

The Work Session Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:32 P.M.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Attorney Jansen, Administrator/Acting Clerk Burd, Office Manager Coppola, Deputy Clerk DiGregorio

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

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.

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

**Mrs. Jackie Schram**, WMRHSD Board of Education Finance Committee Chairperson

**Mr. Douglas Pechanec**, WMRHSD Business Administrator

**Kristine Forrester**, WMRHSD Board of Education President

**James Johnston**, WMRHSD Board of Education Member

**Mrs. Schram** and **Mr. Pechanec** made a power point presentation to the Township Committee regarding the West Morris Regional High School District budget. A copy is annexed hereto and made a part hereof. The details of the budget were also disseminated in hard copy to the Committeemen. A lengthy question and answer session followed between the Committeemen and the presenters regarding student demographics, technology, State Aid student programs, etc.

**Mayor Short** mentioned that a Board of Education meeting will be held in the Municipal Building on April 18, 2012 with the mayors of Washington Township, the Mendhams and the Chesters. Also in attendance will be two representatives from each of the local and regional Boards of Education. **It will be a closed meeting, not open for public comment.**

**PRESENTATION – BARE ROOT PLANTING AND TREE FARM** - **Steve Zaikowski**, Shade Tree Committee – This discussion was tabled to a future date.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**John Gluden**, asked about the status of truck weight limits on Schooley's Mountain Road. **Police Chief, Michael Bailey** advised that Washington Township is waiting for NJDOT approval to change the weight restrictions on Schooley's Mountain Road.

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

**ORDINANCES**

**HIGHLANDS ORDINANCE** – **Mayor Short** explained that in order to obtain approval for the Wastewater Management Plan under consideration, NJDEP has advised Washington Township that it must adopt either a checklist ordinance or a comprehensive Highlands Land Use Ordinance for both the Preservation and Planning areas of the Township. The Township Committee will consider an ordinance entitled, **“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND USE ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO UPDATE SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT,”** at the April 16, 2012 Regular Meeting.

**LAND ACQUISITION - CLAREMONT** – The 5.78 acres covered by the easement are located at the corner of Bartley and East Mill Road. The Township Committee will consider an ordinance entitled, **“AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT AN ASSIGNMENT OF AN EASEMENT ON BLOCK 28, LOT 15 IN TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,”** at the April 16, 2012 Regular Meeting.

## DISCUSSION

**FAIRVIEW AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS** – The area under discussion is near the intersection of Naughtright Road and Fairview Avenue. A residential property owned by Ms. Cecil Marie and Mr. Jon Howard, was heavily damaged in the September 2011 storm and has flooded on other occasions. The Mayor has met with these property owners and their attorney on several occasions and has consulted the Township Engineer, the DPW and the NJDEP regarding drainage improvements to this area.

**Comm. Tobin** asked if the parties would like him to recuse himself from this discussion because he has known the neighbors for decades. The applicant stated that Comm. Tobin's impartiality is not questioned.

The property owners' retained engineer, **David Fantina**, made a presentation to the Committee regarding damages and the reason these damages occurred. He proposed raising the road up to four feet at a certain point, so that drainage would occur along proper channels and be diverted from this property.

Several remedies were discussed. **Attorney Jansen** asked whether all of the improvements that are proposed can be made within the traveled way or is there a need for additional temporary construction easements and permanent easements so that the improvements can be maintained going forward? The property owners' attorney stated that easements for any improvements needed to be made outside of the traveled way by the Township would be granted by the property owners.

**Mayor Short** inquired of the property owners' engineer whether this improvement would completely solve the problem and relieve the Township of any further problems. The engineer does not believe that there is a 100% solution, but the final remedy of re-profiling the road would alleviate a great deal of the problem. No permits have been applied for.

**Joan Viggiano** stated that during the time his Dry Brook's topography has changed, wherein water flows down her driveway and into Ms. Marie and Mr. Howard's property. She believes that the sides of the brook need to be shored up and elevated to avoid further flooding. Ms. Viggiano asked who is responsible for this situation. Mayor Short responded that the NJDEP indicated that with a special permit, it would allow some equipment to get into the brook and remove some of the boulders that are part of the problem. Mayor Short also commented that Ms. Viggiano's bridge was also washed out from the storm, which was the access to her property. The NJDEP indicated that with a special permit, that bridge could also be rebuilt.

Mayor Short stated that the rough estimate for these improvements is approximately \$55,000. The Township Committee had a lengthy question and answer session regarding FEMA, insurance, topography changes, etc.

