

## WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 PM CLOSED SESSION    7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

March 24, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with all members present. Resolution 3-24-15 was adopted to go into Executive session to discuss negotiations.

The meeting was again called to order and reopened at 7:04 PM by Mayor Chang. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times January 6, 2015. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence.

### Roll Call:

Committeeman Daniels	Present
Committeeman Maybury	Present
Committeewoman Teleisa	Present
Committeeman Thorpe	Present
Mayor Chang	Present

George Saponaro, Solicitor, was present.

Donna Ryan, Clerk/Administrator and Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk were present.

Approve 3/24/15 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Minutes of the 3/10/2015 meeting – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes, Mr. Daniels abstained. Closed session minutes of the 3/10/2015 meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes, Mr. Daniels abstained.

### **Scheduled Appointments:**

None

### **Public Comments on agenda items**

Nancy Burkley – asked why her comment about taxes going up was left out of the minutes. She is concerned about a bill on the bill list regarding payment for basketball referees. She thinks the method of paying the referees was caught in the audit last year, is this cash that they are given? They need to be on the payroll if we are paying them, they need to pay taxes on these earnings. Donna explained that this is a company that does this and each referee is issued a 1099. It is approved by our auditors according to

Donna. Ms. Burkley asked how we keep track of how much each receives. Donna stated that we hired a company to do the paperwork and pay the referees. It all comes out of the fees we charge to sign up for sports; nothing comes out of taxpayer's money. Ms. Burkley says it looks bad on the bill list.

### **Old Business**

Andre Daniels – was not at the last meeting. He wanted to thank Judge Andronici for his service to the community. He thought he was a fair and balanced jurist, a great legal mind. He wishes him well in his future endeavors. He is sorry he is no longer a Westampton Township employee. He would have cast a no vote if he were at the meeting and would have sought to retain him.

### **New Business**

Appoint Township Planner – Mr. Thorpe made a motion to appoint Barbara Fegley of Environmental Resolutions Inc., as Township Planner. Mr. Maybury seconded the motion. All voted yes.

Bureau of Fire Prevention Report – no further comments were made

Police Report – no further comments were made

Public Works Report – received some good letters on the great job they have done.

EMS Report – no further comments were made

### **Resolutions**

45-15 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

46-15 Authorize Interlocal Contract for Cooperative Purchasing – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

47-15 Transfer of Appropriation Reserves – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa.

48-15 Recycling Tonnage Grant – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

49-15 Refund Taxes, Block 203.07, Lot 2 – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

50-15 Cooperative Pricing Agreement – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

### **Correspondence**

Mayor Chang has a piece of correspondence from a Township resident commending the Public Works department; it may have been via email.

### **Dates to remember**

Westampton Recreation Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Holly Hills School, 3/28/15 @ 9:30 AM

### **Comments – Department Heads & Professionals**

Fire Chief Jason Carty – met with the Project Graduation Committee from RV; they will be holding a spaghetti dinner to benefit the senior class and will host it at the Firehouse. The cooperative agreement that was just entered into for the ambulance remount will also save us money in future purchases on equipment and not just for fire apparatus. Mayor Chang asked that the Project Graduation date be placed on the website.

Police Chief Joe Otto – the Police Department will attend the 40<sup>th</sup> annual Memorial March in Mount Holly honoring the two officers killed in 1975. The march would start at the Mount Holly Police Department and starts at 11 AM. One of our officers was injured off duty; he has had surgery, wished him a speedy recovery. Mr. Daniels asked Chief Otto to pass get well wishes on to the officer who had surgery.

PW Supervisor Mike Meenan – the department is now wrapping up storm drains; they are now in the Tarnsfield drainage ditches cleaning up. They will remove the old playground equipment in Spring Meadows and install the new equipment. There are many potholes to be patched and filled.

Solicitor George Saponaro – has completed his legal review for the 2014 Audit, there are no areas of concern. One of his employees commented that the Public Works Department is doing a great job; she is a resident of Westampton.

### **Open to public Comment**

Karen Sampson – spoke regarding Judge Andronici's resignation letter to Mayor Chang; in the letter he stated that the Mayor offered him a one year appointment rather than a three year appointment that is required. She asked why they didn't follow the statute that requires a three year appointment. Ms. Sampson also wondered if all Township Committee members read the letter before they voted. She also asked if the Committee members checked for potential conflicts of interest when voting for the new Judge.

Mayor Chang stated he was not offered a one year contract; he was a holdover from 2014. His contract expired on 12/31/14 and he was a holdover until he resigned his position; until he resigned on March 6<sup>th</sup> he was a holdover.

