

The Work Session of the Washington Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:41 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Popper, Harmon, Mayor Short, Attorney Jansen,
Administrator Gallets, Assistant Administrator Burd, Senior Deputy Clerk Madden

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Walsh

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.

CONSIDER NOMINATIONS OF THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE TO FILL THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE VACANCY

1. **Jim LiaBraaten**
2. **Bill Roehrich**
3. **Sandy Zarillo**

The Township Committee considered the above referenced candidates to fill the vacancy left by Tracy Tobin's recent resignation. Jim LiaBraaten and Sandy Zarillo withdrew their names for consideration.

RESOLUTION #R-170-09 – APPOINTMENT OF BILL ROEHRICH TO FILL VACANCY ON GOVERNING BODY

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

AYES: Comm. Popper, Harmon, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Walsh

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER SWORN IN BY TOWNSHIP CLERK

Administrator Gallets administered the oath of office to Washington Township Committee Member Bill Roehrich.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.

Kevin Nedd, 5 Kim Lane, congratulated Bill Roehrich. Mr. Nedd provided an overview of taxation for the last nine years, specifically mentioning the votes of Mayor Short and Comm. Roehrich. Mr. Nedd inquired about comments made by Mayor Short a year ago regarding Mr. Nedd's view on taxation. He inquired what Mayor Short meant by his comments. Mayor Short responded. Mr. Nedd felt that the Mayor and Comm. Roehrich did not respond adequately to his question.

Harlin Parker, 525 Naughtright Road inquired whether it was known that two of the candidates for the Committee vacancy would be withdrawing. Mayor Short stated that it was not known. Mr. Parker inquired whether due diligence was done to ascertain whether the candidates would consider accepting the position.

Comm. Roehrich stated that he is happy to serve.

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

HEALTH BENEFIT OVERVIEW - BRIAN RIZOR – LDP CONSULTING – The Health Benefit overview was postponed until Monday, October 19, 2009.

ORDINANCES

MISC CODIFICATION AMEDNMENTS TO ZONING 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 217, ZONING, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON” at the October 19, 2009 Regular

Meeting.

****Mayor Short recused himself from the discussion of the proposed Master Plan Reexamination Zoning Ordinance changes at 8:20 P.M.**

MASTER PLAN REEXAMINATION ZONING ORDINANCES CHANGES – **Ginny Kesper, Planning and Zoning Official**, stated that The Washington Township Planning Board completed its required six year periodic review of the Washington Township Master Plan. A summary of rezoning recommendations was presented to the Township Committee for implementation. **Attorney Jansen** will prepare a draft incorporating these changes as directed by the Township Committee, which will be discussed at the November 11, 2009 meeting.

**** Mayor Short returned to the meeting at 8:30 P.M.**

DISCUSSION

AMENDED LATE NIGHT SCHEDULE – The Township Committee approved an amended late night schedule for municipal administration pursuant to which the first Monday of January, February and March of 2010 will have extended hours and the following Friday will be a half day. The amended schedule is intended to be more uniform and easier for our residents to remember.

FIELD USAGE FEES – Field usage fees for Fall have been received in full. The Fall maintenance program can therefore be completed. Due to the timing of the ordinance, much of the Spring fees are still outstanding as most of the groups had already collected their fees prior to the passage of the ordinance. The Township Committee discussed waiving the Spring 2009 field usage fees. Those recreation groups which have already paid the Spring 2009 fees would receive credit for the Spring 2010 fees. All Spring and Fall groups are prepared to pay the 2010 fees. The Recreation Committee expressed support for the Spring 2009 fees being waived.

Motion was made by Comm. Popper, seconded by Comm. Harmon that the 2009 Spring field usage fees be waived, and those that were paid be credited toward Spring 2010. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Walsh

INSURANCE SURCHARGE – The New Jersey Intergovernmental Insurance Fund is implementing a Workers Compensation Fund Financial Stability Plan in which there will be a return of surpluses and the issuance of special assessments for prior fund years. **Assistant Administrator Burd** stated that this plan needs to go before the State Department of Insurance and Banking for approval. A meeting is scheduled for October 27, 2009. Ms. Burd will write a letter from the Mayor to the Department of Insurance and Banking objecting to the special assessments. A public hearing will be held on November 5, 2009 at the Wayne Township Hall to consider the approval of the plan.

COAH RENTAL HOUSE EXPENDITURES – The Township Committee discussed the reimbursement of improvement expenditures made by the tenant at 73 West Mill Road in the amount of \$1,687. The reimbursement could be made out of the COAH fund. **Attorney Jansen** suggested that in the future, it should be made clear that permission must be sought in advance of making repairs if reimbursement will be requested. Ms. Kesper stated that it was already made clear to the tenant for future reference. Ms. Kesper has reviewed all of the invoices for verification of funds.

Motion was made by Comm. Popper, seconded by Comm. Harmon that \$1,687 from the COAH fund be used to pay for improvements made by the tenant of 73 West Mill Road. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Walsh

FLU SHOTS – FIRST RESPONDERS – The Township Committee approved a request by Health Officer Cris Cooke-Gibbs that first responders with direct patient care (LVFAS and Police) be offered a regular seasonal flu shot at no cost. The Health budget will be used to cover these vaccinations. Dates are not yet known for flu shot distribution. Center for Disease Control (CDC) grants will cover the costs of H1N1 shots for those who qualify.

HEALTH BENEFIT WAIVERS – In the past, an allowance has been given to those full time municipal employees who opt out of the Washington Township health plan to go with a spouse's plan. No change is proposed. The allowance is paid quarterly and is taxed. The Township Committee approved the continuation of the allowances.

ALARM ORDINANCE INVOICE – Last month an invoice for service fees was sent to West Morris Regional High School for false alarms. Mayor Short met with High School officials and a 30 day moratorium was discussed to allow the school to correct defects in its alarm system. The Township Committee agreed to the moratorium.

PASCAL AUCTION – The Pascale Auction will be held on either December 8, 9 or 10, 2009 by Coldwell Banker. Administrator Galletts will work with Attorney Jansen's office to determine a date. A professional services resolution for Coldwell Banker and an ordinance authorizing the auction sale will be provided by Attorney Jansen for the October 19, 2009 meeting.

LAND TRUST – The County asked why Washington Township is not contributing to the purchase of the Borgenicht property on Fairview Avenue. **Mayor Short** stated that the Committee agreed not to commit future funds to the purchase of additional open space. The parcel is also next to a hunting tract and not as safe for public use. The money in the open space fund is being used to pay back Township bonds. In addition, the Committee was not asked to participate in the purchase. Mayor Short will formalize this explanation in a letter to the County.

FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE USE POLICY – **Comm. Popper** requested that this topic be put on the agenda for Monday's meeting as he feels it has been finalized and should be approved as a policy.

REVERSE 911 – **Comm. Popper** also requested that Reverse 911 be placed on Monday evening's agenda.

FENCE ON EAST MILL – **Comm. Popper** stated that the fence on East Mill Road is in need of repair and suggested contacting the County to undertake this task. Mayor Short will inquire if it is the County's fence in its entirety, and if so, investigate if repairs could be done at their expense or with their participation.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE - **Comm. Harmon** stated that the CIO of a pharmaceutical company who lives in town has volunteered to help the Township with technical assistance, along with Bob Kelly and Ray Kenny, to review and improve our internal technology (servers, computers, etc.). The CIO has also donated five gently used computers and monitors to the Township, which have been provided to Mr. Kenny. A letter will be written to thank the company for its donation.

GRANT MONEY – **Administrator Galletts** stated that the Township has just received \$200,000 in grant money from the Department of Transportation for the improvement of Newburgh Road in 2010.

WELCOME – **Comm. Popper**, along with the rest of the Committee, welcomed new Committee Member Bill Roehrich.

BILLBOARD – The Township would like to see the large billboard next to the First Aid Squad building removed. The billboard has been standing since 1957. The Township is negotiating this issue with the First Aid Squad. It should be noted that the Township donated a lease for a ¾ acre parcel next to the building with the expectation that the billboard would come down at the expiration of the billboard lease next September.

SHARED SERVICES - **Assistant Administrator Burd** stated that a letter was received from the Board of Education requesting a discussion of shared services. **Mayor Short** stated that he has contacted the Board of Education to try to set up a meeting date.

****Attorney Jansen voluntarily recused himself from the Attorney Review discussion.**

ATTORNEY REVIEW PROCESS – **Mayor Short** explained the attorney review process.

Municipal Attorneys: Jansen & DeBona

An hourly rate analysis was made with input from surrounding municipalities and the rate charged to the Township was found to be comparable. A flat retainer system was suggested as a possibility, with an hourly rate for anything atypical. The Township Committee feels very well represented and are very satisfied with the performance of our municipal attorneys, Jansen & DeBona. Attorney Jansen volunteers within the Township in addition to providing excellent legal representation. One area of improvement was that he be more flexible (less conservative) at times. Overall comments on the performance of Attorneys John Jansen and Paula DeBona were overwhelmingly positive.

Labor Attorney: Matt Jacoby

An hourly rate analysis was made with input from surrounding municipalities and the rate charged to the Township was found to be comparable. Attorney Jacoby's firm represents 20% of the municipalities in the state. He is not local but very knowledgeable on labor issues. Overall comments on Attorney Matt Jacoby were favorable.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Motion was made by Comm. Harmon, seconded by Comm. Popper that the meeting be adjourned. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Walsh

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 P.M.

Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk