

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Roehrich at 7:30 PM.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Babb, Murello, Vice Mayor Short, Mayor Roehrich

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator Coppola, Municipal Clerk DiGregorio, Office Manager Lyons, Attorney Jansen

ABSENT: Comm. LiaBraaten

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on January 8, 2015 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.

MAYORS UPDATE.

An online article in the Daily Record last Thursday allowed readers to view where their taxes for municipalities in the state and by county. It shows that Washington Township taxpayers have the smallest percentage of property taxes going to the municipality in Morris County. You can also look at taxes per person. Wharton Borough annually publishes a breakdown of property taxes per capita for Morris County municipalities, which shows Washington Township has the third lowest municipal tax per resident.

This summer a portion of Naughtright Road and a portion of East Valley Brook Road have been paved. Further paving will be done on East Valley Brook at the end of the summer. The Township will also chip and oil several roads. The county will be paving a portion of East Mill Road. A bridge on Old Turnpike Road will be replaced this fall.

The door to door census for animal licensing has been completed in Washington Township. The state requires a bi-annual census to take place to insure animals are licensed. Licensing allows the township to ensure township animals have had their rabies shots and it assists animal control in identifying owners of animals should the need arise. The more animals that are licensed the lower the annual licensing fee will be. The fees were reduced earlier this year. 400 additional animals were licensed this summer, in large part because of the census. Reducing fees further will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

The Police Promotion Committee met and further discussion about filling the Chief of Police position will take place at the end of tonight's meeting.

PROCLAMATION. Mayor Roehrich on behalf of the Washington Township Committee, read into the record a Proclamation declaring September 2015 National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

PRESENTATION. EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT. Scout Michael Collins presented his Eagle Scout Project to the Township Committee. Scout Collins would like to expand and enhance the veteran's memorial area in Rock Spring Park. Scout Collins has run the project by and received approval from the DPW, the Recreation Committee and Township Veterans. The Township Committee expressed appreciation and approved the project.

PRESENTATION. LONG VALLEY BASEBALL CLUB. Mike Selvaggi, speaking on behalf of the Long Valley Baseball Club, presented a plan to erect a memorial to John Gutowski at the baseball fields at Palmer Park. Mr. Gutowski passed away in April and was a huge presence and asset to the LV Baseball Club. The club will fundraise, coordinate the project, and have it completed in April 2016. The LV Baseball Club has approval from the Recreation Committee. The Township Committee unanimously approved the project.

PRESENTATION. Josh Drake, Long Valley Fire Company, came to discuss fireworks. WTCEO used to host the Fireworks Festival, but the volunteer committee has disbanded and there have not been fireworks in two years. The fireworks had been sponsored by local businesses in the past. Donations have decreased significantly. Mr. Drake proposed that the Long Valley Fire Co. take on the fireworks displays beginning in 2016. Long Valley Fire would like an annual commitment of approximately \$5,000 from the Township. The Committee agreed to discuss the sponsorship further at budget time

PUBLIC PORTION. Mayor Roehrich opened the meeting to the public. There being no questions or comments, Mayor Roehrich closed the meeting to the public.

RO-09-15 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND REVIEW FEE DEPOSITS FOR VARIANCES – INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Washington that an Ordinance entitled **AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND REVIEW FEE DEPOSITS FOR VARIANCES** be introduced and read by title on first reading by the Township Committee and that the Clerk be authorized to advertise said Ordinance in full or by summary in the Official Newspaper according to law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said Ordinance shall be further considered for final passage at a meeting of the Township Committee on September 21, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Washington Township Municipal Building, 43

Schooley’s Mountain Road, Long Valley, New Jersey at which time and place all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning same.

Motion was made by **Vice Mayor Short**, seconded by **Comm. Murello** that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. Babb, Murello, Vice Mayor Short, Mayor Roehrich
NAYS: None **ABSENT: Comm. LiaBraaten** **ABSTENTIONS: None**

ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS

That the following resignations be accepted:

- Chief Michael Bailey – Washington Township Police Department, effective August 1, 2015
- Ron Edwards – Regular Member Recreation Committee, effective August 1, 2015
- Mia Szymanski – Regular Member Recreation Committee, effective August 1, 2015

Motion to accept the resignations was made by **Vice Mayor Short**, seconded by **Comm. Murello**. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. Babb, Murello, Vice Mayor Short, Mayor Roehrich
NAYS: None **ABSENT: Comm. LiaBraaten** **ABSTENTIONS: None**

***RESOLUTION #R-120-15** **OUTSIDE TAX LIEN REDEMPTION REFUND**
***RESOLUTION #R-121-15** **AUTHORIZE REDUCTION OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE – ENCLAVE AT LONG VALLEY**

***APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC EVENT – GREEN FESTIVAL AND FAMILY FUN DAY**

An application has been received from the Long Valley Green Team for a Green Festival and Family Fun Day to be held on Saturday, September 12, 2015 between the hours of Noon and 4:00 PM at Rock Spring Park, East Springtown Road, Long Valley. Recommendations have been received from the Police Department, the Board of Health, the Zoning Officer, Construction Official and Fire Prevention Official.

That the foregoing application be approved subject to the conditions of the Police Department, the Board of Health, the Zoning Officer, Construction Official, and Fire Prevention Official.

***AUTHORIZE SPECIAL PERMIT FOR SOCIAL AFFAIR – DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL ASSAULT CRISIS CENTER OF WARREN COUNTY**

An application has been received from the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County for a Social Affair to be held on Friday, September 18, 2015 between the hours of 6:00 PM and 11:59 PM to be held at Centenary Equine Center, 12-56 Califon Road, Long Valley, New Jersey. Noted that the Chief of Police has signed the application.

That the foregoing special permit for a social affair be approved and the Clerk be authorized to sign the permit application and forward it to the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

***PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS**

That the vouchers be approved and that the Treasurer shall issue warrants in payment when there are sufficient funds to meet them. The bill list is on file in the finance office.

***APPROVE MINUTES**

- June 10, 2015 Work Session
- June 15, 2015 Regular Meeting
- July 15, 2015 Work Session
- July 20, 2015 Regular Meeting
- July 31, 2015 Special Meeting

***MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

That the following monthly department reports be accepted and placed on file in the Township Clerk’s office:

- 2015 July Court
- 2015 July Building
- 2015 July Police
- 2015 July Revenue
- 2015 July Budget
- 2015 July Zoning

Mayor Roehrich asked if anyone on the Committee or any member of the public wanted anything removed from the consent agenda and considered separately. There was no response.

All items proceeded by an (*) were approved as part of the consent agenda on a motion made by **Vice Mayor Short**, seconded by **Comm. Murello** on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. Babb, Murello, Vice Mayor Short, Mayor Roehrich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Comm. LiaBraaten

ABSTENTIONS: None

CORRESPONDENCE NOTED FOR THE RECORD

Washington Township has been awarded a Hazard Mitigation grant for a generator project from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

DISCUSSION

Paving Township Park Lots. **Administrator Coppola** stated that paving two lots at Harrington Park would cost \$28,000 and paving one lot would cost \$14,000. Funds are available in Open Space Trust Fund. The Committee agreed to pave two lots.

Vice Mayor Short reported that he, **Former Chief Kluetz**, and **Mayor Roehrich** interviewed three Township lieutenants for the Washington Township Chief of Police position. The selection was difficult as all three lieutenants are very much qualified. **Mayor Roehrich** announced that the new Chief of Police will be **Lt. Jeffrey Almer**. Lt. Almer will be named Officer in Charge tonight, and sworn in as Chief of Police on September 21, 2015.

Motion to name **Lt. Jeffrey Almer** as Officer in Charge was made by **Vice Mayor Short**, seconded by **Comm. Murello**. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. Babb, Murello, Vice Mayor Short, Mayor Roehrich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Comm. LiaBraaten

ABSTENTIONS: None

PUBLIC PORTION. **Mayor Roehrich** opened the meeting to the public. There being no questions or comments, **Mayor Roehrich** closed the meeting to the public.

RESOLUTION #R-122-15 EXECUTIVE SESSION – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: DPW

Motion was made by **Vice Mayor Short**, seconded by **Comm. Murello** that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Comm. Babb, Murello, Vice Mayor Short, Mayor Roehrich

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Comm. LiaBraaten

ABSTENTIONS: None

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 8:06 P.M.

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 8:15 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

**Denotes Consent Agenda*

Nina DiGregorio, Municipal Clerk