

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 10, 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 April 26, 2011 meeting; motion to accept by Mr. Maybury, second by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.

Scheduled Appointments

6:00 PM – Closed Session

7:00 PM – Swear in new EMS employees: Mayor Camp swore in the three new members; this is the first time a firefighter/EMT has ever been sworn in at the Township. The new employees are Mike Westdyk, Cecil Collins and Steve Getz.

At this time a five minute recess was taken.

Comments on agenda items

No comments from the public were made.

Old Business

Mr. Robbins had questions for the Solicitor regarding the sports complex and the inadequate construction/engineering that took place there; the Solicitor stated that he was working on it. Mr. Robbins asked if our costs would increase, and if this was an unbudgeted expense; Donna said it was but that it should not impact us greatly. The Solicitor would render an opinion as to whether there was any Township liability; he did not anticipate any problems with the PDA contract.

New Business

Mayor Camp – the RVRHS school budget was voted down, Ms. Chang and Mr. Maybury would represent Westampton at the meeting Thursday evening.

Ordinances

6-2011 Farmer's Market - second reading. Motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes, Mr. Robbins abstained. Mr. Robbins read through the Ordinance; he was unclear on some points. He wanted to know if the Township would be liable if an injury occurred on site at the farmer's market. Solicitor Saponaro explained that you can't stop someone from suing; he doesn't think small farmers would name the Township in a lawsuit. Mr. Robbins also asked about increased insurance costs; is there any projected cost and did Donna check with JIF. Donna had checked and there is no additional cost. We would have to be aware of safety concerns.

The ordinance was the same as the one used for the County Farmer's Market. Mr. Robbins asked who would propose the rules; the rules would be presented to the Committee for review and adoption. He asked if the Ordinance specified that the rules be adopted by the Committee, it does not. The rules could be adopted as per the administrator. There is a clause regarding health inspections; are they aware of this; is there a charge for the inspections. There is not a charge; the County functions as our health agent and does not charge. He then asked about advertising or marketing the farmer's market. We would probably post it on our website; send letters to local farmers and place it on our local bulletin boards. The library is interested in partnering with us but since it is under construction it needs to be held at the firehouse for this year. Mr. Robbins was concerned if this might compete with our local farmers; Donna thought it would not; it would draw more traffic and they could sell more. He asked if there was any preference given to organic products; we could do certainly do this. A resolution would be drafted stating that the rules would be approved by the Township Committee.

This was opened to the public for comment. Norm Miller has mixed emotions about this; and whether it is a good thing or not. He asked if the local farmers asked for this and wanted to know how it came about.

Mayor Camp explained that he went to Bordentown's farmer's market last year and saw theirs and thought it was fantastic. There is also a new resident with a huge garden who wants to sell at a market. Norm asked if it was realistic that local farmers would participate in this; he doesn't understand the logic. It seems like a logistical nightmare to him.

Sophie Dugans – she thinks Thursday everyone goes to Columbus; but that is during the morning and early afternoon. The farmers market would be open in the late afternoon and early evening.

7-2011 Salary Ordinance, Chief of Police and Lieutenants – first reading. Motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

8-2011 Salary Ordinance, Patrolmen & Sergeants – first reading. Motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

9-2011 Salary Ordinance, Township Employees – first reading. Motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

10-2011 Salary Ordinance, EMS Employees – first reading. Motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

Resolutions

51-11 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes. Mr. Robbins – asked about a line item on page 2 for Tiger Direct. This bill was for computer upgrades that were budgeted for. He asked about a bill on Page 6 that was paid out of the Comcast Grant. This was for Office Business Systems and Edmunds software (to pay tax bills online and a minutes system for recording minutes for meetings). This was all paid for by the Comcast Technology Grant.

52-11 Applications for Totally Disabled Tax Exempt Veterans – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.

53-11 Appoint Tax Appraiser for Office Depot Tax Appeal – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Maybury. Ms. Chang asked how the appraiser was chosen; bids were solicited and the lowest qualified bidder was chosen as the tax appraiser. Mayor Camp asked if we know how much it will cost; Donna does not know but she stated that we must do it as it is pending in State tax court for three years. Mike Moubert will keep a close eye on this. Mr. Robbins asked if we have an estimate based on past experience. Donna would put a limit of \$7500 on this, if it was exceeded she would have to return to the Committee; it is budgeted out of the special legal line item. The Solicitor recommends using the same person if other tax appeals become necessary. Ms. Chang wanted to know we had any experience working with this person; Donna explained that Mike Moubert is familiar with them and has worked with them previously. We have used this particular person before. Mr. Robbins thinks it would be helpful to review this information in closed session beforehand; Donna explained it is very time sensitive but she would do it in the future.

54-11 Review Rules for Farmer's Market – the rules would be presented to the Committee for review and adoption; rules would include some preferential language for organic foods and materials. Motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

55-11 Executive Session – for discussion of contracts. Motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

Correspondence

Westampton Middle School – sent a thank you letter to our Public Works Department for the excellent care they take of the exterior of the schools.

Workshop – discussions to be scheduled at a later date

Rancocas Historic Preservation Ordinance – May 24th at 6 PM

Rancocas Traffic -

Snow parking – October or November

Burlington County Farmland Preservation Program Ordinances – Donna spoke with them yesterday, it would be coming shortly.

Dates to remember

May 18th – Senator Menendez – is hosting a Veteran's program at the Boathouse in Pennsauken, from 4:30 PM – 7 PM

May 18th – is the annual memorial service at the Public Safety Center for those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. It is for Police and Fire/EMS.

Mr. Daniels – DVSSE stands for Disabled Veterans Surviving Spouse Exemption Form

Comments

Chief Wylie Johnson – thanks for the SAFER grant support; he thanked Mayor Camp for sitting on the interview committee; he also thanked Chief Smith.

Ms. Chang – continues to meet with the Recreation Committee; the swim team will not be using the facility. They may have swim lessons there this summer.

Mr. Robbins – congratulations to the new EMT/firefighters; welcome to the community.

Mr. Daniels – attended the School Board reorganization; they honored Harry Bell and Leo Leroux for their service. There were 3 terms that were up; Dan Dole is new Board president; Christine Daly is the new vice president.

Open to public Comment

Janet Curran – the Memorial Service for fallen police officers will take place 10 AM on May 18th; 6 PM for firefighters. She wished that more people would turn out for these ceremonies.

American Legion – Memorial Day service, should be at 10 AM

The Westampton Historical Society will place a wreath on the Timbuctoo monument; there is a house on Church St. that is greatly overgrown, she was disappointed to see this as it affects Timbuctoo.

There were no further comments and the meeting was closed.

Mayor Camp met with the new Marriott Courtyard general manager, they anticipate opening in early June; they are already sold out for the 4th of July. Welcome to the new EMTs; he sat with the Mayor of Lawnside who spoke of the significance of the Underground Railroad. He invited him to come and see some of the work that took place at Timbuctoo.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk