

The Work Session of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 6:35 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Tobin, Cullen, Kaiser, Walsh, Mayor Short, *Attorney Jansen, Administrator/Clerk Gallets, Assistant Administrator Burd

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

*Attorney Jansen arrived at 6:55 p.m.

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on December 21, 2004 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.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Township Committee discussed their progress to date on the 2005 municipal budget. The Committee discussed how general revenues are substantially less than in the past and that the Township is experiencing the second slowest growth in the last ten years due mainly to the Highlands Act, stormwater regulations, and other factors.

The Township Committee discussed the budget submitted for General Government.

FALCON FIELDS

Andrew Holt, Vice President of Suburban Consulting Engineers, Inc., discussed the progress at Falcon Fields to date. He stated that Fields 1, 2, and 3 have been sodded, and that the parking area has been graded. He stated that when the contract was awarded, the Committee chose to delay the construction of Field 7 until the wetlands letter of interpretation was received from the NJDEP. He stated that this letter was received over the summer, and they now understand where the wetlands transition areas are on the site. He stated that they have now come up with a plan that will meet the needs of the community and still result in a functional plan for the development of the park within the initial budget that was established for the project. Mr. Holt presented a revised Phase 1A plan, which includes the work that has already been constructed and also anticipates construction of Field 7. He stated that his recommendation is that Field 7 construction should again be delayed while they apply to the NJDEP for wetlands transition area averaging approval. This will enable us to encroach into the wetlands transition area and construct the field further away from the existing property lines. We would then need to offset that with a deed-restricted area adjoining some other wetlands transition area.

Mr. Holt stated that the area where Field 4 has been identified on the master plan is also in the initial phase design. It is identified as our temporary stormwater management area to catch the runoff from the disturbed area. He stated that we know the runoff onto Briarwood Road is a sensitive issue. Mr. Holt recommended that we go ahead and construct the final stormwater management system; which is basically an initial recharge basin which will cascade into a secondary detention basin. The resulting benefit would be that we would then have achieved the area to construct Field 4 within the initial phase of the project. Mr. Holt stated that it would result in another field and a permanent solution to the stormwater management. He stated that it would also serve a dual purpose in that it will enable us to possibly have one area flooded and frozen in the winter for possible ice skating, while the second basin would still continue to function as a stormwater control device.

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public for comments or questions concerning Falcon Fields.

Cameron Esemplare, Mt. Olive Travel Soccer, Recreation Committee inquired about the size of Field 4 and the slope of Field 3.

Andrew Holt stated that Field 4 is 255' in width and 360' in length, and that all the fields have been designed with a cross slope of 1.5%.

Cameron Esemplare asked "when the whole project is complete, how many fields will there be?"

Mayor Short answered five. He stated that there were six fields there many years ago, but you saw the condition of those fields. It has dropped to five quality, full-sized fields.

Suzanne O'Neill, 16 Blackberry Place asked if there were plans to widen the access road that currently exists on Rock Road.

Andrew Holt stated that it's a narrow road, but it's wide enough for two cars to pass safely. There are no plans to widen it.

Suzanne O'Neill asked if the infrastructure to support stadium lighting on the field currently exists on the property.

Andrew Holt stated no, there has been no provision made for that.

David Chanda, 4 Thornapple Court thanked the Committee for listening and coming back with plans that seem to be a little bit more reasonable.

Bob Malone, 11 Falcon Lane stated that since the brush has been reduced from 125' to 25' at the end of Falcon lane, he would like to know the status of the fence to prevent access to the fields from the end of Falcon Lane.

Andrew Holt stated that he disagrees with the comment that the brush has been reduced from 125' to 25'. He stated that in the process, we did cut the corner of Field 1 adjacent to Falcon Lane to preserve as much of the natural buffer that existed as possible. Mr. Holt stated that, to his knowledge, we still preserved the majority of that vegetation. He stated that if Mr. Malone is talking about the pathway that goes through the brush to Falcon Lane, we temporarily blocked that. The construction plans at this point do not call for a permanent fence. He stated that it would be a Township decision.

Bob Malone stated that at prior meetings, there was a promise to put such a fence in. He stated that he is very concerned about what the status of that is.

Mayor Short stated that he remembers going to some meetings and asking some of the residents if they wanted to have a fence across the top of the berm around the fields to prevent people from going through them. He stated that the answer he heard was "no, they did not want a fence". Mayor Short stated that he does not recall promising a fence.

There being no further comments or questions regarding Falcon Fields, Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public for any other items or concerns.

Kevin Reilly, 58 Paula Drive stated that he is representing several families from Paula Drive. He stated that Paula Drive is 32 years old and has received temporary repairs and short-term fixes, but it requires a complete reworking. He stated that Paula Drive is beyond the band aid approach. Mr. Reilly stated that it is their understanding that Paula Drive has made the "short list" for several years, but it has been passed over for various reasons. He stated that their request is obvious, it is time to take care of Paula Drive.

John Trabachino, 56 Paula Drive stated that across the street from him is a sewer, and the area around it has sunk. He stated that there is also a manhole in front of 49 Paula Drive at the intersection of Cindy Lane and the area around it has also sunk. He stated that there are puddles there even on dry days and over prolonged periods of dry weather.

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

FEE ORDINANCE – The Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 3, ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, OF THE GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON TO AMEND FEES FOR COPIES OF POLICE RECORDS" at the January 17, 2005 meeting.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT INTERN – The Township Committee will discuss the hiring of Peter Hagen, an engineering student from Northeastern, as an intern for the summer to assist the Township in complying with stormwater management regulations, at the January 17, 2005 meeting.

LONG VALLEY POST OFFICE – The Township Committee discussed a letter received from the United States Postal Service informing them that the Postal Service has no plans to find alternate quarters for the Long Valley Post Office.

TEEN CENTER – Comm. Kaiser updated the Township Committee on the Teen Center budget and expenses. The Township Committee authorized the hiring of Sylvia Lim as a part-time employee to supervise the Teen Center. The Committee also approved Comm. Kaiser's request to set up a Teen Center Ad Hoc Committee.

BOARD OF HEALTH – The Township Committee discussed the use of Advisory and Alternate members of the Board of Health.

TAX OFFICE LEASE – The Township Committee discussed the concept of preparing a resolution to lease the tax office.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE – The Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO AMEND CHAPTER 159, SITE PLAN REVIEW, AND CHAPTER 175, SUBDIVISION OF LAND, OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON REGARDING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT" at the January 17, 2005 meeting.

EMERGENCY VEHICLE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – The Township Committee discussed a Memorandum of Understanding received from Morris County concerning a task force emergency vehicle to be housed in Washington Township. This Memorandum of Understanding imposes obligations on Washington Township with regard to how the vehicle is housed, routine maintenance to be performed on it, training to be provided to individuals who volunteer to use it, etc.

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 9:50 p.m. upon approval of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #R-13-05 – EXECUTIVE SESSION –
TACTICS AND TECHNIQUES UTILIZED IN PROTECTING THE SAFETY
AND PROPERTY OF THE PUBLIC: RECREATION FIELDS
LAND ACQUISITION: MEDINA, BORGENICHT
PENDING LITIGATION: FERTAKOS

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

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 10:21 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk