

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

5:30 PM

December 12, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM with all members present. Resolution 12-12-14 was adopted to go into Executive session to discuss personnel.

The meeting was again called to order and reopened by Mayor Chang. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was noticed and advertised in the Burlington County Times. The flag was saluted.

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 was present.

Mayor Chang stated that the closed session meeting had been held to address the issue of the head of the EMS/Fire Department.

A motion was made to appoint Jason Carty to the position of Director/Head of EMS/Fire Chief by Committeewoman Teleisa. Committeeman Maybury seconded the motion.

Comments:

Committeeman Thorpe stated he had noted his opinion many times that the appointment should be an internal appointment. He was against the motion.

Committeeman Maybury said there is a need in EMS for a culture change. He had been the liaison for 4 years. They needed some change and to head in the right direction.

Committeeman Daniels stated the Committee in this decision was charged to listen to their neighbors, listen to employees, listen to colleagues, carefully examine resumes, consider all circumstances and rule by law. His conclusion was that what we need to do is measure many times and cut once, we can't go back.

Committeewoman Teleisa put a lot of thought and research into making the right decision for the township. Leadership is lacking in the department and her vote will help to bring

the EMS/Fire together as a team. They need to work as a family. Her decision was not made lightly.

Mayor Chang commended the committee for the time and the passion they put into making their decision. There were many discussions and review of the resumes to make the best possible decision for the Township of Westampton. She thanked the committee.

Roll Call Vote:

Committeeman Daniels	No
Committeeman Maybury	Yes
Committeewoman Teleisa	Yes
Committeeman Thorpe	No
Mayor Chang	Yes

The meeting was opened to the public for comment:

Janet Curran, Main Street. She was very disappointed that the committee voted to bring an outside person in as Fire Chief. We have the best Fire and Police Departments and the Committee should have chosen a Fire Chief from within.

Gil Gehin-Scott, Second Street had two questions. Wasn't it a conflict for Committeeman Maybury to vote when he was pursuing a head spot at the Mt. Holly MUA and Jason Carty sat on the Mt. Holly MUA board? Mr. Saponaro stated that Jason Carty had resigned from the Mt. Holly MUA Board the past Monday. Mr. Gehin-Scott then asked if the township had made it through the year with the current staff, and with the acting Chief handling both positions, why would we add another \$90,000 position that we cannot afford.

The meeting was closed to public comment.

Committeeman Maybury said the audience has only part of the view. It's different when you're on the inside and know what is going on.

Mayor Chang said there is a need for a culture change and strong leadership in the department. She doesn't say that as an excuse, there are real issues.

Donna Ryan
Municipal Clerk