

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Tobin at 7:45 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Popper, Short, Nedd, Mayor Tobin, Attorney Jansen, Administrator/Clerk Gallets, Senior Deputy Clerk/Recording Secretary Madden

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comm. Walsh (**arrived at 8:00P.M.**)

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on January 8, 2008 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATION – Mayor Tobin, on behalf of the Washington Township Committee, read into the record a Proclamation entitled, “Radon Action Month.”

QUILT PRESENTATION – The Washington Township Service Unit of the Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey made a quilt presentation to the Township Committee.

EAGLE SCOUT AWARDS – Mayor Tobin and the Washington Township Committee, presented plaques to Scout **Ian Carter Forrester**, **Eric Draghi** (absent), and **Craig Draghi** in recognition of their achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout.

PUBLIC HEARING – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION – SENIOR CENTER – A public hearing was held by the Township Committee on an application by Washington Township for a \$24,400 Community Development grant for the Senior Center. These funds are to be used for Senior Center building improvements. The Committee agreed that the application for the grant will be submitted.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

***Ordinances #RO-1-08, #RO-2-08 and #RO-3-08 which were scheduled for introduction this evening were removed from the agenda.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Tobin again opened the meeting to the public.

RECREATION - Cameron Esemplare, Recreations Committee Chairperson, made a presentation to the Committee regarding several topics:

Parking – Police patrols were requested for Palmer Park and Harrington Park. **Police Chief Bailey** will address the situation with the Recreation Department. Signs will be posted. Chief Bailey will provide Palmer Park plans to **Administrator Gallets**. Chief Bailey will contact the Department of Transportation (DOT) to address signage for Harrington Park as well. Ordinances will be introduced in February 2008 that address this issue. **Mayor Tobin** stated that Administrator Gallets, Municipal Engineer Leon Hall and Attorney Jansen will work on an ordinance to get this parking legislation underway.

Attorney Jansen stated that it is important to remember that recommendations must be obtained from the Department of Transportation, and that the municipality must adopt ordinances before the signs may be erected. Chief Bailey will work with Administrator Gallets, Mr. Hall and Attorney Jansen to draft an ordinance to address the parking situation.

Handicapped Parking/Bathrooms and Access – Compliance with such standards must be met, such as posted signs, parking, and handicapped bathroom accessibility. Administrator Gallets, Mr. Hall and Mr. Frech will work to ensure compliance with handicapped access requirements in all parks.

Concession Stand – Rock Spring Park – A Committee has been set up to address this issue. The Municipal budget does not allow for current funding, however, the planning process will go forward so that in the upcoming year, the concession stand may be revisited. Concession stands may be funded by the sports groups that benefit from their use. A meeting will be arranged with the football groups to further discuss the concession stand.

Bathrooms – Palmer Park – A pavilion type structure was recommended to provide residents with bathrooms, storage for sport groups and protection from inclement weather. The current well system was discussed with intentions to upgrade the system per DPW Superintendent Scott Fresh.

On Line Registration - The software annual licensing charge (tied to credit card processing) is currently not able to be managed in the current budget. Comm. Nedd, Comm. Walsh and Administrator Gallets will further investigate the possibility of online registration software usage.

Ms. Esemplare inquired as to the way the Recreations Department was financed through the Municipality. Ms. Esemplare inquired whether the funds generated and/or raised for sports/recreation will be the seed money for the following year's events; as in a self sustaining method of financial responsibility.

Ms. Esemplare also questioned the site location of last year's summer camp, which resulted in the camp program's loss of money, and loss of membership in non third party camps. The Township Committee explained that asbestos mitigation at a school precluded the camp from being held in its normal location. This problem should not recur. Ms. Esemplare was interested in the accounting of the Washington Township camps, both third-party and township run. **Comm. Nedd** stated that he will work with Comm. Walsh to come up with an accounting method for the camps revenues and expenses.

Ms. Esemplare finally stated that to ensure the safety of players, the fields must continue to be maintained properly. The DPW budget meeting will be held this Wednesday and Mayor Tobin encouraged members of the Recreation Committee to attend.

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

T&M LAND – HILLTOP MEADOWS – **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. **Administrator Gallets** provided a checklist from Township Engineer Leon Hall regarding the basin planting, listing the following issues that still need to be addressed:

1. There is a limited time frame for planting.
2. The sprinkler system heads are too close to the street and may be damaged during plowing.

The Committee stated that if the sprinkler system is in the right of way, the homeowner, who installed the system, needs to be contacted to alter the location of the system. Mr. Maglione stated that he discussed the situation with the homeowner who agreed to move the sprinkler system. Municipal Engineer Leon Hall needs to be consulted regarding the situation.

3. Ordinance dictates that the DPW must be notified prior to November 1 of the year you intend to be placed on maintenance.

No such letter exists and plowing will not be assumed by the Township as notice was not received on a timely basis.

4. At least \$5,000 in inspection fees must be placed in Engineering Trust to cover inspections. Ms. Ermel advised that a letter authorizing the transfer of the appropriate funds will be provided tomorrow morning to cover these fees.

Dr. Jeffrey Keller, in a letter dated January 15, 2008 stated that issues are still outstanding and recommended a \$20,000 cash bond be posted for work to be completed in 2008. **Attorney Jansen** stated that if the Township Committee would like to allow the performance bond to be released and accept a cash guarantee, it is able to do so.

The Township Committee will need to have the experts meet and agree so that the action can be taken to release the bonds based on an agreed upon number. Homeowners are currently not responsible to maintain the basins according to existing easements. The issue will be further investigated with the appropriate parties.

***ACCEPT RESIGNATIONS**

That the following resignations be accepted:

Jean Marie DuHamel – Police Matron, Washington Township Police Department, retroactive to November 16, 2007
Eleanora Murfitt-Hermann – Director, Recreation and Parks/Buildings and Grounds, effective January 4, 2008
Donald Babb – Senior Truck Driver, Department of Public Works, effective April 1, 2008
Brian Eitner – Police Officer, effective January 18, 2008

***RAFFLE APPLICATIONS**

Applications have been received for the following raffles:

Soroptimist International of Hackettstown	Fifty-Fifty	03/08/2008
Soroptimist International of Hackettstown	Tricky Tray	03/08/2008
Allamuchy Elementary School PTO	Fifty-Fifty	03/28/2008
Allamuchy Elementary School PTO	Tricky Tray	03/28/2008
West Morris Central High School PTTO, Inc.	Fifty-Fifty	03/08/2008
Tewksbury Township PTA	Fifty-Fifty	02/08/2008
Tewksbury Township PTA	Tricky Tray	02/08/2008
Our Lady of the Mountain Church	Draw Raffle	06/15/2008

That the foregoing raffle applications be approved, subject to the Mayor signing the Findings and Determination Forms.

***AUTHORIZE SPECIAL ABC PERMIT – WEST MORRIS CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL PTO**

An application has been received from the West Morris Central High School PTTO for permission to dispense alcoholic beverages at a social affair to be held on March 8, 2008 from 6:30 P.M. to midnight at St. Mark's Parish, Spring Lane, Long Valley, New Jersey. Noted that the Chief of Police has signed the permit application.

That the foregoing special permit for a social affair be approved and the Clerk be authorized to sign the permit application and forward it to the applicant for submission to Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

***AUTHORIZE SPECIAL ABC PERMIT – WEST MORRIS CENTRAL ICE HOCKEY BOOSTER CLUB, INC.**

An application has been received from the West Morris Central Ice Hockey Booster Club, Inc. for permission to dispense alcoholic beverages at a social affair to be held on February 23, 2008 from 7:30 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. at Our Lady of the Mountain Church, 10 East Springtown Road, Long Valley, New Jersey. Noted that the Chief of Police has signed the permit application.

That the foregoing special permit for a social affair be approved and the Clerk be authorized to sign the permit application and forward it to the applicant for submission to Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

***APPROVE MINUTES**

December 12, 2007 Work Session
December 17, 2007 Regular Meeting

That the foregoing minutes be approved.

***PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS**

That the vouchers be approved and that the Treasurer shall issue warrants in payment when there are sufficient funds to meet them. The bill list is on file in the finance office.

***MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

That the following monthly department reports be accepted and placed on file in the Township Clerk's office:

Washington Township Board of Health, Washington Township Municipal Court,
Washington Township Police Department, Washington Township Tax Collector

Mayor Tobin asked the members of the Township Committee and the public if they would like any item(s) to be removed from the consent agenda. There was no response.

All items preceded by a (*) were approved as part of the consent agenda on a motion made by Comm. Short, seconded by Comm. Walsh on the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

PRE-DISASTER 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. Participation does not involve any cost to the municipalities. The Township Committee has been asked to authorize the Township's participation in this program which will help the County prepare for all hazards and ensure that federal funding will be available from FEMA should it be necessary.

Motion was made by Comm. Short, seconded by Comm. Nedd that a statement of intent be signed by Mayor Tobin. Motion was carried by the following roll call vote:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

PUBLIC PORTION

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

WELLNESS CAMPAIGN – **Comm. Walsh** stated that the owners of Snowbird Farm asked for a Highland exemption for their cell tower. They are seeking a letter from the Township stating that cellular service on top of Schooley's Mountain would enhance resident safety. This letter would provide support in their meeting with the DEP next week and they will be presenting their case to the Highlands Exemption Committee. **Attorney Jansen** warned the Committee about expressing a position on a matter that may come before the Board of Adjustment. Attorney Jansen stated that the better choice may be to remain silent. The Police Department or Fire Department may be the better entities to advocate for the cell tower. This item will remain on the work agenda for February.

OPEN SPACE – **Comm. Walsh** would like the Committee to consider slowing down open space preservation acquisitions. He suggested the further development of the acres that are already in ownership.

The Township Committee went into Executive Session at 10:55 P.M. upon approval of the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION #R-31-08 - EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL: CONSTRUCTION OFFICIAL;
DPW REORGANIZATION
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING: DPW
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS: DISPATCHING
CHESTER BOROUGH & CHESTER TOWNSHIP**

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 11:30 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 P.M.

Dianne S. Gallets, Clerk