

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

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

June 9, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with all present. Resolution 6-9-15 was adopted to go into Executive session to discuss Police and EMS personnel.

The meeting was again called to order and reopened at 7:06 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.
Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk was present.

Approve 6/9/15 Agenda – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; second by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

Minutes of the 5/26/2015 meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Thorpe. Ms. Teleisa requested that a comment she made regarding the honoring of her father on Memorial Day be added to the minutes. All voted yes. Closed session minutes of 5/26/15 – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

Public Comments on agenda items

Nancy Burkley – asked about the HVAC and roof resolution for the Municipal Building improvements. She asked if we went out for bid again or if we just stuck with the two bids. Solicitor George Saponaro commented that there were two issues with the winning bid but according to the Engineer they were minor issues. They had since added the information that was needed. The bid that we will accept is significantly lower than the other bid that was submitted; she also wanted to know is there a dollar limit to the change order? George explained that it is a percentage of the overall bid set forth in the public bidding laws; it is 20%. Even though only two bids were received they both followed proper procedure, there was no reason to reject them according to Mr. Maybury. He had asked this of our Engineer because he was concerned about this as well. There is some amount of carpentry work to be done in the empty space under the roof but there is

additional money added in to the bid amount already due to the possibility that there may be some unknowns.

Abraham Lopez – wanted to follow up on the same issue. Mr. Maybury had stated his concerns regarding the bid at the last meeting and said he would do research. It is his understanding that one of the bids was disqualified; George Saponaro said this is not true. Mr. Maybury agrees with George Saponaro. Mr. Lopez wanted to know why there was such a big difference in the two bid amounts. It is his fear and concern that with just two bidders it isn't enough and are we getting the best bang for our buck. He asked if we could benefit from re bidding. Mr. Maybury said you can't arbitrarily reject bidders that are qualified; we would be subject to lawsuit. Mr. Lopez asked if the Committee had enough information before them to make this decision. George Saponaro explained that this large difference isn't uncommon in these types of bids. The Engineer's initial estimate was for the cost of the project was \$740,000; the resulting winning bid is \$752,000. The bid was qualified by our Engineers and we cannot reject it. Mayor Chang explained that they did nothing to limit the number of bids. Abraham Lopez says we need at least 3 respondents like the State requires. He respects their opinions if the Committee feels comfortable with the bid. It is typical that for certain jobs you only receive one two or perhaps three bids according to George Saponaro. The smaller jobs often elicit more bids while large jobs have a limited number of bidders applying. He isn't suggesting that we would be sued if we rejected the bid but it does happen frequently. He asked Mr. Maybury to elaborate why he felt uncomfortable about the bid; Mr. Maybury stated he didn't have a copy of the bid and he hadn't had a chance to speak to the Engineer.

Mr. Daniels would have liked to have seen three bids as well; he was most concerned if the bid was fair, reasonable and responsible. He believes that it was. Any change order above 20% would require a review and perhaps a rebid.

Vernita Jones, 20 Amara Lane – asked when the limit is set for bids.

Mayor Chang– it has been in excess of 88 degrees on some days on the second floor of the Municipal Building; they need to get moving with this project.

Janet Curran – asked if the roof and the AC projects need to be done at once. It seems to her that we are moving ahead too fast. She asked if there was a Westampton resident to do the job. George Saponaro explained that this was publicly advertised and has to be done by a large company. Westampton has agreements with local trade unions and is one of the few he knows of that has such an agreement. She thinks it can be put on hold.

Gil Gehin Scott – if the Committee wants to set a higher standard is it possible or do they have to follow the law. Mayor Chang explained that the law is the law. Municipal law does not preempt State law. He asked about an interest payment on the bill list for \$93,000.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Resolutions

81-15 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

82-15 Award Roof/HVAC Contract – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

83-15 Cancellation of Tax Balances – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

84-15 Refund Homestead Rebates – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

85-15 Chapter 159, Click It or Ticket Program – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

86-15 Chapter 159, DOT Municipal Aid Program – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

87-15 Chapter 159, NJ Clean Communities – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

88-15 Bond Release, Ikea Property, Block 203, Lot 6.01 – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

Ordinances

8-2015 Amend Chapter 250, Zoning, Medical Campus District Overlay Zone (second reading on 6/23/15). This is on the agenda as a reminder for the next meeting.

