

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

6:00 PM Closed Session 7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

June 24, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Committeeman Andre Daniels, who was appointed temporary Chair for the meeting by Mr. Thorpe, seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times January 3, 2014. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Committeeman Daniels	Present
Committeeman Maybury	Absent
Committeewoman Teleisa	Present
Committeeman Thorpe	Present
Mayor Chang	Absent (arrives at 7:05 PM)

George Saponaro, Solicitor, was present.

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

Approve 6/24/14 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Thorpe; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Minutes of the 6/10/2014 meeting – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; second by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes. Closed session minutes of 6/10/14- motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; second by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

Scheduled Appointments

None

Public Comments on agenda items

Janet Curran – asked about resolution #82-14; she wanted to know if any studies had been completed on this property, which was Block 401, Lots 2 & 8. Solicitor George Saponaro answered that some environmental studies had been completed. The Township is fortunate to be able to have brought in this developer considering the number of COAH units the Township is required to provide. She asked if a wetlands study has been completed; he stated that they are working on them at this time. She doesn't believe that our Township can afford more children coming into our schools; more police officers and more work for public works. She would rather have an office building there than more affordable homes. George explained that the Township has an obligation for COAH units; the developer will be paying for the units. The estimated number of school

children is estimated to be 20 or less that will be brought in due to a limited number of three bedroom units.

Old Business

None

New Business

Police Report – Chief Smith had nothing to add to the report other than the bear has moved on; it was last seen in Mansfield Township. Mr. Daniels was in Austin, Texas and he received several phone calls regarding the bear. Mayor Chang stated that she received many phone calls from concerned residents that didn't want the bear to be shot; our Chief reassured her that they would not shoot at the bear since it wasn't aggressive.

EMS Report – they are staying busy; lots of calls the last few days.

Bureau of Fire Prevention Report – no further comments

Public Works Report – no further comments

Resolutions

78-14 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes.

79-14 Hire Police Officer, Andrew Redfield – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

80-14 Report of Audit 2013 – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

81-14 Award Construction Contract, Sports Complex – motion to approve by Mr. Thorpe; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes, Mayor Chang abstained.

82-14 Authorize Execution of a Redevelopment Agreement – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Thorpe. All voted yes. George Saponaro stated that this is an apartment development; the impact study shows less than 20 students. It will help satisfy the Township's next round of obligation for COAH. Mr. Daniels truly understands the public's concern; he likes to think that Westampton Township can be an affordable destination for people; he would like to see young people come back to our community. It may be an opportunity not only for our children to return but for others out there. He knows that the Land Development Board will do all of their due diligence.

83-14 Executive Session – for discussion of real estate; motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes, Mayor Chang abstained.

Ordinances

None

Correspondence

None

Dates to remember

July 4th – the Mayor wishes everyone a lovely 4th of July holiday.

Mr. Daniels – the Westampton Middle School graduation was postponed until Saturday due to the storms; he received reports that it was a spectacular ceremony and heard wonderful things about the Mayor's presentation.

Workshops

None

Comments

Daryl Caulfield - still seeking reimbursement for Hurricane Sandy.

Ms. Teleisa – asked Craig Farnsworth about volunteers; he answered that they have distributed lots of applications; they currently have four that have been returned. Unfortunately it is a 5 to 6 month process. Ms. Teleisa notices that we give aid much more than aid is received. Craig explained that we have a shared service agreement with Eastampton; we bill those patients for the calls, it averages about \$300 per trip. We get a monetary return, not aid received. She asked about other towns; it isn't only EMS calls it is also the fire calls. There is a county mutual aid plan that everyone has signed. They do handle many of Mt. Holly's calls. Mayor Chang asked how many career firefighters there are in Mt. Holly. There are none, they are all volunteers. Ms. Teleisa asked if it is possible to get a spreadsheet that would detail the amount of money brought in each month for ambulance calls.

John Augustino - it is summertime and people are cooking outside; everyone should use proper fuel and keep grills away from buildings.

Donna Ryan – attended the JIF conference, it was very interesting; our JIF is well ahead of others in the country.

Mr. Daniels – on June 11 he attended a Westampton Middle School awards ceremony with the Mayor; he gave two Shane's Promise awards. Shane is the young man whose kidney Andre received. A lot of the advocacy work he does he does in the name of Shane's Promise.

Open to Public Comment

Mr. Milanese – wants a piece of land to build a place for Veterans. He asked if the Township has a piece of land or a building. He wants something that the Veterans can call their own. Mr. Daniels stated that Mr. Milanese was very central in the construction of the Veteran's Memorial on Rancocas Road.

Pat Iannone – 55 Rolling Hills Drive – asked about the intersection of Woodlane Road and Springside Roads and what was being built. She was told that it is a Family Dollar store.

Janet Curran – this is the first summer that we will not see Nelson Grovatt's tractor in the fields on Springside Road; it is sad not to see him out on the tractor. We don't have much farming left in our Township. She wanted to know more about the Timbuctoo Discovery Project Committee; the Mayor answered that it has been in existence for many years. Mayor Chang stated that this is not the first time there was a program held at Timbuctoo but at least the third time. Janet stated that she knows the history of Timbuctoo; she walked up the hill at the site. She doesn't understand why we would buy the house adjoining the site. The Mayor explained that Timbuctoo is a historical treasure that exists in Westampton. The public needs to be educated as to its historical significance. Ms. Curran doesn't think a gravel road should be added. The Mayor explained that no one intends to pave the cemetery nor the site but only the existing gravel road, which is filled with potholes so that people could better visit the historic site.

Andre Daniels explained that the site is a point of pride for the Township; we are putting some effort into bringing recognition to Timbuctoo. Nothing has been done to change the historic nature of the site. The Mayor explained that the descendants of people who lived in Timbuctoo are very happy with what the Township has been doing and she doesn't understand what Ms. Curran is unhappy about.

Mayor Chang – was invited to speak at the WMS graduation on Saturday June 21, the ceremony was held at RV; it was a lovely graduation. School board members attended. It was Principal Matt Andris's first graduating class.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk