

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

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

February 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with all members present. Resolution 2-10-15 was adopted to go into Executive session to discuss personnel and real estate.

The meeting was again called to order and reopened at 7:03 PM by Mayor Chang. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times 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

George Saponaro, Solicitor, was present.

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

Approve 2/10/15 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

Minutes of the 1/13/2015 meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes. Closed session minutes of the 1/13/2015 meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Scheduled Appointments:

Appointment of Joseph Otto as Police Chief effective 2/1/15 – motion made by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes. Mayor Chang swore in Joe Otto as Police Chief.

Chief Otto – thanked everyone for their trust and faith in him, he is honored to take on the new role. He thanked his family for their love and support and for putting up with his crazy hours. He thanked his father and other members of his family, Chief Smith, all the police officers of Westampton Township, his fellow law enforcement officers, Public Works employees and all the friends who came out to support him.

Burlington County Police Chiefs Association – Chief Scott Pearlman, President, on behalf of the Association they commend the appointment of Joe Otto, they have known

each other for many years. He is sure he will do a great job for all, congratulations to Joe. He asked Chief Smith to come forward; it is a tradition to recognize retiring members. He thanked him for everything he has done and presented him with a badge.

Appointment of Jason Carty as Director/Head of EMS/Fire Chief effective 1/5/15 – Mr. Daniels asked if this was to re-memorialize the vote already taken; George Saponaro stated it was to formalize the vote taken on that day. He then asked if the roll call vote was to reaffirm his vote from that night. George Saponaro told him that he could vote anyway he chose at this point. Motion made by Ms. Teleisa; second by Mr. Maybury. Mayor Chang, Mr. Maybury and Ms. Teleisa voted yes; Mr. Daniels and Mr. Thorpe voted no.

At this time, a short break would be taken for refreshments. The meeting was called back to order at 7:32 PM.

Public Comments on agenda items

Two resolutions (#90-123 and #91-2013) need to be re voted on according to George Saponaro. They both deal with Project Freedom and its funding. The notice may have been inadequate so they are re voting as a cautionary measure. They would be added to the end of the list of resolutions on this evening's agenda.

Janet Curran – she has nothing against Jason Carty; Mr. Maybury should not have voted for Mr. Carty. Having a Chief appointed from outside our district when we have a strong Fire Department isn't right. She asked why it came to this decision to vote for an outsider. Why did we have to go outside when we already have dedicated men and women inside the Department. It's an embarrassment. She sees something on the Historic Preservation Commission on the agenda.

John Mumbower – is disappointed that there was no public comment allowed prior to Mr. Carty's appointment. He thinks that Mr. Maybury should have recused himself from voting due to the fact that Mr. Carty was a commissioner on the Mt. Holly Municipal Utilities Authority and in fact, voted to appoint him as an interim director. His resignation just days prior does not remove any conflict. Mr. Maybury could be returning the favor by voting for Mr. Carty; this could be a conflict. He should recuse himself from voting and restore the Township's faith in his ethical standards.

Old Business

None

New Business

Public Works Report – Mike Meenan added that we are loaded up with salt and have plenty at this time.

Police Reports – December 2014 & January 2015 – no further comments.

Fire Chief Jason Carty - the re designed website will be up and running shortly; in his emailed report to the Committee there was a letter from a patient thanking the staff members for their transport.

Bureau of Fire Prevention Reports – October, November & December 2014 – no further comments.

CDBG – 2015 Reorganization of General Advisory Committee – we get this every other year for handicapped accessibility. Mayor Chang will attend the meeting. We have a grant this year that we will be spending.

Appointment of Historic Preservation Commission Members:

4 year appointment (Class C) – Mr. Maybury appointed Terrence Brennan; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes, Mr. Thorpe abstained.

1 year appointment (Class C) – Ms. Teleisa appointed Pennell Eckart; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes, Mr. Thorpe abstained.

2 year alternate appointment – Mr. Maybury appointed Kimberley Brennan; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes, Mr. Thorpe abstained.

