

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

5:30 PM Closed Session 7:00 PM Regular Meeting

December 19, 2016

The closed session meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM; all Committee members were present. Resolution 12-19-16 was adopted to go into closed session to discuss the Ikea Drive/Camuto update, administration staffing, court room sound system improvements, retirement of a firefighter and contracts.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Mayor Daniels. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times on December 8, 2016. The flag was saluted. There was a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Committeewoman Chang	Present
Committeeman Lopez	Present
Committeewoman Smith-Hartman	Present
Committeewoman Teleisa	Present
Mayor Daniels	Present

Al Marmero, Solicitor, was present.

Maria Carrington, Administrator and Marion Karp, Clerk were both present.

Approve 12/19/16 Agenda – motion to approve made by Ms. Chang; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Closed Session Minutes of 12/5/16 – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Regular Meeting Minutes of 12/5/16 – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Scheduled Appointments

Resolution #132-16 Hire Police Officer Anthony Schallus – all voted yes; Ms. Chang voted no. She isn't opposed to the new officer but doesn't think our force is diverse enough so she has to vote no.

7 PM – Mayor Daniels swore in new Police Officer Anthony Schallus.

A five minute break was taken. The meeting was called back to order at 7:19 PM.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Vernita Jones – asked about Resolution #127-16 (fire truck repairs) and Resolution #128-16 (transfer of Appropriation Funds). She asked where the funds to repair the fire truck will come from. \$10,000 will come from this year's budget and the other \$10,000 will come from next year's budget according to Administrator Carrington. She asked if these were necessary repairs. They are needed repairs as explained by Mayor Daniels.

Janet Curran – asked about the Municipal Park Development Program grant. She wanted to know what improvements are needed at the Sports Complex. We need so many other things, why are we spending money on the Sports Complex. Administrator Carrington explained that the baseball fields need netting installed for liability purposes. The remainder of the money will go to the Deacon Farm if we are successful in securing the grant. Ms. Curran wanted to know if the Sports Complex was making money. Mayor Daniels explained that the Township recreation programs fund themselves and that this isn't a repair, it is a capital improvement. Many Burlington County children and adults use these fields according to Ms. Carrington so this is an appropriate use for the funds. Ms. Curran stated that she didn't think it was proper for Ms. Chang to have said what she said at the meeting tonight about the police officer. She also wanted to know why we were having the reorganization meeting at 5 PM; lots of people will be at work and won't be able to attend.

New Business

EMS Report – no further comments made.

Police Report – no further comments made.

Public Works Report – Mike Meenan didn't include the mileage report; he would have it included in the next report. Mayor Daniels thanked him for everything; he knows he just had surgery last week and appreciates him attending tonight's meeting.

Resolutions

116-16 Verizon Wireless – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Teleisa had requested checking to see if the coverage limits could be increased to \$1,000,000 from \$500,000; Verizon agreed to do so. All voted yes. Mr. Lopez commented that he was concerned at first about Verizon making this request; little did he know that there are some residents in the township that have no access to the internet; therefore he is supporting the motion.

125-16 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Chang. All voted yes.

126-16 Approve Retirement Package for a Firefighter/EMT – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

127-16 Authorize Repairs to Engine 2723 – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Teleisa commented that the insurance company will be paying about \$50,000 in damages due to the accident; she thinks these repairs are cosmetic and not necessary (the repainting/reupholstering). It won't affect the operation of the truck at all. Mr. Lopez asked Fire Chief Craig Farnsworth to speak on this to justify the expense. Craig explained that the truck has corrosion damage from salt that needs repair; handles are falling off the truck. They thought it prudent to get these issues fixed while the truck is being repaired from the accident and out of service anyway. The seats are completely destroyed, there are holes in them, the padding is completely exposed. Their equipment is getting stuck on the upholstery. There are legitimate reasons to have these repairs done. It will add another 10-15 years of life to the truck which is in good shape mechanically, at least at this point. Mayor Daniels thinks the repairs are fair and reasonable. Mr. Lopez, Ms. Smith-Hartman and Mayor Daniels voted yes; Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no.

128-16 Transfer of Appropriation Funds – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

129-16 Refund Taxes, 100% Disabled Veteran, Block 1001.08, Lot 3 – motion to approve made by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

130-16 Burlington County Municipal Park Development Program – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Chang asked what the exact amount was that was spent to preserve the Deacon Farm. Mr. Lopez believes that we started with \$450,000 and used last year's grant in totality for that. We still owe \$179,000 on this and if we secure the grant it would be used to pay this off. All voted yes.

131-16 Authorize Purchase of Sound System – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Teleisa wanted to clarify that this amount was already bonded for this year; Administrator Carrington confirmed that \$15,000 has been bonded for; the money is already there. Mr. Lopez has heard from many residents that there are problems hearing in the court room; this upgrade will install a permanent camera and microphones dedicated to each Committee person and each professional as well as a microphone for members of the public. All voted yes.

Correspondence

Westampton Tax Assessor – Compliance Plan for Westampton Courts Condos.

Dates to Remember

1/2/2017 – Westampton Township Reorganization Meeting 5:00 PM (note new time)
1/28/2017 – NJLM, Training for Elected Officials – Mount Laurel, NJ
3/20/2017 – Elected Officials Liability Seminar – Eastampton, NJ
Santa Run – Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights (6:30 to 9 PM) this week, rescheduled due to the weather this past weekend

1/9/17 – Cinnaminson/RV Wrestling match in honor of Sean Cullen, Cinnaminson High School Gym, 6 PM

Open to Public Comment

Vernita Jones – asked how old the fire truck was, it is a 2006 model. The standard warranty on a fire engine is two years according to Craig. She asked if corrosion was a common thing to happen to firetrucks, he stated that it was. She asked if repairs of this kind are budgeted each year; he stated that they usually are not. She thinks this should be put into the budget.

Comments from Department Heads and Professionals

Police Chief Joe Otto – thanked the Committee and the Administrator for their support in hiring the new officer, Happy Holidays to all.

Fire Chief Craig Farnsworth – Happy Holidays, he appreciates Ms. Chang's run on the Committee and what she has done for the Township

Emergency Management Coordinator Daryl Caulfield – stay prepared, we've had a small taste of winter this year. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year to all, he wishes Ms. Chang well.

Public Works Supervisor Mike Meenan – thanked Ms. Chang for her support of Public Works; after the reorganization meeting they will be fixing the lobby and the courtroom ceiling. Happy Holidays

Solicitor Al Marmero – Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas

Administrator Maria Carrington – thanks to Ms. Chang, Happy Holidays

Clerk Marion Karp – Happy Holidays, Carolyn enjoy your Monday nights off

Mayor Daniels – thanks to Carolyn Chang, she served as Mayor from 2013 through 2015. He thanked her for her years of service to Westampton Township. He presented her with a plaque commemorating her years of service on the Township Committee, which was from 2011 to 2016.

Ms. Chang – was first selected in 2010 to serve on this governing body. Westampton Township is truly a great place to live, work and play. She is proud of this diverse and vibrant community. She has been given a tremendous amount of opportunities in this country and she is grateful for that. The residents here are truly good people who care about their neighbors. She is especially proud of Project Freedom. She is also very proud of the Sports Complex and opportunities it offers young athletes as well as being extremely proud of the work that went on at Timbuctoo. She believes that Virtua will be

a wonderful addition to the Township if planned correctly. She wishes the current and new Committee joy in serving their community.

Ms. Smith Hartman – it has been a good year overall. She wishes Carolyn well, Happy Holidays to all.

Ms. Teleisa – wants to extend a heartfelt thank you to Carolyn both as an elected official and as a resident. She brought her knowledge, expertise and caring to the Committee. She has done her best to serve and protect the town and its people; it was challenging at times but she never gave up. She loves this town and takes pride in it. She commends Carolyn for her commitment, thanks for the pleasure and privilege of working with her. She knows Carolyn will do great things. Happy Holidays to everyone; see you next year.

Mr. Lopez – has learned something from Carolyn and it is that she is dedicated to the community. They have disagreed in many areas, and very passionately sometimes but you can never say she hasn't been consistent. He thinks it is something all should embrace. He is sure we will see her in the future and congratulations on her future endeavors. Congratulations to Committeeman-elect John Wisniewski; he is showing a true commitment to the community and working with the rest of the Committee. Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanzaa to those that celebrate.

Mayor Daniels – congratulations to new officer Schallus; he is a fine addition to the department. He and Carolyn have had their disagreements over the years but he likes to think they have come out better in the end. He thanked her for her service to Westampton Township. This year has been a tumultuous year; having lost both a trooper and an officer this year. He is always indebted to all the Township employees and thanks them all for the opportunity of being their Mayor this year. He is also proud of the Project Freedom development; Westampton was given the Freedom Bell award this year. He thanked Mr. John Anderson for all his work on the Rancocas Creek National Waterway; young residents Kelsi Worrell and Caitlin Detreville; the ribbon cutting on the new Camuto warehouse; there was so much this year that makes him proud of Westampton as a community. He thanked all for their support. He thanked John Wisniewski for running for office and answering the call; he looks forward to future work with him. Diversity is our strength here in Westampton Township; he looks forward to seeing everyone in 2017. Happy Holidays to all; he looks forward to great things happening in 2017.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp
Municipal Clerk