

The Work Session 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, Tobin, Mayor Short

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

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.**

**Tom McBride** advised that the Veterans Association's plans for the Memorial Day Celebration on May 25 are going well. The three road signs for roadways dedicated to the veterans are moving along. Mr. McBride expressed his thanks to Andrew Coppola, Darlene Hatcher, Scott Frech, and other township employees that have been assisting the veterans.

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

**PRESENTATIONS - GOLD AWARD PROJECT**

**Hailey Carkitto** from Girl Scout Troop 930 is erecting softball batting cages at Palmer Park for her Gold Award.

**Bridget Rec** completed her Gold Award in the fall of 2012. Bridget took pictures of historic buildings in German Valley and provided histories of the buildings, including older photos of the same sites.

**PRESENTATION – WEST MORRIS REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET**

**Mr. Douglas Pechanec** (Business Administrator), **Mr. Mackey Pendergrast** (Superintendent), and Board Members **Tom Richar**, **Lisa Woodring**, and **Jim Johnson** attended and assisted with the budget presentation. Following the presentation, **Comm. Tobin** asked that the false fire alarms be addressed. WMC has attempted to address the large number of alarm calls. Now alarm calls go to a facility manager to be assessed before they request police support. In the past alarm calls went directly to the police department. Fire calls continue to immediately go to fire dispatch. **Comm. Kennedy** requested an update on security and safety. WMRHSD has a safety audit scheduled for this spring and topics will be addressed at that time.

**DISCUSSION**

**Community Events Organization – Fall Festival.** **Josh Drake**, President of the organization stated that twelve people run the fireworks event and all the fundraising necessary. September 21 is the scheduled date for the event. The fireworks display costs approximately \$10K which is half of the event expense budget. The event will be larger this year in celebration of the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Washington Township. They requested additional funds from the Township. **Mayor Short** stated that there is a Committee Project budget. The Committee agreed that some money would be available to help fund the event. The Township Committee will discuss an amount at the May Work Session. **Mayor Short** recommended that the organization contact Mike Thompson, a PBA representative, for assistance. It was also suggested that some police officers would perhaps volunteer their time, thus reducing the cost of police services. The volunteer CERT team will also be available to assist. **Comm. Tobin** requested that the organization consider scaling the large fireworks expense back.

**Former Mt. View Bar & Grill Easement – 1 East Springtown Road** The former Mountainview Bar & Grill property is being purchased by **Angelo Santorelli**. The plan is to keep the existing building, gut the inside, and reface the outside. **Paul Millus**, the Attorney for **Mr. Santorelli**, requested a 10 foot wide easement for a sewer hook up that would go across the Police Station property and hook into the main sewer line on Springtown Road. **Mr. Santorelli** agreed to establish an escrow account for the project. All members of the Township Committee are in favor of the concept. **Attorney Jansen** stated that an engineering plan is necessary and must be reviewed by Leon Hall. The square footage of the easement and a determination of fair market value must be ascertained prior to the preparation of an ordinance. **Mayor Short** stated that the DPW has details about the location of the underground grounding wires for the police antenna and the project needs to be sure those wires are not touched. **Mayor Short** requested specific location details so the fair market value can be determined by Township Assessor.

Motion made by Mayor Short, seconded by Comm. Roehrich to allow the engineer for Mr. Santorelli to enter onto the proposed easement area subject to a certificate of insurance and a hold harmless agreement.

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

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSENTIONS:** None

**PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**Walt Cullen**, a resident of Laurel Drive, is Chairperson of the MUA. **Mr. Cullen** wanted to know where the connection becomes the MUA's responsibility. Attorney **Paul Millus** will share contact information, etc. and work with the MUA to have a clear answer to that question.

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

**DISCUSSION**

**Resolution supporting State Funding for Preservation.** **Mayor Short** stated that the Committee will vote on this at the next Committee Meeting.

**Minor Site Plan Escrow Fee.** A fee schedule exists for minor site plans. **Leon Hall** has proposed establishing a fee for conditional home occupations and raising existing fees. **Attorney Jansen** recommended clarifying the existing ordinance. The Committee elected not to raise the fees.

**Office Manager Position.** The Committee agreed to advertise for a full time position, which would commence on or around June 15.

**ANJEC Grant Application.** A letter has been sent and the application is moving forward.

**Library Liason.** Comm. Tobin will now be the Library Liaison.

**Community Garden Ordinance.** An ordinance will be considered next Monday at the Regular Meeting.

**Middle Valley Road Bridge.** Comm. LiaBraaten advised that the bridge is now open.

**Columbia Trail.** Comm. Kennedy expressed concern with the large number of junk cars in an apparent auto graveyard adjacent to the trail.

**Sanico.** Mayor Short has received many calls about Sanico's price increase.

**Califon Shared Services.** The Township is taking on CFO and Tax Collecting services for Califon. A resolution will be voted on at the next Committee Meeting.

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

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

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSENTIONS:** None

**The meeting adjourned at 9:51 P.M.**

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**Deborah A. Burd, Acting Clerk**