

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, LiaBraaten, Vice Mayor Short, Mayor Roehrich

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

**ABSENT:** Comm. Murello

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.*

**Daryl Goodrich**, 4 Portsmouth Ct., stated the 1 inch thick pavement on Yorkshire is defective and should be replaced, and that the Township should pave roads using a new reclamation process. **Vice Mayor Short** stated that the WT Road Department is aware of the process. Chester has used it and the WT Road Department is looking to see how long the roads hold up.

**Kim Kavin**, 15 Tall Timber Dr., asked how many miles of road are paved each year. **Administrator Coppola** stated that oil and chip is applied by the WT Road Department and they do approximately 8-9 miles per year. Paving and overlay work done by the WT Road Dept. averages approximately 1-1 ¼ miles per year. The paving of roads that goes out to bid averages approximately 1 mile per year. **Ms. Kavin** asked what the projected budget will be for 2017. **Mayor Roehrich** stated that the Committee was aiming for a \$750k budget for roads. **Ms. Kavin** asked why Mt. Olive has less Road Dept. workers and a larger road budget than Washington Township. **Administrator Coppola** stated that he spoke with Chester Twp and they outsource approx. 13 miles of road work each year. **Ms. Kavin** suggested an ad hoc committee be created to look for solutions.

**Scott Haus**, 7A North Bridge Dr., stated that his road is in horrific condition and asked for his road to be a repaving priority.

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

#### **DISCUSSIONS**

**2017 Road Paving** – **Administrator Coppola** provided the Committee with an updated spreadsheet of possible financing options for Township road work. **Comm. LiaBraaten** stated that the Township is falling behind on road maintenance and suggested the Township conduct further research on funding options. **Comm. Babb** stated the Township has the equipment and indicated he would like to see Township employees do more of the road paving in house. **Administrator Coppola** confirmed with Comm. Babb that he was not speaking about the DPW doing the work that would go out to bid, which is being discussed tonight. **Vice Mayor Short** agreed that roads are a priority. He too would also like to see Township DPW employees take on more paving work. **Mayor Roehrich** stated that the Township understands what is needed and agreed that the Committee needs to figure out how to make it happen.

**Patrick Conner**, 22 Yorkshire Dr., wanted to know if the Committee is prepared to change its priorities over time. Open space was a priority 20 years ago, but roads are a priority now. **Mayor Roehrich** stated that he agrees that roads are important and the Township Committee is attempting to solve the road problem.

**Roads** – **Vice Mayor Short** said North Bridge Dr. is his first priority, followed by sections of West Springtown. **Mayor Roehrich** concurred. **Administrator Coppola** stated that the Township Engineer will be directed to begin the survey work and draft specifications so the Township can receive bids by March.

**Refunding Bonds.** **Mayor Roehrich** stated that the Finance Committee met and is recommending that some bonds be refunded to take advantage of low interest rates for a net savings of 3% or \$145,000.

**Professional Service RFPs** – The Committee discussed various professional positions and agreed to aid the board in preparing a RFP for the Planning Board Attorney's position.

**Employee Handbook Update** – **Administrator Coppola** discussed changes/updates to the Employee Handbook. **Comm. LiaBraaten** would like to discourage employees from utilizing social media and personal phones while at work. A resolution to adopt the updated Employee Handbook will be considered at the regular meeting on Monday.

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

**Daryl Goodrich**, 4 Portsmouth Ct., asked if the Township Committee is open to looking at alternative paving methods. Mayor Roehrich responded in the affirmative.

**Kent Jute**, 9 North Bridge Dr., asked for next steps in the road work process. **Mayor Roehrich** stated that the DPW will continue to assess and repair; the Township hopes to go out to bid in January.

**An unidentified resident** asked what happens if roads are not fixed this year. **Mayor Roehrich** stated that roads on the road repair list will remain on the road repair list.

