

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

5:45 PM WORKSHOP/EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

May 1, 2018

The meeting was called to order and opened at 7:03 PM by Mayor Wisniewski. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times January 5, 2018. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Committeeman Henley	Present
Committeewoman Hynes	Present
Committeeman Lopez	Present
Committeewoman Smith-Hartman	Absent
Mayor Wisniewski	Present

David Minchello, Solicitor, was present.

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

Approve Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Hynes. All voted yes.

Minutes of the 4/17/18 meeting – motion to approve by Ms. Hynes; second by Mr. Henley. All voted yes.

Closed session/workshop minutes of the 4/17/18 meeting – motion to approve by Ms. Hynes; second by Mr. Henley. All voted yes.

Scheduled Appointments

None

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Joe DePaulo, 58 Quail Hollow Drive – asked about the resolution concerning the private sale of surplus public works equipment; he wanted to know if these items would be advertised; he wanted to know how the public would know that these items were for sale if they weren't advertised. Mayor Wisniewski stated that this resolution would be tabled tonight as they were re-thinking how they should conduct this.

John Mumbower – asked why this sale isn't opened to the public in lieu of a private sale; the Mayor explained these are dilapidated items and we were attempting to save money

on advertising. He asked if we could just hold a sale in the parking lot. The Mayor stated this was possible.

New Business

None

Ordinances

None

Resolutions

75-18 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Ms. Hynes; second by Mr. Lopez. All voted yes.

76-18 Cancel Outstanding Checks – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Mr. Henley. All voted yes.

77-18 Private Sale of Surplus Public Works & WTES Vehicles and Equipment – motion to table by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Hynes. All voted yes.

78-18 Authorization to Read 2018 Budget by Title Only – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Hynes. All voted yes.

79-18 Local Examination of Budget – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Mr. Henley. All voted yes.

80-18 Public Hearing of 2018 Municipal Budget – motion to approve by Ms. Hynes; second by Mr. Henley. Mr. Henley, Ms. Hynes and Mayor Wisniewski voted yes; Mr. Lopez abstained.

Mayor Wisniewski gave an overview of the important parts of the budget for the public from a document that the administrator had prepared. The meeting was then opened to the public for comment.

Nancy Burkley – stated that the increase is 5 cents; not 4.9 cents. She had a question about installing baseball safety nets at the Sports Complex; she was always told that recreation doesn't take anything from our budget. She believes we bought a lift from the school a few years ago, why do we need another one now. In other towns they don't pay for condos and apartment garbage pickup; she thinks we can save a lot of money; we don't have to pay for this; it should be included in their rent. Is a 9 percent tax increase really necessary?

John Mumbower – asked about deferred school taxes; is this money being withheld from the schools. Mayor Wisniewski would address it after the public comment session is

over. He wanted to know how SAFER grants work; are we on the hook after these expire, do we have to keep these employees.

Mr. Lopez – wants to hear resident’s concerns and ideas; he isn’t ready to disclose why he is voting with an abstention on the budget; his vote isn’t an absolute no but he has to abstain at this time.

Mr. Henley – sitting in this seat isn’t the easiest thing in the world; there are a lot of moving parts to a budget. They’ve had many meetings to come to this point regarding the budget. He doesn’t want anyone to forget that they are all residents here themselves. The things that will not be purchased are never an issue until someone needs them. We really don’t have a choice with some of these things. They weren’t dealt the best hand but they did their best they could do.

Ms. Hynes – they immediately started the budget process after being sworn in in January. They were told that there was a large budget deficit; they held many meetings and approached the budget from many different perspectives. They consistently told departments heads no and told them to come back before them; they really tried to be diligent. Not one member of the public ever came to any of the budget meetings which was disappointing. It is somewhat of a modest increase and still moves Westampton forward; this budget is still giving more to the residents.

Mayor Wisniewski– explained that when we defer school taxes we just hold onto the money a little bit longer; it gives us an opportunity to pay our bills; we still do pay the money to the schools on time. It gives us some flexibility. As far as the SAFER grants; we felt that those employees were needed. We did get tax revenue for one year from the charter school. For two years there was no tax increase; this year they couldn’t pull it off. They made every possible cut that they could without laying people off. There is only a 2.2 cent increase; but he does understand Ms. Burkley’s concerns. The new lift is needed for heavier vehicles.

There being no further comment on the budget; the meeting was closed for comment.

Correspondence

None

Committee Liaison Reports

Mr. Lopez – Public Works is starting brush collection this week; please have it out. They are still cleaning up parks and playgrounds from the winter; there was lots of tree damage.

Ms. Hynes – the Board of Education meeting is 5/7/18; they will be presenting their budget. There will be lots of changes at the schools; everyone should attend the meeting.

The Historic Preservation Commission met last Wednesday; Wawa came for their application. She thanked WTES; they donated a ride to school on a fire engine for a student; it was a big ticket item and was very popular.

Mayor Wisniewski – we have an officer who has been out since February due to an injury; he will be back on light duty next week.

Dates to Remember

May 11th, 10 AM to 2 PM – Providence House Open House, Rancocas Road westbound just prior to Springside Road

May 15th, 10:30 AM – Burlington County Police Memorial Service, Burlington County Emergency Services Building

May 30th, 7 to 9 PM – CPR Class at WTES, 780 Woodlane Road

Open to public Comment

Mr. Mumbower – asked how long the SAFER grants run; they are for 3 years. He asked if it is the intent to keep employees brought on with these grants; Mayor Wisniewski answered that it was. He wants the Committee to keep this in mind and to plan for it. He asked if solar power was ever considered, especially when thinking about our utility bills that increased \$40K this year. He realizes it isn't easy to sit in the Committee's shoes.

Ms. Burkley – this Saturday is the Rancocas Ham Dinner; 5/6/18 at the Firehouse; it is a wonderful event. She thinks it is against the Sunshine Law for the Timbuctoo Committee to hold meetings via conference call. Mayor Wisniewski stated that we would work to address this.

Mr. DePaulo – regarding the new flood zone areas; a neighbor got his results from FEMA; his home is not in the flood zone. He hopes he receives the same information.

Gary Berberian – asked what is going on with the sidewalk at Project Freedom; it appears some of it has been excavated. The Willingboro MUA Meeting is being held on May 16th at 4 PM. No agenda is posted; no minutes have been posted on their website since January. It is frustrating. He wanted to know about the gas tax funding grant and saw that Westampton is receiving \$250K.

Committee Members Comments

Mr. Henley – thanked all residents for coming out; he welcomes the feedback they are given. They are residents like everyone else.

Mr. Lopez – there has been no tax increase in the last few years; he realizes it is a burden for some residents, no matter how small the increase. He acknowledges the need for

more financial planning here in the Township; it needs to be remedied. He finds the Committee agreeing more than disagreeing with each other these days; they are working in a professional manner together. He can attest that everyone has put lots of thought and heart into the consideration of this budget.

Ms. Hynes – thanked all for coming out; May is brain cancer awareness month.

Mayor Wisniewski – thanked everyone for coming out; keep up the good work department heads. We were made aware of our roads grant; the Township applied for this grant; it is definitely welcome. He thanked Mr. Lopez for his kind words.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Municipal Clerk