

The Work Session of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Roehrich at 7:31 PM.

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

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

ABSENT: Comm. LiaBraaten

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on January 7, 2016 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.

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

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION. **Mayor Roehrich**, on behalf of the Washington Township Committee, read into the record a Proclamation recognizing and congratulating Fred Goble for his 30 years of employment with Washington Township.

PRESENTATION. **Steve Zaikowski**, Shade Tree Committee Chairman, and **Robert Sikorski**, Shade Tree Member provided an update on Emerald Ash Bore's potential impact on the Township trees, the annual shade tree planting, and the status of their community Forestry Plan.

PRESENTATION. **Sandy Urgo**, Land Preservation Director of the NJ Land Conservancy, discussed an opportunity to purchase and preserve Block 25, Lots 56.05 and 56.06, which comprise 35.4 acres on the corner of Naughtright and East Springtown Roads. The grant application deadline is June 17, 2016. **Ms. Urgo** requested a letter from the Township Engineer addressing both the pre-Highland and post-Highland build-out potential of these lots, which is required by the County Open Space Committee, a resolution stating the Committee's support of preserving the land, and a small financial contribution to the land purchase. The Committee agreed to provide the letter from the Township Engineer, but expressed no willingness to fund the acquisition at this time.

DISCUSSIONS

Ridgeline Ordinance Amendment. The Committee agreed to introduce the Ridgeline Ordinance amendment recommended by the Planning Board at the May 16 Regular Meeting.

Driveway Ordinance Amendment. The Committee agreed to introduce the Driveway Ordinance amendment recommended by Township Engineer Leon Hall and DPW Superintendent Scott Frech, at the May 16 Regular Meeting.

Proposed Ad Hoc Trails Committee. The Committee agreed to proceed with the formation of an Ad Hoc Trails Committee. A resolution will be considered at the May 16 Regular Meeting. They will begin to seek volunteers immediately.

Proposed Ad Hoc Police Range Committee. Vice Mayor Short and Comm. Murello interviewed applicants and will meet on Monday morning to discuss recommended appointments to the committee. The Committee agreed upon the Ad Hoc Police Range Committee's charge and a resolution will be considered at the May 16 Regular Meeting.

PUBLIC PORTION. *Mayor Roehrich opened the meeting to the public.*

Joe Dikdan, 15 Squire Hill Road, questioned possibly changing the name of the town from Washington Township to Long Valley. The Committee shared some history about the name and prior efforts to change it. **Mr. Dikdan** asked the Committee to consider making another effort to change the name to Long Valley.

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

COMMITTEE COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Comm. Murello met with the Fairmount Fire Chief, **Tom Granat**. **Chief Granat** asked for Township support of H.R. 343, The Volunteer Emergency Responders Tax Deduction Act. The Bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide a charitable deduction for the services of volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel. The Committee agreed to consider a resolution at the May 16 Regular Meeting.

Vice Mayor Short attended a Planning Board meeting this week and provided the Committee with an update of the revised Heath Village Plan that was discussed at that meeting.

Comm. Babb reminded the Committee of the Memorial Day Event on May 28.

Administrator Coppola received correspondence from Lebanon Township regarding possible shared services. He will provide further details at the Regular Meeting's Executive Session.

