

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 PM Workshop 7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

July 17, 2017

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:02 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. Mayor Daniels welcomed all guests.

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 7/17/17 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Minutes of the 6/19/2017 meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes. Minutes of the 6/19/2017 Workshop meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Public Comments on agenda items

Nancy Burkley – asked about Salary Ordinance 7-2017 and what the minimum and maximum salaries meant. Administrator Maria Carrington stated that these salary ordinances are required by the state and are done every year. The range in salaries for different positions has to do with steps outlined in the contracts.

She asked about the two cent ordinance for open space and why we need it. Mayor Daniels stated that we use it for open space and recreation; she stated that we seem to use most all of this money for recreation and not for open space. Don't try to deceive the public when this money is being used to mow lawns for recreation; it isn't being open and honest with the residents.

Gary Berberian – asked if the Committee is in receipt of another Public Works report than what has been posted on the website and what is posted on the Township bulletin board; he says that costs for the department aren't included in the report and they should be per the ordinance. Mr. Lopez stated that this format has always been what has been

accepted as a monthly report; the bill list is broken up by department and shows the costs for each department at each meeting.

Louis Lopez – lives in Mt. Holly Township. He thanked Mr. Lopez for attending the MUA meeting. He asked about the audit resolution and asked the Mayor to explain it further, which he did. He also asked for clarification on the Ordinance to place the 2 cent open space tax on the ballot in November.

Old Business

Ms. Teleisa asked for an update regarding Aiden Sharp, the Boy Scout who had attended the last meeting. She wanted to know if he followed up with the Timbuctoo Committee and if they approved his project. Mayor Daniels would reach out to Janet Curran. Maria Carrington had followed up with Aiden; he had spoken with PW Director Mike Meenan and she would reach out to him again to find out more details.

New Business

Police Report – no additional comments

EMS Report – no further comments

Public Works Report – no further comments

Engineering & Inspection Status Report – no further comments

Resolutions

100-17 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Mr. Teleisa. All voted yes.

101-17 2016 Audit; motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes. Mr. Lopez commented that the auditor did a great job on the audit.

102-17 Refund Taxes, Block 1001.11, Lot 7 – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Mr. Wisniewski.

103-17 Authorize Participation in the Electronic Tax Sale Program – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

104-17 Award Construction Contract for Woodlane Road Sidewalk Improvements – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes.

Ordinances

6-2017 Ordinance Authorizing an Extension of Open Space Tax (second reading) – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes. Mr. Lopez hears Ms. Burkley loud and clear; the purpose of the Open Space fund is to preserve Open Space. It can also be used for passive and active recreation and as long as it is used for that he is on board. He would like to see some used for the Rancocas Creek so that people can use their kayaks; he will do his best to watch this. This was opened to the public for comment. Nancy Burkley wanted assurance that funds won't be used to mow the lawns at the Sports Complex; Maria Carrington stated that Open Space funds are used to maintain the Sports Complex. Mr. Lopez explained that this is a permissible use of the funds. Nancy Burkley commented that we don't charge anyone that lives outside of Westampton any kind of a fee to use the Sports Complex. Mr. Lopez stated that we are formulating an ordinance to do just this and they discussed it this evening during the workshop session. She wanted to know what the percentage was of Westampton residents that used the field.

7-2017 Salary Ordinance for Administrative, Court, Public Works, Construction, Finance/Tax employees (first reading) – motion to approve made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

8-2017 Salary Ordinance for full time Firefighters/EMTs (first reading) – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Wisniewski. All voted yes.

9-2017 Salary Ordinance, Chief of Police & Lieutenant (first reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

10-2017 Salary Ordinance, Police Officers (first reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Correspondence

Mr. Lopez – all Committee members had received FOP correspondence as well as a communication from EW Boyle who sent a letter to the editor of the BCT, which wasn't published.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, August 1, 7-9 PM, National Night Out – 1 Academy Drive, Public Safety Building. Fireworks will begin shortly after 9 PM.

September 23rd – WTES smoke detector testing in Tarnsfield in conjunction with the Red Cross. This is an older development and doesn't have hard wired smoke detectors. It is their hope to get the entire town done in the next 4 years.

July 30th – Grace Alliance Chapel will do a clean-up day in Westampton like the other church participated in.

Annual Timbuctoo Day – September 23rd. Mayor Daniels had been in touch with Guy Weston who was planning to attend the next meeting and give a Timbuctoo update.

Open to public Comment

Jonathan Wright – thanked Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman for attending the Mt. Holly MUA meeting. He spoke about the Township's prior Solicitor and the questionable practices; has there been anything done about this and why don't we have an independent investigation performed. He thinks the Township potentially has a malpractice suit and wanted to ask each Committeeperson individually if they would support an inquiry.

Mr. Lopez discussed it and said he was ready to make a motion on this; Ms. Teleisa stated that since they hadn't discussed this ahead of time her vote was a no. They needed to discuss this ahead of time; she doesn't even know what the allegations are. Ms. Smith-Hartman wasn't here when the contract was made but she doesn't think the contract was made in the best interests of the town. Who gets lifetime health benefits? She would be in favor of having someone look at the contract and is in favor of an investigation. Mayor Daniels said there may have been some impropriety from what he has seen; he would be open to having someone look at this. Mr. Lopez said the County Prosecutor could look at this and it wouldn't cost the taxpayers any money. He wanted a formal communication sent to the County Prosecutor regarding the contract negotiation. Maria Carrington doesn't want taxpayer dollars going towards this; Solicitor Brian Schotts said it wouldn't cost the Township anything to bring this to the prosecutor's attention. Ms. Teleisa wondered if this would interfere with the lawsuit that had been filed. Brian isn't familiar with the litigation; but they would review this with Al Marmero. John Wisniewski thinks it is a bad habit to make a motion like this at the last minute. Mr. Lopez made a motion to contact the County Prosecutor and begin an investigation, if warranted. Ms. Smith-Hartman seconded the motion. Ms. Teleisa and Mr. Wisniewski voted no, Mayor Daniels voted yes. The motion carries.

Louis Lopez – asked about Westampton's sewer connections. Part of the Township is serviced by Mt. Holly and the other section is serviced by Willingboro. He asked what the outcome was for the termination of former Fire Chief/Director Jason Carty; he was told that it was in litigation at the current time.

Ms. Smith-Hartman left the meeting at 8 PM due to a prior commitment.

Nancy Burkley – wanted to publicly thank the Westampton Police and Fire Department on behalf of her neighbor. They hadn't seen their neighbor for several days and were worried and called. They came right over and were able to gain entry into the house and found her; she had been deceased for several days. They were so compassionate and she wanted to thank them. The family is very grateful and wanted Nancy to express their gratitude.

Comments from Department Heads

Chief Otto - Thanks to Ms. Burkley for her kind words about the officers.

Committee Members Comments

Mr. Wisniewski – thanked the residents for coming out.

Ms. Teleisa – she is extremely frustrated; they have an agenda and a list of issues to discuss. She likes to be prepared and always reads everything on the agenda before a meeting. This seems like it is staged and it happened last month; it happened again tonight. She doesn't like the way it is done, she doesn't like to be blindsided.

Mr. Lopez – thanks to the residents coming out tonight; he sees some new faces and some regulars. This is what government and democracy is about. Regarding the investigation for our prior solicitor, we have been discussing this particular issue for months and months and it was time to move forward with this action.

Mayor Daniels – thanked everyone for coming out as well. He understands his colleague's feelings; he has some history and knowledge of this.

A motion was made to go into closed session again by Mr. Wisniewski, seconded by Ms. Teleisa at 8:16 PM. All voted yes.

The meeting was again called to order in open session at 9:42 PM

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Municipal Clerk