

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 8, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Sidney Camp. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times February 25, 2011. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Committeewoman Chang	Present
Committeeman Daniels	Absent
Committeeman Maybury	Present
Committeeman Robbins	Present
Mayor Camp	Present

George Saponaro, Solicitor, was present.

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

Minutes of the February 22, 2011 meeting; motion to accept by Mr Maybury, second by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes, Ms. Chang abstained.

Scheduled Appointments

None

Comments on agenda items

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Online Tax Payment Software – there is money in the budget to purchase this; residents will be able to go online and pay taxes as well as check the amount they owe. It is working well in the other towns that have it. We have a Comcast IT grant which is being used to purchase this software.

Raffle License #3-2011 (Center for the Arts in Southern NJ 5/7/11) – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.

Raffle License #4-2011 (Burlington County 4-H Leader's Council, Inc. 10/21/11) – motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

Burlington County Concerned Citizens for Sheltering the Homeless, Inc. – breakfast 3/16/11 @ 8:00 AM

Ordinances

4-2011 Cap Bank Ordinance - second reading. Opened to the public for comment; no comment was made. Motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.

Resolutions

28-11 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes. Mr. Robbins asked about the Office Depot business service division charges; the charges are for the beginning of the year police office purchases. The South Jersey Lawns bill for \$3600 is paid out of the Recreation Trust Fund; they seeded and fertilized the Sports Complex. This is only for the spreading of it, not for the actual fertilizer itself. There will be another bill coming.

29-11 Appoint Alternate Fund Commissioner - motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.

30-11 Approve Liquor License – Ruchi/SSN Westampton, LLC – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.

31-11 Authorize Interlocal Service Agreement – motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes. This agreement is for animal control services; Willingboro filled in for us last year in Wes Goodfellow's absence; it worked well for us. There are now five townships that have joined into this agreement and two more are interested; it is a good shared service.

32-11 2011 Municipal Budget – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Ms. Chang. All voted yes, Mr. Robbins voted no. The public hearing would be held on April 12, 2011. Donna gave a brief overview of the budget. The tax rate will increase approximately 3.2 cents over last year. The main reasons for the increase are pension plans, the tax revaluation program (over a 5 year payback), health insurance, debt service, and salary increases. A copy will be posted on the website tomorrow. Mr. Robbins asked if this budget includes the anticipation of settling the police contract; it does.

33-11 Receive Bids for Ambulance Purchase – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Ms. Chang. All voted yes, Mr. Robbins voted no.

34-11 Executive Session – for discussion of litigation. Motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

Correspondence

PSE&G – notice of public hearings – March 15th, 1 PM

Workshop – discussions to be scheduled at a later date

Rancocas Historic Preservation Ordinance – will be discussed on May 17th at the Township Committee meeting

Rancocas Traffic – March 22nd, 6 PM

Snow parking – won't be scheduled yet

Burlington County Farmland Preservation Program Ordinances

Dates to remember

Primepoint, LLC – having a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 24th from noon – 7 PM; includes tours of the building and refreshments

April 12th - public hearing on the 2011 Municipal Budget

Comments

Solicitor George Saponaro – the PDA agreement process has been essentially completed. There have been many changes made to the initial contract. Lighting will be inserted into the contract in article #6. All the insurance is appropriate; PDA will provide a free two day soccer camp program to 250 residents. They will supply equipment for maintenance of the turf field. The Township will have the sole right to manage the sale of food and beverages at the field. Mr. Robbins asked if the football field will be moved; the estimate from the engineer is \$300,000 for paving of the parking area. Right now we are just using stone. It will be paved at a later date when we can secure funding for it. This will have to come out of the Open Space Fund. It will be called Phase 4. This is the only football field at the complex. It looks as if this will be of financial benefit to the Township.

Mr. Robbins objects to the use of Open Space funds; he thinks some of the money should be used to preserve open space. He also thinks that the contract should come before the entire Committee for approval and not just the Mayor and the Solicitor.

Donna Ryan – we do have to act on Phase 4 of the complex so that we can move the football field. She needs an approval to move forward on the project; if not moved on tonight it won't be ready for the RV Patriots in the fall. The gravel parking lot is something that is needed. Mr. Robbins asked for clarification on the four CME estimates which were in the packets. Mayor Camp recommends that this is tabled until the agreement with PDA is signed, until the next meeting. All Committee members are in agreement with this postponement.

John Augustino – there have been a few fires in the Township; one was out at Sunnyside Farms (hay fire).

Fire Chief Wylie Johnson – clocks get set ahead on Saturday night; remember to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. The EMS/Fire department was awarded a SAFER grant from FEMA; it will allow them to hire 3 full time EMTs for daytime staffing.

Police Chief Rick Smith – there were two residential burglaries in Holly Hills; they made arrests by using fingerprinting.

Open to public Comment

Jim Lutz – asked Donna about the tax increase; asked Chief Johnson if any employees submitted applications for retirement; they have not.

Janet Curran – she asked if the artificial turf was being installed at the sports complex; she thinks we are losing our identity; we should be using our own director. How much use will our township have on these fields? She doesn't think we need an outside contractor using our fields. Mayor Camp and Mr. Maybury were initially against this and now they are approving it.

Mr. Maybury – at no time was he ever against the sports complex.

Mayor Camp – initially, yes, he was against it because there was no clear cut understanding of how it would work. They have to come up with a way to cover the debts associated with the fields. He was initially also against the location of the fields.

Steve Fiegeles – is here as a representative of PDA; he resents being called an outsider; he has lived here in Westampton for 10 years; we have to give the kids an opportunity to develop. The turf field will benefit the high school, the vo tech, and our middle school. The Township and our schools all will have use of the facility. They want to get more children involved in soccer; PDA is one of the top five clubs nationwide in soccer. This will put Westampton on the map with soccer, which is not a bad thing. It is a big thing for him to see this happen in Westampton. They are committing about a million dollars to put the turf here in Westampton; it will benefit the kids, he thinks it is a good thing.

Janet Curran – she is against having a ten year contract and having someone else coming in and taking over. She doesn't think Westampton is ready for this. We haven't dedicated the fields yet nor named the fields.

Ms. Chang asked Janet Curran to explain her point of view and asked her to explain what she meant about us moving too fast. She also asked her if she thought that PDA would come in and exclude Township residents from using the fields; Ms. Curran agreed. She was concerned that Township residents might not be able to afford certain programs. Ms. Curran wanted to make sure that residents wouldn't be limited to using the sports complex to perhaps one month out of the year.

There were no further comments from the public and the meeting was closed for public comment.

Mayor Camp – wanted to remind everyone that April 12th is the public hearing for the budget; he commended Chief Wylie Johnson on securing the FEMA SAFER grant. Mr. Maybury, Mayor Camp and Donna Ryan attended the JIF program the other evening. He spoke to Mr. Lutz regarding his previous comments on the CAP bank ordinance and gave him paperwork regarding Mr. Lutz's prior affirmative votes on the very same ordinance from years ago.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk