

The Work Session of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:32 P.M.

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

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

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on January 9, 2014 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.

**PRESENTATION. Community Development Block Grant Application.** Terry McKeon, Executive Director of Special Homes of NJ addressed the Committee. He explained that Special Homes of NJ opened a house on Mission Road in the summer of 2013. The organization is seeking funds from the Morris County Community Development Block Grant to complete ramp access to the back yard and to build a gazebo. Mr. Thomas, a resident at the home on Mission Road, expressed his happiness at living in the home, and encouraged the Committee to support this request for funding, so that the residents can enjoy the backyard. The group is not requesting funds from Washington Township; they are requesting funds from the County but would like Township support. The Committee agreed to support the groups efforts.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**RESOLUTION DISCUSSION**

**Employee Health Contributions.** The Committee will consider a resolution at the Regular Township Committee Meeting on Monday, March 17, 2014

**Special Olympics Resolution .**The Committee will consider a resolution at the Regular Township Committee Meeting on Monday, March 17, 2014

**ORDINANCE DISCUSSION**

**Conservation Easement Enforcement.** The proposed amendment will make it clear that a violation of the easement is a violation of the ordinance. The general penalty provision will apply. The ordinance will be on the agenda for introduction at the Regular Meeting on March 17, 2014.

**Alarms.** The proposed ordinance amendment provides for annual registration and makes the failure to pay a service fee within 30 days violation of the ordinance. The ordinance will be on the agenda for introduction at the Regular Meeting on March 17, 2014.

**DISCUSSIONS**

**Heath Village Rezoning Recommendation.** The Committee discussed buffers, setbacks, and the Heath Village proposal. In general, the Committee feels that the buffers and setbacks are not adequate. The consensus was to return the draft ordinance to the Planning Board with comments.

**Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public on the Heath Village rezoning issues.**

**Nancy Cummins,** 441 Schooley's Mountain Road, is an owner of the adjacent farmland. She is concerned about the setbacks Heath is requesting; she feels they are not adequate. Her property value will significantly decrease if the buffers are not sufficient.

A resident, who is a farmer in the Township, thanked the town for being respectful of the existing buffers and would like to see them maintained.

**Sam Akin,** 98 East Mill Road, is concerned about adequate buffers.

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

**Elder Cottage Housing Opportunity.** Elder Cottages are usually ranch style accessory structures, approximately 700 sq. feet, constructed for the purpose of housing an elderly relative. Washington Township currently does not have an ordinance addressing these structures. The discussion was prompted by recent inquiries. The Committee would like to gather more information and readdress the issue in the future when the Planning Board does not have so much on its plate.

**Sale of Liquor License.** The 2010 Census data showed an increase in population which allows Washington Township to sell an additional liquor license for retail consumption. The license went out to bid a year ago, at a minimum bid of \$295,000. There were no bidders. The Committee agreed to put it out to bid again. The minimum bid amount will be discussed in Executive Session.

**\*RAFFLE APPLICATIONS**

Applications have been received for the following raffles:

PTO Great Meadows Regional School District      50/50 and Tricky Tray      April 4, 2014

Noted that the Chief of Police has signed the Findings and Determination Forms and all forms are in order.

That the foregoing raffle applications be approved, subject to the Mayor signing the Findings and Determination Forms.

**\*AUTHORIZE SPECIAL PERMIT FOR SOCIAL AFFAIR – WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY EVENT**

An application has been received from the Washington Township Community Events Organization for a Social Affair to be held on Saturday, March 22, 2014 between the hours of 6:00 PM and 11:00 P.M. to be held at the Long Valley Fire House, 5 Fairview Avenue, Long Valley, New Jersey. Noted that the Chief of Police has signed the 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 Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

**Mayor Short asked if anyone on the Township Committee or from the public wanted anything removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. There was no response.**

Motion made by **Comm. Roehrich**, seconded by **Comm. Tobin** that the foregoing consent agenda be approved. Motion was carried forward by the following roll call vote:

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**PUBLIC PORTION**

**Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.**

**Laura Akin**, East Mill Road, requested a clarification of the proposed amendment to the Land Subdivision Ordinance pertaining to Conservation Easements. **Mayor Short** and **Attorney Jansen** provided an explanation.

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

**DISCUSSION**

**Comm. Tobin** suggested inviting Boards and Committees to the Work Session Meetings to provide a brief summary of their work.

**Comm. Tobin** would also like to work with organizations like Wounded Warriors to see if we can get houses built in Long Valley for returning Veterans.

**Comm. Tobin** asked for an update on the Regional High School RFP. **Mayor Short** stated that the surrounding four towns are moving forward with their project and that Washington Township will need to get more involved.

**Comm. LiaBraaten** reminded the Committee that the Schooley's Mountain Fire Company purchased a new vehicle and is keeping the old one as a second command vehicle. The Fire Company is asking the Committee to continue paying for the gas and insurance for the old vehicle. **Comm. LiaBraaten** would like to develop a policy statement so this can be addressed consistently in the future.

**Attorney Jansen** noted that the ordinance authorizing the McKiernan conservation easement swap is ready to be considered at the Township Committee Regular Meeting on Monday March 17, 2014.

*The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 9:12P.M.*

*The Committee will not be taking any action after coming out of Executive Session.*

**RESOLUTION #R-48 -14 - EXECUTIVE SESSION : TACTICS AND TECHNIQUES UTILIZED IN PROTECTING THE PROPERTY OF THE PUBLIC LIQUOR LICENSE SALE**

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

*The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 9:20 P.M.*

*The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.*

\* Denotes Consent Agenda