

The Work Session of the Washington Township Committee was called to order by Mayor Tobin at 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Popper, Short, Walsh, Nedd, Mayor Tobin, Attorney Jansen, Administrator/Clerk 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 8, 2007 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.

PROCLAMATIONS – Mayor Tobin recognized Luke Hoskin and Keith Heimberg for their outstanding service in the volunteer fire department. Both men were honored and thanked for their contributions to our Township by the Mayor, the Township Committee and the employees and residents of the Township for their years of dedicated service.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD GRANT PRESENTATION – COMMUNITY HOPE – Mike Armstrong, Executive Director, made a presentation to the Township Committee regarding a grant applications to be made to the County for improvements to 10 Trafalgar Court in Hastings Square.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Comm. Walsh made a presentation to the Township Committee regarding the purpose of the Economic Development Committee, which is to bring positive commercial ratables to Washington Township. A meeting is scheduled for early February 2008.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the Public.

TM GROUP– Karen Ermel, Attorney for TM Group and Ted Maglione, President of TM Group approached the Township Committee regarding the release of the performance bonds for the Hilltop Meadows project. There are a few outstanding items including the planting of specialty grasses and flowers in the retention basin. Dr. Keller has not yet given his final approval of the plantings. Comm. Walsh and Administrator Gallets will contact Dr. Keller and Municipal Engineer Leon Hall to ascertain whether the performance bond can be released.

RECREATION COMMITTEE ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE REGULAR MEETING – Cameron Esemplare, Recreations Committee Chairperson, advised the Committee that several topics will be addressed at the Regular Meeting on Monday, including the following:

- *Parking Issues
- *Bathrooms at Palmer Park
- *Concession Stands at Rock Spring Park
- *Online registration software
- *Handicapped parking/bathroom

There being no further comments or questions, Mayor Tobin closed the public portion.

DISCUSSION

CAPITAL PRESENTATION – WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT – Bob Carey, Chief of the Schooley's Mountain Fire Protection Association, stated that a five year overview will be presented as well as the recommendation to purchase one piece of apparatus; a new commercial chassis, four wheel drive pumper. Keith Heimburg, member of the Schooley's Mountain Fire Protection Association, stated that two pieces of apparatus will be replaced with the new pumper, a very cost effective solution to current budget constraints. He further outlined the rolling five year plan originally presented to the Township Committee in October 2006. Kurt Wanner, Chief of the Washington Township Fire Department described the safety benefits and added capabilities of the proposed new truck. Mr. Wanner also outlined the capitalization needed for the purchase. Scott Frech, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works (DPW), advised the Township Committee that the DPW Department would be able to properly maintain the vehicle.

SENIOR CITIZEN BUSSING – CHESTER BOROUGH – Administrator Gallets stated that the shared service of Senior Citizen bussing with Chester Borough will remain unchanged other than a light markup in the percent of costs incurred based on the number of passengers, at this time. Chester Borough is negotiating with their Board of Education in regard to replacing our Senior Citizen bussing service.

SCHEDULE INTERVIEWS – BOARD AND COMMITTEES - Comm. Walsh and Comm. Popper will conduct interviews at 6:30p.m. and 7:00p.m. before the Regular Meeting on January 21, 2008.

DIGITAL SIGN – LIBRARY – **Comm. Nedd** stated that the Library Board of Directors would like to erect a digital sign at the entrance of Rock Spring Park to advertise current events. **Comm. Nedd** stated that the Directors' written request asks for the Township Committee's authorization for the investment, in accordance with an existing Municipal Ordinance. **Fred Jordan, Building Department/Code Enforcement Official**, was consulted and he stated that the Township sign ordinance prohibits any flashing or moving signs. **Attorney Jansen** stated that it appears to be permissible if it is not moving or constantly changing, and the ordinance could be amended if the Committee is so inclined. **Comm. Nedd** will ask the Library Board to provide more detailed information regarding how the sign would be operated and used. The Planning Board will be sending comments back on the proposed sign ordinance for the Township's consideration. The Committee will further discuss the sign at a future date.

RETIREMENT PROTOCOL - **Administrator Gallets** stated that four individuals are retiring this year from longstanding Township employment. In the past, such retirees have been given a watch, and police officer retirees have been given their service weapon. As these are substantial purchases, it was brought before the Township Committee to decide whether this practice should continue given current budget constraints. The Township Committee unanimously agreed that longstanding employees deserve such recognition and the practice will continue. The funds utilized are from Committee Projects.

