

The Special Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:05 P.M.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** CFO Lifer, Administrator/Acting Clerk Burd, Office Manager Coppola

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

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.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**Roger Freiday**, 7 Jones Ln., spoke about the condition of roads near Jones Lane and the absence of street signs. He was informed that the township does not post signs on private drives and the Department of Public Works would provide him with contact information for the company which makes the street signs.

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

**RESOLUTION #R-21-12 AWARD BID – PARATRANSIT BUS**

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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. Kennedy, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

**PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET**– **Scott Frech, Public Works Superintendent**, said there were increases in the truck and tire line items and decreases in the tractor and stone line items. The overall budget did not change.

Superintendent Frech also said he will contact the school about sharing the cost of a crusher for concrete to use as a base for a pole barn. The snow removal line item and snow removal trust were discussed. **Kevin Lifer, CFO**, said the line item will be reexamined prior to introduction of the budget.

Applying for community development funds or using SLAP for work on the restroom facilities at Rock Spring Park was also discussed as was the Buildings and Grounds budget.

Capital requests for roads were reviewed. Superintendent Frech said the grant application for East Valley Brook Road was more likely to be awarded than that for West Valley Brook Road and it would be unlikely for both to be awarded. The amount of \$269,999 for the cost of East Valley Brook Road improvements less the amount of the grant applied for was tentatively approved pending award of the grant. An additional \$288,438 for Wehrli Road improvements is pending.

Capital Requests of \$55,000 for the upper part of Fairview Avenue, \$4,400 for vehicle maintenance software, \$14,000 for the replacement of a rusted dump truck body, \$8,500 for one snow plow, \$1800 for two jackhammers, and 950 for chainsaws was tentatively approved. Requests for \$7,750 for a stump grinder and \$3975 for a spreader are pending. Requests for \$158,000 to replace a front end loader, \$165,000 to replace a dump truck, \$39,000 to replace a chipper, \$8,500 for a second snow plow and \$5200 for a walk behind mower were rejected.

CFO Lifer said the budget increase over 2011 was at about 2.43%. At least \$45,000 would need to be cut to get below 2%.

**SALARIES AND WAGES** – Possible salary and wage increases and pending arbitration were discussed.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

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

The Feb. 21 budget meeting will be cancelled and rescheduled for Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center.

**The meeting adjourned at 10:35 P.M.**