

## WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

### 7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

September 18, 2017

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Mayor Daniels. 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 |

Albert Marmero, Solicitor, was present.

Administrator Maria Carrington and Municipal Clerk Marion Karp were present.

Approve 9/18/17 Agenda – motion to approve by Committeeman Lopez; second by Committeeman Wisniewski. All voted yes.

Regular Meeting minutes of 9/5/17– motion to approve by Committeeman Wisniewski; second by Committeeman Lopez. All voted yes. Closed Session/Workshop Meeting minutes of 9/5/17 – motion to approve by Committeeman Lopez; second by Committeeman Wisniewski. All voted yes.

#### **Scheduled Appointments**

None

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

Louis Lopez – asked about Resolution #119-17; Mayor Daniels explained it to him. This was the resolution for the Administrator Contract. He asked about Ordinances #13-2017 and #14-2017 which the Mayor explained further.

#### **Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

Fire/EMS Reports – July & August 2017. Chief Farnsworth had his first full day back to work today.

Police Report – no further comments were made

Division of Solid Waste – correspondence was received regarding increasing recycling rates and reducing contamination. They are hosting two evenings of tours of the recycling facility on Hancock Lane. Mayor Daniels would attend the tour on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>.

Retirement of Police Chief Joseph Otto – Mayor Daniels thanked him for his years of dedication and service to the township.

## **Resolutions**

116-17 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Committeewoman Teleisa; second by Committeeman Lopez. All present voted yes.

117-17 Establish Promotional Criteria for Chief of Police – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Mr. Wisniewski. Ms. Teleisa hopes we can amend this resolution; she has some concerns. She thinks something is missing; the review board should give their recommendation to the Township Committee and they can make the appointment. Another concern is that she feels that the current promotional criteria could limit the pool of applicants in the future. She wanted to know if we could we revisit this in a few years to make sure that this is still reflective of the times as our town grows; also could we expand the range/pool perhaps to extend to senior sergeants and not just lieutenants. They could be groomed for some of the responsibilities of Police Chief. Joe Otto stated that in a department of this size the next step from sergeant is to lieutenant. If they ever brought back the position of captain he thinks that should be included in the eligible pool of applicants. Ms. Teleisa agrees with this. The Committee can always review this resolution and revise it at any time. She also wanted to know if it would be possible to give extra weight to township residents. Mr. Lopez said they could discuss this but there may be security concerns. Mr. Wisniewski asked if there was a requirement for new hires to live in the township; there is not. A motion was made by Ms. Teleisa to amend the resolution to let the township committee have the final recommendation from the review board and to make the appointment and also that this promotional criteria is tied to this vacancy only and not others in the future. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes.

118-17 Authorize Submission of Grant Application – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; second by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

119-17 Authorize Mayor to Sign Administrator Contract – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa ; second by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes, Mr. Lopez is voted no even though

he fully supports her hiring; she has done a whole lot of work in the short time she has been here. She has been a fast learner and they have thrown a whole lot her way. He personally disagrees with one section of the contract and that is why he will vote no. She is more than qualified.

### **Ordinances**

12-2017 Amend Chapter 172 of the Code of Westampton Township, Parks & Recreation (second reading) – this ordinance introduces regulations regarding the use of buildings, parks, playgrounds and open space areas owned and maintained by Westampton Township. The meeting was opened to the public for comment. Nancy Burkley asked if the Rancocas ballfield was removed from this document; it is still in there but it needs to be removed from the manual. Maria Carrington would delete it. There being no further comment from the public the meeting was closed. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

13-2017 Ordinance to Repeal & Amend Chapter 131, Flood Damage Prevention, formerly entitled Floodplain Management (second reading) – this was opened to the public for comment; no comment was made and the meeting was closed. Motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

14-2017 Amend the Code of the Township of Westampton, Chapter 232, Vehicles & Traffic, Article 1, “General Provisions”, Section 232-11, “Turn Prohibitions” (first reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa . All voted yes.

### **Correspondence**

None

### **Dates to Remember**

September 23 – WTES smoke detector testing in Tarnsfield in conjunction with the Red Cross. The entire development would be done in one day.

September 23 – Annual Timbuctoo Day, 12 noon

September 28<sup>th</sup> – recycling tours, 5:45-7 PM, Robert Shinn Recycling Center, Hancock Lane

October 4<sup>th</sup> – National Coffee with a Cop Day

October 8<sup>th</sup> – Rancocas Nature Center 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Township will be presenting a proclamation

October 12 – Groundbreaking ceremony for the Willows at Westampton, 11 AM.

October 12 – Westampton Township Fire/EMS Open House

October 14 – Westampton PTO Fun Run, rain date 10/15/17

October 14 – Rancocas Ham Dinner, 4 – 7 PM

October 27, Fall Festival, 6 – 9 PM

October 27 – Susan G. Komen fundraiser, bingo, Police are partnering with them at Crescent Shrine in Westampton

November 5 – 5 K walk and run at Great Adventure, Police will be attending

November 6 – Westampton Middle School, Veterans Day celebration

November 14-16 – NJLM Annual Conference, Atlantic City

### **Open to public Comment**

Nancy Burkley – the Mt. Holly Water company charges us \$80K a year to run their hydrants; it is sent to the township to pay; Willingboro charges us nothing. She thinks this is unfair. Regarding the promotion of a police chief, are there laws that govern this? Do we have to promote from within? She doesn't think it is a good idea to limit the pool of candidates to residents of Westampton. She is very sad that Joe Otto is leaving.

Louis Lopez – asked if anyone had seen Mr. Milanes lately; Marion Karp answered that she had seen him in the municipal building recently.

### **Comments from Department Heads**

FF/EMT Vince Knott – congratulated the Committee on the contract signed with Ms. Carrington.

### **Committee Members Comments**

Solicitor Marmero – congratulations to Maria Carrington on her contract.

Administrator Maria Carrington – thank you for the contract, it's nice not to have to worry about it.

Municipal Clerk Marion Karp – congratulations to Maria; looks forward to continuing working together.

Engineer Doug Johnson – congratulations to Maria.

Mr. Wisniewski – thanks to those that came out tonight. All the department heads are doing a good job. He had to call the police last night; they were there very quickly and he commended them; they were very professional and courteous. Congratulations to Joe Otto and to Maria Carrington.

Ms. Teleisa – Joe Otto has protected and served our town for years and years; she is sad to see him go. This is bittersweet; she hopes he enjoys the time with his family. Congratulations to Maria, she is glad she will be with the Township; she is a great asset.

Mr. Lopez – congratulations to Maria again. He looks forward to positive interactions; it has been fun to date and is sure it will get better. He is sure we will give the Chief a proper send off. Thanks for supporting the Daniels (Braylon) family, it has provided for a whole lot. If anyone has any questions about how the funds are being administered, they can come to him, the books are open. Regarding the postage situation with the Mt. Holly MUA; he thinks there is some room for us to find some relief. Possibly all residents of all towns may have been overcharged due to oversize pipe size.

Mayor Daniels – congratulations to Maria on her contract. He encouraged all to come out to Timbuctoo Day on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. He spoke about the Westampton resident who was struck on the side of Route 295 while inspecting her flat tire who recently passed away; such a tragedy.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Municipal Clerk