**Ralph Elia, 270 Fairmount Ave**, stated that during the time his family has owned what is now his residence (since 1947), there has never been such an overflow of water from the brook. He suggested that the brook be dredged and that the boulders be placed on the sides of the banks. Mr. Elia also asked if the water does get diverted, where does it ultimately go. Mayor Short explained that the headwaters at the top of the mountain also were overflowing, and that the water ultimately drains down the mountain into the stream. Mr. Elia said that these are considerations that should be part of the engineering.

**Roger Frieday, Jones Lane**, commented that this situation was unprecedented, and feels that shoring the banks would also be a good idea.

The Township Committee will wait to hear from the engineers and will then consider the appropriation of funds to address this issue. The Committee agreed that something needs to be done and the engineers need to help the Committee grasp what the scope of the issue is. This issue will be discussed tonight in closed session and again at the Regular Meeting.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING** – At the last work session, presentations were made by a few affordable housing agencies. The first was by Special Homes of New Jersey, Inc about a \$500,000 group home project that would be funded 50/50 by the Township and the HMFA through the Special Needs Housing Partnership. The other two requests were for funding through the Township's Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Officer Manager Coppola advised the Committee that there is still \$200,000 in funds that must be spent by July 17 or be forfeited to the state. Legislation has been introduced to extend the deadline by which the funds need to be utilized for another four years. The Committee has already committed \$200,000 to the Special Needs Housing Partnership. Committing an additional \$50,000 will reduce the funds that can be seized by the State. Official action will be taken by the Committee at the Regular Meeting.

**LIQUOR LICENSE** – **Mayor Short** explained that the 2010 census allows for the Township to offer another liquor license. The Township Committee discussed the requirements necessary to issue another liquor license. **Attorney Jansen** advised that the statute provides that 3,000 additional people are required to support another consumption license, and 7,500 additional people are needed for an additional distributional license.

Attorney Jansen explained that every bidder for the license would have to qualify before a bid could be accepted. The additional revenue possible as well as the current market were discussed. Mountain View holds one of the Township's existing liquor licenses and is currently for sale. The consensus was that this is not the best time to offer an additional license for sale.

**SUMMER HOURS** – Summer hours have been requested by a majority of the Township staff. The Township Committee approved summer hours, which shortens the work week to four days, with longer hours as follows:

Monday through Thursday 7:30 – 5:00 PM. Summer hours will commence in June 2012 and continue through August 2012. Administrator Burd mentioned that residents appreciate the municipal building being open until 5:00 PM. As the summer hour schedule has been in effect for five years and has worked well, the Committee thought it best to continue along this course.

**SENIOR CENTER INTERNET CONNECTION** – **Comm. Tobin** inquired whether any funds have been budgeted for the internet at the senior center. Ray Kenny had provided some costs for connecting the Senior Center to the internet. The Committee noted that the Library currently has internet connectivity and wondered whether that would suffice for now. Comm. Tobin will do further research on this issue.

**WEST MILL ROAD TO FAIRMOUNT ROAD PORTION OF THE BYPASS** – **Comm. Tobin** inquired whether it might be possible to bifurcate the project. **Chief Bailey** explained that everything had been approved up to 2 years ago. Comm. Tobin stated that he feels it is worth pursuing. Mayor Short will raise the issue with the Freeholders.

**\*AUTHORIZE SPECIAL PERMIT FOR SOCIAL AFFAIR – SMILE FOREVER FOUNDATION**

An application has been received from Smile Forever Foundation for a fundraiser event to be held on April 28, 2012 between the hours of 6:30 PM and 10:30 P.M. to be held at Saint Luke's Parish, 265 West Mill Road, Long Valley, New Jersey. Noted that the Chief of Police has signed the application.

That the foregoing special permit for a social affair be approved and the Clerk be authorized to sign the permit application and forward it to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Motion was made by Comm. LiaBraaten, seconded by Comm. Tobin that the following 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

**SCOTT FARM** – A resolution will be presented at the Regular Meeting regarding the right to farm Block 34, Lot 46.04.

**MVCA** – A resolution will be presented to authorize a summer camp program run by the MVCA.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

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

**Mr. Lake** stated that he feels the site plan fees for agriculture uses need to be further reduced. **Attorney Jansen** stated that the ordinance is on for adoption on Monday evening. Mr. Lake requested further reductions. Dave Banisch will be contacted for advice.

**Terry McKeon of Special Homes of NJ** thanked the Committee for its support. He inquired about a complaint by a resident on Mission Road.

**Mayor Short** stated that it was an inquiry about the availability of housing.

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

**The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 10:30 P.M.**

**RESOLUTION #R-34-12 - EXECUTIVE SESSION – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: DPW  
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: Chester Township  
PERSONNEL: Administration**

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

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 11:50 P.M.**

**The meeting adjourned at 11:51 P.M.**

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**Deborah Burd, Acting Township Clerk**