

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP
RE-ORGANIZATION MEETING

JANUARY 5, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Donna Ryan. 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.

Abraham Lopez and Maureen Smith-Hartman were sworn in for a three year term for Committeeperson by Tim Tyler, County Clerk, respectively.

Roll Call:

Committeewoman Chang	Present
Committeeman Daniels	Present
Committeeman Lopez	Present
Committeewoman Smith-Hartman	Present
Committeewoman Teleisa	Present

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

Nominations for Mayor – Donna Ryan asked for nominations for Mayor. Mr. Lopez nominated Mr. Daniels, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. There were no other nominations. Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith Hartman voted yes; Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no. Mr. Daniels was sworn in as Mayor for a one year term by Donna Ryan.

Nominations for Deputy Mayor – Donna Ryan asked for nominations for Deputy Mayor. Ms. Smith-Hartman nominated Mr. Lopez, seconded by Mr. Daniels. There were no other nominations. Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith Hartman voted yes; Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no. Mr. Lopez was sworn in as Deputy Mayor for a one year term by Donna Ryan.

Approval of minutes – 12/8/15 meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Chang made a motion to make several additions to the minutes; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted yes, Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted no. The minutes would be held for approval until the next meeting on January 19, 2016.

Nominations for Solicitor – Donna Ryan asked for nominations for Solicitor. Mr. Daniels made a motion to appoint Long/Marmero; seconded by Mr. Lopez. Ms. Chang made a motion to appoint Saponaro Law; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. A vote was taken on the first motion for Long/Marmero: Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no. the firm of Long/Marmero was appointed Township Solicitor for 2016. Ms. Chang had a problem that this Committee would appoint someone with a pending ethics complaint against them.

Nominations for Engineer – Donna Ryan asked for nominations for Engineer. Mr. Daniels made a motion to appoint Remington/Vernick; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Teleisa made a

motion to appoint CME Engineers; seconded by Ms. Chang. A vote was taken on the first motion for Remington/Vernick: Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no. The firm of Remington/Vernick was appointed Township Engineer for 2016.

Nominations for Auditor – Donna Ryan asked for nominations for Auditor. Mr. Lopez nominated Holman/Frenia/Allison; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Chang made a motion to nominate Bowman & Co.; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. A vote was taken on the first motion for Holman/Frenia/Allison: Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no. The firm of Holman/Frenia/Allison was appointed Township Auditor for 2016.

Nominations for Planner – Donna Ryan asked for nominations for Planner. Mr. Daniels nominated Remington/Vernick; seconded by Mr. Lopez. Ms. Chang nominated CME Engineers; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. A vote was taken on the first motion for Remington/Vernick; Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no. The firm of Remington/Vernick was appointed Planner for 2016.

Mayor's Appointments (one year term)

Police Liaison – Mr. Lopez

Public Works Liaison – Ms. Smith-Hartman

Recreation Liaison – Ms. Teleisa

Municipal Court Liaison – Mr. Daniels

Westampton School Board Liaison – Ms. Smith-Hartman

Rancocas Valley Regional High School Board Liaison – Ms. Chang (declines the appointment);

Ms. Smith-Hartman volunteered to serve

EMS/Fire Liaison – Mr. Lopez

Veteran's Affairs Liaison – Mr. Daniels

Senior Citizens Liaison – Mr. Daniels

Appointments – (miscellaneous terms)

Administrator (one year) – this position would be a hold-over. Donna Ryan would remain as Administrator until she would retire at the end of March 2016.

Class IV Member Land Development Board (1)(4 years) – a motion was made by Mr. Lopez to appoint David Barger, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Chang nominated Wilbur Williams; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. A vote was taken on the first motion for David Barger. All voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no.

Class IV Member Land Development Board (1)(4 years) – a motion was made by Mr. Lopez to nominate Ron Applegate; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Land Development Board Alternate #2(1 year) – motion was made by Mr. Daniels to appoint Jo Ann Berkley, seconded by Mr. Lopez. Ms. Chang nominated Ms. Haas; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. A vote was taken on the first nomination for Ms. Berkley. Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no.

Recreation Commission (3) (3 years) – motion was made by Mr. Lopez to appoint Bud Slack, Dan Miller and Kristen Perkowski, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes, Ms. Chang abstained.

Historic Commission Class C Member (1) (4 years) – motion was made by Mr. Lopez to appoint David Barger, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Chang nominated Robert Thorpe; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. A vote was taken on the first motion for David Barger. Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no.

Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator (1) (1 year) – motion was made by Mr. Lopez to appoint Craig Farnsworth, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Appointments – 1 year term

Prosecutor – motion was made by Mr. Daniels to appoint Liebling Malamut, seconded by Mr. Lopez. A second nomination was made for Shelia Ellington by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Ms. Chang. A vote was taken for the first nomination: Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no.

Public Defender – motion was made by Mr. Daniels to appoint James Grace, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Ms. Chang asked why an Alternate Public Defender wasn't being appointed this evening. Donna Ryan stated that they didn't put out an RFP for this and that the Court usually just appoints one. Ms. Chang stated that we did put out an RFP for this. Mr. Lopez made a motion to table this appointment if this was the case; seconded by Mr. Daniels. Donna would check on this, she was sure that nothing was submitted for Alternate.

Bond Counsel – motion was made by Mr. Lopez to appoint Capehart Scatchard, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Chang made a motion to appoint Parker McCay; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. A vote was taken on the first nomination; Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes; Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no.

COAH Special Counsel – motion was made by Mr. Lopez to appoint Long/Marmero. Ms. Chang stated that this position was not advertised via an RFP and if not, why were we appointing one. Mr. Lopez asked if this position is usually filled by the appointed Solicitor; Donna stated that this is usually how it works. The Township Solicitor would fill this position and we would continue with past practice.

Tax Special Counsel - we did not put out an RFP for this, thus our past counsel would be a carry over until it was put out. Ms. Teleisa asked for an explanation since the RFP was out on this. Mr. Lopez wanted her as a carry over until another RFP could be issued since there was only one submitted, Ms. Gaskill's. Ms. Teleisa made a motion to appoint Kate Gaskill; seconded by Ms. Chang. Mr. Lopez made a motion to keep her on holdover since he wanted more than one RFP submitted for this position. A vote was taken on the motion to appoint Ms. Gaskill: Ms. Chang voted yes, Mr. Lopez voted no, Ms. Smith-Hartman voted no, Ms. Teleisa voted yes and Mr. Daniels abstained. Ms. Gaskill would remain on holdover status.

Labor Counsel – motion was made by Mr. Lopez to appoint Capehart Scatchard; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Chang nominated Brown Connery; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. A vote was taken on the first nomination. Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no.

Risk Management Consultant – motion was made by Mr. Lopez to appoint Anderson Jackson; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Teleisa made a motion to appoint Hardenburgh Insurance, seconded by Ms. Chang. A vote was taken on the first motion. Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no.

Zoning Officer – motion was made by Mr. Lopez to appoint Gene Blair, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Deputy Zoning Officer – motion was made by Mr. Lopez to appoint Marion Karp, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Class III Member Land Development Board (Twp. Committee member) – motion was made by Mr. Daniels to appoint Mr. Lopez, seconded by Mr. Lopez. Ms. Teleisa nominated Ms. Chang; seconded by Ms. Chang. A vote was taken on the first nomination: Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no.

Historic Commission (Twp. Committee member) – motion was made by Mr. Daniels to appoint Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Chang made a motion to appoint Ms. Teleisa, seconded by Ms. Teleisa. A vote was taken on the first nomination: Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa abstained.

Timbuctoo Advisory Committee (Twp. Committee member) – motion was made by Mr. Lopez to appoint Mr. Daniels, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Teleisa made a motion to appoint Ms. Chang, seconded by Ms. Chang. A vote was taken on the first nomination: Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no.

Automatic Appointments

Mayor is a member of the Land Development Board

Zoning Officer is a member of the Land Development Board

Resolutions

- 1-16 Professional Appointments - motion was made by Mr. Lopez to approve the professional appointments, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no.
- 2-16 Meeting Schedule – motion was made by Mr. Lopez to change the meeting dates to the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. If a meeting date occurred on a Monday holiday, the meeting would be moved to Tuesday. Normal meeting time would be 7 PM; closed session would begin at 6 PM. Ms. Chang made a motion to keep the meeting dates on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays,

seconded by Ms. Teleisa. A vote was taken on the first motion: Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no.

- 3-16 Township Administrator – no vote since Donna Ryan was a hold over until she retires.

The following Resolutions #4-16 through #12-16 are part of the consent agenda and are subject to one motion and vote. Motion to approve resolutions was made by Mr. Lopez, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Mr. Daniels, Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman voted yes, Ms. Chang and Ms. Teleisa voted no.

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| 4-16 | Designation of Depositories |
| 5-16 | Official Newspaper |
| 6-16 | Interest Rates |
| 7-16 | Assessor Appeals |
| 8-16 | Assessor Appeals – rollback taxes |
| 9-16 | Mayor as Signatory |
| 10-16 | Temporary Budget |
| 11-16 | Appoint Risk Management Consultant |
| 12-16 | Adopt Cash Management Plan |
- 13-16 Payment of Vouchers – motion was made by Mr. Lopez to approve, seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. Ms. Teleisa made a motion to table because she hasn't had a chance to read it fully; Ms. Chang seconded the motion. It would be carried over until the next meeting which would be held on January 19th, 2016.

Public Comment

Vernita Jones, Amara Lane – thinks the meeting minutes should reflect what was said, and wanted to know who decides what should be in them. To Mr. Lopez and Ms. Smith-Hartman; the appointments they made tonight are exactly what they printed in the newspapers in 2015 about quid pro quo. Everyone should take a hard look at the appointments made this evening. Tuesday doesn't seem like a tough night to make it to the meetings judging by the amount of people in the audience; Mondays have lots of holidays; lots of people return from business on Mondays. She doesn't see any problem with residents making the meeting.

Garfield Harper, Woodlane Road – congrats to Andre Daniels; he has been here when this building was built. He hopes that Andre will use the office of the Mayor for Township business. He has called the fire department due to his neighbors having huge fires in the backyard; he has called 3 times. He is very concerned due to his handicapped wife not being able to escape if they start a fire. He addressed Chief Carty and told him to straighten it out.

Allie Stanford, Maple Tree Drive – congratulations to the new members of the Township Committee. She presented Mr. Daniels with flowers and thanked him for all his support for the Westampton Senior Gathering. He has done a lot for them.

Lori Hustus, Kanabe Drive – congratulations to the new Committee members; this is an exception to have this many people here tonight; there are usually only about ten in attendance.

John Schmidt, Gloucester City – congratulations to the new Committee members. He spoke about a runoff election in November in Louisiana; it was a peaceful transition of power. Reorganizations should be a good time, peaceful and not fighting. Bi partisanship, he thinks Westampton needs it.

Wilbur Williams – was a member of the LDB and is a resident. At the next meeting the residents of Westampton deserve an explanation of what is going on with the new Solicitor. He thinks it should be on the next agenda. He wants to hear it from the Solicitor. Ms. Chang has the complaint in her possession if anyone wants to see it.

Louis Lopez – disagrees with the appointment of the Solicitor. He wishes the meeting dates would remain on Tuesday since Mt. Holly has theirs on Monday as well. He wanted information on the Westampton Fire Chief; have there been any complaints.

Ronald Chang, Roberts Drive – tries to stay out of politics. He has attended one meeting all the years his wife has served and that one meeting was as partisan as it can get. His wife worked very hard to get Mr. Daniels reelected.

Mr. Daniels – Ms. Chang walked with him on two occasions. Mr. Daniels respects his right to his opinion.

Wilbur Williams – was remiss in not congratulating the two new members of the Township Committee and hopes they work for the betterment of Westampton.

Jonathan Wright – congratulations to Mr. Daniels, Ms. Smith-Hartman and Mr. Lopez. What everyone is forgetting is there was an election. This is a night for putting politics aside; this is at a municipal level and they are trying to get beyond that. He cares about this town.

Jacqueline Jennings – is the Vice Chair of the County Democratic Committee; Andre Daniels is a dear friend of hers; he has lots of integrity; she hopes everyone can work together.

Anthony D'Errico – congratulations to all three new Committee members; we are all adults here, most of us. Elections have consequences; if you win you get to choose appointments; if you lose, you don't. All of a sudden the appointments are inappropriate. This will be a tough year; the acrimony is childish and unprofessional. Hopefully we can move forward and find some common ground; put differences aside and try to work together.

John Mumbower – best of luck to the new Committee members and the new Mayor; please put the best interests of the residents first; there should be no axes to grind.

There being no further comment from the public, the meeting was closed for public comment.

Comments from Committee Members & Professionals

Solicitor Al Marmero – his credentials speak for himself; feel free to look at the complaint, Ms. Chang has it in her possession.

Police Chief Joe Otto – congratulations to all on their new positions; Happy New Year.

EMS Chief Jason Carty – congratulations to the new Mayor and Committee.

PW Supervisor Mike Meenan – congratulations to everyone and Happy New Year.

Construction Official Gene Blair – mirrors everyone's comments, congratulations to all.

Administrator Donna Ryan– congratulations to everyone, she hopes everyone can work together.

Deputy Clerk Marion Karp – congratulations to the new Committee members and Mayor; as residents we must put our differences aside and work as one for the betterment of the Township.

Ms. Chang – Happy New Year; we should all work in the best interests for the citizens of Westampton Township but does not agree with appointing an attorney who has a pending complaint.

Ms. Teleisa – thanked all of our prior professionals; a lot of our residents were saying the same thing; we don't agree on all issues but that's just how it is. We need to work together for the good of the town.

Ms. Smith-Hartman – thanked Bill Leighton, Joe Howarth, Tim Tyler and Linda Hughes for coming. Thanks for voting; she has lived here for 36 years and loves it here; her kids all live here. She will work in the interest of the people and has no agenda whatsoever; she hopes they can all work together. She thanked her husband and children, daughter in law and grandchildren; and everyone for coming.

Mr. Lopez – thanked God; it took a lot for him to get here. He knows what it's like to live in Section 8 and low income housing; let not anyone be fooled that they think they know it all; this is the first symptom of failure. He thanked his parents, his wife and his niece. He is grateful for every single voter; Westampton is a democratic leaning town; they sent a strong message where many voted and gave him and Maureen a vote to represent not their own interests but their interests. Congratulations to Andre, Maureen, Joe Howarth, Jose Sosa, Tim Tyler. He thanked all of the Township employees; it is tough going through the political seasons. Thanks for putting Westampton first. They are trying to unite this community. They want to implement office hours in Township hall; weekly office hours. They have their word that they will stay true to the residents. This is one of the greatest honors of his life, he thanked everyone.

Mr. Daniels – he believes in “We the People” which is one of the greatest phrases in the English language. The one great thing about Township reorganization is a good chance that people will show up. In this country everyone has a right to stand up and say what they want. He thanked the fellow veterans in the audience for their service. He thanked Tim Tyler, Joe Howarth, Mayor Nat Anderson, Deputy Mayor Chris Walker, the Councilmen from Willingboro and Pemberton Township Committeewoman Stinney. He reserves his greatest thanks for the Township employees, his children, family and friends. Tonight was not an easy night. He chooses to take the high road and state this is what he bought into. He wished a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year to all. The community spoke out loud and clear this last election. We can work in a bipartisan way, a way that puts community first. We need to resolve the Woodmont project, balance our budget and develop a new plan for the 541 corridor all while enhancing the quality of life for our residents. He thanked everyone. God bless everyone.

There being no further comment from the public, the meeting was closed. There being no further business, there was a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk