

The Work Session of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:00 P.M

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Comm. Tobin, Cullen, Kaiser, \*Krickus, Mayor Short, Attorney Jansen,  
\*\*Administrator/Clerk Gallets, Senior Deputy Clerk Burd, Chief Financial Officer Lifer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

\*Comm. Krickus arrived 8:15 P.M.

\*\*Administrator/Clerk Gallets arrived at 8:55 P.M.

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on January 5, 2004 and was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on the same date. This meeting is being held at the Temporary Municipal Offices at 55 Fairview Avenue, Long Valley, New Jersey. Notices of this meeting were sent as there were requests.

#### **2004 BUDGET DISCUSSION** -

The Township Committee will discuss the 2004 budget at a later portion of this meeting.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT – TOWER HEIGHT – ZONING IRREGULARITIES** – Municipal Planner Banisch, Attorney DeBona, and Comm. Kaiser will consider amendments to the ordinances regulating tower height restrictions/exceptions as well as R1/R2 zoning irregularities for the Township Committee's review.

**HOUSEKEEPING ORDINANCE** – Attorney Jansen stated that New Jersey's Criminal Code, Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes, addresses many areas of behavior and conduct and effectively pre-empts local regulation of those activities. At the February 16, 2004 meeting, the Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance to repeal the following provisions of the Code of the Township of Washington: Chapter 117, Loitering, Chapter 140, Peace and Good Order, Section 140-2, Disturbing proceedings of official bodies, and Section 14-24, Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages on school property.

**Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.**

**Mr. Paul Barnish** stated that he is an elder on the Building Committee of the Valley View Chapel. Mr. Barnish stated that the chapel has obtained an approved site plan from the Planning Board contingent upon the builder's compliance with certain stipulations. Mr. Barnish requested that the Washington Township Committee explain the process to obtain approval of an amendment to the Wastewater Management Plan to allow the chapel to be connected to the existing sewer system.

**Mayor Short** stated that he encouraged Mr. Barnish to attend this meeting since he must obtain the approval of the Township Committee and the Planning Board. Mayor Short opined that only one additional residential connection could result from this approval, since most of the property surrounding the Valley View Chapel has been farmland preserved.

**Attorney Jansen** stated that the applicant must obtain the Municipal Utilities Authority's approval for an extension of the existing sewer service area.

**Mayor Short** recommended that the applicant appear before the Planning Board. He stated if the application were approved, the Planning Board would recommend that the Township Committee ask the Municipal Utilities Authority to submit an application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for an amendment to the Washington Township Wastewater Management Plan.

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

**UPPER RARITAN RIVER COMPACT** – Mayor Short stated that the Upper Raritan River Compact is comprised of nine towns in the western portion of Morris County, whose combined efforts will be directed toward the acquisition of Highlands funding and the development of six model ordinances to be considered for adoption. The Township Committee will consider a resolution authorizing participation in the Raritan Highlands Compact Intermunicipal Cooperative Agreement at the March 15, 2004 meeting.

**TEEN CENTER** - The Township Committee will discuss the Teen Center later in this meeting.

**LIBRARY EXPENDITURES** – The Township Committee discussed the Library budgets submitted for the last five years. Attorney Jansen stated that although the Mayor is authorized to appoint the members of the Library Board of Trustees, the funding allocation is mandated by state statute. Attorney Jansen stated that title to the Washington Township Library is held by Washington Township. Mayor Short stated that the company that installed the HVAC

system at the library is no longer licensed to transact business in the State of New Jersey. Mayor Short stated that he will invite contractors to attend a future Township Committee meeting to discuss the maintenance required for the faulty heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems installed at the Washington Township library.

**ROUTE 57 BYPASS – SET REVIEW TIMELINE** – The Township Committee will discuss plans for the construction of a bypass to extend Route 57 to Route 46 after the 2004 Municipal Budget has been adopted. Administrator Gallets will invite Morris County and Hackettstown representatives to attend a meeting to discuss the proposed bypass after the Committee has determined their position on this issue.

**GERMAN VALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT EXPANSION** - Comm. Kaiser will request that Mr. Dennis Bertland submit an estimate of the fees for services related to the expansion of the German Valley Historic District.

**ATHLETIC FIELD CLEAN-UP WORK** – The Township Committee authorized Parks and Recreation/Building and Grounds Coordinator Eleanora Murfitt to direct Department of Public Works employees to complete the restoration of the damaged athletic fields where lighting has been installed. Mayor Short directed Comm. Kaiser to obtain the local athletic organizations' authorizations to use the bonds submitted to Washington Township to satisfy the costs to be incurred for the labor needed to complete the work.

**Comm. Kaiser recused herself from the discussion concerning the Highlands Regional Plan.**

**HIGHLANDS REGIONAL PLAN RESOLUTION** – The Township Committee will consider a resolution supporting the preservation of the New Jersey Highlands and the creation of a regional planning body, with representatives from the Highlands' communities to ensure that the regional plan is effectively implemented, at the February 16, 2004 meeting.

