

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 PM WORKSHOP 7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

May 15, 2017

The workshop meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with all Committee members present. Topics included the bond ordinance, social media policy and dedication of Ikea Drive.

The regular meeting was again called to order at 7:09 PM by Mayor Daniels with all present. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times January 5, 2017. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

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

Brian Schotts, Solicitor, was present.

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

Approve 5/15/17 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Minutes of the 5/1/2017 meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes. Minutes of the 5/1/2017 Closed session meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Scheduled Appointments

None

Public Comments on agenda items

No comments were made.

Old Business

None

New Business

Police Report – Mayor Daniels thanked Officers Rowbottom, Davis and Woods for taking part in the Unity Ride; as well as thanking those that took part in the DC Fallen Officers memorial. Congratulations to our Police Department for being named one of the best in the state.

EMS Report – the department is still working in Holly Hills on door to door smoke detector inspections, they have installed and given away 100 new smoke detectors; the demand is higher than they thought it would be.

Public Works Report – Mayor Daniels had spoken with Mike Meenan, he has been out with his daughter who had a concussion.

Proclamation – honoring school counselor Maureen Malecki; they will be presenting this to her on Friday May 19th at the Westampton Middle School where she will be honored. Mayor Daniels read the proclamation aloud. He will be presenting it to her in honor of being named Burlington County School Counselor of the Year.

Social Media Policy – Mr. Wisniewski made a motion to amend Version B of the policy. Wording would be changed from “prohibiting partisan content as perceived by the public” to “as determined by the township administrator”. Ms. Teleisa seconded the motion.

Mr. Lopez stated that he is disappointed; when he ran for election the constant feedback he received from residents was asking why they only knocked on doors at election time; they want to be kept up to date year round. He is using the social media platform to keep residents updated. They are trying to bring the Township into the 21st century. The Township has a Facebook account, Twitter account as well as an Instagram account. At the time, Mr. Lopez had asked if anyone wanted to run the township Facebook account, no one stepped up so he volunteered to do so at the time. He shares Ms. Teleisa’s concerns that an elected official should not be running the social media account, however he ran all of 2016 without a problem; in fact, they went through a complete election cycle without a single complaint. We hired a person to help manage the social media accounts. He and Ms. Smith-Hartman held their first town hall meeting in February of this year; about 25 residents showed up. They want to answer resident’s questions and listen to their concerns.

They then published a notice concerning their 2nd town hall meeting on the Township Facebook page and met resistance. There is nothing from keeping the other Committee members from attending. He requested an opinion from the Township Solicitor; the opinion he received was that it was permissible to post on the Township social media page. He has listened to the concerns of his colleagues; his colleagues aren’t interested in participating in the town hall meetings. This doesn’t mean that he shouldn’t be able to meet with his constituents and not advertise it on the Township’s social media page. He and Ms. Smith-Hartman aren’t up for re-election. He is against the social media policy

tonight and those are his reasons. He doesn't want a selective enforcement of the policy; it is about perception. He hopes his colleagues will do what is in the best interest of the residents.

Ms. Teleisa – has been an elected official for two terms now; they have never had a social media policy. Of course, it wasn't as popular back then as it is now. She read aloud from one of the drafts of the social media policy that was under consideration by the Committee. She thinks the administrator should be the one who would decide what would be posted. They felt it would be best to have one person responsible for it. Tonight they are creating a policy and they felt it was in everyone's best interests to have one. Ms. Teleisa explained that everyone's perceptions are different and therein lies the problem. We never had a policy in place; this is the first.

Mr. Wisniewski – agrees with Ms. Teleisa's concern about perception; but at the end of the day this was a post that raised a lot of questions. We need to finalize our social media policy; it is definitive and is what our solicitor suggested.

Mayor Daniels – asked Maria to take off the line about him being a special guest at the Lupus Walk; she has already taken care of it. He will do his part to see that his name isn't mentioned on it. Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith Hartman feel that this is counterproductive; the public deserves to know he will be participating.

Ms. Smith-Hartman – everyone has had the opportunity to host a town hall meeting; no one has given a response. They aren't endorsing any candidates; this subject is getting really old. We either need to table it or vote on it.

Two separate votes were taken, the first on the amendments. Ms. Teleisa, Mr. Wisniewski and Mayor Daniels voted yes; Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted no.

The second vote taken was on the adoption of the social media policy. Mr. Wisniewski made a motion to approve; Ms. Teleisa seconded the motion. Ms. Teleisa, Mr. Wisniewski and Mayor Daniels voted yes; Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted no.

Resolutions

79-17 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes. Ms. Teleisa asked about the \$9K fee on page 10 for Long/Marmero; she wants to see the invoice. Administrator Carrington answered that this would be paid from the COAH account.

80-17 Chapter 159, Bullet Proof Vest Partnership Grant – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

81-17 Refund Taxes, Block 1708, Lot 29 – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

82-17 Authorize Amendment to the Redeveloper Agreement with Westampton LIHTC, LLC – motion to approve by Mr. Wisniewski; seconded by Ms. Teleisa.

Mr. Lopez wasn't on the governing body when this decision was made nor when the PILOT agreement was negotiated; the developer of this project is a for profit developer. The PILOT is \$35K for 30 years, the amount of children this project will bring in is anywhere from 50 students on up. Basic math shows that this PILOT won't pay for the additional services that are needed from the schools, police and EMS. Project Freedom was estimated to bring in about 9 students; however they currently have 35-40 students enrolled in our schools. It costs about \$13,000 per student/year; this is placing a large burden on our schools; we will get some state aid but it won't be enough. He has expressed this concern before; the response he received before was that this project was tied to the Woodmont development. He reached out to the solicitor who told him the projects aren't connected; however he is against the granting of the extension of time. Solicitor Schott told him that this may be a breach of contract. Mr. Lopez just can't support this project. Mayor Daniels has his concerns as well.

There is a contract in place and the PILOT is part of it. Mr. Wisniewski asked if they don't file by the deadline if we could bring them back to the table. The entire Committee had concerns regarding the affordable housing being all in District 1. Mr. Lopez discussed this with the solicitor who told him that it would not be likely to renegotiate the contract at this time; it was too late.

Brian Schott advised that Ingerman, even if not able to meet the 5/31/17 date had a 90 day cure period in which they would have to settle, in effect, extending the date anyway. They would schedule a special meeting to revisit this.

Mr. Wisniewski made a motion to table the resolution; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes to table the resolution.

Ordinances

3-2017 Bond Ordinance (second reading) – motion to approve was made by Ms. Teleisa, seconded by Mr. Lopez. This was opened to the public for comment. No comment was made and the meeting was closed. All voted yes.

Correspondence

None

Dates to Remember

- Wednesday, May 17, 10:30 am – Trooper Cullen’s name will be added to the Burlington County Police Chief’s 2017 Fallen Officers Memorial, Burlington County Public Safety Center, 1 Academy Drive, Westampton.
- Wednesday, May 17, 7 pm – Fallen Fire and EMS Memorial Ceremony, Burlington County Public Safety Center, 1 Academy Drive, Westampton.
- Friday, May 19, 2017, 2:30 pm - Maureen Malecki will be awarded the Burlington County School Counselor Association’s Counselor of the Year award. The school will be presenting the award on this date.
- Saturday, May 20 – Kingdom Church clean-up; they will be concentrating on trash pick-up at Tarnsfield Park, Rolling Hills East park and surrounding dry basin, Rolling Hills West park, Church Street and Kings Road. This has been rescheduled from May 6.
- Sunday, May 21, 10 am – Armed Forces Freedom Ride; police escorted motorcycle ride from Mt. Ephraim to the Joint Base, see BarbsHD.com or ArmedForcesFreedomRide.org for more information. Mickey Marian invited the Township Committee to participate. This is the 11th Annual Armed Forces Freedom Ride; the only biker run in the nation that goes directly on to the airfield with support from the military. Mr. Wisniewski stated that it is 15 minutes of motorcycles going by, ladder trucks, it’s great. Last year they had between 12 and 15 hundred motorcycles.
- Monday, May 22, 10:30 am – our Police Department will be receiving the Attorney General’s Award for Outstanding Community Policing at the Livingston Student Center in Piscataway.
- Saturday, May 27 – Westampton Historical Society will be laying two wreaths in honor of Memorial Day; one at Timbuctoo Civil War monument and the other at the Rancocas Village monument honoring a young local fire volunteer who lost his life in August 1968.
- Sunday, July 16, 9 am – Tarnsfield Swim Club’s 1st Annual Bill McGee Memorial Masters Swim Meet

Open to public Comment

Nancy Burkley – at the recent Ham Dinner, Boy Scout Troop 117 were absolutely wonderful; they were shorthanded. They couldn’t have done it without them.

Gil Gehin Scott – wreaths will be placed at 8:30 AM

John Mumbower – he likes the idea of town hall meetings; other than those, residents don’t get much chance to speak to their elected officials.

Machell Pettis – thanked the Committee for taking their time to represent the Township. All residents have the right to come out and attend their Township meetings; they are now live streamed; those that cannot come can watch on YouTube.

John Mumbower – the Ingerman PILOT agreement isn't a lot of money for the Township; this developer is laughing all the way to the bank. Elections have consequences; be careful who you vote for.

Comments from Department Heads

Maria Carrington - she, Gene and Marion are all working hard on addressing the grass complaints; they have taken action steps to speed up the process. We are posting the notices on front doors which starts the time tolling immediately instead of mailing out letters.

Mayor Daniels – left the meeting at 8:50 PM for another engagement.

Ms. Smith-Hartman – applauds Marion and Maria for diligently working on these lawns; she thanked them for being proactive.

Committee Members Comments

Mr. Wisniewski – thanks to everyone for coming out and staying for so long. He likes to solve problems and move forward; he is trying to put his best foot forward and is trying to do the best thing for Westampton.

Ms. Teleisa – thanked Maria for drafting the social media policy; she knows she spent a lot of time on it. She is hoping this will help as at least they have a guideline, something in writing. It is new territory. She wished all a Happy Mother's Day.

Mr. Lopez – asked if there was an interest to continue with the workshop this evening. No one wished to continue.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Karp, Municipal Clerk