

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:37 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Popper, Harmon, Walsh, Mayor Short, Attorney Jansen, Administrator/Clerk Gallets, Assistant Administrator Burd, Recording Secretary Madden

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

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.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

REASSESSMENT– **Municipal Tax Assessor, Dolores Pecorari** explained that she values properties by usable sales, and given the market drop it will be very difficult to defend appeals in the coming year. Ms. Pecorari further explained that by taking a proactive approach and reassessing values, the Township will reduce the number of appeals that she expects would be filed next year. The impact for this year alone was over \$51,000. This year has shown the largest number of state appeals in decades. The Division of Taxation informed Ms. Pecorari that an inspection of the entire Township would not be required, just a few houses in each neighborhood. **Comm. Popper** inquired whether an expert could be retained by the Township to develop a percentage by which the entire town could be reduced, thereby saving the \$130,000. Ms. Pecorari stated that she does not believe that the State would accept that approach. Administrator Gallets stated that many Townships are now in the same situation. Some of these Townships are doing a reassessment. The Township Committee will consider RO-22-09 authorizing an emergency appropriation of \$130,000 to perform such reassessments later in the meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

The public hearing on RO-16-09 was continued from the June 20, 2009 meeting. Attorney Jansen stated that the ordinance should be adopted and then amended in August to make a minor correction.

RO-16-09 – **AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 39, ALARM SYSTEMS, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON – SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Short invited further public comment. 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 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 39, ALARM SYSTEMS, 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, Walsh, Harmon, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

RO-17-09 – ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF AN EASEMENT ON CERTAIN LAND AND PROPERTY 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 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF AN EASEMENT ON CERTAIN LAND AND PROPERTY 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, Walsh, Harmon, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

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

Attorney Jansen recommended that the vote on RO-17-09 be tabled to the August 17, 2009 meeting.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

RO-18-09 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 3, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO REPEAL FEES FOR VITAL RECORDS – SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that 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 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, Walsh, Harmon, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

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 TO AMEND CHAPTER 3, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO REPEAL FEES FOR VITAL RECORDS 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, Walsh, Harmon, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

RO-19-09 – 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 – SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that 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 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, Walsh, Harmon, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

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 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 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, Walsh, Harmon, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

RO-20-09 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 172, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WITH REGARD TO THE REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE - 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 172, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WITH REGARD TO THE REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE be introduced and read by title on first reading by the Township Committee.

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, Walsh, Harmon, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

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 172, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, WITH REGARD TO THE REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE be adopted upon first reading.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at a meeting of the Township Committee on August 17, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington Township Municipal Building, 43 Schooley's Mountain Road, Long Valley, New Jersey at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorized to advertise said Ordinance in full 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, Walsh, Harmon, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

RO-21-09 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 217, ZONING, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON REGARDING AUTOMOBILE REPAIR AND SERVICE STATIONS - 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 217, ZONING, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON REGARDING AUTOMOBILE REPAIR AND SERVICE STATIONS be introduced and read by title on first reading by the Township Committee.

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, Walsh, Harmon, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

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 217, ZONING, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON REGARDING AUTOMOBILE REPAIR AND SERVICE STATIONS be adopted upon first reading.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at a meeting of the Township Committee on August 17, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington Township Municipal Building, 43 Schooley's Mountain Road, Long Valley, New Jersey at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorized to advertise said Ordinance in full 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, Walsh, Harmon, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

the Schooley's Mountain Lodge, 54 Camp Washington Road, Long Valley, New Jersey. Noted that the Chief of Police has signed the permit application.

That the foregoing special permit for a social affair be approved and the Clerk be authorized to sign the permit application and forward it to the applicant for submission to Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

***APPROVE MINUTES**

May 13, 2009 Work Session
May 18, 2009 Regular Meeting
June 10, 2009 Work Session

***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, Walsh(+), Mayor Short(++)

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

+ **Comm. Walsh abstained from voting on the May 13, 2009 meeting minutes.**

++ **Mayor Short abstained from voting on the St. Mark raffle application.**

DISCUSSION

TEWKSBURY COURT – SHARED SERVICES – Assistant Administrator Burd stated that the information will be provided by the Tewksbury Administrator on August , 2009 to advance discussions on shared court facilities or services.

BANNER – LONG VALLEY BREW PUB – The Long Valley Brew Pub has requested permission to hang a banner for a 3 week period to advertise its grand opening.

Motion was made by Comm. Walsh, seconded by Comm. Popper to approve the hanging of the banner for a three week period subject to the approval of the County Freeholders. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

FEDERAL FUNDS- Comm. Harmon inquired about the \$4 million that the County has received from the Federal Government. He was advised that the County is aware of Washington Township's interest and is going through its own process to obtain final approval.

VOLUNTEERS - Comm. Walsh again expressed concern about the volunteers that are leaving certain Township groups.

REVERSE 911 – Comm. Popper stated that the Committee should not forget to pursue this matter. Mayor Short asked Bob Kelly to consider an advertisement in the newspaper in addition to the survey on the website. Bob Kelly stated that he hopes to have something in place before the bad weather begins.

WTMUA – Mayor Short stated that the Wastewater Management Plan has been down in Trenton for a year and 2 months and very little has been done. He explained that with Senator Oroho's aid, the Township sought action on

this a couple of months ago which has paved the way for eight residents in the Mountain View section to be hooked up to the sewer system.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION – Mayor Short stated that a couple of applications have been submitted and the County has asked that the Township Planner David Banisch, Township Engineer Leon Hall and Assistant Township Attorney Paula De Bona attend a meeting. However, the Committee has not set aside the funds to pay these professionals for this service. Mayor Short and Comm. Walsh will discuss the issue and contact the County. At this point the professionals are not authorized to attend.

CORRESPONDENCE NOTED FOR THE RECORD

Letter to legislators from Lt. Neil Van Ess, Chairman of the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, stating District 24 will receive \$206,180.00 in Drug Enforcement Demand Reduction funds in 2009. Termination of Municipally Approved Eight Year Farmland Preservation Program – Friedmann – Block 54, Lot 15 (12.1 acres).

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.

A **communication officer** from Washington Township expressed his concern that the Committee did not acknowledge the loss of two communications officers. He requested that an update from the Township Committee. **Mayor Short** explained that in an effort to save taxpayer money, many people have been displaced., He is aware of the dedication and hard work of the communications officers. The Township is currently in contract negotiations with the County.

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

Motion was made by Comm. Walsh, seconded by Comm. Popper to approve Joseph Estwin as a part time dispatcher for Washington Township. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 8:55 P.M.

RESOLUTION R-132-09 -EXECUTIVE SESSION – CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: DISPATCHING

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, Walsh, Harmon, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Tobin

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 9:34 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.