

The Work Session Meeting 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 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.

PROCLAMATION - Mayor Short read a proclamation declaring February 1, 2013 to be National Wear Red Day for Women in Washington Township.

PRESENTATION – Terry McKeon from Special Homes of New Jersey spoke about his organizations group home in Washington Township which houses four residents. They closed on the home in November but did not have funds to purchase and install a generator. Mr. McKeon approached Morris County Community Development and has submitted a grant application to them for \$12,500 for the purchase and installation of a 20kw natural gas generator at the home on Mission Road. As part of the application, this topic needs to be discussed at a Township Meeting. Comm. Kennedy believes the proposed generator may be too large and a smaller one may be less expensive. Mr. LiaBraaten concurred.. Comm. Tobin, Roehrich and Mayor Short had no questions or concerns.

PUBLIC PORTION. Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.

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

ORDINANCES

Maintenance Garage Amendment. When the original Ordinance was adopted, authorizing the construction of the bus maintenance garage it read 'Not to exceed \$650,000.' The low bid in October was \$718,500. The Ordinance will be amended to state 'an amount not to exceed \$800,000.' Deborah Burd stated that she has a verbal acknowledgement from Liz George at the Washington Township Board of Education (WTBOE) that the change is appropriate. Comm. LiaBraaten asked why the amount is higher. Deborah Burd stated that they opted for the alternate that included a 4th bay. Comm. Tobin expressed concern at the higher cost. Mayor Short stated that the WTBOE will be looking to offer bus maintenance as a shared service to other towns.

Anti-Pay to Play. An Anti-Pay to Play ordinance will be introduced at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION

Resolution Opposing A-1196 - Changes to Worker's Comp. The proposed legislation puts the burden on municipalities to prove that a public safety employee's illness was not caused by an on-the-job exposure. A resolution will be considered at the regular meeting.

Summer Hours. There was a discussion to implement Summer Hours for the 5th year in a row, from June 3rd to August 30th. Municipal employees will work from 7:30am – 5:00pm. Comm. LiaBraaten and Comm. Kennedy feel that municipal employees should be available five week days. Comm. Tobin and Comm. Roehrich think the added hours add to the accessibility for residents. Mayor Short is in favor. Summer hours will be implemented for 2013.

Resolution Opposing S-2511 - Amendments to the Open Public Meetings Act. Attorney Jansen summarized the provisions of the bill. All members of the Township Committee oppose the proposed legislation. A resolution will be considered at the regular meeting.

False Alarms. Comm. Tobin expressed concern with the number of false alarms and the related expense, and proposed changes to the false alarm ordinance. Chief Bailey stated that by July they should have a full list of alarm registrations in the Township. Comm. Kennedy stated that the majority of the false alarms come from the schools and that the issue should be addressed with the schools. Chief Bailey estimated that 70% of the alarms were from the High School and Washington Township K-8 Schools. Mayor Short and Chief Bailey will schedule a meeting with the High School to discuss this issue. The Committee will follow up when they have more information later in the year.

Super Storm Sandy Status. Comm. Tobin would like to be informed about what has been done, what has been discussed, and what the plans and time frames are for any changes. Mayor Short stated that to date 16 action items have been addressed since Super Storm Sandy, and he will provide more detail at the next Regular Meeting of the Committee.

JCP&L Tree Maintenance. JCP&L will be using a helicopter, equipped with a suspended saw to trim trees near high tension power lines.

Budget Meeting. The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday February 20, 2013 at 6:30.

Committee Interviews. **Comm. Roehrich** and **Comm. LiaBraaten** recommended appointing Emmelina Stanescu for a position on the Economic Sustainability Committee. There will be an appointment resolution on the agenda at the regular meeting.

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 8:32 P.M.

RESOLUTION #R-27-13 - EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel – DPW, Fire Inspection Bureau
Collective Bargaining – Superior Officers
Land Acquisition – Hemmings’ Property

Motion was made by Comm. Roehrich, seconded by Comm. Tobin to approve Resolution R-27-13. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

ABSENT: None

ABSENTIONS: None

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 9:04 P.M.

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

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

ABSENT: None

ABSENTIONS: None

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Deborah Burd, Acting Township Clerk