

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
7:00 PM Regular Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order and opened at 7:00 PM by Mayor Sandy Henley. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times on January 6, 2023. This meeting was held in person in the Westampton Township Municipal Building Courtroom. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Committeewoman Burkley	Present
Committeeman Carr	Present
Mayor Henley	Present
Committeewoman Mungo	Absent
Committeewoman Wright	Present

Township Administrator/Clerk Wendy Gibson, Township Solicitor Robert Wright, and Chief of Police Brian Ferguson were also present.

Proclamation:

- a. Fire Prevention Month

Approval of Minutes:

- a. October 3, 2023 Executive Session Minutes

Motion to approve was made by Ms. Burkley; seconded by Mr. Carr.

Motion carried 4-0.

Ayes: Burkley, Carr, Wright, Mayor Henley

Naye: none

Abstain: none

- b. October 3, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Carr; seconded by Ms. Burkley.

Motion carried 4-0.

Ayes: Burkley, Carr, Wright, Mayor Henley

Naye: none

Abstain: none

Ms. Burkley complimented Clerk Wendy Gibson for the ability to complete the minutes without the use of video recording.

Monthly Reports

- a. Construction
- b. Police

- c. Public Works
- d. Court
- e. Fire/EMS

Open Meeting for Public Comments on Agenda Items Only:

Kelly Gehin-Scott, 3 Valley Farm Road, stated that she hoped the Committee would approve the Green Acres grant for the property across from her home. She is appreciative that the Committee is moving forward.

Terrance Brown, 9 Pine Tree Drive, asked about the Corrective Action Plan for the 2022 audit. Asked if there was any consultation for the recommendations for the corrective action plan, and if so would it be disclosed to the public. He stated there seemed to be a lot of internal control issues. He asked what checks and balances are in place to come up with the recommendations, and when the software will be implemented for the recommendations.

All in favor to close public comment.

Resolutions:

- a. 150-23 Payment of Vouchers – this resolution approves the payment of bills through 10/17/2023.

Motion to approve was made by Mr. Carr; seconded by Ms. Burkley.

Motion carried 4-0.

Ayes: Burkley, Carr, Wright, Mayor Henley

Naye: none

Abstain: none

Consent Agenda Resolutions – Resolutions Note: Consent Agenda items are considered to be routine and will be enacted with a single motion; any items requiring expenditure are supported by a Certification of Availability of funds; any items requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda.

- a. 151-23 Resolution Approving Corrective Action Plan for 2022 Annual Audit
- b. 152-23 Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between the Township of Westampton and the Police Chief
- c. 153-23 Resolution Affirming Westampton Township’s Civil Rights Policies
- d. 154-23 Resolution Authorizing Green Acres Funding Approval

Motion to approve was made by Ms. Burkley; seconded by Mr. Carr.

Motion carried 4-0.

Ayes: Burkley, Carr, Wright, Mayor Henley

Naye: none

Abstain: none

Ms. Burkley questioned if Resolution number 153-23 should be an Ordinance. The Solicitor confirmed that the Resolution is meant to be an annual reminder for the

Committee members to comply with JIF requirements in order to receive a deductible and/or dividends.

Open Meeting for Public Comment:

Robert Thorpe, 222 Olive Street, wanted to thank the Committee, Township employees, and the Administrator for implementing the Green Acres grant opportunity to protect the Historic Village. He thought it was a great idea and that it sets a precedence for historic preservation.

Rebecca McGrath, 226 Main Street, stated that the Township needs to patrol the streets in the Village. She stated that people who don't live in the Village speed through the streets, and large trucks still travel through. She stated that traffic and trucks will still continue, even though there are posted signs.

Terrance Brown, 9 Pine Tree Drive, commented on the Civil Rights Resolution. He wanted to know what protection the voters have regarding Civil Rights. He wanted to know what rights people have to ask questions at a public meeting, and he stated that it doesn't hold elected officials accountable. He asked what rights the taxpayers have regarding warehouses and speed bumps. He asked if the questions being asked to be considered harassment. He suggested that his questions be answered by the Solicitor.

Cynthia Luongo, 122 Bridge Street, thanked the Committee for considering the Green Acres discussions. She is grateful the Committee is moving forward. She also thanked the Committee for the traffic signs that were erected in the Village.

Trina Wakeley, 200 Main Street, stated that as she was coming to the meeting, a tractor trailer was turning onto Main Street. She stated they come through her street during the night and early morning.

Deb Conroy, 220 Bridge Street, asked if it was possible to have a police car manned on the streets in the Village, to possibly slow the traffic. Mayor Henley stated that having a police car manned in the Village sounds like a great idea.

Dan McGonigle, 200 Bridge Street, stated that there are tractor trailers in the Village every day. He stated he appreciated the signs that were placed and was also appreciative of the Green Acres grant. He asked which parcels would be considered, stating that he hoped it would be all three.

All in favor to close public comment.

Dates to Remember:

Next Township Committee Meeting November 21st @ 7PM, Historic Commission Oct 25th @ 7PM, Land Development Board Meeting November 1st @7PM, Recreation Committee Meeting November 8th @7PM, Coffee with a Cop @ 7-11 Woodlane Road Oct 24th 9-11AM, Trunk-or-Treat Oct 28th at WMS @ 3-5PM.

Committee Liaison Reports/Comments:

Committeewoman Burkley commented that the school was having a strategy meeting for two days to discuss the survey that was sent out.

She would like to give credit to the Solicitor Bob Wright for initiating the Green Acres grant with Mr. Dolan to come up with ideas for preserving the property.

She stated that other public meetings offer people a 3x5 index card to take notes or drop off for their public comment.

She stated she asked for a report from the Public Works Director regarding the supply contract with Cintas. She stated that other Townships have stated they were not happy with the company, and asked for a report since the Township has contracted with them.

Mayor Henley suggested that Ms. Burkley send the Director an email. Mayor Henley stated that any Committee person should keep the Administrator copied on questions or correspondence, so that there is no perception of going over the Administrator's head.

Committeeman Carr stated that GovPilot is live on the homepage to report any concerns, and that Director Chris Taylor is doing a great job.

He thanked the residents for their comments and suggestions on the chicken Ordinance, and he looks forward to introducing it next month.

He also wanted to support the reaffirmation of Civil Rights. He stated he appreciated Ms. Gibson, the Township Solicitor Mr. Wright, and the Township Committee for the Green Acres funding opportunity. He feels that it is a very important piece of land.

Committeewoman Wright thanked the residents for coming out. She appreciated the smiles on the faces of the residents. She thanked everyone for their suggestions.

Mayor Henley thanked the residents for coming out. He stated he appreciates residents showing their appreciation. He stated that it was the first time that Committeewoman Wright was able to see some of the positive efforts be recognized.

He stated that the Green Acres funding was there, but the Township Administrator and Township Solicitor initiated the process. He stated that the Committee was wise enough to put these people in place to accomplish their goals, and that the people who don't live in Westampton care enough about Westampton and are ready to get things done.

He commented on Mr. Brown's questions about the Civil Rights Resolution. He stated that there wasn't a time when a resident reached out to him, and he didn't return the call. He stated that the nature of the calls could be good, bad, or indifferent, and he didn't feel like any conversation could be considered harassment. He stated that the group is special because they were able to have conversations directly with the residents.

Executive Session

Resolution No. 10.17.2023 - Resolution Authorizing the Township Committee and Support Staff to Meet in Private Session and Authorizing the Exclusion of the Public From that Portion of the Meeting Dealing with Specific Issues Requiring Non-Public Discussions: Attorney-Client Privilege – Personnel.

Motion to approve executive session resolution was made by Mr. Carr; seconded by Ms. Wright.

Motion carried 4-0.

Ayes: Burkley, Carr, Wright, Mayor Henley

Naye: none

Abstain: none

The committee exited the regular meeting at 7:36 pm and entered into Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Gibson, Municipal Clerk