1 year Committee member appointment – Ms. Teleisa appointed Mr. Thorpe; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

NJ State Firemen's Association for Cecil Collins – all members were in favor

Resolutions

17-15 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

18-15 Tax Appeal Settlement, Burlington County Country Club – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

19-15 Tax Appeal Settlement, Brandywine Industrial LLC, Highland Drive – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

20-15 Contract Change Order, Westampton Sports Complex, Phase 8 – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes. This was on the agenda and had been tabled at the last meeting. The increase is due to a move in the football field and the need for permanent striping which would save money in the future. We are splitting the cost with PDA.

21-15 Refund Taxes, Block 301.03, Lot 19 – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

22-15 Grass Cutting Lien, Block 1209, Lot 9 – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

23-15 Tax Appeal Settlement, Block 905, Lot 1.02, Best Western, Applebees, Hampton Inn – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

24-15 Endorse Amended Housing Plan Element & Fair Share Plan – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

25-15 Appoint Contact Persons for the EPL Attorney Consultation Service – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

26-15 Bond Release, Dean Development/Family Dollar, Block 301, Lot 2 – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

27-15 Governor's Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse Fiscal Grant Cycle – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

28-15 Grass Cutting Lien, Block 1301, Lot 8 – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

29-15 Approve Release of Closed Session Minutes – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Resolutions #90-2013 and #91-2013 – motion to re-approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

Ordinances

None

Correspondence

WMS, Westampton Music Department – three of the six students that auditioned were chosen for the South Jersey Band and Orchestra.

NJ American Water – rate increase, public hearing notices. The hearing took place this evening at 6 PM. There are two additional hearings in different municipalities.

Dates to remember

Budget Meeting – 2/11/15 @ 6 PM

JIF Annual Elected Officials Seminar – 3/11/15, Charley's Other Brother, Eastampton, 6 PM – 8 PM

Comments – Department Heads & Professionals

Jason Carty – thanks to Public Works who have been very diligent with their salting of the Township streets.

Mike Meenan – congratulations to the new Department heads as well as the outgoing Department head.

George Saponaro – the executive session at the next meeting will be for real estate issues.

Open to public Comment

Nancy Burkley – couldn't hear the name of the first appointment to the Historic Commission, it was Terrence Brennan. She is sure everyone is aware of the article in the Philadelphia Inquirer. She was disappointed by the statements made by our Solicitor. She was horrified that he said that the Prosecutor has no authority over the Township Committee. Every elected official is responsible for following the law. She feels his statement shows a lack of professionalism. It reflects poorly on Westampton and she thinks our words need to be chosen more carefully. She thinks we can do better.

Garfield Harper – there are a lot of rumors floating around about this particular thing; you hear lots of different things. He has been living here for 35 years and it is becoming very negative lately with everything in the paper. He would like all the facts out in the open so that we can get past this. It's sad and we need to do something about this.

Committee Members Comments

Mr. Thorpe – was able to attend the Westampton Township Board of Education meeting last night, it was his first time as liaison. From watching them in action he got the feeling they are working very hard for our children.

Ms. Teleisa – thanked the Public Works Department for replacing some of the street signs; the residents are appreciative.

Mr. Daniels – this month we celebrate Black History month. He read a short excerpt aloud.

Mr. Maybury – he thinks it is time for the rumors to stop. There were two votes made for his interim appointment at the Mt. Holly MUA. The October appointment was unanimous so even if Jason Carty wasn't a part of it, it still would have happened. The second one in December Jason was no longer part of the Commission; that was also a unanimous vote. He has been employed at the MUA for 30 years. The comments our Solicitor made were not arrogant and were a matter of law. The appointment of Jason Carty is appropriate, he is qualified and capable.

George Saponaro – called the editor of the Philadelphia Inquirer and demanded a retraction of some misquotes. He doesn't agree with the Prosecutor's assessment; Municipal Clerks are trained to handle these types of matters. The misquote in the paper was that the public is not entitled to notice. The Prosecutor issued an opinion letter and has not filed a complaint. A Superior Court Judge would be the authority and not the Prosecutor.

Mayor Chang– she thinks we took the right action in taking a re vote to insure our residents are appropriately protected.

George Saponaro – it is not required that actual publication take place but we always do it.

Mayor Chang – attended the memorial service for Steven Hart, the BCT reporter who covered Westampton Township. It was a sad event but it was her honor to pay her respects to his family. On Feb. 24th, our WMS students and HHS students will be here; the winners of the annual Black History Essay and Art contest would be presented with their awards.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk