

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:33 P.M.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney Jansen, Administrator Coppola, Municipal Clerk DiGregorio,

ABSENT: None

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on January 10, 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.

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

MAYORS UPDATE.

Mayor Short continues to meet with JCP&L and acknowledged the company has made improvements. The Mayor encourages all residents to plan and prepare for inevitable power outages.

Electronic waste recycling for residents will take place Saturday October 26 at the DPW from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

Mayor Short and **Administrator Coppola** met with Committee Chairs this evening to get an update and improve communication.

On Veterans Day, November 11, several Township Veterans will be at Old Farmers Road School for a flag raising ceremony. There will be a private entrance road dedication ceremony at Zion Lutheran Church at 10:00 AM on November 11 for **U.S. Marine Private Vincent E. Fields**. On November 16 at 11:00 AM there will be a driveway entrance road dedication for **U.S. Army Private First Class John L. Lindaberry** at the Califon Road Cemetery.

PROCLAMATION – National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. **Mayor Short**, on behalf of the Washington Township Committee, read into the record a proclamation declaring September National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

PROCLAMATION – Breast Cancer Awareness Month. **Mayor Short**, on behalf of the Washington Township Committee, read into the record a proclamation declaring October Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

PRESENTATION. Special Needs Housing Partnership. A home at 7 Hilltop Terrace has been purchased to offer housing to people with intellectual and/or physical disabilities. **Alush Patel** from Monarch Associates works with agencies like Special Needs Housing to help them develop programs. His organization worked on a Mission Road home that opened in July 2013. Special Homes will take ownership of the property and provide services including 24/7 supervision. The plan has been approved by the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Special Homes of NJ would like to obtain financial support from the Washington Township Committee for a home on Hilltop Terrace that will house 4 individuals, all are intellectually disabled and three have physical disabilities.

Comm. Tobin recused himself from this discussion. He knows the owner of the residence.

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

Ann DeFries, 4 Hilltop Terrace questioned how this home would impact the market value of other homes, and if the home could ever house recovering addicts. **Mr. Patel** stated the home will only house intellectually and physically disabled persons.

Robert Weber, case manager for Special Homes of NJ, stated that he was available for questions.

Cinta Guinaraes, Mountain View Ave, former Department of Disabilities Case Manager. Would like to know if residents have violent histories or sexual criminal histories. She asked about monthly fire drills, how many worker shifts there will be, and how much traffic will be generated. **Mr. Weber** stated that the 4 individuals have no psychiatric diagnoses. There will not be anyone with a sexual criminal history living in the home. He does not anticipate an increase in traffic. He stated that staff is certified and trained.

Jacqueline Tridente, 46 Mountain View, lives adjacent to the property and is concerned about traffic.

Gerry DeFries, 4 Hilltop Terrace, is concerned about traffic. He would like to know about police calls to the home on Mission Road. **Police Lt. Niemynski** stated there have been no police calls to the home on Mission Road and there was one medical call. There were two police calls at the house on Jackie Drive.

Mayor Short stated there were 9 group homes in Washington Township.

Attorney Jansen read the statute stating that such residences are permitted uses in all residential districts of the municipality.

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

DISCUSSION.

Comm. LiaBraaten understands that neighbors do not want their neighborhoods to be negatively impacted, but there have been no problems with other group homes in the Township. He is in favor of supporting this housing and feels all people should be welcomed in the community.

Motion was made by **Comm. Roehrich**, seconded by **Comm. LiaBraaten** to send a letter of endorsement in support of the Special Needs Group home on Hilltop Terrace

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: Comm. Tobin

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

RO-18-13 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EASEMENT AND AGREEMENT FOR SEWER FORCE MAIN CONNECTION TO SEWER SYSTEM – SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EASEMENT AND AGREEMENT FOR SEWER FORCE MAIN CONNECTION TO SEWER SYSTEM be read by title upon second reading and a hearing held thereon.

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, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

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

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BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EASEMENT AND AGREEMENT FOR SEWER FORCE MAIN CONNECTION TO SEWER SYSTEM be adopted upon final reading and that said ordinance be published in the Observer Tribune according to law.

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, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

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

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

DISCUSSION.

Use of Digital Signboard. The digital signboard will be used for health, safety, road closures, public welfare, and municipal events. **Administrator Coppola** has the authority to determine which messages get posted.

Firehouse Siren. The Health Department has been getting calls about fire sirens being noise violations. **Attorney Jansen** informed the Committee that fire sirens are exempt under the State Noise Control Act.

Property Maintenance. Many bank owned properties are not maintaining properties or responding to **Construction Official Ruggiero's** inquiries. **Attorney Jansen** summarized the Ordinance, and stated that summons can be issued by **Mr. Ruggiero**, and fines can be imposed by the Municipal Court. Members of the Committee agreed that **Mr. Ruggiero** can and should issue notices of violation to the banks for vacant properties where there are property maintenance issues.

Police Hiring. On November 1, there will be 27 officers in the police department; another officer is leaving July 1, 2014, bringing the number down to 26. **Chief Bailey** would like to hire 2 additional officers in January. The Committee agreed. One candidate for the January hiring is the son of another officer. He will not be supervised by his father who will be retiring July 1, 2014. **Chief Bailey** wanted to see what the Committee's opinion was on Nepotism. The Committee agreed that, as long there will be no direct supervision, hiring the candidate is fine.

RFPs for Professional Services. Each year the Committee looks at certain professional services positions and requests proposals to see if fees and services are in the best interest of the Township. **Mayor Short** proposed that requests for proposals for the Prosecutor and Public Defender positions be solicited. The Committee agreed.

Parking at Library. The Long Valley Raider families are parking at the library and on the grass causing congestion and limiting the parking for library users. **Comm. Tobin** would like to find some overflow parking in the area. The Committee has asked the DPW to post signs reminding drivers where they can park.

Library Capital Reserves. **Mayor Short** asked what capital improvements have been made in the past, what improvements are scheduled for the future, and could they purchase a generator with excess capital. **Comm Tobin** stated that the library is not interested in purchasing a generator, and will be available to meet with Mayor Short to discuss capital improvements.

Polling Sites. The Boards of Education do not want their schools to be used as polling sites any longer, citing security reasons.

Best Practices. **Administrator Coppola** asked if there were any questions about the best practices checklist that was previously distributed. **Comm. LiaBraaten** liked the idea of formalizing a Finance Committee.

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

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

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

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

*Denotes Consent Agenda

Meeting was adjourned at 10:40 PM.

Nina DiGregorio, Municipal Clerk