**Comm. Kaiser returned to the meeting.**

**WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING START TIME** - The Township Committee decided that all future 2004 regular and work sessions will begin at 7:30 P.M. Administrator Gallets will advertise these changes in the Observer Tribune.

**COMMITTEE PROJECTS/COMMITTEE GOALS** – The Township Committee discussed Committee projects and goals for 2004. Comm. Cullen will coordinate organization of the Washington Township Web Site with Technical Specialists Robert Kelly and Raymond Kenny and Assistant Administrator Deborah Burd. Comm. Kaiser will monitor the municipal easements in 2004. Mayor Short and Comm. Kaiser will negotiate the possible purchase of property to be considered for the construction of a community center. Mayor Short and Comm. Kaiser will develop funding sources to build the facility in an effort to avoid an impact on taxes. Assistant Administrator Burd will continue to update the task list. The Township Committee will interview and will make recommendations for appointments to municipal boards and committees. Comm. Kaiser will contact the Department of Environmental Protection to determine the proper procedure for the disposal of the remaining grit at Kohler's Pond. Mayor Short and Assistant Administrator Burd will research the feasibility of an amendment to the conservation easement to permit the Middlesworth Farms developer to remove silt and sediment from a pond owned by Mr. Cucinella, the owner of a property adjacent to the development. Comm. Tobin stated that he will meet with representatives of non-contracted municipal employees to discuss changes in their 2004 benefits.

**Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.**

**Ms. Linda Helm Krapf, Director of the Myhelan Cultural Arts Center, Inc.** expressed their interest in assuming the management of the Washington Township Teen Center. Ms. Helm Krapf stated that she would like to ensure that our teens continue to be offered this resource for activities. Ms. Helm Krapf stated that although Washington Township would continue to fund the program, Myhelan representatives would develop a Teen Advisory Council whose responsibilities would include training counselors and promoting interest in and support of the Teen Center program. She stated that monthly or quarterly progress reports would be submitted to the Township Committee for their review.

The Township Committee will consider the allocation of funding for this program during the 2004 budgetary process. Administrator Gallets will respond to Ms. Helm Krapf's proposal after the Township Committee has determined if funding will be available for this program in 2004.

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

**Mayor Short called for a recess at 8:45 P.M.**

**Mayor Short reconvened the meeting at 8:55 P.M.**

#### **2004 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

The Township Committee discussed the allocation of funding for capital projects for 2004. The Committee also discussed the repayment of Washington Township's Open Space debt. The Township Committee will consider authorizing a reduction of the debt payment by \$250,000.00. Comm. Krickus stated that Washington Township is in

excellent financial condition due to good budget discipline during the last six to nine years. Comm. Krickus stated that the Township Committee has authorized many capital projects as well as the payment of an enormous amount of debt. He estimated that the municipality could be debt free by the year 2111. He stated that we will acquire approximately \$1,000,000 in assets through the sale of the building located at 24 Schooley's Mountain Road and a portion of a property located on Naughtright Road known as Heather Mist.

The Township Committee preliminarily approved the funding requested for improvements to Rock Spring Park, Palmer Park and Falcon Fields. The Committee preliminarily approved an allocation for the purchase of new emergency vehicles and breathing apparatus requested by the Washington Township Fire and Emergency Services. The Township Committee preliminarily approved funding for Pleasant Grove Road improvements and the correction of a structural problem, as well as the purchase of a water purification system for the police building. The Township Committee prioritized 2004 budget funding requests for the installation of new communications, 911 and security equipment for the Police Department with Police Chief Ted Ehrenburg.

Administrator Gallets and the Township Committee will discuss an itemized list of anticipated expenditures for the purchase of furniture and equipment needed due to the municipal building addition and renovation.

The Township Committee prioritized allocations for sidewalk repairs, road improvements, and equipment purchases with Department of Public Works Superintendent Ralph DeFranzo and Parks and Recreation/Buildings and Grounds Coordinator Eleanora Murfitt.

The Township Committee will continue their discussion concerning the 2004 municipal budget at a meeting on Monday, February 16, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. at the temporary Municipal Offices located at 55 Fairview Avenue, Long Valley, New Jersey and a meeting on February 24, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. at the Senior Citizens Center located at East Springtown Road, Long Valley, New Jersey.

**The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 10:35 P.M. upon approval of the following resolution:**

**RESOLUTION #R-27-04 – EXECUTIVE SESSION -**

**ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE: DRIVEWAY SLOPE WAIVER**  
**LAND ACQUISITION: FAIRMOUNT ROAD, WEST SPRINGTOWN ROAD,**  
**EAST MILL ROAD, EAST AVENUE/ROUTE 46**

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

**AYES:** Comm. Tobin, Cullen, Kaiser, Krickus, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 10:49 P.M.**

**The meeting adjourned at 10:50 P.M.**

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**Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk**