

The Work Session of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Roehrich at 7:30 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Murello, Vice Mayor Short, Mayor Roehrich

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

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on January 8, 2015 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 Roehrich opened the meeting to the public. There being no questions or comments, Mayor Roehrich closed the meeting to the public.

DISCUSSIONS

Treatment Works Approval Application by Christadelphian Bible Camp to the DEP. The Christadelphian Bible Camp on Schooley's Mountain Road is applying to the NJ DEP for a Treatments Works Approval. The camp is requesting consent to the submission of the application to the DEP from Washington Township. Mr. Dan Ribatto was present in the audience. Health Officer Cristiana Cooke-Gibbs provided an overview of the application and recommended the Township withhold consent, as the request is not consistent with DEP regulations. It was noted that the DEP can grant approval even without the Township's consent. The Township Committee agreed with Health Officer Cristiana Cooke-Gibbs' recommendation. Attorney Jansen recommended that the Township Committee adopt a resolution withholding the Township's consent at the July 20, 2015 Regular Meeting, with an explanation as to why the consent is being withheld.

East Mill Sidewalks. Estimates came in too high. The Township Committee agreed to put the project off until the spring and seek new bids at that time.

Variance Escrows. The Township Committee discussed and agreed to increase the escrow deposit amounts. An ordinance will be prepared for consideration in August.

Kings Highway Redevelopment Area Delineation. Mayor Roehrich recused himself and stepped down from the dais. Vice Mayor Short was preparing to leave the dais when Attorney Jansen opined that he did not believe that Vice Mayor Short has a conflict of interest that necessitates his disqualification. Vice Mayor Short has recused himself in the past because he retained Attorney Selvaggi (who currently represents the owners of 214 Kings Highway) to represent him in a real estate transaction in 2010. Attorney Jansen advised that since this was five years ago and since there is no ongoing relationship with Attorney Selvaggi's firm, there is no disqualifying conflict. Vice Mayor Short asked if Attorney Jansen had discussed the issue with Attorney Selvaggi and was advised that he had and Attorney Selvaggi concurred. It was noted that Comm. Murello had performed services for a client of Attorney Selvaggi's firm in 2011. Attorney Jansen advised that any conflict was remote, speculative and not substantial and should not result in Comm. Murello's disqualification. That issue was also discussed with Attorney Selvaggi and he once again concurred. Township Planner David Banisch then reviewed the Planning Board's Preliminary Redevelopment Investigation Area Report with the Township Committee. The Committee discussed the Planning Board's recommendation that Block 30, Lots 70, 70.01 and 70.02 be designated as areas in need of redevelopment and that a portion of Block 30, Lot 71.03 be included for access since it is necessary for effective redevelopment of the other lots. Access issues were discussed at some length. The need to ask the Planning Board to investigate and conduct a public hearing to determine whether the 60' wide private right-of-way known as Esna Drive should be designated a redevelopment area was also discussed. The Committee agreed to consider two resolutions at the July 20, 2015 Regular Meeting. One will designate Lots 70, 70.01, 70.02 and a portion of 71.03 a non-condemnation redevelopment area and the other will ask the Planning Board to undertake a preliminary investigation and conduct a hearing on Esna Drive as a potential condemnation redevelopment area.

Mayor Roehrich rejoined the Township Committee at the dais.

DISCUSSION

Basketball Courts. Administrator Coppola discussed an engineering estimate for redoing the basketball courts in Rock Spring Park. The LV Basketball Club will be donating the new backstops and the DPW will be tearing up the old court. The engineering estimate was higher than anticipated. The job will go out to bid shortly.

RESOLUTION #R-97-15 ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE: Sale of Property, Block 20.10 Lot 49.02

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

AYES: Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Murello, Vice Mayor Short, Mayor Roehrich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 8:39 PM

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 8:47 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 P.M.