

The Work Session of the Township Committee of the Township of Washington was called to order by Mayor Short at 7:40 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comm. Popper, Harmon, Roehrich, LiaBraaten, Mayor Short, Attorney Jansen, Administrator/Clerk Gallets, Senior Deputy Clerk Madden

MEMBERS ABSENT: Assistant Administrator Burd

Adequate notice of this meeting was sent to the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record on January 9, 2009 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- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Short opened the meeting to the public.

Jeff Koch, 9 Beaver Brook Drive, read a statement into the record about the oil spill at Sherwood Park, the resulting clean-up that needs to be done on his property and at the trailer park, as well as the future enforcement of ordinances. Mr. Koch appreciates the Township's efforts, although he feels that it is too little too late. He advised the Township one year ago of the issues at Sherwood Park and he feels that they should have been addressed at that time. Mr. Koch referred to Ordinance 53-3 and stated that illegal debris should be removed from the property in a timely manner. He is concerned about a drainage pipe located on his property that drains off from Sherwood Park. Mr. Koch also has concern about his property's value. Mr. Koch mentioned junk cars and other debris in the woods next to his property which were supposed to be removed in 1994. He has advised The Morris County Soil Conservation District.

Frank Mileto, 14 Beaver Brook Drive, stated that his property is also adjacent to the trailer park. Mr. Mileto stated that code provisions must be strictly enforced. He further stated that the commercial use within the trailer park property in a residential zone was due to the complacency of Long Valley officials, and that the oil spill could have been prevented if codes were enforced long ago. Mr. Mileto feels that the current managers of Sherwood Park need to be forced to comply.

Mayor Short responded that the Township Committee will review the matter and the site will be cleaned up.

Comm. Popper stated that the situation has not yet improved and will be addressed. He applauded the attendees to the public meeting for bringing the situation to light.

Comm. Harmon stated that officials will visit the site as the winter snow dissipates.

Comm. LiaBraaten said there will be diligence in following up on the situation.

Mayor Short stated that the Township is moving forward and dealing with the situation.

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

ORDINANCE

HAZMAT ORDINANCE – The Township Committee asked Attorney Jansen to review the HAZMAT ordinance and compare it with the Readington Township ordinance to ascertain whether changes are needed. **Attorney Jansen** explained the differences between the two ordinances at length and posed some questions and suggestions for changes. **Comm. Popper** will contact fire officials for their input before changes are initiated.

The HAZMAT ordinance will be further discussed in April.

RIDGELINE RELIEF – 7 JORDAN COURT – **Mayor Short** made a recommendation to the Committee to have the property owner get a metes and bounds description prepared so that the conservation easement can be modified. A new Deed of Easement will be required. All costs will be Mr. Egizi's responsibility. An ordinance is needed to vacate the existing conservation easement and accept a new conservation easement after the new survey and description is received. Municipal Engineer Leon Hall will be consulted. The Township Committee approved the adjustment to the conservation easement in principle.

“PAY-TO-PLAY” REFORM – **Harlin Parker, 525 Naught Road** and **Tom Wicha, Parsippany**, represent an organization named Citizen’s Campaign. The ordinance was passed in Parsippany last year and is in effect in Morristown. Key provisions have to do with imposing limits on contributions from professionals in the year prior to negotiation of their contracts; banning all political contributions from contractors from the beginning of negotiations to the performance of their contracts; limiting local contributions to \$300, County contributions to \$500, and \$2,500 from professionals in the aggregate. There are ramifications if these limits are exceeded. The \$200 cost to write the ordinance could be raised privately so as not to be a taxpayer burden. **Comm. Popper** stated that he is in favor of a zero contribution level. **Comm. Harmon** is concerned about language which makes it difficult to implement. The Committee will consider “Pay-to-Play Reform” later in the year. The offer to pay for the ordinance was deemed improper and rejected.

INTEREST ARBITRATION REFORM – RESOLUTION – The Township Committee will consider a resolution regarding interest arbitration reform at the Regular Meeting on Monday.

FLEA MARKET – AD HOC COMMITTEE – CANDIDATE UPDATE – **Mayor Short** stated that we should republish the request for people to volunteer to serve on the Ad-Hoc Committee to consider a Flea Market within the Township. It was discussed that the volunteers solicited should be open-minded and that the group should engage in fact-finding only.

MUNICIPAL PROSECUTOR CANDIDATES – INTERVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS – The Township Committee will conduct interviews of four candidates on Monday evening at 6:00 P.M.

NARROW BAND RADIOS – **Comm. Popper** stated that the Township needs to comply with a Federal mandate to convert the Township’s radios to narrow band. A meeting was held to consider the coordination of our narrow banding efforts and to convert the entire town to narrow band radios by 2013. **Comm. Popper** stated that the effort will cost approximately \$102,000, but he is uncertain how the cost will be covered at this time (i.e., grants) and that the Township’s technical people will handle the conversion. **Mayor Short** stated that the Township should wait until 2012 to address the issue to avoid the expiration of warranties and take advantage of any grants or extensions.

OFFICE RESEARCH ZONE REQUEST – The Planning Board reviewed the request from Kevin Dorlin for additional permitted uses in the Office Research Zone. The Planning Board recommended against making the change.

RECREATION COMMISSION PRESENTATION – **Mayor Short** stated that a request was made for Community Development funding for ADA accessible bathrooms at Rock Spring Park which would cost \$80,000.

BLACK OAK GOLF COURSE – **Mayor Short** stated that a temporary CO was issued subject to many conditions that will allow them to open with 9 holes in June 2010. Sanitary sewage issues have held up the opening of the golf course. The MUA is on board with hooking the course up to municipal sanitary sewage lines. A resolution supporting hooking up the golf course to the sewer line will be considered at the Regular Meeting.

WATER PRESSURE - **Comm. Harmon** stated that some credible headway on water pressure issues is being made up on the mountain.

\$200,000 CAPITAL APPROPRIATION TO RESERVE – **Administrator Gallets** stated that she has found around \$200,000 that has been appropriated but not funded. This amount can be cancelled to pay debt. A resolution will be considered at the Monday meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 P.M.

Dianne S. Gallets, Township Clerk