

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 PM Workshop 7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

June 19, 2017

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Mayor Daniels with all present. 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. Mayor Daniels welcomed all guests.

Roll Call:

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

Al Marmero, Solicitor, was present.

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

Approve 6/19/17 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Minutes of the 5/31/2017 special meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes. Minutes of the 6/5/2017 Regular meeting – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; second by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes.

Scheduled Appointments

Swear in new Class II Police Officers: Corey Davis & Matthew Nagle and new Firefighter/EMT Anthony Lepone. Mayor Daniels swore in the new employees. He welcomed them aboard and welcomed them to Westampton Township, where everyone is family. They all make a difference; he thanked them for their service to the Township.

A 5 minute recess was taken.

Public Comments on agenda items

Mayor Daniels asked if a young man in the audience could speak to the Committee at this point since he had to leave the meeting before it concluded. Aiden Sharp from Boy Scout Troop 117 was working towards his Eagle Scout designation; he is only a few badges away. He wanted to build two benches for the Timbuctoo cemetery as well as sprucing up the existing sign. He distributed his plans to the Committee. The original benches have pretty much rotted away. He wants to install Plexiglas or sealer on the sign so it would be better preserved. He needs approximately \$180 to complete his project. He

will check with the Westampton Historic Society as well as the Timbuctoo committee to make sure they are ok with him doing this. We need a motion to grant him access to the site; Mr. Lopez made a motion and Ms. Teleisa seconded it. Ms. Teleisa thinks it is wonderful that he chose this for his project. We may have some of the materials he may need for the project; Administrator Carrington would reach out to the director. All were in favor and voted yes.

Another Scout, Dan Wiggins, was at this evening's meeting. He needed to attend a Committee meeting; he is working on a merit badge. Mayor Daniels thanked him for coming forward and introducing himself.

John Mumbower – asked about the correspondence from the Mt. Holly MUA rate increase. John Wisniewski explained that it is for connection fees for new developments and new homes tying into the existing system. There is a lot of misinformation out there. Mr. Lopez has concerns about this; the connection fees are extremely high, while Mt. Holly residents get a big break. The other residents that are serviced by this MUA pay much more. He compared local rates with those of the Mt. Holly MUA. The issue is where the money is going to. Lumberton has hired an attorney to investigate. Mr. Wisniewski told Mr. Mumbower that this rate increase won't affect him at all. Mr. Lopez wants to know where these rate increases are going to and why Westampton's rates are so high. We have the same amount of students as Mt. Holly does going to RVRHS yet they pay only 50% of what Mt. Holly pays. This is an unfair burden to place on Westampton residents.

Gary Berberian – has a question about the Fire Official's report. He asked about the 7th incident mentioned in the report.

Old Business

None

New Business

Police Report

EMS Report

Resolutions

90-17 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes.

91-17 Burlington County Safe Streets – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

92-17 Chapter 159, Alcohol Education Rehabilitation Fund – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes.

93-17 Bond Release, Hampton Behavioral Health Center, Block 202, Lot 4.01 – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Mr. Wisniewski.

94-17 Renew 2017-18 Liquor Licenses – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

95-17 Refund Homestead Rebates – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes. Mrs. Teleisa asked if we are legally bound to give them this refund; we are obligated to return the funds.

96-17 Authorize Expenditure of Funds for Cullen Way – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Wisniewski. All voted yes.

97-17 Authorize Donation of Surplus Property – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes. Mr. Lopez asked how the receiving department was selected; Chief Craig Farnsworth explained it was a local department; they distribute the equipment to those that need it, like in South America.

98-17 Hire Police Officers – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

99-17 Hire Firefighter/EMT – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes. Mr. Lopez commented that we should put these resolutions at the top of the agenda for parliamentary reasons.

Ordinances

5-2017 Ordinance Authorizing Sale of Block 401, Lots 2.01 & 8 (second reading) – motion to approve was made by Mr. Wisniewski; the motion was seconded by Ms. Teleisa. This was opened to the public for comment. No comment was made and the meeting was closed. All voted yes, Mr. Lopez abstained.

6-2017 Ordinance Authorizing an Extension of Open Space Tax (first reading) – motion to approve made by Mr. Wisniewski; seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes. Mr. Lopez has heard from residents that should this pass, the Committee should thoroughly police the way these funds are spent. They would like to see more open space preservation with the funds.

Correspondence

Mt. Holly Municipal Utilities Authority – rate hearing 7/13/17, 6 PM. They are planning to raise rates again. If residents want to be heard, they should attend this hearing.

Dept. of Solid Waste – public hearing 8/9/17 @ 7 PM, Cinnaminson Municipal Building, addition of Class B recycling center.

DEP – 30th anniversary of NJ Statewide Recycling Act – ideas for increasing recycling rates for municipalities.

Mayor Daniels – had received a piece of correspondence about the emerald ash borer; it is already here in Westampton Township. The original beetle was found in 2014 and it has been spreading. There are no natural predators for this insect. Carolyn Chang commented that we should be aware that every ash tree in Saddle Ridge is dead. Perhaps a shade tree commission or an environmental committee could help.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, July 16, 9 AM – Tarnsfield Swim Club's 1st Annual Bill McGee Memorial Masters Swim Meet

Tuesday, August 1, 7-9 PM, National Night Out – 1 Academy Drive, Public Safety Building

Open to public Comment

Janet Curran – thanked the Committee for allowing Aiden Sharp to speak early in the meeting; he has an exam tomorrow morning. He wants to make a difference. The WMS 8th grade graduation was wonderful; Mayor Daniels did a great job. She isn't happy with the Super Wawa coming into town; she wasn't able to attend the meeting. Most are built away from residents. She asked what restaurant was coming in; it is rumored that it is Chik Fil A. She doesn't think it's a good idea.

Dave Guerrero – wanted to know how much is in the open space fund. –according to Mr. Lopez stated that it was \$684,000 with \$485,000 year to date expenditures. He agrees it is a good idea to reapproach Mike Dolan to discuss the Ikea Drive dedication. A southeast exit would be the best exit location onto Ikea drive; he hopes the Township would approach Mr. Dolan with this idea as well.

John Mumbower – thanked the Committee members for their research into getting information regarding the MUA, what we pay the schools, etc. He wondered if we could get a resident from Westampton Township for the MUA so we could have representation. Mayor Daniels asked the Solicitor if we could petition the MUA to see if we could have someone on the Board to represent Westampton. Solicitor Marmero stated that we certainly could petition them and see. Mr. Lopez thinks a letter could be drafted and sent before the July 13th meeting. John Wisniewski explained that Mt. Holly Township makes the appointments, not the MUA. Mr. Lopez made a motion to send a letter on behalf of Westampton Township to the Mt. Holly Township Council for representation for Westampton, John Wisniewski seconds the motion. All voted yes. Ms. Teleisa said we have talked about this in the past; she doesn't know why we can't call and ask. Mr.

Lopez thinks we need a documented communication. Mr. Wisniewski wants to make sure that there isn't a conflict of interest with him voting since he works for the Mt. Holly MUA, although he has no issue sending it. This is why Ms. Teleisa doesn't want to jump into it tonight; she thinks we should wait on this until the next meeting. All voted yes, Ms. Teleisa voted no.

Comments from Department Heads

Police Chief Joe Otto thanked the Committee and the administrator for the authorization to hire the two new Class II officers.

Administrator Carrington – congratulations to the new hires; she loved watching them being sworn in. The Westampton Recreation Department still has openings for all their summer camps; spread the word.

Committee Members Comments

Ms. Teleisa – the Recreation Department has summer camps, they start June 26th and run through the week of August 14th. There are a variety of choices. She thanked everyone for coming; this was a civil meeting; it's nice when people respect each other's opinions.

Mr. Wisniewski – thanked the residents for coming out. He thinks that it is inappropriate that during the middle of a meeting that a Committee person would go on and call his colleagues incompetent. He finds it very disrespectful; there is no place for anything like that.

Mr. Lopez – thanked all the residents for coming out; gave a brief synopsis about the planning meeting that took place last Friday.

Mayor Daniels – years ago we received some funding and completed a Township Vision Plan. Through that study, seven goals were identified. He left the Planning meeting excited, like the Deputy Mayor did. He is looking forward to the next step in the process. By and large, the majority of the residents he had spoken with are in favor of the upgraded Wawa and the new fast food restaurant coming in. Jobs will be created; he thinks it is a good thing for that corner. Congratulations to the 8th graders who graduated from WMS.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Municipal Clerk