

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, Walsh, Mayor Short, Attorney Jansen, Assistant Administrator Burd, Senior Deputy Clerk Madden

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on January 4, 2005 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.

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.

Ms. Kimberly Dunn, Rosewood Communities, stated that they are in the process of relocating the utility lines out of the freshwater wetland transition area as required by the DEP. Ms. Dunn asked that a Certificate of Occupancy be issued for Block 14, Lot 2.06 and 1.07.

Motion was made by Comm. Tobin, seconded by Comm. Cullen that a Certificate of Occupancy be issued upon receipt of approval letters from Leon Hall and the DEP, and the posting of a cash guarantee in an amount to be determined by Leon Hall. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Scott Lemler, 8 Shadetree Place, stated that they do not have cell phone service in his neighborhood and that it is a safety hazard.

Comm. Kaiser stated that the Planning Board had just approved an application from Cingular to install a tower near Thomas Farm Road. She stated that there are also two other locations in town that are being considered for Verizon towers.

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

ORDINANCES

GROWTH SHARE ORDINANCE – The Township Committee discussed an unintended consequence of the growth share ordinance and whether an amendment to this ordinance could be developed to exempt the creation of apartments for elderly parents.

LIQUOR STORE HOURS – The Township Committee agreed to consider the introduction of an ordinance to change Sunday liquor distribution hours to be consistent with surrounding municipalities.

DISCUSSION

COPY MACHINE PURCHASE - The Township Committee discussed a request by the Recreation Department to purchase or lease a new copy machine, since their existing machine is no longer repairable due to the discontinuation of parts.

ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT – The Township Committee agreed to consider a resolution to authorize the execution of a maintenance agreement with Arrow Elevator Incorporated.

BOARD & COMMITTEE OPENINGS/INTERVIEWS – The Township Committee will hold interviews for Board & Committee openings beginning in January, 2006. Comm. Walsh will organize a committee "fair" to be held in January.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPLACEMENT – The Township Committee approved a request from the Health Department to advertise for a full-time employee to replace Shirley Lipkin upon her retirement.

FIRE DEPARTMENT ANALYSIS – The Township Committee discussed the potential of hiring an outside agency to review the Township's Fire Department and make sure it is properly staffed, equipped and trained to respond to emergencies.

BUDGET SCHEDULE – The Township Committee revised the 2006 budget session schedule as follows:

January 12, 2006	February 1, 2006
January 19, 2006	February 18, 2006 (8:00 a.m.)
January 26, 2006	February 21, 2006

All Sessions will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center unless otherwise noted.

OLD POLICE GENERATOR – The Township Committee agreed to relocate an unused generator being stored at the teen center to the Long Valley Firehouse.

FIRE PROTECTION WATER STORAGE TANKS – The Township Committee discussed whether fees were being collected for water tank inspections.

ROCK ROAD DEMOLITION – The Township Committee discussed a structure on Rock Road and whether the fire department would be able to use it for fire department training or if it should be demolished.

CLEAN-UP PROGRAM FEE INCREASE – The Township Committee agreed to have an ordinance prepared for introduction in January of 2006 that will increase various clean-up program fees.

PLANNING INCENTIVE GRANT – The Township Committee discussed the Planning Incentive Grant that the Township received and whether it would be possible to assign the grant over to a non-profit land preservation organization.

HIRING OF NEW POLICE OFFICERS – The Township Committee discussed the hiring of new police officers to replace retiring officers.

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETINGS – The Township Committee discussed changing the start time of future Township Committee Meetings to 7:00 p.m.

Attorney Jansen noted that if the governing body believes it necessary to share closed session information with a newly elected board member, it is recommended that the consent of any person who is the subject of the closed session discussion be secured first. Since there is a personnel matter on the agenda, Attorney Jansen recommended that the Township Committee obtain the consent of Chief Ehrenburg for Mr. Nedd to be in attendance during the Executive Session.

Chief Ehrenburg gave his consent for Mr. Nedd to attend the Executive Session. The members of the Township Committee were also all in agreement that he should be present.

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. upon approval of the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #R-208-05 – EXECUTIVE SESSION –
LAND ACQUISITION: SMITH PROPERTY; PEACH PROPERTY;
ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGE: FELLOWS LITIGATION;
BANISCH BILLS; POLICE CHIEF REPLACEMENT PROCEDURE;
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: INSURANCE RENEWALS;
DISPATCHING AGREEMENTS
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: DPW PROPOSAL
PERSONNEL: POLICE CHIEF

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 11:39 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.