

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

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

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

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.

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

**PRESENTATION. Steve Zaikowski** provided a Shade Tree Committee update. The Forest Management Plan has been resubmitted to the State with the changes the State requested. Once it has been approved it will be posted on the website. The 2016 proposed budget request was submitted. The total request is \$3,650.00. This is a zero increase budget from 2015. 2016 trees were ordered this summer and will be ready for planting in March 2016. March plantings will consist of 17 trees along North Bridge Drive. Professional development for both DPW personnel and members of the Committee is being scheduled. **Mr. Zaikowski** has identified at least 400 +/- trees showing signs of Emerald Ash Bore Disease. There are still more streets to tour. The Township can anticipate that more than 600 trees will be lost to this disease. This crisis will be evident in 6-10 years. There are new BPU regulations mandating "clear sky" pruning techniques, which mean no tree coverage over power lines. This will result in a strong pruning effort by both the Utility and Municipality. **Mr. Zaikowski** suggested that the Township purchase a trailer mount Grappler. This device will safely collect and assist with the transportation of timber and be of value with the increased trimming work in the future.

**PRESENTATION. Beth Styler Barry**, of the Musconetcong Watershed Association (WMA) provided an annual update which provides points required by the State's Storm Water Management Rules and Regulations. The WMA also speaks with school groups and is represented at the Township's annual Green Festival. The Township is designated as a Tier A community based on population. **Ms. Barry** reported that funds are available for remediation work. A brief discussion followed about a joint application with neighboring municipalities [Mansfield and Hackettstown] regarding a Dam removal improvement off East Avenue and Newburgh Road.

**PRESENTATION. Police Chief Almer** and **Patrol Officer Mevers** provided an update on the proposed police firing range. The preferred location for the range is Block 9 Lot 6.02 on Reservoir Road. This parcel is currently under a license from the Township for deer hunting. It is possible to schedule the use of the land for both hunting and the firing range. The property would be used by Township police personnel and has the potential for shared services. The range will allow for pistol, rifle and shotgun training. The Township will benefit by having a home range, which will save travel time and transportation costs. Site preparation, target construction, materials and a tool shed will be donated, creating little or no cost for Township. A suggestion was made to name the range to Honor Retired Chief George Kleutz. A wood carved sign would be installed at the entrance to the range. Public concerns are very important and the Police Department would hold a public hearing, make door to door visits, and answer all questions and concerns of the surrounding neighbors.

**Vice Mayor Short** wants to be sure the range will be outside the 300' riparian buffer per NJDEP standards, and wants confirmation that this is a permitted use for this Open Space designated parcel. **Administrator Coppola** will confirm both issues. Comm. Murello anticipates opposition and wants to be sure the public hearing is well publicized. Overall the Committee supports the project pending verification of use.

## **DISCUSSIONS**

**Best Practices Checklist.** The Committee reviewed the checklist responses.

**Police Promotions Ordinance . Administrator. Coppola** referred to the current ordinance and concluded that the addition of an additional Corporal would then reduce the number of Patrol Officers below the minimum established by ordinance. It was decided that the ordinance amendment should simply eliminate the "minimum". The Committee agreed and will proceed with the introduction of an ordinance amendment at the November Regular meeting. The 2014 Hire Test list has expired. It is necessary to conduct a new test. The cost would be less than \$2,000. \$8,000 is still available in Committee projects. These funds will used to cover the cost of the test so that it can proceed as soon as possible.

**Professional Services RFPs.** The Committee agreed to request proposals for Engineering and Planning. **Mayor Roehrich** and **Comm. Murello** will interview candidates.

**Borough of Wanaque County Government Resolution. Comm.. LiaBraaten's** opinion that county and school boards governance throughout the state should be reduced was noted.

**Professional Service RFPs.** Mansfield Fire Prevention Shared Service. **Administrator Coppola** reported that all fees collected will be retained in exchange for services provided. The Committee will proceed with a resolution at the next regular meeting.

