

The Work Session Meeting of the Washington Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Tobin at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Short, Cullen, Nedd, Walsh, Mayor Tobin, Attorney Jansen, Administrator Gallets, Assistant Administrator Burd

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on January 3, 2006 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.

2006 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Mayor Tobin - stated the consensus of the Township Committee is to take more funds out of the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes with a tax rate for 2006 of 4.5%.

Mayor Tobin - stated that the Township Committee will introduce the 2006 Municipal Budget at the April 17, 2006 Regular Meeting.

RESOLUTION #64-06 - APPOINTMENT/ADJUSTMENT

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

TRAIL EASEMENT - HARRINGTON PARK - UPDATE - Comm. Short stated that he spoke with Scott French, D.P.W. Superintendent, about some improvements that might be made to Harrington Park, so we should have something resolved on that within the next month.

ORDINANCES

LAND ACQUISITION - MISSION ROAD/SPRING LANE - The Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AND PROVIDING FOR THE APPROPRIATION OF \$100,000 FROM THE "RESERVE FOR OPEN SPACE" OF THE CAPITAL ACCOUNT at the April 17, 2006 Regular Meeting.

BORGENICHT 35 ACRE TRACT - The Township Committee will consider the introduction of an ordinance entitled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE RO-34-05 ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF MORRIS, AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION BY PURCHASE OR CONDEMNATION OF A PORTION OF BLOCK 34, LOT 46 AS SHOWN ON THE OFFICIAL TAX ASSESSMENT MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON" at the April 17, 2006 Regular Meeting.

WEST MORRIS REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION - BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. John Notte, Jr. President, West Morris Regional High School District introduced Julie Clemens, Finance Chairperson, who presented budget goals for this year. Ms. Clemens gave a slide presentation on the 2006-2007 budget. The presentation included the District Mission Statement, which the educational goals come out of and is the basis for which the budget is put together. The budget is the financial plan for accomplishing the school district's educational objectives. The enrollment trends increased for West Morris Central School by 26 students and for West Morris Mendham a total of 32 students, which is a total increase of 58 students or 2.7%. The presentation included Program Improvements – Technology – Capital Outlay Plans – Capital Project Highlights – Capital Reserve Deposit – Sources of Revenue – Effect of State Aid on Property Taxes – Competitive Grants Received - SCC Grants Received. The major sources of increases are salaries, increase in staff, employee benefits and transportation. The area of per pupil cost is \$13,961.00, West Morris is 6th out of 9 similar districts. The total anticipated budget is \$44,667,923, which is an increase of 4.76% over the current year. The tax needs for the calendar year are \$31,822,723, which is an increase of 4.46%. An average home with an assessed value of \$269,000 times the tax rate of \$0.7226, the tax impact would be \$1,944.00, an increase of \$87.38 over last year.

FAIRMOUNT FIRE COMPANY - TANKER BID - Dave Sidel, Assistant Chief and the Township Committee discussed the preliminary recommendations received from Commercial Vehicle Consultants, with reference to a new Tanker Truck Bid Specs. Mayor Tobin stated that the consensus of the Township Committee is to instruct Administrator Gallets to advertise for Tanker Truck Bids.

Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the public for questions or comments on any matter.

Albert Garrido, 1 Lois Court & Nancy Drive - stated that he would like to take down 3 Red Maple trees on his property and replace them with 15 to 20 spruce trees, for privacy in the backyard around the pool. Mr. Zaikowski, Chairman of the Shade Tree Committee came to look at the trees and said he cannot cut down perfectly healthy trees. Mr. Garrido stated that Mr. Zaikowski suggested that he come before the Township Committee and make a presentation. Mr. Garrido presented pictures, showing that the roots on the 3 Red Maple trees are above the ground. Mr. Garrido stated that he has 20 Red Maple trees, which are completely around his property.

Comm. Short - questioned who planted the trees.

Albert Garrido - stated that he assumed it was the previous owner or the builder.

Attorney Jansen read a letter from Mr. Zaikowski, Chairman of the Shade Tree Commission, which stated that the 3 Red Maple trees in question should not be removed and replaced with the planting of 10 to 12 spruce trees. The Red Maple trees are in good condition, there are no dead or diseased limbs. The trees have grown to a respectable size and has enhanced the appearance along Nancy Drive. The Shade Tree Commission has a policy of not planting evergreen trees on the south side of the road, because mature evergreen trees shade sidewalks and roads, creating icy conditions in the winter.

Comm. Short - suggested that the Committee Member's each visit the property in the next couple of days, to look at the trees and the Township Committee will take action at the April 17, 2006 Regular Meeting.

Mayor Tobin closed the meeting to the public, there being no further questions of comments.

RECREATION USAGE FEES

Mike DeLacruz, 185 Old Turnpike Road - Mr. DeLacruz, President of the Long Valley Raiders Football team stated that he would like to make a statement about the Township Committee's proposal of a 20% usage fee on professionals on our fields. Mr. DeLacruz stated that he understands the reasoning behind it to help maintain the additional costs of wear and tear on the fields, but feels that the fee may be a little bit excessive. Mr. DeLacruz asked the Township Committee to reconsider the 20% usage fee and consider a 10% usage fee.

Comm. Walsh - stated that the Recreation Advisory Committee came up with a solution that, rather than charge a per child usage fee per sport, it is their recommendation that rather than charge for regular season use of the fields, that the Township Committee take 20% of everything in excess of normal field season usage.

Ms. Huber - explained to the Township Committee the activities that take place at the Musconetcong Valley Community Association camps and clinics.

Mr. Jansen - recommended getting some feedback from the Recreation Committee, as to what is an appropriate percentage. The 20% figure is not cast in stone, and it may vary depending upon the specific facts of the activity being proposed. The decision is the Township Committee's to make. A competitive contracting request for proposals should be developed for the larger camps.

Mayor Tobin - instructed Comm. Walsh to find out what the cost is that the township incurs to run the 10 week summer camp for the April 17, 2006 Regular Meeting.

FAA AIRSPACE RESOLUTION - Postponed until the April 17, 2006 Regular Meeting.

MORRIS COUNTY INTEGRATED JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM - Postponed until the April 17, 2006 Regular Meeting.

PHOTO RADAR DEVICE - The majority of the Township Committee were not in favor of this program.

TOWNSHIP ELECTRICIAN - The Township Committee agreed to amend the Salary Ordinance to increase Rich Cassini's salary to \$40.00 per hour.

FIREWORKS AGREEMENT - The Township Committee agreed to pass a resolution to authorize the execution of an agreement with Interstate Fireworks, Inc. at the April 17, 2006 Regular Meeting, for a fireworks demonstration later in the year.

SENATE BILL S1219 AMENDING OPMA - The Township Committee agreed to pass a resolution opposing Senate Bill 1219 concerning the Open Public Meetings Act at the April 17, 2006 Regular Meeting.

BOARD OF HEALTH APPOINTMENTS - The Township Committee agreed to pass a resolution appointing Ann S. Walborn, Alternate #1 Member and Mariellen Hess-Christian, Alternate #2 Member at the April 17, 2006 Regular Meeting.

SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT - The Township Committee agreed to pass a resolution appointing Mayor Tobin liaison to a Shared Services Workgroup, made up of several Warren County Municipalities and Washington Township, at the April 17, 2006 Regular Meeting.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES/LITIGATION - TOTTEN - The Township Committee will consider a resolution authorizing the award of a professional services contract – Legal Services – Christine M. Vanek, Scarinci & Hollenbeck, LLC, at the April 17, 2006 Regular Meeting.

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 10:25 p.m. upon approval of the following resolution:

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL: SALARY & WAGE
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
WORKS; POLICE
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: DISPATCHING**

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: None

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 11:09 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Diane S. Gallets, Clerk