

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

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

November 10, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with all present.

Resolution 11-10-15 was adopted to go into Executive session to discuss personnel contracts.

The meeting was again called to order and reopened at 7:00 PM by Mayor Chang. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times on 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

Doug Burry, Solicitor, was present.

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

Approve 11/10/15 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Mr. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Closed session Minutes of 10/27/15 – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes, Mr. Thorpe abstained. Minutes of the 10/27/15 meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Maybury. Ms. Teleisa had a correction. All voted yes to approve the minutes as corrected, Mr. Thorpe abstained.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

John Mumbower, Lancaster Drive – commented regarding Resolution 142-15; the Fair Share Plan. He had attended the LDB meeting and heard that some of the Board members stated that this was the first time that they had seen this document. He questions why we don't fight back and try to reduce some of these figures. What are the repercussions to the Township if we don't approve the plan? Solicitor Doug Burry wanted to clarify what the plan actually is and what is being submitted. It doesn't commit the Township to take any action; the plan is required by the Supreme Court and provides protection to the Township from builders remedy lawsuits. The plan merely needs to be filed with the court by December 8th. Calling it a plan is really generous; it is simply a guide.

Janet Curran, Main Street – attended the LDB meeting also; she feels they should have tabled it at that time since some of the members stated that they hadn't looked at the plan in quite some time.

Abraham Lopez, Amara Lane – asked about the salary ordinances; specifically the one for full time EMTs and firefighters. We all read the BCT article that spoke regarding a substantial rate increase that would be given to the Fire Chief; we learned that the Township Committee didn't conduct a background check on him at the time of his hiring. In light of this information and the information that Mr. Carty has managed and run political campaigns for two Committee members he wants to speak to the consciences of Mr. Maybury, Mr. Thorpe and Ms. Teleisa. A formal request has been filed with the Attorney General's office to look into his appointment; he asks them in good conscience if they will pass a vote in favor of this salary ordinance. He thinks the employees deserve to be compensated as they all do a great job and are putting their lives on the line but it's hard to swallow when you compare the salaries of the Fire Chief who is unqualified and that of the Police Chief and his 5 year salary increases. This is all factual information and not here say. He asks them to reconsider tonight and to do the right thing, if not for the taxpayers but for themselves. He is a firm believer that justice will prevail; he asks that they table this ordinance.

With no further comments from the public, the meeting was closed.

Resolutions

135-15 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

136-15 Chapter 159, Body Armor Fund – motion to approve by Ms. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

137-15 Cancel Taxes, Block 1806, Lot 29 – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

138-15 Renew Interlocal Services Agreement – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes, Ms. Teleisa voted no.

139-15 Designation of Ingerman Development Co., LLC as Redeveloper for Block 401, Lot 7 – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

140-15 Authorize Execution of a First Amendment to Redevelopment Agreement with Ingerman Development Co., LLC, Block 401, Lots 2, 7 & 8 – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

141-15 Authorize Execution of a First Amendment to Financial Agreement with Ingerman Development Co., LLC, Block 401, Lots 2, 7 & 8 – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

142-15 Endorse Amended Housing Plan Element & Fair Share Plan – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Chang. All voted yes.

Ordinances

a. 15-2015 Salary Ordinance (first reading) – this ordinance sets the salaries, wages & compensation of certain employees of Westampton Township (Administration, CFO, Construction Official, Public Works, Court employees). Motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

b. 16-2015 Salary Ordinance (first reading) – this ordinance sets the salaries, wages & compensation of certain employees of Westampton Township (Full time EMTs & Firefighters). Mr. Daniels voted to table the motion; there is no second made on the motion. He explained that there is some ambiguity that lies within this motion and some clarity that doesn't exist. In this ordinance there is no separation of the supervisors like there is with the Police Department's ordinances. It is somewhat misleading in the title to include the supervisors. He thinks they need to be separated. This is reason for his motion to table the ordinance. He then made a motion to sever the ordinance. There was no second. Motion to approve the ordinance as it stands was made by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mayor Chang. All voted yes, Mr. Daniels voted no, Mr. Thorpe abstained.

c. 17-2015 Salary Ordinance (first reading) – this ordinance sets the salaries, wages & compensation of certain employees of Westampton Township (Police, Patrolmen & Sergeants). Motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

d. 18-2015 Salary Ordinance (first reading) – this ordinance sets the salaries, wages & compensation of certain employees of Westampton Township (Chief of Police & Lieutenant). Motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes, Mr. Thorpe abstained.

Correspondence

Borough of Wanaque – letter regarding County government reduction & sample resolution. Mayor Chang asked Donna Ryan for a brief synopsis of this. They are urging to implement a study commission to abolish County Government in the State.

Burlington County Farmland Preservation Program, Acquisition Targeting List - we have one project left on this; the Walter Hancock Farm; it is the last piece that fits the County criteria for Farmland Preservation.

Dates to Remember

Annual Free Rabies Clinic – Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015, 9 AM to 11 AM, Public Works Garage

Senior Citizens Holiday Dinner, Wed., Dec. 9th @ 6 PM, WMS

Nov. 14, 2015 – Am Vet Post 79, Annual Spaghetti Dinner, Rancocas Community Center, 4 – 7 PM

Dec. 12, Breakfast with Santa, 9 AM, WMS

Open to public Comment

Nancy Burkley, Olive Street – asked about parliamentary procedure and the motion Mr. Daniels made. Ms. Teleisa explained that she had made a mistake and did not second his motion to table the EMS salary ordinance. Last night there was a meeting in Mt. Holly in the Municipal Building; it seemed from some of the comments that Westampton was going to apply to take over their EMS services. Is this something we have applied to do? She is concerned about that. Mayor Chang stated this is a comment session and that she has no idea what Ms. Burkley is talking about. She is concerned about us spreading things too thinly. She wants to be assured that response times will remain quick; she can't wait 20 minutes for someone to arrive. She doesn't want us to apply.

Johnathan Wright, Glasgow Road – on the record everyone stated that they have no idea what Ms. Burkley is talking about. Mayor Chang stated that they have no idea what the audience is talking about. Mayor Chang asked Deputy Chief Farnsworth to explain; Craig stated that he did request the RFP which is common practice to look and see what they are requesting. They do this to see what other towns are doing. They agreed it wasn't in their best interests to do it at this time. Mr. Wright thanked him for being open about it. Thanks to everyone who came out and voted. It seems like Mr. Daniels is the only one who listens to the resident's concerns. His motions are always ignored; come January it won't be like this, the residents will have representation. Our new leaders will actually listen to us. He finds that the amount of money given to the Fire Chief is absurd; it is a slap in the face to the Police Chief.

Linda Wittmann, West Country Club Drive – her concern is the increase in pay; there is no justification for this. We are all getting minimal increases. The residents have not been heard; only one listens, the other four do not.

Abraham Lopez, Amara Lane – the record is clear on a very questionable hire; he is being polite in his choice of words. Ms. Teleisa is the liaison to the EMS department; she screened the applicants and reviewed them. At the time they requested Mr. Carty's resume and background check and were told there were none on file. He thinks the

voters have spoken, they don't want this. The Committee doesn't care; they are going to do what they are going to do. How about asking the employees to see how they feel.

John Mumbower, Lancaster Drive – he watched the Mayor read during his comments. Mayor Chang stated that she can multi task, she was reading. He says she is disrespectful to the residents. She again stated that she can read and listen at the same time.

Lori Hustus, Kanabe Drive – is appalled sitting here listening to this. It's not Democrat vs Republican, it is right vs wrong. She deserves the respect to at least be looked at.

Rhonda Coe, Greenbrier Drive – wants to say there has to be a level of discretion to those that make decisions on behalf of the town. She thinks there needs to be a level of trust with those that are making decisions. There has to be understanding that those making decisions have information that the residents may not necessarily have. She doesn't understand where all the negativity is coming from.

Gil Gehin Scott, Second Street – there is a list of tax sales posted on the front of the building; he feels bad for these people. There are sharks that come in and charge 18% interest, if it goes on long enough they can foreclose. Donna Ryan explained that we experience this every year. We have an old agreement with Mt. Holly MUA to lien the properties; there are usually around 200 per year. Unfortunately people don't pay attention; as of today there are still 112 on this list. Most of them do get resolved before the actual tax sale; the mortgage companies usually step in.

Janet Curran, Main Street– is disappointed in just about everything that has happened in the last 6 years; she can accept growth but the Master Plan has been changed, ordinances have been changed. It's all about power she believes. She doesn't agree with a 9 story hospital and thinks we will end up paying much more. The Rancocas Civic Association will be doing their food basket delivery for Thanksgiving once again on Nov. 23rd.

Comments – Department Heads & Professionals

Mayor Chang– wants to welcome Officer Caulfield back.

Deputy EMS/Fire Chief Farnsworth – December 19th is the annual “Santa Around Town”; he thanked Janet Curran for the letter and gift she sent. The department was audited by the Division of Fire Safety; they have corrected the things that have been noted.

Committee Members Comments

Mr. Daniels – wants to clear up his no vote; he feels it is important to be abundantly clear. He thinks the FIRE/EMS ordinances should be separated as are the Police salary ordinances. There wasn't full disclosure of what the Committee was trying to do; it

seemed like they were trying to pull a fast one. This was not a no vote against the women and men who serve us; he feels it is a disservice to put their contracts on the line with others that have conflicts that exist. They should be separated. He has to answer to the residents; they are his bosses and he takes them very seriously. He wanted to thank Todd Mitzelman and the Recreation Committee staff for the Fall Festival; they exceeded prior numbers for attendance. He thinks we should do all we can do to make it a great night for families. Last week we had an election in town; there is no greater cause than to answer the call for an individual; Vernita Jones served in the Air Force for 26 years; he thanks Mr. Thorpe for his service as well. To Abe Lopez and Maureen Smith-Hartman, they fought hard and answered the call from the public. He congratulated both of them. As a community we can move forward. He also thanked the Rancocas Nature Center who held a military appreciation day on Sunday. It was a chance for Veterans and their families to go out and commune with nature. He is proud to be called a Veteran. He thanked all the men and women on this eve of Veteran's Day. He gave a special word of thanks to Ms. Teleisa's father for his service.

Mr. Thorpe – thanked Mr. Daniels for his kind words; he appreciates it. He would like to end on a positive note; he thanked everyone who came out tonight, especially in relation to Veterans Day. He thanked all the Veterans and servicemen and women.

Maureen Smith-Hartman – wanted to thank Mr. Daniels and the residents tonight; come January you will have three who will listen to you.

Ms. Teleisa – it is good to have Daryl Caulfield home safe; it is a big day for Chief Otto tomorrow. The Westampton Police Department was invited to the NYC Veterans Day Parade. She thanked Mr. Daniels for remembering her father, thanks to all who have served. She wanted to add that the Police Department is going in support of Patrolman Einstein.

She wants to clarify something brought up in the public comments section at the last meeting. In 2014 Committeeman Daniels and she ran a joint campaign, their campaign manager was Carolyn Chang. She also wanted to clarify that this is not a question/answer period; this is a comment period.

Mr. Maybury – welcomed home Officer Daryl Caulfield.

Mayor Chang– happy Veterans Day to all, it is very good to see Daryl.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk