

The Reorganization Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Municipal Clerk DiGregorio at 10:00 A.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Comm., Roehrich, Tobin, Short, and Comm. Elect Babb, LiaBraaten

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Attorney Jansen, Administrator Coppola, Municipal Clerk DiGregorio, Office Manager Lyons

**ABSENT:** None

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on December 19, 2013 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.

**INVOCATION** – Pastor Andrew Barkman from Valley View Chapel gave the Invocation.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS SWORN IN BY TOWNSHIP CLERK.**

Municipal Clerk DiGregorio administered the oath of office to **Donald Babb** and **James LiaBraaten**.

**TOWNSHIP CLERK TAKES NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR FOR 2014**

**Comm. Tobin** nominated **Comm. Short** to serve as Mayor of Washington Township for the year 2014. The motion was seconded by **Comm. Roehrich**. There being no other nominations, the motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**Municipal Clerk DiGregorio stepped down and Mayor Short assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.**

**NEW MAYOR TAKES NOMINATIONS FOR VICE MAYOR FOR 2014**

**Comm. Tobin** nominates **Comm. Roehrich** to serve as Vice Mayor of Washington Township for the year 2014. The motion was seconded by **Comm. LiaBraaten**. There being no other nomination, the motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

**Mayor Short** thanked the Township Committee for their support, thanked **Dave Kennedy** for his three years of service to the Township, and welcomed **Comm. Babb** to the Committee. Mayor Short acknowledged the presence of **Assemblyman Bucco** at the meeting

**Mayor Short** noted that 2013 was a challenging year, and that the Committee was forced to make some difficult decisions to keep the municipal budget under the mandated 2% cap. He reminded the public that only 15% of resident's taxes go towards municipal government. Despite a tight budget, Washington Township was able to do the following: purchase additional radio equipment, pave portions of Old Farmers Road and East Springtown Road, oil and chip four miles of roadway, replace five police vehicles, expand our conservation easement monitoring program, purchase an emergency sign board, purchase a generator for Long Valley Fire Company, complete the bus maintenance facility with the BOE, install irrigation at Palmer Park, create the Community Garden, purchase new equipment for the DPW, dedicate three streets to Township Veterans, and celebrate the Township's 275 Anniversary.

A fire review study was completed revealing that the Township's three fire companies are well equipped, well-staffed, and exceed many well established standards.

The 2014 budget year will prove to be challenging. The effects of the Highlands Act and the sluggish economy has resulted in very few new ratables. Over the past five years, the municipal operating costs have decreased by over \$900,000, but revenues have also decreased significantly. In 2013 the Township lost about \$500,000 in commercial tax appeals. A recent publication revealed that Washington Township has the third lowest municipal taxes in Morris County.

**Mayor Short** advised that Washington Township had been recognized by the State of New Jersey as a model community for shared services. The Township has 18 shared services agreements.

In 2013, **Mayor Short** attended nine meetings with JCP&L. There have been many JCP&L enhancements, and **Mayor Short** feels Washington Township is in a much better position to avoid prolonged loss of power. **Mayor Short** encouraged all residents to take personal responsibility and be prepared for potential emergency situations.

The Civilian Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been expanded to over 20 members, under the leadership of **Bob Drake** and **Bruce Clark**.

Mayor Short listed some of his goals for 2014, including: submitting a budget with a flat or slight increase, continuing road paving projects, oiling and chipping five miles of roadway, building restroom facilities at Palmer Park, replacing

police vehicles as needed, applying for grants to complete the downtown sidewalk project, looking into the possible relocation of the Long Valley Fire Company firehouse, creating public access to trails and open space, continuing to seek commercial ratables, replacement of retiring police officers as needed, and working with Morris County to repave Schooley's Mountain Road and West Mill Road.

Mayor Short thanked the hundreds of Township volunteers for their service to our town.

**SWEARING IN OF FIRE DEPARTMENT, FIRST AID SQUAD OFFICERS, AND BOARDS AND COMMITTEE APPOINTEES.** Municipal Clerk DiGregorio administered oaths of office for the 2014 year to the Fire Department Chiefs, Fairmount Fire Company Officers, Long Valley Fire Company Officers, Schooley's Mountain Fire Company Officers, Long Valley First Aid Squad Officers, Boards and Committee Members, and Other Appointees.

**INTRODUCTION OF A NEW WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE OFFICER**  
Officer Kevin Barnes was introduced to the Township Committee by Chief Bailey.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

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

Comm. Tobin stated this would be his last year on the Township Committee; he will not be seeking reelection at the end of his term in 2014.

**RECESS**

Mayor Short recessed the meeting at 10:33 AM, to allow for refreshments. The meeting reconvened at 10:56.

**\*RESOLUTION #R-01-14** DESIGNATION OF THE OBSERVER TRIBUNE AS THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON - 2014

**\*RESOLUTION #R-02-14** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS EXCEEDING \$17,500

**\*RESOLUTION #R-03-14** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS NOT TO EXCEED \$17,500

**\*RESOLUTION #R-04-14** DATES AND TIMES FOR REGULAR AND WORK MEETINGS OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE FOR 2014

**RESOLUTION #R-05-14** TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS

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

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short  
**NAYS:** None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTENTIONS:** None

**RESOLUTION #R-06-14** APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS TOWNSHIP POSITIONS – 2014

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

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short  
**NAYS:** None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTENTIONS:** None

**\*RESOLUTION #R-07-14** APPOINTMENTS - MORRIS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REVENUE SHARING COMMITTEE – 2014

**RESOLUTION #R-08-14** TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS, VARIOUS BOARD/ COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Short read into the record Committee assignments and various Board/Committee appointments.

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

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short  
**NAYS:** None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTENTIONS:** None

**\*RESOLUTION #R-09-14** DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL DEPOSITORIES FOR TOWNSHIP FUNDS – 2014

**\*RESOLUTION #R-10-14** AUTHORIZE THE CANCELLATION OF SMALL BALANCES AND CREDITS AND THE ANNUAL SALE OF DELINQUENT TAXES FOR 2012 AND SET RATE OF INTEREST ON DELINQUENT TAXES – 2014

All items proceeded by a (\*) are part of the consent agenda, **Mayor Short** asked if any member of the Committee or Public would like an item considered separately. There was no response,

The consent agenda was approved on a motion made by **Comm. Roehrich**, seconded by **Comm. Tobin**. Motion was carried forward by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short  
**NAYS:** None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTENTIONS:** None

**RESOLUTION #R-11-14** APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS

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

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short  
**NAYS:** None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTENTIONS:** None

**RESOLUTION #R-12-14** TOWNSHIP EMPLOYEES' BENEFITS - 2014

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

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short  
**NAYS:** None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTENTIONS:** None

**RESOLUTION #R-13-14** APPOINTMENTS – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL -2014

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

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short  
**NAYS:** None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTENTIONS:** None

**RESOLUTION #R-14-14** AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH CALIFON BOROUGH TO PROVIDE INFIELD GROOMING SERVICES

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

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short  
**NAYS:** None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTENTIONS:** None

**RESOLUTION #R-15-14** AUTHORIZE THE RENEWAL OF A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH MANSFIELD TOWNSHIP TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

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

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short  
**NAYS:** None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTENTIONS:** None

**RESOLUTION #R-16-14** RESOLUTION APPOINTING A RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

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

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short  
**NAYS:** None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTENTIONS:** None

**RESOLUTION #R-17-14** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SHELTER AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

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

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short  
**NAYS:** None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTENTIONS:** None

**RESOLUTION #R-18-14** RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SHELTER AGREEMENT WITH THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short  
**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**DISCUSSION**

The Committee received a volunteer application for the Historic Preservation Committee. **Mayor Short** and **Comm. Babb** will hold an interview with the applicant before the next Work Session Meeting.

**PUBLIC PORITION**

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

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **Comm. Roehrich**, seconded by **Comm. Tobin**. Motion was carried forward by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short  
**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**The meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM**

**\*Denotes Consent Agenda**

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**Nina DiGregorio, Municipal Clerk**