

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 22, 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	Present
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 March 8, 2011 meeting; motion to accept by Mr. Maybury, second by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes, Mr. Daniels abstained. Closed session minutes of the March 8, 2011 meeting; motion to accept by Mr. Robbins, second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes, Mr. Daniels abstained.

Scheduled Appointments

6:00 PM Workshop – Rancocas Traffic

Lt. McGough spoke regarding the traffic crosswalks that were installed in Rancocas Village. He explained that the crosswalks had to be painted this way due to regulations; he had the manual with him that consisted of many pages.

Norm Miller is concerned with speeding due to narrow streets, children playing in the streets, etc. They met in October (Committeeman Daniels attended this meeting); there were lots of comments and ideas that came from the meeting. The majority of the people did not like the crosswalks and thought they were gaudy. The real way to stop speeders is to have someone there (police officer) to enforce the speed limit. Josh Rowbottom, our Class 2 special officer, has been in Rancocas and has been writing many tickets; he thinks this is what they really need. They know they are a relatively small area of the Township but they would like a portion of a police officer's time spent in Rancocas. Crosswalks won't do it, speed bumps and crosswalks may help, but they really need a police presence.

Chief Smith stated that there has always been a speeding problem on Main St. in Rancocas; there are many more roads in town since 1987 and they get many more complaints now; there are 33

miles of municipal roads and 20 odd miles of County roads in the Township. The Police Department logged 3400 calls per year in 1987; now they are answering 15,000 calls per year. They have the same amount of officers on the road now as they did in 1989. The most ever scheduled to work on any shift is 4 officers, there are never any more; there could be only 2 officers working. A lot of our problems come from people passing through town. If they hit a particular area hard it corrects the problem for a while; as they leave, the speeds pick back up. They have a particular problem in Deerwood, they have even been writing residents tickets, which they usually don't do. If the crosswalks aren't built to spec, they are unenforceable. Actually, the signage out at Stokes Road is unenforceable and they cannot write tickets; they can stop someone for it but they cannot write a ticket, it is illegal. The Police force will get down there as much as they can.

Rich Rabeau asked what the parking restrictions are for the crosswalks; there aren't any with the exception of they cannot be blocked.

Norm Miller – there is no one in town that is anxious to see the crosswalk signs installed; they are gaudy. He thinks the police aren't in town often enough at rush hour when all the speeding is going on.

Mayor Camp – we were informed by our engineer that the signs to accompany the crosswalks would be limited to two, one at the beginning of Main Street and the other at the end.

Rae Fessler – lives at the house where the crosswalk is; she can no longer park on Main St. She doesn't think the crosswalk controls traffic or speeders, they aren't working. They need more police presence.

Mayor Camp agrees with her but thinks if the plan was completed it may have an effect.

Ms. Fessler says it isn't working; all it has done is inconvenienced people with their parking.

Chief Smith thinks a four way stop sign at Main and Bridge Streets would probably be the best solution.

Mayor Camp read minutes going back many years and found comments regarding Rancocas traffic; it has been going on for many years.

Byron Verner – understands this solution was engineered in regards to public safety; he did not know that the amount of signs has been reduced. He purchased his house in Rancocas because of the village's quaintness. He thinks pedestrian signs don't work to slow people down; he thinks a stop sign would work better. He does not want to see the large signs installed.

Donna Remaly – has three young children; she understands the aesthetic issues; but actually sees a difference now that the crosswalks are there. Because the signage hasn't been installed yet, it is a bit confusing. She thinks the signage and the lines are a good thing.

Nora Dunfee – is the head of the little one room schoolhouse. The crosswalk in front of the school goes from the Christmas tree to the neighbor's hedge; it makes it difficult for the children to cross using it. It goes no where; she would like to see it changed to the other side of the intersection at the post office. She hopes a solution can be found that will work for everyone.

Preston McGiboney – likes speed bumps and stop signs; areas like Haddonfield and Mt. Holly use them. All the other towns use them; why can't we figure out a way to use them like other Townships have. They have always been told they can't be installed because of snow plows.

Janet Curran – the crosswalks lead to nowhere since most areas in Rancocas don't have sidewalks. She doesn't want the ugly signs installed. She would love the Committee to look into speed bumps.

Mr. Robbins – asked if there was discussion about speed bumps in the original engineer's report. There was not; mainly because it would be hard to decide where to place them on Main Street; whose house would they be placed in front of. We cannot have a four way stop without installing curbing; it would all have to be re constructed and would be costly. We have to pay for all of the work; we don't need DOT approval but would have to have a whole engineering approval. Mr. Robbins would like an estimate; Donna would get one for removable speed bumps and also how much it would cost to remove the painted crosswalks. Chief Rick Smith stated that there is required signage for speed bumps.

Ms. Chang – asked about the amount budgeted for the crosswalk study; it was \$2400 and it was all used. What has been spent for the project at this point? It is only the \$2400, maybe a few hundred dollars of the Public Works budget for the paint; we did not purchase the signs as of this point. It would cost approximately \$9600 for the engineering study for the four way stop sign.

Mr. Daniels – asked what the costs would be for permanent speed bumps. Is this something that could be done in house? Donna said they could not if they are constructed of asphalt, but if they purchased the removable ones we could buy them and install them in house. Donna thinks the striping for the speed bumps may be as conspicuous as the crosswalks that are there now. Once all the information is gathered we should have another public forum like this evening to go over everything.

Mr. Maybury – is in favor of adding a four way stop sign at Bridge Street; the speed bumps may have unappealing striping.

Comments on agenda items

No comments were made.

Old Business

Police Contract Award – has been signed by the FOP; Mr. Maybury wanted to confirm that Solicitor George Saponaro has reviewed this latest version; he has, he went over it yesterday. There was one issue but it was corrected; he would review for any clean up on the language. The

impact on the budget is 2.25%; this increase has been included in the budget. 1.5% of their salaries will be contributed towards their health care costs. It is a 5 year contract which represents a 10% increase overall.

Solicitor Saponaro – this is the first contract he has seen where the steps do not increase; he commends the police to agreeing to this.

Mr. Robbins – they did the same thing with the Fire/EMS contract.

New Business

Senior Citizens Police Academy – the County is holding this; it starts on April 15th and runs through May 10th.

Police Report – contained a letter from the Chief of Police from Mount Holly commending Officer Welthy.

Bureau of Fire Prevention Report – John Augustino received some figures about children and fires from FEMA; part of their child safety program will step up their home initiative for providing smoke detectors. They are working on detectors for the hearing impaired, as well as ones for children with autism.

EMS/Fire Report – no comments made

Public Works Report – Mr. Daniels commended the crew on the excellent work they did

Proclamation (Sharon Scott Rogers) – this was done at the request of one of our residents who nominated her for this award. Ms. Rogers is a Westampton Township resident. Mayor Camp read it aloud.

Approval of Phase IV Sports Complex (football field) – Mr. Robbins asked for the cost of Phase IV. The engineering costs were \$15,000; the cost of the building is approximately \$300,000. Todd is working with the Rancocas Valley Patriots which will save them a lot of fees as well as helping pay some of this back. Mayor Camp stated that we are going to try and sit down and iron out an agreement with the RV Patriots. Mr. Daniels commented that the Patriots run a first rate operation; kids learn much more than just sports. Donna is applying for a grant that we will hopefully get like we did last year; this will come out of the Open Space trust account. Mr. Robbins asked how much money we have spent on preserving open space versus what we have spent on the sports complex.

We have spent about \$2.3 million dollars on the sports/recreation complex and approximately \$800,000 on preserving open space. Mr. Robbins wanted confirmation of this; Donna gave the figures.

Ordinances

5-2011 Bond Ordinance - first reading. Motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes. Mr. Robbins asked what the automotive purchases are for: a dump truck, pick up truck and an ambulance. Mr. Robbins no; all voted yes.

Resolutions

35-11 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes. Mr. Robbins asked about the bill for trash disposal paid to Maple Shade in the amount of \$1400; it is the MACCS program that we joined; it will save us about \$12,000 a year, according to Donna. Maple Shade is the lead municipality in the agreement.

36-11 Designation of Depositories - motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes. We are switching our Township accounts from TD Bank to Beneficial Bank because TD is now charging for many services.

37-11 Transfer of Appropriation Reserves – motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

38-11 Burlington County Municipal Park Development Program – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes. Mr. Robbins asked if we have to match any funds. We pay for the engineering costs, which should amount to approximately \$37,000 at the most. Mr. Robbins asked if any land purchases are on the horizon; Donna is waiting for Green Acres for her letter; we will be attempting to purchase the Chitester farm.

39-11 2011 Authorize Execution of Agreement for CDBG – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes. We can apply for this grant every other year.

40-11 Change Order #1-2011 (Tax Revaluation Program) – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.

Correspondence

a. 2011-2012 Municipal Percentage Shares for Tax Levies for RV School District – Mr. Robbins asked how it compares to last year; Donna hadn't looked, she didn't know but she would check on it.

b. 2011 Municipal Aid application (reconstruction of Holly Lane) – there is a possibility that we may be awarded some funds. This is to complete the other half of Holly Lane.

Workshop – discussions to be scheduled at a later date

Rancocas Historic Preservation Ordinance – May 24th; Donna would do the notification.

Snow parking – we are thinking of extending this to the entire Township; Donna is working on this

Burlington County Farmland Preservation Program Ordinances – no action on this at this time.

Dates to remember

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

April 12th - public hearing on the 2011 Municipal Budget

Comments

Mike Meenan – spring leaf pick up will take place the week of April 11th. We have been getting a lot of electronics recycling dropped off at the recycling area. They are trying to get a larger dumpster; will be receiving money back for this.

Mr. Daniels – wanted to congratulate the RV girl's basketball team on their State Championship; the boy's team lost by only 2 points.

Mr. Robbins – Fire/EMS has received 67 applicants for the SAFER positions; Mr. Maybury and he will be involved in the interview process. There is a manufacturer of new hose that asked our fire fighters to participate in a video; they are giving us free hose; it is his concern if this is a good thing, he would like the Solicitor to check this out first before we agree to participate and if it is in compliance with the law.

Ms. Chang – visited the sports complex, the concession stand was up and running; it looks really good.

Open to Public Comment

No comment was made.

Mayor Camp – they have been working on the Police contract for about a year and a half. He thanked the FOP for stepping up. There was a soft opening at the concession stand this Saturday; we made about \$270 that day; it wasn't announced or anything. He thanked Mike Dolan; according to the PDA agreement, we have to provide temporary lights; Mike Dolan has loaned us four portable lights for the next four to six weeks. Sacred Heart baseball starts this weekend, the concession stand will be up and running. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight; there was a good turnout.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk