

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:30 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Comm. Kennedy, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Mayor Short

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Attorney Jansen, Administrator/Acting Clerk Burd, Assistant Administrator Coppola

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Comm. Tobin, Deputy Clerk DiGregorio

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on January 9, 2012 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.

**MAYOR'S UPDATE** – Mayor Short stated the new tower is now under construction next to police headquarters. The tower will help provide cellular service to all sections of the Township. There will be three users on the tower, which will provide revenue to the Township. December was noted as an anticipated date of completion.

Mayor Short noted that there will be a meeting on October 30, 2012, 7:30 PM, at the municipal building, with the school boards and mayors of the five surrounding municipalities. Three different options are being discussed. Mayor Short would like the public to attend.

On Saturday, October 14, the Township held an electronic recycling event which was very successful.

This evening, the Township will be awarding a bid for the construction of the Rock Road bus maintenance facility to be constructed in conjunction with the K-8 Board of Education.

Mayor Short mentioned noted the Fire Study, which will evaluate and report on certain efficiencies/deficiencies of our Fire Department. A contract will be awarded this evening.

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT PRESENTATION** - **Scout Michael Strommer, Troup 236**, presented a project to repair the flag pole area in Palmer Park. The project includes the installation of pavers, 2 benches, edging, bushes and mulch. Scout Strommer is pursuing other funding sources to raise money. The Township Committee approved this ambitious project and looks forward to its completion.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**Jim Golden, 14 Marjorie Drive**, stated that a new resident in the neighborhood moved in who is disabled. He further stated that the house has now become a home for numerous "challenged" individuals. He is concerned that the surrounding neighbors were not apprised of the situation before this type of home was approved. Although he does not have a complaint against this type of home, numerous incidents have now given him pause.

**Bart Columbo, 10 Jackie Drive**, stated that since the above referenced home has opened, there has been work done to the house. The construction company blocked his mailbox and their mail was not received for days. Other times, his mailbox has been blocked by a car. Additionally, Mr. Columbo is concerned, as a parent, for the safety of his young children, given the recent incidents occurring at the home. He stated that other residents are just as concerned.

**Attorney Jansen** stated that by State statute, community residences for the developmentally disabled are permitted in residential zones with no need to secure approval from the Township.

**Mr. Columbo** reiterated his concern about the safety of his children. He feels this situation needs to be addressed now.

**Chief Bailey** stated that these concerned neighbors should contact the Police Department when incidents occur so the Police Department can respond.

**Mr. Golden** asked if the State has any standards that need to be adhered to at this type of facility.

**Chief Bailey** advised him that the facility is supposed to document these incidents, but it is possible that it is not being done and the State is unaware of what is going on. He once again suggested calling the Police Department so that incidents can be documented.

**Sue Spencer, 3 Maude Lane**, stated that construction on this group home has been going on for months, with inspections that have needed to be performed. She asked how the Township could not be aware of its existence. Ms. Spencer is also concerned about her young grandchildren and the incidents that have been occurring.

**Rosanne Pisano, 9 Maude Lane**, stated that she is concerned that the Township was unaware of the existence of this group home. She wondered if the home is truly State approved as no one was informed. She would like to know if there is a way to investigate the company operating the home. Ms. Pisano is also concerned about her property value and how the neighbors are to know if these mentally disabled individuals are dangerous.

**Attorney Jansen** explained that due to the statute, the Township did not need to be approached for approval of this type of home and was unaware of its existence. The State mandates that this type of home be treated like any other single family home and prohibits criminals from residing therein.

**Mayor Short** explained that this is the first time the Committee has heard about any incidents there, and residents should now take the approach suggested by Chief Bailey.

**Chief Bailey** stated that change can only be accomplished by documenting incidents with the Police Department.

**Jan Stopa, 271 Naughtright Road**, stated that he has been a resident for over 12 years. He has noticed that the Police Department seems to be more concerned with writing tickets than public safety. Mr. Stopa asked if these tickets are being issued to try to augment the budget.

**Mayor Short** stated that the tickets are not being used to augment the budget and, in fact, the revenues from the Court are down.

**Chief Bailey** supported Mayor Short's statement that summonses are down this year, and the increased presence is to promote public safety.

**Mr. Stopa** stated that starting with a warning would help deter violations, instead of issuing a ticket.

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

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**RESOLUTION #R-121- 12 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT TO PURCHASE BLOCK 61, LOT 22.01 CONTINGENT UPON FUNDING**

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

**AYES:** Comm. Kennedy, Roehrich, LiaBraaten, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Tobin

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**RESOLUTION #R-122-12 RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE FOURTH EXTENSION OF A DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT WITH REGARD TO LANDMARK ENTERPRISES, LLC**

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

**AYES:** Comm. Kennedy, Roehrich, LiaBraaten, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Tobin

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**RESOLUTION #R-123-12 APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE MISSION ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

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

**AYES:** Comm. Kennedy, Roehrich, LiaBraaten, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Tobin

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**RESOLUTION #R-124-12 APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE OLD FARMERS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

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

**AYES:** Comm. Kennedy, Roehrich, LiaBraaten, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Tobin

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**RESOLUTION #R-125-12 PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE RENEWAL – MOUNTAIN VIEW BAR AND GRILL, INC.**

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

**AYES:** Comm. Kennedy, Roehrich, LiaBraaten, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Tobin

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**RESOLUTION #R-126-12 AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF 4-YEAR TREE REPLACEMENT SURETY BOND FOR TARGET RETAIL CENTER, BLOCK 4, LOT 7.05**

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

**AYES:** Comm. Kennedy, Roehrich, LiaBraaten, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Tobin

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**RESOLUTION #R-127-12 AWARD BID – BUS MAINTENANCE GARAGE**

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**There was a short discussion regarding the bidding process.**

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

**AYES:** Comm. Kennedy, Roehrich, LiaBraaten, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Tobin

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**RESOLUTION #R-128-12 AWARD BID – WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT EVALUATION**

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

**AYES:** Comm. Kennedy, Roehrich, LiaBraaten, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Tobin

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**\*RAFFLE APPLICATIONS**

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Friendship Center, Inc.	Tricky Tray	December 1, 2012
Friendship Center, Inc.	50/50	December 1, 2012
Project Graduation WMCHS	Draw Raffle	December 4, 2012

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.

**\*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

**\*APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP – LONG VALLEY FIRST AID SQUAD**

Applications have been received for membership in the Long Valley First Aid Squad from Joanne Butkus, Alexandra Mae Nagie and Jesse Ray Nardone.

That the foregoing applications for membership be approved and forwarded to the Long Valley First Aid Squad.

**\*AUTHORIZE COIN TOSS – THE PENN STATE IFC/PANHELLENIC DANCE MARATHON (THON)**

That the Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon, affectionately known as THON be authorized to conduct a Coin Toss to raise funds and awareness for the fight against pediatric cancer. The coin toss will be held Saturday and Sunday, October 20-21, 2012 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the center of Long Valley at the intersection of County Roads 517 (Schooley's Mountain Road) and 513 (East Mill Road), subject to the approval of the Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the conditions imposed by the Washington Township Police Department. The Township assumes no responsibility or liability for the safe operation of the event and will expect Penn State IFC/Panhellenic Dance Marathon to hold the Township harmless from any claim arising out of this event.

That the foregoing request be approved.

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

**All items proceeded by an (\*) were approved as part of the consent agenda.**

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

**AYES:** Comm. Kennedy (#), Roehrich (^), LiaBraaten (+), Mayor Short  
**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Tobin

(^) **Comm. Roehrich abstained from voting on the August 15, 2012 Meeting minutes.**

(#) **Comm. Kennedy abstained from voting on the August 20, 2012 and September 12, 2012 Meeting minutes.**

(+) **Comm. LiaBraaten abstained from voting on the September 17, 2012 Meeting minutes.**

**CORRESPONDENCE NOTED FOR THE RECORD**

A letter from Steve Zaikowski, of the Shade Tree Committee, thanking Mrs. Debbie Seiler and the Long Valley Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> grade Science Class for their monetary contribution.

**RESOLUTION #R-129-12    AUTHORIZE IN REM FORECLOSURE OF CERTIFICATES ON THE  
LIST DATED OCTOBER 15, 2012**

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

**AYES:** Comm. Kennedy, Roehrich, LiaBraaten, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Tobin

**DISCUSSION**

**ENERGY AGGREGATION PROGRAM** – **Comm. Liabraaten** stated that he has tried to obtain more information on the Energy Aggregation Program per the Committee’s request at the October Work Session meeting. He is waiting for this information and will share it with the Committee at a later date.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT** - **Comm. Kennedy** informed the Committee of the progress of the Community Garden project.

**SALARY ADJUSTMENTS** - **Comm. Kennedy** stated that he would like to see future salary adjustments considered by the Committee at budget time.

**INTERVIEWS** – Comm. LiaBraaten informed the Committee that there were two interviews conducted this evening.

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

**AYES:** Comm. Kennedy, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** Comm. Tobin

**The meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.**

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**Deborah Burd, Acting Township Clerk**