Abraham Lopez – asked if the Judge's letter was inaccurate when he stated that he was offered a year appointment. Mayor Chang said the letter ends with the words I will not accept a holdover. He also wanted to know that since the new Judge that was appointed is outside of Burlington County, what was the process to choose a candidate outside of the County. He wanted to know if the Judge was offered a year term. Solicitor George Saponaro stated that it is illegal and he could not have been offered a year. Mr. Lopez asked if Judge Andronici lied. He asked Mr. Daniels why he said he would have voted no for a new Judge. Mr. Daniels stated that he endeavors to make every decision based on integrity; decisions should be based on values rather than personal gain. He was surprised in the letter that he saw; he thought that the Committee should have discussed this before the Judge thought he needed to submit a letter of resignation. He is disappointed. This would have been Andronici's fifth three year term. He is proud of the Township and our shared service court with a highly capable staff. Andronici should have been given a chance to come before the Committee in this process.

Nancy Burkley – is angry. She read that bids are going out for two more lights for the fields. Our taxes are going up 7.44%; her pay doesn't go up every year. We don't need more lights. Donna explained that the money is coming from our park grant, not from taxpayer dollars. She is also very upset about what happened with Judge Andronici; something stinks in Westampton. In his letter he said he was offered a one year contract and two days later a new Judge was appointed. She doesn't understand why he isn't good enough for us. She thinks his only problem was is that his wife isn't a friend of the Mayor like the new Judge's wife is. Mayor Chang asked her to define friend; Ms. Burkley said they had a photo in the paper together amongst other things. Mayor Chang stated that she is not a friend of that person. Ms. Burkley asked if Judge Andronici was offered a one year contract. Mayor Chang again stated he was in a holdover position; he did not want to serve in a holdover position. She found out from a phone call. Mayor Chang again stated he was not offered a one year position.

Garfield Harper – thanked Mr. Daniels for his comments; thanked Mr. Lopez for his comments. He has known our Judge for a long time, he is a good man. He was a professional who treated people with respect and did his job.

Janet Curran – on Saturday March 28 it is the 40<sup>th</sup> year Memory of Good Friday shooting of the Mount Holly police officers. On Tuesday April 7, 10:30 AM there will be a celebration of law enforcement, a Blue Mass held at St. Mary's of the Assumption Cathedral in Trenton. She wanted to know how you get on a Committee; things used to appear in the newspaper, like other Townships do. Mayor Chang stated that openings for Committees and Boards should be posted on the Township website. Ms. Curran is happy to see the new sign for the Sports Complex; it could have been a bit bigger and a darker green. She is sorry to hear about the Judge.

John Mumbower – conflicts of interest seem to surround this Committee; Mr. Maybury and Jason Carty is one; secondly the whole situation with the Judge not being retained. He knows that they sit on some Boards together; the Mayor disagrees and said that they do not. He stated that perception is reality; they need to take into account how the residents perceive them. He calls into question some of the business practices of the Committee.

Mayor Chang – rumors are very interesting things; you never know where they start and how they blossom. She appreciates his comments regarding perception and her reputation is extremely important to her. She doesn't do anything to sully or muddy her reputation. There are thousands of lawyers across the state of New Jersey; she interacts with hundreds of them. That does not mean it is a conflict of interest in terms of decisions she makes for Westampton Township.

Lori Hustus – Judge Andronici was a great man; she thanked Mr. Daniels for his comments about him. She is feeling embarrassed that she lives here with all the articles in the newspaper lately. People that don't even live here are asking what is going on. Sometimes the way the Mayor speaks to people is horrible. The Mayor thanked her for her comments.

Gil Gehin Scott – he asked if the Mayor denied that she and the new Judge's wife served as officers in the AWUL in 2011. Mayor Chang stated that just because they sit on a board together doesn't mean they have a relationship. She thanked him for his comments. He thanked Mr. Daniels for his comments regarding Judge Andronici. It is disturbing that the other members of the Committee are at odds with Mr. Daniels. He asked why Judge Andronici wasn't offered another three year term.

John Wright – thanked Mr. Daniels for speaking up for Judge Andronici; sometimes it isn't what the Mayor says, it is how she says it. It is not acceptable; she works for the residents. The Mayor started the meeting by saying welcome friends and foes; it is inappropriate. We are all working together and they should be addressed as Westampton residents. He loves Westampton and wants to see it move forward.

### **Committee Members Comments**

Mr. Daniels – this is a great community and he is reminded as he looks out that he sees citizens and a community; he is also reminded that we don't have to be adversarial to have government work as it should. We should come together as a community; he thanked everyone who came out to the meeting tonight.

Mr. Thorpe – thanked Public Works and all the departments; glad we got thru this winter.

Ms. Teleisa – thanked residents for coming out; freedom of speech and democracy is a good thing. We don't always agree but it doesn't mean we can't live together. She takes her job on the Committee very seriously and she makes the best decisions that she can.

She does respect everyone's opinions and thinks they should all work together; she doesn't want to alienate residents.

Mayor Chang – thanked everyone who came out tonight.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk