

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 PM Closed Session 7:00 PM Regular Meeting

November 7, 2016

The closed session meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM; Lopez, Chang, Teleisa, Daniels present, Smith-Hartman absent. Resolution 11-7-16 was adopted to go into closed session to discuss the Eastampton Court Shared Service agreement, fire engine repairs, police staffing and COAH.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:05 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. There was a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

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

Al Marmero, Solicitor, was present.

Maria Carrington, Administrator and Marion Karp, Clerk were both present.

Approve 11/7/16 Agenda – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Closed Session Minutes of 10/17/16 – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. Mr. Lopez, Ms. Smith-Hartman, Ms. Teleisa and Mr. Daniels voted yes, Ms. Chang abstained.

Regular Meeting Minutes of 10/17/16 – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Sherry Dolan – asked about the donation to Tarnsfield Swim Club; as a Township resident she can't just go and use the pool; she wants to know why Township money being used for renovations there. This is a private pool and not a public pool. Administrator Maria Carrington explained this is the correct time to do the repairs, however she doesn't have the background on the pool in order to properly explain this. Mr. Lopez explained that 100% of the pool's operating expenses are funded by the dues charged to join the pool; there is a need to upgrade the bathrooms. The funds are coming from a contribution that is to be made by the Woodmont Developers. The Public Works Department does occasional maintenance there but most everything else is funded

through their dues for membership. Ms. Dolan doesn't feel that the \$20K should go to the pool.

Vernita Jones – the \$50,000 is additional money they are getting from Woodmont, they haven't gotten this money yet. They are spending it before they even have the funds.

Mr. Lopez – they are contractually obligated to deliver the funds and the money is committed and will be coming here.

Vernita Jones – they are taking the funds out of the Open Space fund.

Mr. Lopez – the money will be replenished; he has a different opinion about the swim club; it is a good thing to have in the community. They have events that they host and are open to the public. \$158,700 is what it costs to operate the pool for a season; we only pay for partial capital expenses every so often, maybe every ten or fifteen years. He asked if instead the Township should take ownership of the pool in full so that everyone can swim and for them to raise their hands. The pool is public; if you want to use the pool, pay the membership fee.

Lori Hustus – asked where the \$20K would come from if we didn't have the \$50K contribution from Woodmont.

Sherry Dolan – feels the funding should come from the membership fees; if need be they should raise the fees.

Kristen Perkowski – is the current president of the pool; they operate 100% from their pool membership. She explained the history of the pool and how the memberships functioned. The pool fell on some hard times and the Township purchased the property. There are major things that need to be done to the pool since it is now 30 years old. They had applied for a grant to redo the coping and tiling but it didn't come through so they had to pay for that and don't have the money to renovate the bathrooms. They are trying to prioritize the things that need to be fixed. They try to keep the membership price reasonable.

Linda Hynes – asks the Committee to consider that the schools also need money and one of the biggest considerations is its students.

Jim Jacob – has a question about the Ikea drive discussion and if he will be able to ask questions later.

Vernita Jones – asked if everyone pays for their memberships. Ms. Perkowski stated that everyone does and they offer a variety of memberships to choose from.

Mr. Lopez – commented regarding the Rancocas Civic Association and their partnership with the Township. They charge a fee to rent the old Firehouse.

Mayor Daniels – thanked everyone for their comments on this; please keep in mind that the Tarnsfield Swim Club is an asset owned by the Township; it is the same with the American Legion building. We consider ourselves fortunate this year to have some investment in terms of contributions made by developers that we could use for community enrichment. This is for quality of life enrichment for our children.

Ms. Smith-Hartman – all should come to the Tarnsfield Swim Club and see the camaraderie that the families share; it is a sport for ages 5-18 where kids come together as one. It is a wonderful asset to Westampton and as a realtor it is a selling feature for Westampton homes; she is a huge proponent and a founding member.

New Business

Discussion of Ikea Drive dedication – Township Administrator Maria Carrington gave an overview of what is being proposed at the new Camuto warehouse being constructed on Springside Road. The Committee is concerned that due to only one exit/entrance it will create traffic/accident problems. They have proposed the construction of another access point to the warehouse and it will require the dedication of a portion of Ikea Drive. The Committee needs to consider this and make a recommendation to the Land Development Board. Mike Dolan gave some background; Ikea Drive was intended to be dedicated to the Township a long time ago. He agrees that another exit/entrance is the solution to the problem.

Jim Jacobs – is happy that Ikea Drive will be used as an exit point. Can it also be used as an entry point to force all traffic onto Ikea Drive? He asked if the proposed exit can be moved from the northeast corner to the southeast corner. This would push the truck traffic away from the neighboring residents.

Mike Dolan – explained that trucks like to move around a facility in a counter clockwise motion; it avoids blind spots when backing up. They also don't want to mix cars with the truck traffic. It is for safety concerns.

Jim Jacobs – is it viable to have cars only enter on Springside Road and limit truck traffic to Ikea Drive only?

David Guerrero – echoes Jim Jacobs' comments; he is concerned with this. They hope the Township entertains some potential options for moving the truck exit. They want to minimize the impact of this warehouse on the residential properties.

Ms. Teleisa made a motion to refer this to the Land Development Board for their further review and discussion; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

Resolutions

Mr. Lopez asked if Resolution #106-16 and #101-16 could be considered out of turn as Ms. Smith-Hartman had to leave the meeting early.

106-16 Approve AFSCME Contract – motion to approve made by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Mr. Lopez publicly thanked AFSCME and the Committee people and the 4 employees that served as shop stewards; it wasn't easy; we invested quite a few months in this. He wanted to commend the Township employees for really going all in for the residents of Westampton; they really did put the residents first. Westampton Township has a commitment to their employees and they appreciate them; the Municipal Court employees will be receiving an additional stipend for the additional court that they hold here; and Public Works will be receiving more of a boot allowance. Sick payouts upon retirement will be capped at \$15,000; new hires will be capped. We are eliminating longevity pay for all new employees as well which will save tax dollars. Bereavement leave was changed; new hours are 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM for the Municipal Building to help more people get here to do business. Ms. Chang thanked Ms. Teleisa for the enormous amount of hours she put in on this contract.

Mayor Daniels thanked the negotiating team of Mr. Lopez and Ms. Teleisa and the employees for negotiating; Maria Carrington, the Township Administrator and our labor attorney. He is here all the time and he sees firsthand the employees working diligently every day for the residents. They are very professional and get the job done.

101-16 Authorize Distribution of Funds to Tarnsfield Swim Club – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes, Ms. Chang abstained.

98-16 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Chang. All voted yes.

99-16 In Support of S-2663 & A-4234– motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

100-16 Refund Tax Sale Certificate – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

102-16 Authorize Financial Distribution of Funds from Dolan Contractors, Inc. – motion to approve made by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Lopez.

103-16 PILOT Monitoring Policy – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa.

104-16 Chapter 159, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over – motion to approve made by Ms. Chang; seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

105-16 New Century Bankruptcy – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Chang. Mr. Lopez explained that New Century was trying to get their last tax payment back. Ms. Chang wanted it clarified that the suit was dismissed with prejudice. All voted yes.

107-16 Fire Truck Lease – Mr. Lopez explained what the resolution meant. We would be leasing a used fire truck while the one we own that was damaged in an accident was repaired. Insurance pays for 100% of the lease payment. It is for 6 months. Motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Ordinances

19-2016 Salary Ordinance for Police Officers (first reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. Mr. Lopez explained to the residents that this has to be done every year. All voted yes.

20-2016 Salary Ordinance for Full Time Firefighters/EMTs (first reading) – Ms. Teleisa wants the Fire Chief salary separated out like it is for the police salary ordinance. Motion to approve as amended by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa.

21-2016 Salary Ordinance for the Chief of Police & Lieutenant (first reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

22-2016 Amend Chapter 182; Property, Vacant & Abandoned (first reading) – motion to approve by Ms. Chang; seconded by Mr. Lopez.

Correspondence

Willingboro MUA – proposed rate change hearing

Dates to Remember

Veteran's Day Parade – November 12th, Willingboro Township

Am Vets Annual Spaghetti Dinner – November 12th, Rancocas Community Center, 4-7 PM. Take outs are available

November 12th – Annual Free Rabies Clinic, 9 to 11 AM, Public Works Garage

December 10th – Westampton Recreation's Annual Breakfast with Santa

December 14th – Senior Citizen's Holiday Dinner

December 17th – EMS Annual Santa Around Town – starts at 10:30/11 AM

Sam Hayes will be honored at WMS on Tuesday, November 8th at 8 AM

Open to Public Comment

Lori Hustus – thinks it is sad for employees to have to give up bereavement time.

Jerry Mengel – the No Parking signs in Fernbrooke are about 15 years old and are fading; would Public Works take care of that? Maria would speak to Mike Meenan about this.

Chris Hamilton – wanted to commend the Fire Department throwing candy out of the truck on Halloween.

Jim Jacobs – appreciates the Fire Department and all the work they do

Comments from Department Heads and Professionals

Police Chief Joe Otto – on October 20th they met with Deerwood at their Town Hall meeting; it went well; they are continuing their meetings and will meet with other sections of the Township. Lt. Rogers participated in the Jack and Jill event this past Saturday; yesterday several officers escorted several breast cancer survivors at Great Adventure for the Susan J. Komen walk/run. They wanted to recognize Sgt. Brewer and SLEO Johnson and the EMS crew for saving two lives this weekend.

Mayor Daniels – thanked Chief Otto for everything they did with participating in the Jack and Jill event and the Susan G. Komen walk.

Administrator Maria Carrington – thanked the Committee for settling the AFSCME contract.

Ms. Teleisa – as we know Veterans Day is Friday; she wants to extend a thank you to all vets in the audience, on the dais, and to her Father; to all active military as well as those who have died. Thank you for our independence, we have a choice and it is because of you. Thanks for your bravery and courage.

Ms. Chang – salutes all Post 509 members in the audience and a good night to everyone.

Mr. Lopez – clarified the bereavement schedule for the public; the employees saw it was appropriate to make a change and agreed to do it now; it will apply to not just the future employees. It is a very generous leave schedule. He thanked the police for being the best in terms of community outreach and the EMS Department for all the volunteering they do. The Township hosted two debates last week; the room was packed, it was great to see legislators packing the room. Everyone was impressed with the courtroom, the building, the police department – all were commended. Everybody get out to vote tomorrow. People shed their blood for this right. He thanked everyone for coming out.

Ms. Chang – wants to make sure that we will still be doing the Thanksgiving donations that Janet Curran spearheads. Maria would be checking into this.

Mayor Daniels – knows that Kingdom Church reached out to families that may need help over the holidays. They are looking to help 200 families. They will be having an open house and ribbon cutting on Saturday November 19th. The debates were held here and were a success; he thanked Mike Meenan for the temperature control. Everyone thank a Veteran and realize that someone paid a price for our freedom.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Municipal Clerk