

## WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

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

March 21, 2016

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

Resolution 3-21-16 was adopted to go into Executive session to discuss personnel.

The meeting was again called to order and reopened at 7:13 PM by Mayor Daniels. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times on January 14, 2016. The flag was saluted. Mayor Daniels spoke about the loss of State Police Officer Sean Cullen. He was a former Westampton Township Police officer and the Department was feeling great loss in his death. There was a moment of silence. Mayor Daniels thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

### Roll Call:

Committeewoman Chang	Present
Committeeman Lopez	Present
Committeewoman Smith-Hartman	Present
Committeewoman Teleisa	Present
Mayor Daniels	Present

Al Marmero, Solicitor, was present.

Donna Ryan, Clerk/Administrator was present.

Approve 3/21/16 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Closed Session Meeting Minutes 2/16/2016 – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Chang. All voted yes.

Regular Meeting Minutes 2/16/16 – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

### **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

Nancy Burkley – asked what was the purpose of Resolution No. 26-16. She was concerned that it would be used to not rebuild the Centerton Bridge. She was concerned that a comment made in the past about the bridge prohibiting the use of sailboats was tied to the resolution. There had been several incidents, accidents on Route 295 and other traffic issues where it would have helped to have the Centerton Bridge open. Mayor Daniels explained that it came from resident John Anderson and was associated with the NatureTrail along the Rancocas Creek. He didn't believe it had anything to do with the rebuilding of the bridge.

Vernita Jones – questioned the Deferred School Tax resolution; it was explained that the township collected school taxes six months in advance of them being paid to the school and this was an accounting measure approved to use in the budget. She questioned why the Committee was approving a PILOT with Dolan Contractors.

Mayor Daniels explained that the Township Committee was supporting the Redevelopment Plan and the PILOT to stimulate needed growth in the township; to get a shovel in the ground and realize a rateable. Deputy Mayor Lopez stated we had a budget presentation that showed our budget constraints. We needed to support rateables or not complain about tax increases. This warehouse doesn't impact schools and it produces potential building fees and rollback taxes.

The Woodmont Project, that will go forward, will impact schools. There was discussion on this project that had been tabled in 2015. It will go forward as there was a Redevelopment Agreement that had been signed prior to the PILOT Ordinance that was tabled. There will be a funding formula developed so that part of the PILOT goes to the schools to help with any increased enrollment from the project.

Mr. Lee – happy to hear that the project is going forward.

Jonathan Wright – stated it was disheartening to learn that that the township was obligated to move forward with the Woodmont Project. It was explained that the previous Committee had supported the project and approved the Agreement. It was expressed that better communication with the public was needed for these matters.

Russ Hansel, Wickham Court – commented that the snow ordinance would be a problem for homeowners with a single car driveway and several cars in the family. It was explained that it was in the best interest and safety of all residents to have all cars off the street and the Public Works able to plow curb to curb with no cars to move around. It was suggested to park cars at neighbors, on lawns and in available parking lots.

Janet Curran – when it snowed, she received a reminder call from Willingboro to have cars off the streets. Maybe Westampton could do this.

### **New Business**

Mr. Lopez made a motion to offer the Administrator position to the candidate that was ranked number one. Ms. Chang made a motion to appoint Ricky Smith as Administrator. Ms. Teleisa seconded that motion. Ms. Smith-Hartman seconded the first motion made by Mr. Lopez. Roll call on the first motion by Mr. Lopez – Chang –no, Lopez – yes, Teleisa – no, Smith-Hartman – yes, Daniels – yes. The motion carried.

Police Report – nothing additional  
EMS Report – nothing additional  
PW Report – nothing additional

## **Resolutions**

24-16 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

25-16 2015 Tonnage Grant – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

26-16 Rancocas Creek National Water Train– motion to approve by Ms. Smith-Harman; seconded by Mr. Lopez. Chang abstained; all others voted yes.

27-16 Transfer of Appropriation Reserves – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Ms. Chang. All voted yes.

28-16 Deferred School Taxes – motion by Mr. Lopez, Seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Chang and Teleisa voted no, all others voted yes.

29-16 2016 Municipal Budget – Mr. Lopez stated that this budget did not increase the local purpose tax; motion by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Chang and Teleisa voted not, all others voted yes.

30-16 Designate Redeveloper for Westampton Interchange Redevelopment Area (Dolan) – motion by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Chang and Teleisa voted no, all others voted yes.

## **Ordinances**

3-2016 Amend Chapter 99, Building Construction (second reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Chang; seconded by Mr. Lopez. The meeting was opened to the public for comment. No comment made. All voted yes.

4-2016 Approve & Adopt the Westampton Interchange Redevelopment Plan (second reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. The meeting was opened to the public for comment. Juanita Smith said she had received a notice about Dolan projects for the April 6 meeting. She had not received a notice for the previous Dolan meeting. She's not comfortable with the way things are moving. She was asked to give the township her email so that she could be notified in the future. Chang and Teleisa voted no, all others voted yes.

5-2016 Amend Chapter 232, Vehicles and Traffic – snow parking (first reading) – motion by Ms. Teleisa, seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

6-2016 Springside Urban Renewal financial Agreement (first reading) – motion by MR. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Chang and Teleisa voted no. All others voted yes.

There was a motion to amend the agenda to include Ordinances 7-2016 and 8-2016 by Mr. Lopez. Ordinance 7-2016 eliminates the positions of Director of EMS/Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief. It reestablishes the position of a Fire Chief. This is a cost saving measure. Funding two positions is inefficient and a redundancy and the only way to have a no increase budget is to eliminate a position. The Administrator Ordinance allows the hiring of the position of Administrator not a Municipal Clerk/Administrator.

Mr. Lopez stated the committee had worked long and hard on the budget and could not come to an agreement for a tax increase. The EMS position will be eliminated. It was created and the two committee members who created the position were not willing to raise taxes to support it. A part time Public Works position would also be eliminated. Two Police positions would not be filled.

The township will still receive 100% of the services they are currently receiving. These eliminations will not affect the resident's safety.

Committeewoman Chang stated she voted no on the budget because she didn't support any layoffs.

Mayor Daniels seconded the motion to amend the agenda. He stated that this was a very tough budget. He was willing to raise taxes a small amount to retain all positions, but had no support from other members. He sought a compromise but couldn't get everyone to agree. He did his best. As a last resort they had to defer school taxes and eliminate positions. Chang and Teleisa voted no. All others voted yes.

7-2016 Amend Emergency Services Department (first reading) – motion by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Smith Hartman. Chang and Teleisa voted no, all others voted yes.

8-2016 – Amend Administrator (first reading) - motion by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Smith Hartman. Chang and Teleisa voted no, all others voted yes.

### **Correspondence**

County correspondence about an energy program they were sponsoring. We would get more information on this.

### **Dates to Remember**

April 11 – Spring Leaf Pick-up

March/April – the schools had several events scheduled to raise money for the Westampton Canine unit.

3/29/16 at 10:30 AM – St. Mary's Cathedral in Trenton had a service for fallen police officers.

### **Open to public Comment**

Nancy Burkley – stated she had not heard anything good about entering into an agreement to bid out electric with the county. Ms. Chang stated the committee had been approached before and opted not to join in this because of negative feedback about the program.

Vernita Jones – asked why we would put the residents at risk by reducing staff.

Jonathan Wright – thanked the Committee for no tax increase after 7 years of tax increases. The new Committee members did what they said they would do.

Chris Parent, Main Street – thank you for no tax increase

Gil Gehin-Scott – echoed the previous sentiments; it's nice to have a break from tax increases

Lee Eckert – new as a resident to Westampton; while the meeting was in progress there were two EMS calls. He felt cutting staff would affect response time for emergencies

The meeting was closed to the public for comment.

### **Comments – Department Heads & Professionals**

Sgt. Caulfield, Emergency Management – the snow storm had been declared eligible for FEMA funds. He would attend a meeting this week to get the information. He was commended by the Committee on his presentation at the Candlelight Vigil for fallen officer Cullen.

### **Committee Members Comments**

Ms. Chang – the Timbuctoo Committee had set May 28 for the Timbuctoo celebration. Her firm had donated to the American Legion for Boys State. She had attended a Bar Luncheon held in Westampton.

Ms. Smith-Hartman – told Sgt. Caulfield he had a future in public speaking. His Candlelight service presentation was heartfelt.

Ms. Teleisa – did not agree with raising taxes, lay-offs, or deferred school taxes. The Easter Egg Hunt attracted 160 children. She commended the Recreation Committee for it.

Deputy Mayor Lopez – thanked everyone for coming out tonight. It was overdramatized that a no increase budget would put residents at risk. The previous committee members would not vote to pay for jobs or positions they created. There were 5 or 6 revisions to the budget. Three residents attended the budget meetings and were asked for their input, the first time that had happened. The new committee members worked with the Mayor to find a responsible budget that was in the best interest of the residents. It was not a

good night to cut positions but they took the job seriously as the taxes had risen 61% since 2008.

Mayor Daniels - the loss of Trooper Cullen shows us that protection isn't free. He wants our employees to always come back home. He had spoken to Congressman McArthur about the closing of the Friends School in Westampton.

Ms. Chang asked that when the other three committee members met, her and Trish be invited. The mayor stated they always were notified.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Ryan, Municipal Clerk