

The Work Session Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:37 P.M.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Attorney DeBona, 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 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.

**PRESENTATION – DEBRIEFING REGARDING SUPER STORM SANDY RESPONSE REPORT PRESENTED BY FAIRMOUNT FIRE CHIEF DAVE STEINEL.** Fire **Chief Dave Steinel** thanked all the Volunteer Firefighters for their work and efforts during Super Storm Sandy. He outlined all preparations including protocol review and equipment testing and preparation. Types of calls received, number of calls for each fire house, total man hours, and generator use at each fire house were discussed. Fairmount Firehouse and Schooley's Mountain Firehouse were opened as shelters for several days during the crisis. **Chief Steinel** also discussed communication problems during the event. He provided recommendations for equipment and communication changes in the future. **Mayor Short** thanked the fire companies for the presentation and work during the super storm. **Mayor Short** said the Committee will address issues presented and learned from the storm.

**PUBLIC PORTION**

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.

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

**DISCUSSION**

**BUDGET UPDATE – KEVIN LIFER** – Budgets are tight but in line with the last four years. Tighter budgets mean less available for surplus. Local revenue (interest on taxes, municipal court, fees and permits, licenses) this year will be the lowest in 10 years. Assessments are up. Tax appeals are up.

**HASTINGS SQUARE OVERNIGHT PARKING – IOM #26 & #28** – The Committee would like Hastings Square to try to enforce existing ordinances and attempt to control the parking issue within their community by asking residents to park in existing lots and utilize garages before considering a change to current parking regulations.

Motion was made by Comm. Roehrich, seconded by Comm. Tobin that Washington Township not allow parking on either side of Edgeview Drive or Hastings Drive.

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

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**LIBRARY SOLAR PANEL UPDATE** – **Mayor Short** and **Comm. Tobin** met with the Morris County Solar Panel Program personnel, the contractor and library representatives to discuss feasibility of installing a solar field area near the library. A location next to the library would not work because of outdoor library activities. Nearby areas were discussed as a possibility, but Green Acres would impose limitations and timeframes that are not attractive to the Committee at this time.

**BOE SOLAR PANEL / LAND SWAP** - BOE proposed a land swap by Long Valley Middle School to accommodate a solar field. The parcels are adjacent. The BOE is offering 2.811 acres for 4.248 acres of the Township owned property. The Committee agreed in principal to swap land with the BOE provided that the land areas swapped would be more similar. **Attorney DeBona** said an appraisal is required to make sure the value of the land swapped is very close to even. She also advised that an ordinance would have to be adopted to authorize the swap. The appraisal would be done at the BOEs cost.

**ENERGY PROGRAMS – IOM #27** – **Comm. Liabraaten** researched third party energy suppliers. The program offers lower rates and a fundraising opportunity for programs in the Township. Mount Olive is participating in a similar program with Viridian, a third party energy supplier. **Andrew Coppola** recommends Viridian and will work with **Attorney DeBona** to move forward.

**PRIDE UNIT – IOM #28 – Chief Bailey** explained that several years ago police handled First Aid Squad calls and stepped in as a driver when needed due to the First Aid Squad’s difficulty finding available daytime members. The First Aid Squad recommends that program be reinstated but Chief Bailey does not have the man power to participate. **Comm. Kennedy** stated that other towns contract with hospital and ambulance services to fill the daytime need. Users of the ambulance services are billed directly from the ambulance provider. **Comm. Tobin** explained a program whereby Hackettstown Regional Medical Center (HRMC) would be the back up to the Long Valley First Aid Squad. If Long Valley First Aid could not respond, HRMC would respond and bill the resident. This agreement involves no cost to the Township. **Comm. Tobin** provided a copy of such agreement to **Attorney DeBona** for review. The Committee regrets that the Police Department is not staffed to help the First Aid Squad, but is in favor of an agreement between the First Aid Squad and HRMC.

**POLICE NEW HIRES- IOM #28 – Chief Bailey** stated that he would like to hire two police officers. **Comm. Kennedy** explained that Police Academy Training and on the job training would take 9 months and that hires should be made sooner rather than later. **Chief Bailey** indicated that current overtime should decrease with new police officers hired. Committee agreed to hire two police officers.

**UPDATE FROM MAYOR SHORT**

**Mayor Short** stated that Mr. Kramer, who was hired to work on the Fire Department Study, has been doing a comprehensive job and looks forward to reading the report.

**Mayor Short** asked for a status on the Labor Attorney interviews. Comm. Tobin indicated they interviewed three and would try to reschedule an interview with a fourth.

**Mayor Short** stated that the Court has issued a decision on the Regency litigation. The Planning Board met in closed session on Monday night.

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

**The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 9:14 P.M.**

**RESOLUTION #R-140-12 – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Contract Negotiations: Chester Township CFO  
Califon – Policing, Court, Animal Control  
Tewksbury – Mutual Aid**

---

Motion was made by Comm. Roehrich, seconded by Comm. Tobin that the Committee goes into Executive Session. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 9:45 P.M.**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:45 P.M.**

---

**Deborah Burd, Acting Township Clerk**