Correspondence

None

Dates to remember

Westampton Middle School Awards – June 10 at 7 PM, WMS Cafeteria

Westampton 8th Grade Graduation – June 20 at 10 AM, PAC, RVRHS

Comments – Department Heads & Professionals

George Saponaro – we need to always abide by the laws for public bidding. If we didn't award the bid, considering the engineer's recommendation we might be subject to a lawsuit.

He will be preparing paperwork for the COAH immunities; we may have over 600 units according to the next round. We have to prepare the appropriate legal certifications and make sure we receive credit for everything. This is extremely important for the Township.

Open to public Comment

Nancy Burkley – since the Centerton Bridge is out the intersection is much more dangerous. The light is 9 seconds long; not nearly enough time. She asked if Mayor Chang could talk to the Freeholders. She did and was met with silence and the comment that they don't have any money. Ms. Burkley asked if the interval could just be increased from 9 seconds to 20 seconds. George Saponaro would have Donna Ryan compose a letter and send it out. The DOT may have to look at it. We really need a left turn light coming out of the village according to Ms. Burkley.

Jonathan Wright - wanted clarification on something; he wanted to know how our COAH requirements changed from 300 to 600. The Mayor explained how the numbers changed; we didn't know what the final number would be. It is his understanding that the requirements are in flux; it will be interesting what happens according to George Saponaro. Fortunately we are ahead of the curve.

Abraham Lopez – there are currently no COAH guidelines so how are we certifying numbers. Mayor Chang explained that assignment judges have received letters with suggested numbers for each municipality. This doesn't mean this has been certified.

Mr. Maybury – the numbers aren't fixed; it's not unlikely that we will receive several hundred more and be in the 600 range.

Nancy Burkley – remembers reading that apartments count as 2 units each; Mr. Maybury stated that Project Freedom counts as 2 credits/unit.

There are other projects/units around town that we get credit for according to George Saponaro; amongst them are several group homes and the apartments at Miss Flowers and Rubens.

Janet Curran – wanted to thank the Veterans and say how much Memorial Day means to her even though it doesn't mean much to people now. She spoke about how she doesn't agree with the formation of the Timbuctoo Committee and is against more digs at the site. She wants to know if we are making money or losing money at the Sports Complex. She wants a financial report to see where we stand.

Committee Members Comments

Mr. Daniels – doesn't think it's fair for him to be chosen to give his comments first all the time. He guesses the courtesy the Mayor extended is no longer in order. He attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at the Spring Meadows tot lot. He would have liked to have seen more equipment installed but was happy with the improvements. He was never notified by anyone from our Township to attend the Homeland Security event; he would have liked to represent the Township.

Mr. Thorpe – thank you to Public Works for all the work they did on the new tot lot in Spring Meadows. He thanked Marion and others who worked hard on the grants as well as the Police; the staff works hard and does a great job.

Ms. Teleisa – went to the ribbon cutting ceremony at the tot lot; it was a good feeling attending it. Walmart was having the Heroes Day the same day; what a great experience. Kids were looking up to police officers with respect as well as the fire fighters.

Mayor Chang– it was an honor to perform the ribbon cutting at the tot lot. Mr. Thorpe was instrumental in walking the neighborhood with her several months ago to determine what was needed and what needed to be improved. It was an honor to be there for Heroes Day at Walmart with members of our Police and Fire departments. Regarding Timbuctoo – a lot of folks worked on the project and were given an opportunity to speak. She hopes some will attend the WMS awards ceremony tomorrow evening and the 8th grade graduation.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk