

## WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

April 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Mayor Daniels with all Committee members present. Tonight the State Department of Health had a public hearing on the proposed Virtua Hospital coming to Westampton Township, the meeting is starting a bit late due to the Committee members attending.

Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times January 5, 2017. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence. On this date 49 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King gave his last speech before he was assassinated.

### Roll Call:

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

Al Marmero, Solicitor, was present.

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

Approve 4/3/17 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Minutes of the 3/20/2017 meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes. Minutes of the 3/20/2017 Closed session meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

### **Scheduled Appointments**

None

### **Public Comments on agenda items**

No comments made.

### **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

Mayor Daniels spoke about the postponed Virtua public hearing meeting. A provisional application has been granted that essentially shifts operations from Mt. Holly to Westampton. He feels that the hospital will create an identity/center for Westampton Township, which is one of the goals in our Vision statement. Economic development is certainly an important goal for the Township.

Ms. Smith-Hartman – one of the people from the state used to live in town; he understands that one of the resident's biggest concerns is traffic.

Mr. Lopez – attended the hearing to listen to concerns of the residents and neighbors. He will work closely with Virtua; he would like to host community meetings with residents. It is beneficial to both the Township and to the residents. There were some pros and some cons expressed this evening. Virtua is interested in being a good partner; he did hear this from them tonight.

## **Resolutions**

63-17 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

64-17 In Support of the Distracted Driving Crackdown – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes. Mr. Lopez knows some residents may get upset for getting pulled over but just yesterday he learned of someone who was killed in an accident. This is a very important initiative; they are taking this seriously.

65-17 Cancel Taxes, Block 604, Lot 16 – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes. Mr. Lopez commented that he wants to be sure that we have a concrete plan for this property. Administrator Maria Carrington said that the building is in pretty bad disrepair, she wants to discuss this with the committee.

66-17 Cancel Taxes, Exempt Properties – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes. Ms. Teleisa asked if these are new purchases of property. Maria isn't sure when they were purchased but they are new exemptions and they won't affect this year's budget. Mr. Lopez stated that although the disabled veterans certainly do deserve this exemption, there is a movement going on and if it passes, it may add to the large pool of veterans receiving this exemption. He wondered if there were any programs are we missing out on for being so close to a military base; we have many military families that reside here in Westampton. Nancy Burkley is looking into this; she has been doing research and Maria would reach out to her to see what she has found. Mayor Daniels thinks it is high time that the NJ legislature stands up and moves in the

best interests for veterans. Ms. Teleisa wants to make sure all the documentation is in order; Mayor Daniels stated that our tax assessor makes sure that it is.

67-17 Refund Taxes, Block 203.01, Lot 41 – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

68-17 Appoint Alternate JIF FUND Commissioner – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

69-17 Authorize Access to Township Property – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

70-17 Award Contract for Woodlane Road sidewalk improvements – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. The amount of the bid had been reduced from \$201,125.00 to \$181,437.50 due to a tabulation error. All voted yes.

71-17 2017 Municipal Budget Notice - motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes. Mayor Daniels thanked all his colleagues for their hard work and Maria, the administrator, for doing the lion's share of work with this budget. He thanked all the department heads and employees; they work hard with the budget in mind while advancing services. There is no increase in the tax rate this year, as it will remain at \$.563 per \$100 of assessed value. The total budget for 2017 is \$10,857,212, an increase of \$99,664.00 over last year's budget. Mr. Lopez stated that this is the second year of no municipal tax increase; they tried to be innovative and to put their differences aside. We are sending a loud message about what the Committee's priorities are. He thanked the administrative employees; we have a great workforce. Negotiations took several months; they were able to save a lot of money. There were no layoffs; yet there was the creation of a new line item and a new position. Mr. Wisniewski stated that we are making a \$38,000 bond payment this year that wasn't due yet; we got ahead of the ball on this. Regarding the SAFER grant, we need to do strategic thinking and planning and looking at the long term picture. We are ahead of the curve and are thinking this way, this committee. Maria offered copies of the condensed budget if anyone wanted one.

72-17 Award Contract for Holly Lane (Phase III) – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

### **Ordinances**

None

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Dates to Remember**

4/3/17 – Virtua Hospital, Public Hearing, State Health Planning Board, Hilton Garden Inn, Westampton, 6 – 7 PM (rescheduled)

4/8/17 – Country Shredding Event, Rowan College at Burl. Co., 3331 Route 38, Mt. Laurel, 9 am – 1 PM

4/18/17 – Mass for fallen Police officers, St. Mary's Cathedral, Trenton

4/19/17 – Clothing Drive to raise funds for Senior Gathering of Westampton, Drop off gently used clothes, shoes, bedding, purses, coats, toys & books at Recreation Department; tax receipts available, 11 AM – 1 PM

5/7/17 – County Shredding Event, Burl. Co. Resource Recovery Complex, Florence, 9 AM – 1 PM

April 5 – Home Security Workshop for seniors, Recreation Center

April 8 – Westampton Recreation's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Holly Hills School 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM. Raindate is April 15

Rutgers/Villanova soccer game – will be rescheduled sometime in May

April 8 – Sports Complex, ages 8-14, Spring Sports kick off. Ms. Smith-Hartman suggested that it might be a good idea to hand out a list of area restaurants to people coming for the weekend. Ms. Teleisa stated that the tournaments do help as we have the hotel tax when people are coming and staying for the weekend.

April 24, Westampton PTO fundraiser, Sonic, Route 38, 4 – 8 PM

### **Open to public Comment**

Ruth Bonano, 21 Westwind Way – the seniors want to know what is going to be done with their chairs at the senior center. Maria said that new chairs are in the budget; they are working on where to store the chairs so that no one else can use them with the exception of the seniors. Ms. Bonano asked about looking into discounts for seniors for utilities, Maria would do some research into this.

Betty Wiggins, 66 Sharpless Blvd. – was complaining about the natural pond area in Spring Meadows. The culvert is backed up with leaves and trash and it isn't flowing correctly. Maria could reach out to PW supervisor Mike Meenan to see if they could check into this.

Janet Curran – asked if the pedestrian signs in Rancocas village could be removed and to stop painting the lines, especially the ones in front of ABCO. There was an article on Virtua in the Courier Post on March 13. She doesn't want the hospital; she is concerned about the traffic. She remembers a house in Mt. Holly that was moved when they built the hospital in Mt. Holly. Has anyone considered trying to save the historic house on the Hogan farm; she thinks if someone really looked into it that it could be saved and worked around or moved.

Lori Hustus – asked if there have been any more details about the Friends Academy. No one has anything new to report.

### **Comments – Department Heads & Professionals**

Mayor Daniels – Congratulations to Al Marmero on the birth of his new daughter.

### **Committee Members Comments**

Mr. Wisniewski – keep up the good work, thanks to the residents for coming out.

Mr. Lopez – we had a great, productive session last Tuesday at the employee development day. The theme was “All In” for Westampton Township.

Mayor Daniels – thanked all who were involved in the Global Timbuktu activities; it was nothing short of an eye opening experience.

Resolution 4-3-17, Executive/Closed session - motion to go into closed session was made at 8:21 PM and seconded to discuss pending litigation.

Motion to come back into public session made and seconded at 8:26.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marion Karp, Municipal Clerk