

The Work Session Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:34 P.M.

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Roehrich, Administrator/Acting Clerk Burd

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.

Mayor Short announced that the Committee would go into Executive Session first and possibly take action when they come out of Executive Session. The Committee intends to continue the Work Session Meeting at the close of this Executive Session.

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 7:40 P.M.

RESOLUTION #R-102 -12 - EXECUTIVE SESSION – PENDING LITIGATION: Tax Appeals

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Riehrich

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 8:00 P.M.

Action will be taken at the August 20, 2012 Regular Meeting.

PRESENTATION – AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUNDING - Mike Davis and Elaine Harris, Miller's Green LLC

made a presentation to the Committee to request funds for 11 East Mill Rd. One structure has been renovated and restored. It is now occupied by a commercial tenant whose lease expires later this year. Mr. Davis asked that the Committee consider this property for conversion into six residential units that would meet all current standards for affordable housing. Four would be located in the existing barn. Miller's Green LLC is requesting \$374,000 to convert the home and barn. **Mayor Short** indicated that the Township has already committed a large amount of the COAH funds. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the proposed conversion. It was suggested that Miller's Green contact Toll Brother's attorney to address the possibility of them funding units in lieu of constructing them. Mayor Short does not believe that the Township is currently in a position to commit any COAH funding to this project.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.

Warren Fitzpatrick, 23 Kim Lane, stated that he has lived at this address since 1993. He stated that his next door neighbor had applied for an addition to his house which would have brought it closer to his property line. As the proposed addition would have been closer than the ordinance allows, Mr. Fitzpatrick opposed the request. He stated that the property line has now been abused. A haphazard fence has been erected along his property line made up of stones, stakes, etc. There is a pile of garbage on the neighbor's property that is visible from the road. Mr. Fitzpatrick is concerned about the degradation of his property's value, as well as that of his neighbor. Chief Bailey has helped to some degree with the garbage pile situation. A boat is also stored on the front of the property. Mr. Fitzpatrick was advised to contact the Zoning Officer and Health Department to look into this situation.

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

EASEMENT REQUEST – 54 TURTLEBACK ROAD – Mr. and Mrs. Goldsmith sold this property to Eric and Candace Jania. During the closing, it was discovered that the newly drilled well encroaches 6 inches into the Township's right of way. The Goldsmith's are requesting that the Township grant the Janias an easement to allow the well to remain. An ordinance will be considered at Monday's Regular Meeting.

LIBRARY BOARD APPLICANT – SCHEDULE INTERVIEW – Comm. Tobin and Mayor Short will conduct an interview on August 20, 2012 at 7PM.

DUMPSTER - **Comm. LiaBraaten** asked about enforcement efforts relative to a home based business with a dumpster on the property that may be in violation of the existing ordinance. He was advised that the Township does not actively seek out such violations, but will certainly investigate if a neighbor complains.

FESTIVAL ON AUGUST 25, 2012 – **Comm. Kennedy** asked if there is anything else that needs to be done for the upcoming festival. **Mayor Short** indicated that the coordinator, Josh Drake has taken care of the relevant issues.

BIKE RACKS IN PARKS – **Comm. Kennedy** stated that he feels this is a great idea as brought up by the Scouts and that the person in charge of the parks has to coordinate their placement. Comm. Kennedy stated that to avoid any unnecessary delays, the relevant person should sign off on the final plan(s).

WEBSITE - **Comm. Tobin** requested an update from Assistant Administrator Coppola as to the status of the website. **Assistant Administrator Coppola** gave a general idea of how it will look and stated that it could go live as soon as Monday.

275 TOWNSHIP ANNIVERSARY – **Mayor Short** commented that the Township's 275th Anniversary is coming up next year and he has been having discussions with the Long Valley Historical Society as to the proposed celebration. A September 12th meeting has been set to coordinate an ad hoc committee for events. Mayor Short plans to contact certain Boards and Committees to ask if they might be interested in doing some projects. A festival is proposed to commemorate the Anniversary.

TAX OFFICE – **Comm. Tobin** commented that the Committee should discuss the Tax Office issue at some point in the future.

LIBRARY SIDEWALKS – **Comm. Tobin** stated that the Library is having some of their front sidewalk repaired.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 7:34 P.M.

RESOLUTION #R-103 -12 - EXECUTIVE SESSION – LAND ACQUISITION: Block 16, Lot 22.01 – Hickey Property

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Riehrich

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 9:11 P.M. No action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 P.M.

Deborah Burd, Acting Township Clerk