures need to be followed to declare the building unsafe for human habitation before the building can be either secured and made safe, or demolished. As the owner is unknown, an attempt needs to be made to locate the owner. The Township authorized the Building Department to inspect the property and to make it safe.

LIBRARY LEVY AMENDMENT – **Comm. Tobin** stated that the bill has not been getting very much support and has been withdrawn. Governor Corzine cut the state library budget. **Comm. Tobin** feels that the libraries should be under the same cap as the municipality.

CALIFON QUARTERLY UPDATE – **Comm. Popper** advised that a recent meeting went well regarding shared services.

RESIDENT COMMENDATION – **Comm. Popper** commended Long Valley resident **Jim Botti**. After the devastation of the October 2008 storm, Gentry Drive resident Jim Botti took a stand and collected money from the area residents to have tree stumps ground and grounds cleaned. He has also organized the replanting of trees at each neighbors own cost.

MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT – **Comm. Popper** stated that with the assistance of **Barbara Ball** and **Chief Bailey**, he is putting together a new court report that will provide a better gauge of our second largest revenue stream by providing year to date information and comparisons to prior years.

FLOCKTOWN EAGLE – **Comm. Harmon** brought up to the Township that the eagle needs to be inspected for possible deterioration. **Administrator Gallets** informed the Committee that the repair is going to be undertaken as the eagle is insured.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION - The Environmental Commission would like to send a letter stating that under the Forestry Management Plan, they would like to perform maintenance on the Township's forested land which has been untouched to date. A letter will be sent to residents whose properties would have to be traversed in order to get to the Township's forested property.

DISPATCHING – **Mayor Short** stated that a meeting has been set up with the County to finalize this arrangement for 2010.

GOVERNOR'S VISIT - **Mayor Short** stated that Governor Corzine will be in Tewksbury on Arbor Day, which is this Monday.

SHADE TREES – **Mayor Short** stated that 500 to 600 shade trees were damaged by the October 2008 storm, and upon contacting the County, they advised that they are in the process of contacting nurseries in our Township for seedlings or saplings to be planted. Our forests may be scouted for appropriate saplings by volunteers.

It was noted that the Committee would be coming out of Executive Session into Open Session to take further action this evening.

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 9:15 P.M.

RESOLUTION R-79-09 -EXECUTIVE SESSION – ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE: STAFFING REORGANIZATION

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short**

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 9:30 P.M.

ORGANIZATION STANDARDS - **Mayor Short** explained that **Comm. Walsh** and **Comm. Harmon** were charged with investigating technology and communications at the headquarters building. **Comm. Harmon** commented that the process and people that support the organization are much more important than the technology itself. He and

Comm. Walsh observed a passion and commitment of employees to getting things done, especially in light of the complexity and variability of the Township's systems. They felt it was difficult to comment on the contributions of different positions based on their observations. At this time they find it difficult to provide monthly/quarterly/annual measures of performance. Their recommendation is that whoever is leading this group should have fairly consistent standards and measures going forward. **Comm. Tobin** stated that activities and areas being worked on should be prioritized. Mayor Short stated that from this point forward, accountability standards should be established and placed under administration to properly manage the organization as efficiently as possible. **Bob Kelly** explained that an informal ticketing system is in place for work orders, but nothing formal exists. Mr. Kelly believes the system could be improved by qualifying what they do with some form of management system. **Comm. Popper** stated that there must be a method to judge productivity in technology, and also throughout the entire municipality. He further questions whether the Township needs the supervisory position. **Attorney Jansen** clarified that if the Supervisory position is eliminated, the individual would be placed back into the unit as a dispatcher.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

RESOLUTION #R-80-09 – RESOLUTION TO ELIMINATE THE POSITION OF COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST/SUPERVISOR

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

The Township Committee went back into Executive Session at 10:05 P.M.

RESOLUTION R-81-09 -EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL: COURT COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: POLICEMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: ESTABLISHING A RESERVE ON THE SALE OF THE PIERCE TANKER

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, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 10:20 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 P.M.

Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk