

The Work Session 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, LiaBraaten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney John Jansen, Assistant Administrator Coppola, Deputy Clerk DiGregorio

MEMBERS ABSENT: Administrator/Clerk Burd

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 PORITION

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

DISCUSSION

CALIFON INFIELD GROOMING **Scott Frech** has arranged for Washington Township to maintain fields in Califon for the summer of 2013. **Comm. Roehrich** likes the idea but wants to be sure we don't stretch our personnel. **Attorney Jansen** stated the resolution is ready and can be voted on at the next Township Committee meeting.

VERIZON **Mark Bocchieri**, Verizon Area Director attended the meeting and addressed a number of concerns. **Mr. Bocchieri** stated Verizon would repair poles within 90 days, he provided a list of 21 poles that Verizon is planning on fixing. There is no preventative maintenance plan in place for trees and shrubs and Verizon crews are not equipped to remove any brush or vegetation over 4 inches in diameter. Verizon believes maintenance of property is the responsibility of the property owner. If there are specific tree and brush concerns **Mr. Bocchieri** asked that the DPW let him know about them. **Comm. Tobin** expressed concern about slack spools of wire around town. He would appreciate if Verizon, JCP&L, and Century Link would identify their respective poles. **Comm. Kennedy** asked about Fios. **Mr. Bocchieri** stated that Verizon needed to follow the state statute and install Fios in the top 60 most densely populated municipalities. That will take another 4 years and then they can begin to install in other municipalities. **Comm. LiaBraaten** asked for a map of Verizon poles in Washington Township. **Mr. Bocchieri** stated that Verizon will not share maps for security purposes. **Mr. Bocchieri** stated that Verizon inspects poles every 10 years. In the past they have not provided results of their inspections. **Mayor Short** asked what Verizon does for preventative maintenance. **Mr. Bocchieri** stated that Verizon monitors its equipment and customer calls to determine where maintenance repairs are necessary. Verizon is looking for a 15 year contract and to provide a \$250,000 bond. The Township Committee is looking for a 5 year contract and a \$250,000 bond. **Mr. Bocchieri** stated that the attorneys are working on the contract terms. **Mr. Bocchieri** will be added to the OEM contact list with the cell phone number he provided. **Mayor Short** informed **Mr. Bocchieri** that there are two loose wires and a broken pole in front of the First Aid Building on Flocktown Road. **Mr. Bocchieri** will look at the pole on his way home this evening.

COMMUNITY EVENTS ORGANIZATION. Donations for the Fall Festival have been received from JCP&L and the Municipal Alliance. **Comm. Tobin** expressed concern about the high cost of the fireworks. **Josh Drake**, 26 E. Springtown Road, stated that \$10,000 is the cost and agrees it is expensive. The item was sent out to bid and this vendor provided the best service at the best price. **Comm. Kennedy** asked about an entrance fee. **Mr. Drake** estimated that the entrance fee generates about \$3,000. **Comm. Tobin** would like to donate \$2,750 from the Community Projects fund. **Comm. Kennedy** would be comfortable with \$5,000. **Comm. Roehrich** agrees with a \$5,000 donation which would make the Township of a Gold Sponsor. **Comm. LiaBraaten** agrees with \$5,000. **Mr. Drake** stated that residents have contacted him and pledged donations for this event. **Mayor Short** agrees with \$5,000.

Motion was made by **Comm. Kennedy**, seconded by **Comm. Roehrich** that the Township Committee donate \$5,000 to the Fall Festival from the Community Projects budget. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NAYES: Comm. Tobin

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

COMMUNITY GARDEN SPONSORSHIP PROPOSALS Ms. Muenzen stated that sponsors are listed on the website and that there will be no link to the donor's website. Mayor Short suggested a disclaimer on the Community Garden website indicating 'not an endorsement.' A resolution stating the Township's support for a sponsorship program will be introduced at the next Committee meeting. The ordinance for the Community Garden was introduced in April and will be voted on at the next Committee meeting also.

PLANNING AREA PETITION. **Planner Dave Banisch** attended to provide information about the ordinance for plan conformance for the Planning Area. Washington Township is located partially within the portion of the NJ Highlands Region defined by the Highlands Act as the 'Planning Area'. A municipality may chose to conform its master plan, development regulations and other regulations to the provision of the Highlands Regional Master Plan for the areas located within the Planning Area. If a municipality changes its mind the ordinance can be repealed at any time. If Washington

Township opts out of Plan Conformance they do not owe the Highlands Council any reimbursement of grant money received. The Planning Board will adopt a reexamination report that recommends that Washington Township continue with Plan Conformance by adopting a zoning ordinance amendment and a Master Plan amendment. The Highlands Council will generate a series of ordinances that Washington Township will be asked to adopt. **Mayor Short** asked if a modification of the Highlands Council ordinances was a possibility. **Mr. Banisch** stated that modifications would be allowed in some aspects of the ordinances, but not in others. **Comm. Tobin** expressed concern on a financial burden to the Township on reviewing the Master Plan. **Mr. Banisch** stated that there would not be a financial cost to the Township. **Mayor Short** stated that Washington Township has completed 5 out of 10 pieces of the Plan Conformance process. The Township needs to move forward with remaining pieces of the DEP can hold back approval of development plans like the Quick Check that has been discussed. **Mr. Banisch** stated that the DEP is looking for completion by August/September of this year. The ordinance will be on the agenda for consideration of final adoption at the Regular Meeting.

HEATH VILLAGE Heath Village would like to develop the land across the road from their existing facility. They would like to build 98 senior housing units and a senior healthcare facility. They will be requesting ordinance amendments for this project. **Mayor Short** suggested a joint meeting with the Planning Board to discuss the topic.

CLUB LICENSE The Township Committee has no problem with the proposed ordinance amendment for club licenses.

SOIL DISTURBANCE **Leon Hall** has suggested the addition of a definition of agricultural uses that would limit the amount of materials imported to a farm property. **Attorney Jansen** is concerned with the suggested wording. He would like to change the wording to be certain that small home farms remain exempt from the ordinance. He will prepare an ordinance for consideration at the regular meeting.

MEDIATION COMMITTEE The Township Committee is considering creating a committee to meet with residents to work through neighborhood disputes rather than tie up the courts or create ordinances for every nuance. **Mayor Short** was assured that the Township Committee was generally in favor of forming a mediation committee and the details could be worked out at a later date.

RAFFLE APPLICATION

An application has been received for the following raffle:

PTA Flocktown Kossmann

Draw Raffle

May 31, 2013

Noted that the Chief of Police has signed the Findings and Determination Form and all forms are in order. That the foregoing raffle application be approved, subject to the Mayor signing the Findings and Determination Forms.

Motion was made by **Comm. Roehrich**, seconded by **Comm. Tobin** that the raffle application be approved. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

LONG VALLYE FIRE COMPANY – WET DOWN. Long Valley Fire Company has requested that Fairview Avenue be closed on June 8 from 4:30 PM – 10:00 PM for their wet down celebration. The road will be open for emergencies. **Chief Bailey** has approved the request. **Attorney Jansen** will prepare a resolution for the Regular Meeting.

BARTLEY ROAD CROSS WALK. The County plans to put a crosswalk across Bartley Road to connect the Columbia Trail and Patriots Path.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS. Inspection volume is taxing the current personnel. The Administration would like to hire and additional part time back up inspector to fill in as needed. The hourly rate would be the same as the current part time inspector. Inspection fees cover the cost of the personnel. The Township Committee is in agreement to hire a part time back up inspector. The position will be addressed in an appointments resolution at the Regular Meeting.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE. **Comm. Tobin** asked if the Recreation Committee has talked to the County about trail maintenance. He would also like a bulleting board promoting business in the downtown area.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT. **Mayor Short** stated that he had met with a developer to discuss a project in the downtown area. The project is in the infancy stages, but more information will be coming.

POLICE RECORDS SECRETARY. **Chief Bailey** has a candidate for the position. Background checks are currently being conducted but may not be completed by the next Township Committee Meeting. He does not want to wait until the resolution requiring a satisfactory background check as a condition of employment, allowing Chief Bailey to hire the Records Secretary before the June Township Committee meeting.

OEM. **Comm. Tobin** asked for an update on OEM. **Mayor Short** stated that he is working on finding coordinators to replace retired coordinator Smith. Discussions are ongoing.

VEHICLE AUCTION. **Deputy Clerk DiGregorio** stated that he vehicle auction yielded \$17,318.01

RESOLUTION #R-60-13 – EXECUTIVE SESSION -

**Land Acquisition: Borgenicht Trust
Personnel: Administrative**

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

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

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 9:22 PM.

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 9:29 PM.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was 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
NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

The meeting adjourned at 9:30PM.

Deborah A. Burd, Acting Clerk