

## WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 PM CLOSED SESSION      7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

May 1, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with Mr. Lopez, Ms. Teleisa, Mr. Wisniewski and Mr. Daniels present, Ms. Smith-Hartman was absent. Resolution 5-1-17 was adopted to go into Executive session to discuss pending development and police staffing.

The meeting was again called to order at 7:06 PM by Mayor Daniels with all present, Ms. Smith Hartman was absent. 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.

### Roll Call:

Committeeman Lopez	Present
Committeewoman Smith-Hartman	Absent (arrived after roll call @ 7:15)
Committeewoman Teleisa	Present
Committeeman Wisniewski	Present
Mayor Daniels	Present

Al Marmero, Solicitor, was present.

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

Approve 5/1/17 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Minutes of the 4/17/2017 meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes. Minutes of the 4/17/2017 Closed session meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

### **Scheduled Appointments**

None

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

Gary Berberian, 138 Winstead Drive – asked about the bond ordinance. He thinks the wording of the ordinance where the words “bond law” appear should also reference the particular section. The amounts of the bond ordinance were also incorrect; the bond counsel had not put the correct figures in. While the sum was correct, the individual items did not add up.

Nancy Burkley – was curious why the house on Blue Jay Hill Lane needed to be demolished. Administrator Carrington explained that the house is in very poor condition and we need to do it in order to receive our share of Green Acres funds by June 15. The purchase of the lot was due to its proximity to the Timbuctoo site. A fire had destroyed much of the house. Ms. Burkley was concerned regarding the amount of money being spent on the demolition. Mr. Lopez, although not part of the Township Committee at the time this decision to purchase was made; shares the same concerns.

Gil Gehin Scott – asked about the resolution “Budget by Title Only”. He wanted an explanation. It was explained that this resolution is passed so that the budget doesn’t have to be read in its long form, it is something that is done every year when the budget is passed.

### **Old Business**

Westampton Township Clean Up Day, May 6 – Kingdom Church would be participating, they would be cleaning up as a day of service. We had identified several areas of the township that needed litter pick up. They have provided us with a certificate of insurance. Ms. Teleisa stated that it is extremely important to protect the Township when it comes to liability. This protects us if there are any injuries, etc. Mr. Lopez had heard from a resident, Jess DeMarco, who expressed concern about outdated temporary signs left out around the Township. Perhaps Kingdom Church could pick up these signs as well when they are out on May 6. Public Works does pick up these signs as well.

### **New Business**

BURLCO JIF – 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon – they are giving member Townships \$1200 to host a luncheon for employees. There was discussion regarding having a picnic/barbeque in the summer.

Mayor Daniels – niche.com has released their rankings of the best places to live; Westampton received an “A” rating and ranked as one of the top 100 places to live.

Mayor Daniels – announced that Westampton Township is the recipient of an “Outstanding Community Policing” award from Christopher Porrino, NJ Attorney General. There will be an awards ceremony on May 22<sup>nd</sup> on the Bush College campus, Rutgers University. Lt. Rogers will be one of only 4 in the state of NJ participating in a panel discussion.

### **Resolutions**

75-17 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

76-17 Budget Read by Title Only – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

77-17 Public Hearing of 2017 Municipal Budget – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Mayor Daniels gave a brief synopsis of the budget for the public (see attached). This was opened to the public for comment.

Erwin Smith, 445 West Country Club Drive – is trying to come up to speed with what is happening in the Township. He wanted to know how the pending lawsuit would impact our budget and the taxpayers. Solicitor Al Marmero explained that a good portion would likely be covered by insurance although there is a deductible that the Township will be responsible for. Mr. Smith asked if there was a chance that the lawsuit would be withdrawn; the Solicitor couldn't answer that, it would be up to the person who filed the lawsuit. Mr. Smith asked who ran the Township website and the Township Facebook page. Administrator Carrington explained that she would be taking over the Facebook page; it was currently in transition.

Nancy Burkley – it is more important to say it was a reduction in force and not a termination, when speaking about the lawsuit. She asked about the reserve for taxes and deferred school taxes; they are different things. Our tax collection rate is nearly 99%, which is amazing. She asked if the valuation of our township increased over last year; the average home value actually dropped a bit last year. It's not fair that although we have nearly the same amount of students as Mt. Holly does that we pay twice as much as they do per student. Ms. Burkley asked if something could be done about this. We should be paying the same amount. Mayor Daniels explained that it was the same with sewerage charges.

Gary Berberian – spoke regarding the condensed budget; he asked if the EMS fees were reimbursed by insurance. There is no allocation for body armor; he asked if bullet proof vests were the same thing, they are. He asked about fire inspections; an ordinance was passed which increased the fees last fall; life hazards have increased as well according to Fire Chief Craig Farnsworth.

There being no further comment from the public, the meeting was closed.

Mayor Daniels commended his colleagues for their diligent work on the budget. All voted yes.

78-17 Award Contract for Demolition of 21 Blue Jay Hill Lane – motion to approve by Mr. Wisniewski; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. Mr. Lopez explained that he had to abstain from voting; he wants to make sure that we have realistic goals for the Timbuctoo site and doesn't want to invest more money until we have a plan. All voted yes, Mr. Lopez abstained. Mayor Daniels spoke regarding the acquisition of the property since most on the Committee were not seated when the decision to purchase was made. He is requesting a formal report from the Timbuctoo Advisory Committee. Mr. Lopez decided to rescind his abstention; he changed his vote to a yes.

### **Ordinances**

3-2017 Bond Ordinance (second reading) – motion to table the second reading was made by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. This was opened to the public for comment. All voted yes. The bond ordinance would have to be amended due to the errors in the addition.

### **Correspondence**

2017 – 2018 Municipal Percentage Shares for Tax Levies for Regional School Districts

Bordentown Sewerage Authority – resolution opposing proposed pipeline project and compressor station in Chesterfield, NJ

Letter of thanks from Rutgers regarding participation in Global Timbuktu

### **Dates to Remember**

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

5/9/17 – Fallen Officer Unity Tour Ceremony, West Deptford Firehouse

5/17/17- Fallen Officer's memorial in Westampton, Trooper Cullen's name will be placed on the memorial that day

5/6/17 – Rancocas Ham Dinner, Rancocas Firehouse, 4-8 PM

5/27/17 – wreath laying in honor of Memorial Day, Westampton Historical Society

5/21/17 – Armed Forces Freedom Ride, 10 AM

5/22/17 – Awards Ceremony, Community Policing

Mayor Daniels - Maureen Malecki, Westampton Schools Counselor, has been named Burlington County Counselor of the Year. The Township would be presenting her with a proclamation at the next meeting. She is the epitome of professionalism and class and extends herself throughout the entire community.

### **Open to public Comment**

Robert Davies, Tenby Court – has done a lot of research and letter writing regarding the Virtua Hospital project; he wants to know why this is in the Township's best interests. What is the harm in asking Virtua to preserve the Hogan farmstead; he hates to see it get bulldozed. He is disappointed in the Township and thinks the traffic is going to create a huge impact on the Township.

Nancy Burkley – spoke about firefighter James Mohn and what happened to him when he was killed in the line of service.

Mr. Lopez spoke regarding Mr. Davies' concerns; about the public hearing that Virtua recently held at Westampton Township. Mr. Lopez had requested a pre and post economic study of Virtua in Voorhees. He also requested pre and post traffic impact studies. The studies revealed a significant growth in economic development post development of the hospital in Voorhees. Ms. Smith-Hartman had personally visited another farm site to see if the plans could be reconfigured but they weren't interested in selling to Virtua. Virtua has only received a General Development Plan approval; they still need to return to the Land Development Board for site plan approval.

### **Comments from Department Heads**

Vincent Knott - August 31, 1968 was the date that Firefighter Mohn died.

Fire Chief Craig Farnsworth - a student discharged a fire extinguisher at the Special Services School and because they are special needs kids, everyone (48 students) was transported for care.

### **Committee Members Comments**

Ms. Smith-Hartman – short sales are leaving Westampton; she thinks our foreclosure problem might be coming to an end.

Mr. Wisniewski – thanked the department heads for their good work; thanks to the residents for coming out.

Ms. Teleisa – recently joined a shift at the firehouse for a delicious meal and a ride along; we have wonderful caring firefighters, EMTs and Fire Police. Thanks so much for the meal, company and service and for caring and protecting the residents. The Police are wonderful too.

Mr. Lopez – thanked everyone for coming out tonight; he wanted to welcome Mr. Calvin Jackson home from his deployment in Afghanistan.

Mayor Daniels – spoke to Mr. Jackson’s wife Angela last week; he thanked him for his continuing service. The Committee is trying to budget for future road repairs.

A motion was made to adjourn into executive session at 8:49 PM.

A motion was made to return into public session at 9:43 PM.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marion Karp, Municipal Clerk