



Mayor Short stated that the Committee members each have their special areas of expertise and knowledge that they bring forward to make the community a better place.

Mayor Short stated that the Committee's accomplishments for 2004 include the new Town Hall facility. He thanked Administrator Dianne Gallets for all her hard work in completing it on time and within 10% of the cost estimates. He thanked Senator Guy Gregg for securing a \$300,000 historical grant to help defray some of the cost.

Mayor Short stated that in the recreation area, the Committee's accomplishments include completing two little league fields and a Babe Ruth field at Palmer Park as well as the grading and layout of three softball teams. At Falcon Fields, we planned, installed, sodded and irrigated three all-purpose fields. He stated we also put in 200 parking spots for our sports groups. We are also completing the final ¼ mile of a 1 mile jogging trail. At Rock Road we have put in a new recreation facility which allows us to store some of our equipment and gives our personnel a clean place to work. We outsourced our teen center to an outside group and kept the Fuzz Box open to take care of some of our youth. With the help of Comm. Tobin we have expanded our senior facilities and programs and took a big step forward.

In the emergency services area, we made an investment of \$275,000 in updated communication equipment this year. We replaced two retiring police officers, and we continued our police vehicle replacement rotation program. We replaced an outdated fire vehicle which is scheduled for delivery early this year. He stated we are also scheduled to receive a new first aid vehicle early this year. We received a grant for \$330,000 for replacement of all self-contained breathing apparatus in our fire department. We also received a \$60,000 grant to locate generators in two of our fire houses.

Mayor Short stated that the Department of Public Works paved three roads this year. We received a \$150,000 grant from the State and resurfaced 1 ½ miles of Pleasant Grove Road; resurfaced and paved Spring Lane and Heath Lane; made various and numerous road improvements throughout the Township; and replaced a lot of our old equipment.

Mayor Short stated that we preserved close to one thousand acres of open space this year. We received a grant from Morris County for \$700,000 for the acquisition of property. He stated that Kevin Walsh did an excellent job with the Open Space Committee, and this is the first grant we have received from the County for open space.

Mayor Short stated that the Junior Women's Club put up five "Welcome to Washington Township" signs. We also had Comm. Kevin Walsh take it upon himself to organize, fund and staff the painting of over 1 ½ miles of fence that borders the road into town. Mayor Short thanked the baseball, soccer and football groups who donated and installed over \$1 million in lights for athletic facilities. He thanked all the volunteers in the clubs in town that make the Township a place where we want to be.

Mayor Short stated that in 2005, the Highlands Act will be a major issue in the Township. 87% of our Township is within the preservation area. Many of us have been down to Trenton to work with the people in the Department of Environmental Protection to get some of our ideas moved forward so we can allow some construction in the Township to give us some good tax ratables. We must continue to attract tax ratables that do not put a burden on our schools. He stated that the first section of our 29,000 square foot local shopping center is due to open in July of 2005 and will bring local services and tax money to the Township. The age-restricted housing project on Welsh Farms is due to start this year, which will give us 50 age-restricted units without more students. Also in front of the Planning Board we have another 380 units of age-restricted housing which should receive approval later this year. Mayor Short stated that between all these projects, we have over 3 million new tax dollars coming through without adding more students to our schools. We also have a big box store approved on Rt. 46 which is scheduled to break ground later this year. With 87% of our budget derived from residential taxes, it is imperative that we seek these commercial ratables. He stated we have to continue working with state officials and the DEP to get other ratables such as the golf course which will provide us with a 29,000 sq. ft. clubhouse. We are working diligently with the State trying to get this approved within the Highlands area.

Mayor Short stated that the Committee this year will look at potentially bonding major road improvements. The roads are very much in need of repair in some of our oldest subdivisions in town. Some of these roads are 35-40 years old. We also have stormwater regulations that must be adhered to by April of this year. Mayor Short stated that Comm. Kaiser has been working diligently with our consulting firm on these stormwater regulations. We have purchased a GPS system because we have to map every manhole cover and sewer in the Township and show where it goes. He stated that we will miss the experience of our retiring Department of Public Works Superintendent Ralph DeFranzo, who retired yesterday after serving with us for 27 years.

Mayor Short thanked John Krickus, our past Mayor and Committeeman, for his past 12 years of service. His knowledge and financial skills will be missed. He stated that it is with great pride and pleasure that he looks forward to working with Kevin Walsh. He will be a real asset to this Township.

**Mayor Short suspended the meeting to allow for a refreshment break at 12:31 p.m.**

**Mayor Short resumed the meeting at 1:02 p.m.**



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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

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**RESOLUTION #R-05-05 – RATE OF INTEREST ON DELINQUENT TAXES**

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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, Walsh, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

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**RESOLUTION #R-06-05 – NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC MEETINGS AS PER CHAPTER 231, PUBLIC LAWS OF NEW JERSEY**

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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, Walsh, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

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**RESOLUTION #R-07-05 – TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS**

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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, Walsh, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

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**RESOLUTION #R-08-05 – APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS TOWNSHIP POSITIONS**

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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, Walsh, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

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**RESOLUTION #R-09-05 – APPOINTMENT – MORRIS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REVENUE SHARING COMMITTEE FOR 2005**

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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, Walsh, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

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**RESOLUTION #R-10-05 – TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS, VARIOUS BOARD/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

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Motion was made by Comm. Cullen, seconded by Comm. Tobin to amend Resolution #R-10-05 to remove the name of R. Gregory Jones as an appointee to the Planning Board. Motion failed by the following vote:

**AYES:** Comm. Cullen

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**NAYS:** Comm. Tobin, Kaiser, Walsh, Mayor Short

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

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

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**RESOLUTION #R-11-05 – APPOINTMENTS – EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL - 2005**

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, Walsh, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**RESOLUTION #R-12-05 – SALARIES – WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP SUPERIOR OFFICER’S ASSOCIATION, WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICEMEN’S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, LOCAL 301 AND THE WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, LOCAL 1032**

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, Walsh, Mayor Short

**NAYS:** None

**ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE NOTED FOR THE RECORD**

Letter from Acting Governor Richard J. Codey, extending warm greetings to those gathered at the Washington Township Reorganization Meeting and commending the Township Committee for their dedication and commitment to our community.

The meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

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Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk