

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

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

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

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on January 9, 2014 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 Short opened the meeting to the public. There being no questions or comments, Mayor Short closed the meeting to the public.

RESOLUTION #R-140-14 APPOINTMENTS/ADJUSTMENTS

Motion was made by Comm. Roehrich, seconded by Comm. Tobin that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Tobin, Vice Mayor Roehrich, Mayor Short      **ABSTENTIONS:** NONE  
**NAYS:** NONE      **ABSENT:** NONE

POLICE PROMOTIONS – SWEARING IN

Municipal Clerk DiGregorio administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant Lucas Allen. Sergeant Allen's daughter Mallory held the Bible and his wife Chrissy presented him with his new badge.

Municipal Clerk DiGregorio administered the Oath of Office to Corporal Michael Hade. Corporal Hade's wife Alicia held the Bible and later presented him with his new badge.

The Committee congratulated the officers and commented on the professionalism of the Washington Township Police Department, the quality of applicants for the positions, and the difficult selection process.

SHADE TREE COMMITTEE PRESENTATION – Emerald Ash Bore and Shade Tree Committee Review/Plans

Shade Tree Committee Members Steve Zaikowski and Robert Sikorski provided a 2014 review and introduced plans for 2015. Highlights included: less than a 10% fatality rate in trees planted in 2014; site selection for 2015 plantings is ongoing; recommendations for bucket truck equipment and safety equipment in the future; and DPW employee training recommendations. It was agreed that there will be ongoing discussions about the cost and number of trees to be ordered for 2015.

Mr. Zaikowski updated the Committee on Emerald Ash Bore Disease and his concern for its impact on Ash trees in Washington Township. After some discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Zaikowski would discuss the threat and possible plans to address it with the County.

DISCUSSIONS

DPW. Superintendent Frech reported that all budgeted 2014 work has been completed, with the exception of the Rock Spring Park Basketball Courts. Options are being investigated and this is work in progress.

2015 roadway projects and expenses were discussed, including: receipt of a \$250,000 grant for East Valley Brook Road; paving the last section of Naughton bordering Budd Lake; paving Black River, Appar, and Mission Roads; and oil and chip being applied to four miles of roadway;

Anticipated 2015 equipment expenses were reviewed, including replacing a 25 year old paver and a 22 year old loader; and replacement of two 18 year old dump trucks. The total equipment request is \$581,000.

There will be no Recreation request.

There is enough road salt to treat four or five events. \$216,000 is still available and can be used for the purchase of additional supplies for January through March. Superintendent Frech estimates there is about \$45,000 available in the Snow Trust.

Resolution for Codey Fund for Mental Health

The Committee agreed to take action at the October 20 meeting.

Fire and First Aid Vehicle Policy

This discussion will take place at the November Work Session.

**Request for Professional Service Proposals**

The Committee agreed to seek Requests for Proposals for Soil, Environmental and Traffic Consultants. In addition, Mr. Coppola was requested to ask the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment to communicate with the Planner to request that he improve upon his timely reporting to the respective Boards.

**Maintenance of properties being foreclosed upon.**

Attorney Jansen provided a summary of new laws addressing this topic. The Committee agreed to introduce an Ordinance at the November meeting.

**Bert the Eagle Sculpture**

Vice Mayor Roehrich suggested that recent damage to sculpture warrants another discussion on relocation. Office Manager Lyons will solicit feedback from the artisan hired to make repairs and from the Shade Tree Committee.

**POLICE UPDATE**

Chief Bailey reported on the condition of Schooley's Mountain Road. There have been several accidents between the big turn and Camp Washington Road. The County is currently investigating.

Chief Bailey also updated the Committee on the Columbia Trail at Route 513.

Two weeks of travel data has been received. 85% of vehicle travel is compliant with the posted speed limit. Road side brush has been cut twice to facilitate better sight lines. Signs will be installed to notify drivers of the trails as well as markings on the roadway. Chief Bailey would like flashing signs to identify the trail head. **Committee Tobin** suggested that the County install signs on the trail alerting those on the trail to be aware of the roadway and to cross safely. Committeeman Tobin asked Chief Bailey to notify him of his next meeting on this matter, for he would like to attend.

Portable scales were installed by NIDOT Weights and Measures this week to capture data about truck traffic on Schooley's Mountain Road.

**RESOLUTION #R-141 -14 -- EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Contract Negotiations:** Califon Field Grooming  
Califon Animal Control

Independence Twp Fire Prevention  
CFO and Tax Collector - Califon  
Mansfield IT Services  
Mansfield Construction Code  
Mansfield Tax and Finance  
Attorney Client Privilege: Valley Shepherd Creamery

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**AYES: Comm. Babb, LiaBraaten, Tobin, Vice Mayor Roehrich, Mayor Short**  
**NAYS: NONE** **ABSENT: NONE** **ABSTENTIONS: NONE**

*The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 9:12 PM.*

*The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 9:36 P.M.*

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

**AYES: Comm. Babb, LiaBraten, Roehrich, Tobin, Mayor Short**  
**NAYS: None** **ABSENT: None** **ABSTENTIONS: None**

*The meeting adjourned at 9:36 P.M.*

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Nina DiGregorio, Municipal Clerk