

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

7:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

January 19, 2016

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

Resolution 1-19-16 was adopted to go into Executive session to discuss personnel and potential litigation.

The meeting was again called to order and reopened at 7:00 PM by Mayor Daniels. He thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting this evening. He is thrilled to see so many in the audience; it is what our town should be about. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times on January 14, 2016. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence.

Mayor Daniels - Yesterday we celebrated the Martin Luther King Day of Service; we as Americans are equal and we move forward as one.

Roll Call:

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

Al Marmero, Solicitor, was present.

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

Approve 1/19/16 Agenda – motion to approve by Ms. Teleisa; second by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

12/8/2015 Meeting Minutes – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

1/5/16 Reorganization Meeting Minutes – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; second by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

No comments were made.

Old Business

Ms. Teleisa asked about payment of vouchers from the last meeting and wanted to know if it was in this evening's bill list. Tonight the Committee would be voting to approve two bill lists, since the one from the last meeting was tabled.

Mayor's Class IV appointments to the LDB – to correct previous appointments made by the Township Committee:

1. Rhonda Coe, term ending 12/31/16
2. Tony Carugno, term ending 12/31/17
3. Gary Borger, term ending 12/31/17
4. William Freeman, term ending 12/31/18
5. Ron Applegate, term ending 12/31/19
6. David Barger, term ending 12/31/19

Appointment to Land Development Board correction:

1. Joann Berkley, Alternate #2, term is for 2 years not 1 year. Motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes, Ms. Teleisa voted no.

New Business

- a. Refund of Year End Penalty Request, Block 1411, Lot 21 – motion to deny made by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes.
- b. Police Reports – December 2015, January 2016 – Ms. Teleisa commented on the wonderful news regarding securing the grant to be able to purchase the body cameras; the Department will receive 15 of these.
- c. Community Recognition Award – Dr. Christopher Barton, Timbuctoo Discovery Project – has been an integral force at the site. His knowledge will be sorely missed. Ms. Weston commented that he still wants to be a part of the project and is in touch with them. He will still be assisting with the project. No one was paid to work on this project; it was all volunteer work. Everything is moving along very well.
- d. EMS Report – no further comments made regarding the report

Resolutions

13-16 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes. Mr. Lopez commented regarding a \$16,000.00 lift rental bill; he has heard this is a piece of equipment that is needed here. They will try to find ways to obtain one so we can avoid the rental bills. Ms. Teleisa had questions regarding the December 22 bill list, specifically the charge for Public Defender on page 10 –for \$1200.00. Donna answered that this is the monthly fee for the Public Defender. She

asked about at item on the January 13 bill list regarding schooling for the Township CFO and what kind of schooling does our CFO have to take? Donna answered that he has to be re certified every two years. There was also a bill for the Construction Office for a maintenance fee of \$1,500 dollars; Donna answered that this is a software maintenance fee for permits. The last item was for Petty Cash on page 8 in the amount of \$2,016.17. This fund is closed and reopened each year as Donna explained.

14-16 RCASA Municipal Alliance Grant – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes. All 5 townships in the RV sending district are involved; a resolution is required each year. We have been doing it for 17 or 18 years.

15-16 Appoint JIF Safety Coordinator – Lt. Brian Ferguson – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

16-16 Award Dale Road Drainage Improvements Contract – motion to approve by Mr. Lopez; seconded by Ms. Smith-Hartman. All voted yes. Mr. Lopez commented that our Township engineer made a recommendation to use this contractor in his report; he would like to see all the bid results and would like all Township residents to be aware of the bids when they go out.

Correspondence

Kingdom Church – letter of thanks received for the toy collection box they placed in the Municipal Building.

NJ Conference of Mayors Summit – will be held January 28th at the Masonic Temple in Trenton. All law enforcement officials should attend. Mayor Daniels will attend on behalf of the Township.

American Legion Post – the Boys State program is coming up; they are looking for possible sponsorship from the Township. They send two students each year. It costs \$250/student.

Dates to Remember

Budget meetings – will be held January 27th, February 3rd, February 10th, (all public meetings with no public comments) February 17th (public meeting with comments from the public allowed) These are all Wednesdays at 6 PM and will take place in the Municipal Building.

February 11th – RV Project Graduation spaghetti dinner at the Westampton Firehouse; information would be forthcoming.

Open to public Comment

Nancy Burkley – we only have 1 handicapped parking space here at the Municipal Building. She thinks the law requires that we put in more; she doesn't think one is enough. She asked if Mayor Daniels could please look into this and add the number required by law. She had asked about this last year. Donna would look into it.

Garfield Harper – wants to say that EMS Chief Carty came over to his house and took care of the fire problem. He appreciates it. His son attended the Boys State program back in the 90s; it is a very good program.

Mayor Daniels– thanks for coming back and letting them know he did the job.

Vernita Jones – she is the co-chair of the American Legion for the Boys State program; it is a very good program; they will sponsor 8 boys this year. She asked if there was an ordinance for parking; she is concerned with the winter weather coming up. Westampton streets have drains clogged with debris; there is a lot of debris building along fences that line Township property. She is not happy with the choice of Township Solicitor and the complaint that is pending against him.

We have no parking ordinances during snow storms in Deerwood, Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills East. If cars are registered, we can't tell people where to park on the street.

Police Chief Joe Otto – it's a great help to Public Works if all residents remove cars from the street during storms. We try not to tow cars; the officers go above and beyond and will knock on doors to have residents remove their cars.

Mr. Lopez – our police are very proactive; they have been compiling and studying new ordinances to see what we might need to add and put into place. He is working with them as liaison.

Mike Meenan – there have been lots of rain and high winds; he has had several men out cleaning the storm drains; it is all documented for DEP. Mr. Lopez says it's the Springside Road area that Ms. Jones is speaking about. He was thinking about getting his kids and some neighbor together to go out and clean up; as spring approaches there will be tons of volunteer opportunities to pitch in and get these areas clean.

Ms. Smith-Hartman – asked if the sewer company has responsibility; they do not for the storm drains.

Ms. Jones – asked if there is an ordinance for open house real estate signs. Ms. Smith-Hartman answered this as a realtor; there is one. She abides by it but some don't. Mike Meenan let Ms. Jones know that if they see signs, they will collect them.

Mayor Daniels – feels confident in the appointment of the Solicitor.

Solicitor Al Marmero – there is a complaint against the firm; it is about two years old. They stood by the employee, their book keeper. She was negligent but he and his partner are at fault. He likes to think he is doing a good job thus far for the Township.

Mayor Daniels – would like to keep away from being adversarial; let's be fair to one another and civil to the best of our ability.

Ms. Hustus – asked about portable basketball nets; she has replaced her mailbox three times already due to the kids playing ball in the vicinity. Mayor Daniels hopes she can find a solution. Ms. Smith-Hartman asked if there is a better place to put the basketball hoop; she suggested that she ask her neighbor to move it.

Police Chief Joe Otto – we do have an ordinance for basketball hoops. They cannot be in the street. He said he could send an officer over; don't hesitate to call them.

Lindsay Hustus – asked if we have any ordinance in place for permanent handicapped spots; they are having a lot of issues with people parking wherever they please; even people who don't live there. Donna Ryan answered that we do if you don't have a driveway you can park in.

Louis Lopez – asked if he could speak in Spanish; he asked where Ms. Chang was this evening. He asked if a Committeeperson resigns how they are replaced or appointed.

Janet Curran – was upset that she didn't attend the Reorganization meeting and missed it. Wished everyone a Happy New Year; a new beginning. She wanted to know how people are selected to serve on the various Township Boards.

Mayor Daniels– they are working on many things very diligently; right now the budget is being worked on. Please be patient; it is a work in progress.

Garfield Harper – wanted to say that everyone complains about taxes going up but every time something comes to this town that will help reduce taxes, they complain about that too. You can't have it both ways.

Jonathan Wright – thanks for running a friendly, courteous and efficient meeting.

Anthony D'Errico – State statute doesn't say public comment is limited to 3 minutes; it says that the Committee is allowed to limit comments. We don't need this statement on the agenda. He thanks the Committee for allowing people to speak for longer. Acoustics in the room are terrible; can they look into this. Regarding the website, the reorganization meeting wasn't on there the day before. It would be nice to have the CFO present for meetings. Reducing taxes can be done, it was done before. He offered his help to the Committee in finding ways to reduce costs.

Mayor Daniels – we were doing well with projects but then the bottom fell out. He thanked him for his comments.

Mr. Lopez – wanted to give an update on what has been going on since they were sworn in. They have been getting estimates on improving the sound system in the court room. They are looking at a visual projection system as well. They would also like to get video cameras in the courtroom; meetings can either be live streamed or else up loaded to the Township website. These are all in the works. They are also looking at proposals for the website; they would like a total overhaul and want things to be transparent and efficient.

Ms. Smith Hartman – offered to meet with Janet Curran to figure out how to get information to folks that don't have a computer or email.

Comments – Department Heads & Professionals

Mike Meenan – got a weather briefing right before he came here tonight. Equipment is being readied for the impending storm. They picked up their new dump truck that was ordered back in April; it was just completed. There are more panels to be installed in the court room on the ceiling. Had a meeting with the PW director from Willingboro where they talked about vehicle washing. They invested money in a fully automated system and are thinking about drafting a shared service agreement. The biggest problem is removing salt from their trucks after a storm; DEP lets them use pressure washers but no detergent. They lose a lot to salt; it eats up their equipment.

Mayor Daniels – commends him on exploring shared services.

Mayor Daniels – thanked Donna Ryan for her long hard hours of service.

Fire/EMS Chief Carty – they submitted for two more grants; one a significant one, for air packs which they desperately need. They submitted along with 3 other municipalities. Please shovel out your fire hydrants after the storm.

Committee Members Comments

Ms. Teleisa – went to the Recreation Committee meeting; Breakfast with Santa was a huge success. They sold over 325 tickets for breakfast but even more attended. She thanked the Recreation Committee. We are going to try to resurrect the Farmers Market; the problem is the location, when it was at the library it was in the back and hidden. She hopes the residents will enjoy it.

Mr. Lopez – office hours will start, every Saturday from 9 to 11 AM. His cell phone is on the Township website; he gave it out for those that don't have a computer. Please feel free to call. He thinks the robocall system is very cost effective.

Mayor Daniels – he has an 877 phone number; he receives the Willingboro robocalls as well as Ms. Curran. He thanked everyone for all of their support and for their attendance. It represents the absolute best of community.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk