

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on January 5, 2004 and January 30, 2004 and was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on the same dates. 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.

BASEBALL LIGHTING AT BABE RUTH FIELD – Mr. Charles Di Salvo stated that the lighting donated by the Long Valley Baseball Club has been installed at the Palmer Park baseball fields. Mr. DiSalvo proposed the club's purchase, installation and maintenance of lighting at the Babe Ruth Field. He stated that the donation would not include the site work and final grading, seeding and fertilization. He stated that the club will obtain the required approvals from the Planning Board.

Township Committee representatives, Buildings and Grounds/Parks and Recreation Coordinator Murfitt, and Department of Public Works Assistant Superintendent Frech will meet with Long Valley Baseball Club representatives to discuss specific plans for the lighting installation and the required site work for the project's completion.

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

FEE ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – The Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance to amend Chapter 3, Administration of Government, of the General Ordinances of the Township of Washington to amend fees for copies of public records at the March 15, 2004 meeting.

BOND ORDINANCE FOR FALCON FIELDS – The Township Committee will consider the introduction of a bond ordinance providing for the improvement of recreational facilities in and by the Township of Washington, appropriating \$1,700,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$1,615,000 bonds or notes of the Township for financing such appropriation at the March 15, 2004 meeting.

BOND ORDINANCE FOR EQUIPMENT AND LAND PURCHASES – At the March 15, 2004 meeting, the Township Committee will consider the introduction of a bond ordinance appropriating \$1,455,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$1,380,000 bonds or notes of the Township for the following: the purchase of emergency services vehicular equipment (including one rescue vehicle), the purchase of fire fighting apparatus, the purchase equipment for use by the Police Department, improvements to the municipal building, and the purchase of lands located at 99 West Mill Road consisting of 34.05 acres.

BOND ORDINANCE FOR LAND PURCHASE – The Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance providing for the acquisition of lands in and by the Township of Washington, appropriating \$265,000 therefore and authorizing the issuance of \$251,750 bonds or notes of the Township for financing such appropriation at the March 15, 2004 meeting. The lands to be acquired, identified as Block 59, Lot 10 (consisting of approximately 20.35 acres), are intended to be used for open space, conservation and recreational purposes

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public for comments or questions regarding the proposed improvements at Falcon Fields.

Mr. David Kavanaugh, 19 Wellington Drive stated that due to the steady growth of Washington Township sports programs, Falcon Fields must be completed as soon as possible. Mr. Kavanaugh also stated that providing an adequate playing environment to accommodate the youth sports programs would allow the fields to be rested, thus improving the condition of the playing surfaces.

Mr. Jeff Tognola, 196 Old Turnpike Road stated that over fifteen hundred children participate in the Long Valley Soccer Program. Mr. Tognola advised that the programs continue to grow year after year. Mr. Tognola further stated that the completion of five to seven fields at Falcon Fields would alleviate the need to condense the seasons due to the lack of available playing space.

Mr. Bill Vopelius, 17 Falcon Lane, a member of the Long Valley Soccer Association, expressed concern regarding the scope of the proposed Falcon Fields project. Mr. Vopelius stated that residents of the Brush Meadows development have expressed many concerns regarding the site plan. He stated that in order to serve the entire community, improvements should also be made to Palmer Park fields. He requested that residents be made aware of the dates, times, and location of meetings scheduled to discuss the proposed Falcon Field improvements.

Mayor Short stated that the fields will be used by all sports groups. He advised that the Township Committee interviewed engineering firms and accepted a proposal from Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. Mayor Short further stated that the Committee does not anticipate that the use of the playing fields will disturb the neighbors. He stated that the Planning Board will not approve the design criteria but will conduct a capital project review to insure that the plan is in compliance with the Township's Master Plan.

Comm. Krickus stated that the infrastructure indicated on the plan is optional. He stated that the bond ordinance to be introduced will dedicate \$200,000 toward improvements to fields in Washington Township, and primarily toward the completion of Palmer Park.

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

FALCON FIELDS – WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT TREATMENT AREA – Administrator Gallets will forward a letter on behalf of the Washington Township Committee to Municipal Utilities Authority Executive Director Tom Horn to request that the Municipal Utilities Authority approve an amendment to include Falcon Fields in the Wastewater Management Plan sewer service area.

FALCON FIELDS - MASTER PLAN – Mr. Andrew Holt, Vice President of Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. discussed the design of the Falcon Fields project with the Township Committee. Mr. Holt stated that Suburban Consulting Engineers will produce construction plans, contract documents and all necessary applications for permits required for Phase I of the Falcon Fields project, as well as provide bid and construction services and preliminary engineering services to support proposed amenities defined in the Falcon Fields Master Plan for future phases. He stated that Suburban Consulting Engineers will memorialize the master plan for the development of the Falcon Fields property. Mr. Holt presented a map of the overall plan and indicated intended phases of development. Mr. Holt stated that the Suburban Consulting Engineers and the Township Committee will consider the written comments submitted by the residents of neighboring properties when implementing the design plan for Falcon Fields into the master plan for the project. The Committee discussed possible environmental restrictions with Mr. Holt. The Township Committee directed Suburban Consulting Engineers to proceed with the preparation of bid specifications for the construction of premier fields 1,2, and 3 for Falcon Fields.

COAH HOUSE – Administrator Gallets was directed to contact Board of Education representatives to request the Board's permission to connect the sewer system of the COAH house located at 71 East Mill Road to the Board of Education's discharge line.

RARITAN HIGHLAND COMPACT – The Township Committee will consider a resolution to authorize Washington Township's participation in the Raritan Highlands Compact Intermunicipal Cooperative Agreement at the March 15, 2004 meeting.

MISSION RIDGE – PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES – The Township Committee will consider a resolution to establish the amounts of performance guarantees for the Mission Ridge Development at the March 15, 2004 meeting.

ST. LUKE'S – AIR CONDITIONING BARRIERS – Administrator Gallets stated that Township Engineer Leon Hall will confirm that the air conditioning barriers at St. Luke's Church were installed in compliance with specifications contained in a resolution adopted by the Washington Township Planning Board.

TEEN CENTER OUTSOURCING – The Township Committee will consider proposals for the management of the Teen Center from outside sources. The Committee discussed anticipated expenditures for cleaning, maintenance and utilities for the Teen Center building.

COMMUNITY MAP AND NEWSLETTER - The Township Committee will pose for a picture to be placed on the cover of the Washington Township Community Map and Newsletter on March 15, 2004 at 7:00 P.M.

BEACON HILL ROAD – MUSEUM PROPERTY – The Township Committee discussed the proposal of a resident of Beacon Hill Road who wishes to deed his property to Morris County upon his death for use as an art museum. Attorney Jansen stated that although the correspondence states this use would appear to be consistent with the permitted uses in the R-5 Zone as set forth in Section 217-9A3, he does not believe a museum would be a permitted use. Attorney Jansen stated that the ordinance refers to facilities owned or operated exclusively by a municipal or other governmental agency, excluding private proprietary use. Attorney Jansen stated that the Morris Museum is a private non-profit museum. Administrator Gallets will obtain the recommendation of Zoning Officer Fred Jordan concerning this request.

2004 MUNICIPAL BUDGET – The Township Committee will allocate funding for salary increases to be authorized for municipal employees at the March 15, 2004 meeting. The Township Committee will introduce the 2004 Municipal Budget on March 15, 2004. The Township Committee directed that \$5,000 preliminarily approved for the Parade and Fall Festival be moved to Committee Projects. Mayor Short stated that Long Valley Rescue Squad volunteers have advised that the cost of the new emergency vehicle is \$299,000.00.

SKATE PARK – Comm. Kaiser stated that skate park representatives will present plans for how the skate park will be run. Comm. Kaiser stated that individuals have requested that the skate park be placed in Palmer Park.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING – CHANGE ORDERS – At the March 15, 2004 meeting, the Township Committee will consider a resolution to authorize the execution of change orders to amend the contract with Ascend Construction Management, Inc. for the following items: door and frame changes, additional structural support for roof and fire rated gypsum, additional steel work and exterior siding.

ROUTE 46/DRAKESTOWN ROAD INTERSECTION – Comm. Kaiser and Comm. Tobin will meet with Mount Olive officials to discuss revisions to the proposed improvements to the Route 46/Drakestown Road intersection. Administrator Galletts will invite Senator Littell, Assemblyman Guy Gregg and Department of Transportation officials to attend.

Comm. Kaiser recused herself from the conversation concerning the Raritan Highlands Compact.

RARITAN HIGHLANDS COMPACT – The Township Committee will consider a resolution to authorize participation in the Raritan Highlands Compact Intermunicipal Cooperative Agreement on April 19, 2004.

Comm. Kaiser returned to the meeting.

CROSS-ACCEPTANCE – The Township Committee will consider a resolution to authorize the participation of Washington Township in the State Development and Redevelopment Plan at the March 15, 2004 meeting.

BUSINESS SIGNAGE – The Township Committee directed that the Planning Board sub committee identify the appropriate signage to be used by businesses in Washington Township.

BLACK OAK GOLF COURSE COMMITTEE – The Township Committee decided that professionals be excluded from Black Oak Golf Course Committee membership since professionals who are appointed to the committee must be compensated. The Committee authorized that professionals act as advisors to the Black Oak Golf Course Committee.

FALCON FIELDS – The Township Committee will consider a resolution to award a contract to Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc. for professional engineering services for Phase I of Falcon Fields at the March 15, 2004 meeting. The Township Committee will address residents' concerns regarding the plans submitted for the construction of the fields.

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 10:30 P.M. upon approval of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #R-45-04 – EXECUTIVE SESSION -
LAND ACQUISITION: FLEMING COURT
ATTORNEY/CLIENT PRIVILEGE: MINE BROOK GOLF COURSE
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: DPW GRIEVANCE HEARING
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: NON-CONTRACTED EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

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 10:45 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 P.M.

Dianne S. Galletts, Clerk