

The Special Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 5:34 P.M.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Assistant Administrator Coppola, Deputy Clerk DiGregorio

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on March 21, 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.

MAYOR UPDATE

Mayor Short noted the attendance of Bruce Sibling from Sen. Bucco's office, Freeholders John Krikus and Douglas Cabana, and Washington Township Republican Party President Bill Wagamuth.

TOWN HALL MEETING WITH CONGRESSMAN LEONARD LANCE

Congressman Lance provided an update on the issues being addressed by the U.S. Congress: Budget, Foreign Affairs, and Economic Competition.

Todd Modini, resident of Mt. Olive, employed at Picatinny Arsenal, is faced with 22 furlough days in the next 6 months and concerned about the loss of income. **Congressman Lance** had hoped that sequestration would not happen, even though he voted for the compromise in 2011 knowing sequestration was a possibility. Moving forward **Congressman Lance** hopes Congress acts more fiscally responsible.

Master Sergeant Jim Valenti thanked **Congressman Lance** for his support of Fort Dix.

Mike Kleckner, resident of Flemington NJ, inquired about the status of firearm background check legislation. **Congressman Lance** is working on mental health and resources available to those in need. **Congressman Lance** said he believes in the second amendment and also believes guns should not be in the hands of criminals or those with significant mental health problems.

A resident asked about outsourcing jobs to other countries. The resident is out of work because her job was outsourced to Thailand. **Congressman Lance** stated that a territorial tax system would help create jobs and bring profits back to the U.S.

Resident **Bill Leavens** said he was concerned about the accumulation of CO2, foreign oil imports, and economic competitiveness. He suggests incentivizing nuclear energy. **Congressman Lance** said he shares the concern over foreign energy dependence.

Resident **Doug Timbie** expressed concerns about pollution, and that Washington is ineffective. Washington is tripping over itself and needs to speak in ways that make sense and not political talk, he said. **Congressman Lance** said he is trying to apply common sense to the work he is doing in Congress.

A resident asked about the proposal to increase the age when citizens are eligible to receive Social Security changes. **Congressman Lance** believes that Social Security and Medicare are worthwhile programs and should exist far into the future, but raising the age is inevitable.

Resident **Rob Chuzitski**, stated that 1 in 5 families are effected by metal illness but less and less funding is available. New Jersey also receives less money from the federal government than we pay to the federal government in taxes, he added. **Congressman Lance** said he fought for funding for Super Storm Sandy Aid, and will continue to vote for natural disaster funding.

Father Joe, of Stirling, asked what the Congressman's views are on immigration. **Congressman Lance** said he prefers a legal residency status rather than a citizenship status for long-term residents. Self deportation will not be a solution, he added.

Tom Henwood, resident of Clinton, said he is concerned about the backlog of veterans' claims and the suicide rate of veterans. **Congressman Lance** stated that Congress is very concerned about the backlog and the suicide rate, and Congress needs to do a better job.

A resident expressed his concern that Washington does not appear to be alarmed or react quickly to the many serious issues in front of them. **Congressman Lance** stated that his top priority is fiscal responsibility and that relates to many issues in front of Congress today.

At 6:49 P.M. Mayor Short announced a 5 minute recess before returning to a Township Meeting. The meeting resumed at 7:02 P.M.

