

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

December 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM with all present.

Resolution 12-8-15 was adopted to go into Executive session to discuss personnel and potential litigation.

The meeting was again called to order and reopened at 7:05 PM by Mayor Chang. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times on January 6, 2015. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Committeeman Daniels	Present
Committeeman Maybury	Present
Committeewoman Teleisa	Present
Committeeman Thorpe	Present
Mayor Chang	Present

Justin Yost, Solicitor, was present.

Donna Ryan, Clerk/Administrator and Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk were present.

Approve 12/8/15 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

Closed session Minutes of 11/24/15 – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes. Minutes of the 11/24/15 meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

Scheduled Appointments:

Ms. Teleisa wanted to say a few words – she believes we have a great Fire/EMS Department under the leadership of Chief Carty and Deputy Chief Farnsworth; as liaison she has seen much growth and commitment; they are like a family. Residents come to the meetings and talk about how they have saved a loved one as well as the letters of appreciation they have received during the year from grateful residents. They have received several large grants this year and tonight we will swear in three new members. She welcomed all three; she had the good fortune to be part of the interview process and has every confidence in them. She thanked the Chief and Deputy Chief and all firefighters and EMTs for keeping our community safe. It has been her honor and pleasure to serve as liaison this past year.

Swear in new EMS employees: Mike Wolfschmidt, Nicholas DiPaolo, Robert LeBrun were sworn in by Mayor Chang.

Chief Carty gave a brief introduction of the new hires; they all come with a lot of experience. They came from a group of 60 candidates and the process took 3 months.

Recognition of Deputy Mayor Robert Maybury & Committeeman Robert Thorpe – this would be their last meeting. The Mayor thanked both Robert Maybury and Robert Thorpe for their service to Westampton Township. She presented Mr. Maybury with an engraved plaque.

Mr. Maybury grew up here in Westampton Township on a dairy farm; he still lives in the original house. He has seen the farms disappear and has seen growth and change which are inevitable. He remembers picking strawberries and riding motorcycles on the Russo farm when Tarnsfield stands today. Westampton is a great place to live and work and he is honored to have served for 9 years; he will be concentrating on his job and it is a new chapter in his life.

Mayor Chang presented Mr. Thorpe with an engraved plaque; she thanked him for his service.

Mr. Thorpe stated that he has nothing prepared and thought he would speak at the end of the meeting. Above all, he wants to thank everyone; he loves all of the Township Departments and the employees. He has enjoyed his service for the last 3 years.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

No comments were made.

New Business

Proclamation – Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over 2015 Year End Holiday Crackdown – we participate in this every year.

Resolutions

161-15 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

162-15 Bond Reduction, Project Freedom, Block 203, Lot 4.02 – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

163-15 Chapter 159, NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

164-15 Cancellation of 2015 Appropriation Funds – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

165-15 Transfer of Appropriation Funds – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

166-15 Lease/Purchase of Fire Marshal/Deputy Chief Vehicle – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

167-15 Tax Appeal Settlement, Home Depot USA, Block 901, Lot 1 – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

168-15 Impose Lien, Block 1408, Lot 1- motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

169-15 Impose Lien, Block 1410, Lot 11 – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

170-15 Joint Purchase of SCBA – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

At this point, a five minute recess was taken.

Ordinances

None

Correspondence

Willingboro MUA – proposed rate changes & public hearings for budgets.

Mayor Chang had received a letter of commendation from Congressman Tom McArthur regarding EMS Chief Carty.

Dates to Remember

Senior Citizens Holiday Dinner, Wed., Dec. 9th @ 6 PM, WMS

December 12, Breakfast with Santa, 9 AM, WMS

“Santa Around Town”, EMS/Fire, December 19th

Mayor Chang informed everyone regarding the sad news of Westampton School’s Superintendent Ginny Grossman’s mother who recently passed away.

Open to public Comment

Lori Hustus, Kanabe Drive – thought that what Ms. Teleisa said was amazing; however, the Fire Police seem to always be forgotten; she would like to see them be acknowledged. Ms. Teleisa thanked her and the Committee agrees. Mayor Chang spoke about Timbuctoo Day and remembers specifically mentioning the Fire Police and the incredible job they did that day directing traffic. She agrees with her 100% and they should be commended as well.

Comments – Department Heads & Professionals

Fire Chief Jason Carty – wants to clarify Resolution 170-15 which was for the purchase of SCBA, it is contingent upon securing a grant. They aren’t spending any money unless they are awarded the grant, and then it will be a small portion we will have to pay, a 10% share.

Police Chief Otto – thanked Mr. Maybury and Mr. Thorpe for their service to the Township, it has been an honor working with them. He thanked Chief Carty and congratulated him on his three new hires. He wished everyone a happy holiday season and a Happy New Year.

Solicitor Justin Yost – wished everyone a happy holiday season.

Donna Ryan– it’s been a pleasure working with both Mr. Maybury and Mr. Thorpe, thanks to the Committee for a successful year. She wished everyone a happy holiday.

Marion Karp – thanked Mr. Maybury and Mr. Thorpe for their time on the Committee. It is very often a thankless job. She welcomed new Committee members Abe Lopez and Maureen Hartman and wished them luck. She wished everyone a happy holiday and New Year.

Committee Members Comments

Mr. Daniels – congratulations to the 3 new EMS employees. We commemorated the 74 year anniversary of Pearl Harbor yesterday. Congratulations to both Mr. Maybury and

Mr. Thorpe and a thank you. It is a thankless job at times; but also rewarding. There is no higher calling. Happy Holidays to everyone.

Mr. Thorpe – thanks to everyone; to each of the Westampton departments and to each of his fellow Committee members.

Ms. Teleisa - a heartfelt and big thank you to Mr. Maybury. He is an original resident of Westampton who brought pride, expertise and energy; she commends his efforts and fortitude. His hard work and effort to do the right thing was always first and foremost for him. He will be missed. It was wonderful and a privilege working with him. She considers Mr. Thorpe an original as well; he is knowledgeable and a loyal Committee member. It has been an honor working with him as well. To the residents and everyone else she wishes a happy and blessed holiday; she wishes peace and harmony for 2016.

Mr. Maybury – thanks for the support during the years he was there; he has learned a lot. He wants to talk to Mr. Lopez; it needs to be said before he leaves. He wants to go back to the ethics complaints that were filed against him. It was not a 3-2 vote; it was a 4-1 vote.

Mayor Chang – wants to say a few things. Where do we go from here, chaos or community? She remembers receiving a call from Donna Ryan letting her know that our former Mayor Sidney camp resigned and was moving south. This position was thrust upon her, she didn't ask for this position; it was simply her time to serve. She wanted to leave this Township in a better state than when she found it. She recalls a keynote speech she gave on Martin Luther King Day. She will end her tenure as Mayor fighting the good fight. Westampton is an extremely diverse community and the governing body and professionals should reflect this diversity and she will never apologize for this. She is especially proud of the drafting of the ordinance for the Timbuctoo site; and the strides that were made in affordable housing. Project Freedom received over 560 applications where there were only 48 units. She thanked her fellow Committee members for their support. Each has championed their own issues this year and she thanks them for the work they have done. She wished the Township good luck in forging a true community.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk