

The Work Session of the Washington Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:39 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Popper, Harmon (7:40 P.M.), Tobin, Walsh (8:00P.M.) Mayor Short, Attorney Jansen, Acting Administrator Burd, Acting Clerk 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 at 7:40 P.M.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.

Josh De Vie, Communications Center Employee, inquired about the proposed move to the County for communications services and what effect it will have on the current 15 employees. **Mayor Short** stated that a meeting was held last Wednesday and another is being held tomorrow with Chester Township and Borough. The service transfer date is scheduled to start on January 1, 2010. The transfer will provide a \$600,000 to \$700,000 savings. Mr. De Vie stated that he has conducted his own investigation with regard to savings and his number was less than \$90,000 for this year. He is concerned that the savings are overstated. **Comm. Popper** stated that he spoke to Municipal CFO Kevin Lifer and requested the costs associated with the transfer. Mayor Short explained that numbers are based on average costs per household.

Cameron Exemplar, stated that she finds response time extremely important, and worth consideration in this process. Her own daughter benefited from a fast response time when she was in grand mal seizure.

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

ORDINANCES

HARRINGTON PARK TRAIL EASEMENT – The Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance entitled, “**ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF A TRAIL EASEMENT ON PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 22, LOT 3.03 AS SHOWN ON THE TAX MAPS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY**” at the June 15, 2009 Regular Meeting.

FEE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – The Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance entitled, “**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 3, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO REPEAL FEES FOR VITAL RECORDS**” at the June 15, 2009 Regular Meeting.

SIDEWALK ORDINANCE - **Mayor Short** explained that an ordinance amendment may be needed. The issue is whether residents should be required to remove snow and ice from the sidewalks within 24 hours. Presently only commercial entities are required to do so. More research needs to be done to consider what is the proper approach.

Comm. Walsh arrived at 8:00 P.M.

DISCUSSION

REVERSE 911 – BOB KELLY - **Bob Kelly, Technical Specialist**, was asked to investigate reverse 911 programs, specifically one offered by a firm called Voice Shot. Mr. Kelly described the program as internet based, relatively fee slim and with a good level of service. The company attempts contact three times without additional charge. If telephone service is used – the fee is 12 cents per minute; up to 24 cents for each successful call. The first year's carrying costs would be approximately \$300. The company does not bill, they require a charge card. Any list maintained by the municipality may be subject to OPRA. Mayor Short directed Mr. Kelly to survey the public regarding the service. A resident requested that the survey should include how residents would like to be

contacted.

STONYBROOK GUARD RAIL - The developer was required to install a guard rail on this section of Stonybrook Road as there was a steep drop off at the time the development was approved. When construction started, the area was viewed and a portion of the guard rail is now considered unnecessary and part of it has been requested to be removed. A traffic consultant has recommended the removal of about 60 feet along the front of the property. **Leon Hall, Municipal Engineer** has recommended that the applicant obtain a street opening permit from the DPW. The Township Committee approved that request.

TREE REMOVAL DOUGLAS DRIVE - **Mr. Cabaret** would like to remove two Ash trees in front of his house as they are too large and drop a lot of branches and leaves on his property. He would like to replace the trees with one tree and the Shade Tree Committee has agreed as long as Mr. Cabaret plants the second tree at a location on the shade tree replacement list. The Township Committee approved his request.

VACATION CARRY OVER REQUEST – Township policy requires that carry over vacation time be used by June 30 of the following year. Cpl. Burns would like to request an extension until July 31 as his wife is due to deliver a baby in early July and he could use the time to help out. The Township Committee approved his request to carry one week to be used by the end of July.

E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST POLICY - There was a discussion regarding a protection of personal information policy. **Comm. Popper** addressed a concern regarding the expectation of privacy of recreation list information and recommended a policy be established to keep recreation personal information confidential. **Comm. Harmon** questioned the Committee's latitude in controlling the issue. **Comm. Tobin** will contact the Board of Education to raise their awareness regarding complaints. **Cameron Exemplar, 26 Squire Hill Road** suggested that the sports registration forms should contain some verbiage to indicate whether or not the player's e-mail is preferred to be used specifically for sports related information only. **Attorney Jansen** will prepare a policy statement for the June 15th meeting.

EMT TRAINING FUND RESOLUTION - A resolution will be prepared for the June 15th meeting opposing Governor Corrine's proposal to cut funds to the Emergency Medical Technician Training Fund. The State is considering cuts to this fund of \$4 million statewide. The resolution will be forwarded to District Legislators and Morris County Freeholders. **Comm. Popper** suggested privatizing the EMT as done in other municipalities; and bring the problem to the County and State League of Municipalities to suggest that it is not being funded appropriately.

VEHICLE USE POLICY - **The Fire Department** presented a proposed use policy based on the current Township policy for Township owned vehicles, and the parade policy. **Comm. Popper** stated that parade and trade shows present the most concerns; with specific regard to specialized vehicles and apparatus not being taken out of town. The policy is to place some controls on the use of vehicles. **Kurt Winner** will revise the policy and present it at the June 15th meeting.

ASSESSMENT TRADE – TEWKSBURY - One lot that has 2.29 acres in Tewksbury Township will be assessed entirely in Washington Township and another lot containing 3.39 acres located in Washington Township will be entirely assessed in Tewksbury Township. A new tax map will reflect these changes with no lot line changes or township boundary changes. The Township Committee will consider resolutions at the Regular Meeting.

HEALTH BENEFIT UPDATE - New rates will not be known until the end of August, but double digit increases are expected. In the meantime CFO Lifer will work with our broker, LPD Consulting to explore any other options. It was mentioned that we saved \$450,000 last year with the switch to the State plan.

APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC EVENT – NEW JERSEY FAMILY MEDIEVAL AND FANTASY FESTIVAL

An application has been received from the New Jersey Family Medieval and Fantasy Festival for a family festival to be held on June 13, 2009 and June 14, 2009 from Noon to 6:00 P.M. at St. Mark the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church Concert Field, 59 Spring Lane, Long Valley, New Jersey. Recommendations have been received from the Police Department, the Board of Health and the Zoning Officer.

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

06-10-09
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June 10, 2009

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AYES: Comm. Popper, Harmon, Tobin, Walsh

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: Mayor Short

ABSENT: None

VETERANS GROUP FLAG REQUEST – The Veteran’s Group has approached Comm. Harmon to request that the American Flag be flown in front of the Library. Comm. Tobin will address the issue at the Veteran’s meeting tomorrow.

FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE – Washington Township will apply for a portion of the \$4 million the County received as part of the Federal Stimulus Package.

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 9:56 P.M.

[RESOLUTION #R-103-09](#) - EXECUTIVE SESSION – **CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS:** COUNTY
DISPATCH CENTER
PENDING LITIGATION: ROSS V. SALISBURY

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 10:24 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 P.M.

Judy Madden, Acting Clerk