DPW/RECREATION REORGANIZATION – **Comm. Walsh** stated that changes of roles and responsibilities need to be managed correctly, especially in light of the resignation of **Eleanora Murfitt, Parks/Recreations Director** and **Don Babb, Building and Grounds employee**. He stated that over the past ten years, numerous parks and fields have been added in the Township, many festivals have been held and there is a growing participation in "First Night Out." Township buildings are well maintained, snow removal is efficient, and all is accomplished by the DPW crew. **Comm. Walsh** stated that millions of taxpayer dollars have been invested to these facilities, and that it is imperative that the Township efficiently continue to manage our substantial investment in all that has been established. The Buildings and Grounds crew is essential in reaching these goals, and without the investment in maintenance, the cost to redo (as might be the case in outsourcing) would be substantially greater if it lapses. **Comm. Walsh** stated that he believes there are three options: replace both positions, replace one of the positions, or replace none of the positions.

Comm. Walsh has volunteered to oversee the three Parks/Recreations employees, with the aid of **Debbie Burd, Assistant Administrator**. **Scott Frech, DPW Superintendent** and **Roger Reed, DPW Assistant Superintendent** will oversee the Building and Grounds crew in order to maintain the level of excellent programs and care we have been experiencing. **Comm. Walsh** stated that this plan would include the hiring of one laborer, and be set as a trial for first quarter 2008, with established benchmarks and documentation of progress.

Come concerns were raised regarding the extent of **Comm. Walsh's** involvement, but the Township Committee agreed to most of his proposal with continuous review of the progression of the operation in meeting established benchmarks. The Township Attorney and Labor Counsel will discuss how to proceed.

PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT – The Township of Washington received a letter from **Margaret Nordstrom, Freeholder Director** informing it that the County is eligible to participate in a Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program from the State of New Jersey, Office of Emergency Management. The County needs the Township's cooperation in order to develop a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan that covers all jurisdictions in Morris County. This award helps the County prepare for all hazards and to ensure federal funding will be available from FEMA should it be necessary. **Mayor Tobin** would like to investigate what the fiscal and time costs will be in participating in this program. It will be revisited at a future date.

RESOLUTION PUBLICATION – **Comm. Popper** inquired whether there is a legal requirement to publish entire professional service resolutions, or just the titles as other townships do, to save money on publication expenses. **Attorney Jansen** stated that a brief notice stating the nature, duration, service and amount of the contract must be published, however there is no legal requirement to publish the entire resolution.

LILLIS PROPERTY – **Comm. Walsh** stated that the Township has closed on the Lillis property.

OPRA MEETING - **Bob Kelly, Debbie Burd and Comm. Walsh** will be gathering tomorrow to follow up on the OPRA meeting to further discuss shared service opportunities.

EMPLOYEE MEETING – **Comm. Walsh**, as Administrative Liaison, has set a meeting on January 23, 2008 to meet with Department Heads and employees to listen to concerns and convey expectations.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES - **Comm. Walsh, Debbie Burd, and Cris Cooke-Gibbs, Health Officer** will be attending a local officials meeting presented by the NJDEP in conjunction with a few municipalities to discuss grant opportunities.

NEW IDEA AWARDS PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS – **Comm. Nedd** inquired as to whether it might be feasible to advertise on the Township’s website a solicitation for residents to submit ideas which the Township could review. If the Township adopted and implemented the idea, the resident could be rewarded with some percentage of the annual savings afforded the town. **Comm. Popper** stated that it might be worthwhile to contact Parsippany, which is working on a similar idea and noted that he has already consulted the County to see what direction they are taking. **Attorney Jansen** advised that there is authority to establish employee rewards programs, but he has never seen that concept extended to the general public.

TM GROUP – **Administrator Gallets** stated that she has only heard back from the Safety consultant, but Leon Hall, Township Engineer is not in receipt of a letter from Soil Conservation. She further stated that the Township is not in receipt of the Mylar copies of all the drawings since last November. Inspection fees have not been paid, and a letter had to be sent to DPW for the upcoming year for Township assumption of snowplowing services starting in Fall 2008. **Mr. Maglione** needs to attend to getting these documents in order before Administrator Gallets can proceed. Administrator Gallets will speak to Mr. Hall tomorrow and talk to Dr. Keller again.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Tobin opened the meeting to the Public. There being no comments or questions, Mayor Tobin closed the hearing to the public.

**RESOLUTION #R-26-08 -EXECUTIVE SESSION – CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: CALIFON POLICING
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: DPW UNION**

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

The Township Committee came out of Executive Session at 10:35 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk