

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

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

July 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with all present.

Resolution 7-14-15 was adopted to go into Executive session to discuss shared services agreement, police negotiations and Dolan redevelopment.

The meeting was again called to order and reopened at 7:00 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 7/14/15 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

Minutes of the 6/23/2015 meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes, Mr. Daniels abstained. Closed session Minutes of 6/23/15 – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes, Mr. Daniels abstained.

Scheduled Appointments

None

Public Comments on agenda items

Nancy Burkley – asked about Ordinance #9-2015; she wanted to know if the intent was that a volunteer could ever be Chief or Deputy Chief. It was explained to Ms. Burkley that the overall ordinance needed a number of changes; the Fire Chief needed to report to the Township Administrator for one thing, instead of the Committee. It is possible that a volunteer could attain a title such as Battalion Chief or Captain, if they had that experience. She thinks that might be bad for morale and is wondering if it is a smart move to make. This would have to be approved by the Township Committee. EMS

Chief Carty said nothing would change as far as the way they operate at the present time. It simply brings the ordinance more into compliance with how the Department operates at this time.

Jonathan Wright – would like wording added to the proposed Ordinance that the full time firefighters get first crack at the higher positions over the volunteers. He doesn't want to see them get passed over for any positions.

Abraham Lopez – who will ensure that any appointees are qualified? Mayor Chang answered that the Township Committee would do this in the same manner that they have been doing it.

EMS Chief Carty –you can't tell the difference between the career staff and the volunteers; they have the same training, uniforms, etc. This isn't something new; it reflects how they have been operating for many years.

Gil Gehin Scott – asked if the positions that have been created are strictly volunteer. EMS Chief Carty answered that no new positions have been created. Volunteers are able to advance as their training and experience increases and they have the ability to rise through the ranks. Mr. Gehin Scott is concerned that this will cost more in terms of salary and benefits. Solicitor George Saponaro answered that there is no new salary Ordinance at this time. He is concerned with cronyism and collusion now that Jason Carty was hired and Donna is retiring. George Saponaro stated that all department heads report to the Township Administrator and not the Township Committee. Mayor Chang stated she is more comfortable with the head of departments reporting to an administrator that is here every day rather than a body that isn't here these types of hours. She thinks this is a more appropriate structure because Donna is physically here; the Committee members have jobs elsewhere and aren't in the building on a regular basis.

Abraham Lopez – asked if the appointments are going to be made by the political process or will there be a system of interviews and testing done for these promotions.

George Saponaro – we are not a civil service town; it will operate in the exact same way as it has for the Police Department. There are pluses and minuses for civil service.

Abraham Lopez – asked if Donna was retiring. Mayor Chang answered that there is also a liaison to the EMS department who is Ms. Teleisa. Each of the departments in town is assigned a liaison from the Township Committee. When Donna retires a full time administrator will be hired.

Donna stated that she hoped to retire in the near future but that she hasn't set a date as of yet.

Jonathan Wright – is a stickler for respect; the Mayor called Mr. Lopez young man twice, even after he asked that she not address him this way. He thinks that the supervisor for the EMS department should remain the Township Committee and not the Administrator.

They don't know who is going to be coming in to replace her and they don't have the confidence in them that they have in Donna.

Mayor Chang – all of the Departments have always had a liaison and all Department heads have always reported to the Township Administrator.

Mr. Daniels – asked about the minutes from the last meeting and the phone call the Mayor had with the White House; he asked her to further elaborate; it was regarding Veterans Homelessness. It is a continuing discussion with Mayors across the US and she will continue to participate in it. She would provide Andre with details as she knows this issue is near and dear to his heart. The next call will take place in August. He wants her to urge the Committee not to let this issue die.

New Business

EMS Report – no further comments

In Honor of Mildred Louise Bolen – a longtime resident of Holly Hills subdivision who recently celebrated her 90th birthday.

Letter of Resignation – John Augustino, Fire Official. The Mayor wanted to personally thank him for his years of devotion he has given Westampton Township. He has been an integral part of EMS and Fire. John Augustino stated that it was an honor to serve the town for 12 years. It is time to start phasing out some of his part time jobs as he nears retirement.

In Memoriam – Laura M. Davis. She was a longtime resident of Westampton Township; she was a teacher at WMS for a number of years. Mayor Chang attended the funeral service and presented the family with a resolution honoring Ms. Davis.

Resolutions

95-15 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

96-15 Renew 2015-2016 Liquor Licenses – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

97-15 Chapter 159, Bullet Proof Vest Grant – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

98-15 Chapter 159, Click It or Ticket – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

99-15 Authorize Membership in a Mutual Aid & Assistance Agreement – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

100-15 Preliminary Investigation for Dolan Redevelopment – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

101-15 Shared Service Agreement (Newsletter) – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes, Mr. Daniels voted no.

Ordinances

9-2015 Amend Chapter 32A, Emergency Services Department (second reading) – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes. This was opened to the public for comment. Nancy Burkley wants them to consider adding an amendment stating that if a volunteer and a career employee are equally qualified the position should go to the career person. George Saponaro pointed out that this is the only position that doesn't have to report to the Township Administrator, all other department heads do. Regarding the comment about cronyism and politics; that may have been a concern at the time the ordinance was originally drafted. The importance of this is the overall day to day oversight of the directors. This part of the ordinance was recommended to be changed over a year ago.

Mr. Daniels – asked if this is in conflict with our current collective bargaining agreement; George Saponaro stated it is not. Mr. Daniels asked if the CBA needed to be changed to reflect the ordinance; George does not think so but believes the Labor Counsel is addressing these concerns.

10-2015 Amend Chapter 128, Fire Prevention (second reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes. This was opened to the public for comment. Abraham Lopez asked Fire Official John Augustino if he had an opinion regarding this; he did not at this time. Mr. Maybury said that John proposed a 2014 budget and he read part of it aloud. This was made in early 2014.

John Augustino commented that he had checked with the State and was told it needed to go up to the DCA for regulatory review; he would like to have a copy of their response.

Correspondence

Willingboro MUA – radium removal treatment plant & improvements. This should not affect our rates. They are upgrading their system.

Burlington County Bridge Commission – Pooled bond program. Meeting is on 7/27/15

NJ DOT – denial of 2015 Bikeway grant.

Affordable Homes group – letter of interest. They would like to be on our mailing list; and they already are.

NJ DOT – denial of Safe Streets to Transit Grant

Dates to Remember

The Burlington County Farm Fair started today and will continue thru Sunday
Police National Night Out – 8/4/15

Comments – Department Heads & Professionals

EMS Chief Jason Carty – thanked John Augustino for his years of service. He has known him for many years. If their Collective Bargaining Agreement would allow it they would like to have supervisors appointed who will be accountable on a day to day basis. The Department recently received a grant for hazmat training from the State Police; they have been doing a lot of structure training. He thanked Mt. Holly Township for allowing them to use structures that are slated for demolition. They were notified that they are receiving federal funding in the amount of \$66, 600 which will allow them to purchase 25 sets of turnout gear. He thanked the Committee for putting up the funds to allow every member to have a set of gear and to increase safety. This is a big deal as the grants are very competitive.

Open to public Comment

No further comments were made.

Committee Members Comments

Mayor Chang – it was her distinct honor to attend Laura Davis's funeral yesterday; she met her as well as her daughter a year and a half ago when she has an issue regarding a sewer back up at her home. There were 20-25 of her former students there paying their respects. It was her distinct pleasure to deliver a resolution on behalf of Ms. Davis, a Westampton resident and former teacher.

She thanked Chief Carty and Craig Farnsworth who attended the funeral with her and paid their respects.

Farm Fair – Westampton has a presence at the Farm Fair this year; Timbuctoo has a display in the History tent at the Farm Fair. Go out and attend the Farm Fair.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk

