

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

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

November 11, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with all members present. Resolution 11-11 -14 was adopted to go into Executive session to discuss personnel, negotiations and tax appeals.

The meeting was again called to order and reopened to the public at 7:00 PM by Mayor Chang. 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	Present
Committeewoman Teleisa	Present
Committeeman Thorpe	Present
Mayor Chang	Present

George Saponaro, Solicitor, was present.

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

Approve 11/11/14 Agenda – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Minutes of the 10/28/2014 meeting – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Mr. Maybury. All voted yes, Mr. Thorpe abstained.

Public Comments on agenda items

Louis Lopez – asked about the Resolution to cancel taxes on Block 604, Lots 2, 3 & 4. It is the cancellation of taxes for property that the Township is purchasing for Open Space. He also asked about Ordinance 14-2014; the Mayor explained that this was for the purchase of the same property.

John Mumbower – asked about Ordinance 14-2014 and how it would benefit Westampton Township residents. The Mayor explained that this property abuts the Timbuctoo Historical district; the State and the County have displayed an interest in the site and therefore it will benefit the residents.

Nancy Burkley – asked about the Municipal Partners Program with Evesham and if there is a charge. Donna explained that it offered a discount on greens fees. There is no charge

to Westampton to join this. Ms. Burkley asked if we got a grant to purchase the Timbuctoo property, Donna answered that we have \$400,000 in grant money available. She asked if we were building a parking lot there; Donna answered no.

Louis Hustus – asked the address of the property. It is 21 Blue Jay Hill Road.

Janet Curran – at the Planning Board meeting it was noted that the Master Plan was going to be changed. She wanted to know what was going to happen here; another dig is wrong. We don't need additional parking; the Mayor answered that this will not be a parking lot. Ms. Curran said there is an area next to the cemetery that could be beautified into a park. She doesn't want the house to be torn down. The Mayor asked if there were not strong arguments from archeologists that Timbuctoo stretched to Church Street. Ms. Curran answered that there was. She asked if part of the historic nature also goes down to the creek; some escaped slaves may have made their way to Timbuctoo from the creek. Ms. Curran agreed with her. The Mayor stated that she believes it to be a historic treasure and we have the funds to do it, there are no plans to make it into a parking lot. Church Street will not be paved due to the fact that there may be historical artifacts there. Ms. Curran thinks we shouldn't be purchasing it since we will lose a ratable.

Molly Boonstra – she thinks Timbuctoo is wonderful; but she still hasn't had a clear answer about what the land is going to be used for. The Mayor said it will be used in the future for historic trails; Timbuctoo is a jewel that is not known by many. She wishes there was a way to do this without knocking the house down. She asked if our children would be taking field trips there; the Mayor answered absolutely. The school children have come out to visit on field trips already. Ms. Boonstra suggested that maybe kids from other school districts could come and we could charge a fee.

Old Business

None

New Business

Veteran's Day Proclamation – Mayor Chang read the Proclamation into the record. Members from American Legion Post 509 and the Am Vets 79 were present. She thanked them for their service. Mr. Daniels thanked our veterans for their service; even though he is retired he is still sitting on our nation's watch. He is reminded that when he hears taps some that served with them are not here. He honors all of them and thanks them; God Bless America.

Resolutions

131-14 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

132-14 Municipal Partners Program – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

133-14 Cancel Taxes, Block 604, Lots 2, 3 & 4 – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

Ordinances

14-2014 Acquisition of Block 604, Lots 2, 3 & 4 (first reading) – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; second by Ms. Teleisa. All voted yes.

Correspondence

None

Dates to remember

Rabies Clinic, Saturday, November 22, 9 to 11 AM, Public Works Garage

December 13th – Rancocas Village Holiday Tour, 5 PM to 9 PM

Senior Citizens Holiday Dinner, December 17, 2014, WMS @ 6 PM

Comments – Department Heads & Professionals

Craig Farnsworth – the EMS Department is continuing smoke detector inspections, they are in Holly Hills now. Their annual Santa Run is December 13th, with the 14th reserved for a rain date or to finish up.

Mr. Daniels – commended the EMS crew for their response in September to one of his neighbors; she wanted to make sure that he extended a heartfelt thank you on her behalf.

Open to public Comment

Samuel Hayes – thanked the Township Committee for the wonderful proclamation that was presented tonight. They had a wonderful and busy Veterans Day which started off with a breakfast at their Westampton center. They attended various ceremonies in the County today.

Louis Lopez – congratulations to Mr. Daniels and Ms. Teleisa on their reelection. He asked about the church that was going to come into the Township. The Mayor stated that is an issue before the Land Development Board. He asked how Post 509 began; Mr. Hayes is a charter member of Post 509.

Mr. Hayes got involved in Timbuctoo years ago; it was nothing but a field of weeds back then. They researched the Veterans that are buried there; Perinchief Chapels were very helpful in providing information. They are proud to see the condition of Timbuctoo now compared to how it was years ago. It is a nice place now.

Nancy Burkley – they learned at the Land Development Board last week that Westampton schools could end up with 156 students from the new apartment project. The Mayor corrected her and said that was what she said, that number was not put out by the LDB. Ms. Burkley corrected her statement and said that based on the numbers of the bedrooms that 156 is the number of children that might be brought in by this apartment complex. She asked if the Township has any plans to share any of the PILOT money with the schools to offset the costs. The Mayor answered that the Township Committee has an exemplary relationship with the schools and that absolutely they would share.

John Mumbower – in regards to the apartment complex and looking at the PILOT funds, the agreement is for 30 years and although they do progress and get higher, the funds generated will be insufficient to provide for education for the children brought in. He wants the Committee to agree to donate 100% of the PILOT funds to the schools.

Solicitor George Saponaro explained that 156 students is not a correct projection in the number of students. This amount of units is far less than a normal development with a set aside which would generate about 500 units in total, and bringing in a much larger number of school aged children. The percentage of the PILOT is the maximum allowable under state law, 6 to 8% is it. John Mumbower asked Donna Ryan what the number of students generated would be; she doesn't have the information here but would get it to him. He asked what else we could have done to negotiate with the developer.

The Mayor stated that Westampton Township is under court order to provide low and affordable units. The litigation is pending but we still have to be monitored and have a Court Master assigned to us. We will have an obligation of more than 300 units. This development satisfies 72 COAH units without the burden of having to provide a large housing development. She feels that it is the right thing to do to have affordable housing in our town.

George Saponaro stated that they would have to negotiate with the schools and would dedicate a portion to the school.

Janet Curran – before the house near Timbuctoo is purchased and knocked down she would like the Committee to look at traffic and to make sure we can have walking trails. November 17th is the beginning of their Thanksgiving food drive. The Township would make arrangements to deliver everything to the needy families. She didn't realize that we would have a meeting this evening due to the holiday. The Mayor stated they thought it was appropriate to present the proclamation to the Veterans on Veterans Day.

Molly Boonstra stated that every year the school supply list grows; the parents have to pay for their children's own school trips; the School Board states that they don't have enough money. She started speaking about the church coming into the Township. She would like to see negotiations take place to see as much money as possible from the PILOT going into the schools.

John Mumbower – in regards to the PILOT program is there a way to have better negotiated this to get more funds. George Saponaro answered that they got the maximum allowable. He explained how the law works to Mr. Mumbower. Woodmont's PILOT is 12% of gross revenues for the project. Projections are at about \$850,000 per year which would be paid to the Township for this project.

Mr. Daniels – thanked the Veterans for coming out tonight. Many are well aware of the health care emergency as regards to Veterans; there is some legislation that seems to bring relief to their claims and how they are treated. The DAV magazine recognized Ms. Isaac, a member of the Veterans Auxiliary. He thanked her for her service. We need to acknowledge our neighbors; John Mumbower is a Veteran. This is a great night for the Committee having this many in the audience; usually only 2 or 3 people come out. He wants to commend Gil and Doreen who ran in the election and answered the call; he thanked Trish Teleisa, his running mate.

Mr. Thorpe – thanked Trish and Andre, congratulations on their reelection. He thanked all Veterans for their service.

Ms. Teleisa – her father sacrificed a lot; she thanked him for his service. It is a time of reflection on what is happening in the world. We have Sgt. Caulfield who is overseas now; good wishes to him, she hopes he is doing well. The Board of Education meetings are the second Monday of the month. 28 students were honored; they scored a perfect score on their NJ ASK tests; she is proud of our school district.

Mr. Maybury – is very proud to live in this great country; he believes it is the greatest due to our military that fought for our freedom. He thanked them.

Mayor Chang – happy Veterans Day and thanks for coming out. She chose this country to be her home; she is a naturalized citizen. She thanked the Veterans for their service, she is proud of all of them. Congratulations to Trish and Andre on their re election.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk