

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
January 17, 2024
Regular Meeting – 7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The regularly scheduled meeting of the West Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 PM. Present were Mayor James Cally, Deputy Mayor Gary Hoyer, Committee Members Stephen Bergenfeld, Meghan Hudson and Bob Balaam along with Township Clerk Maria Andrews and Attorney Andrew Kinsey covering for Township Attorney Mark Peck.

Mayor Cally announced that this meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was faxed to the Hunterdon County Democrat and Trenton Times on January 11, 2024, was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on that date and has remained continuously posted as required under the Statute. A copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Township Clerk.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Cally led those in attendance in the pledge to the nation's flag.

AGENDA REVIEW BY TOWNSHIP CLERK

Clerk Andrews noted there were no changes to the posted agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- 2024 Dog License Renewals are Due
- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During the Meeting

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

A motion by Hudson, seconded by Bergenfeld to approve the Committee's 12/27/23 regular and closed session minutes with no revisions noted was approved by voice vote with Committeeman Balaam abstaining.

A motion by Hudson, seconded by Bergenfeld to approve the Committee's 1/3/24 regular and closed session minutes with no revisions noted was unanimously approved by voice vote.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPICS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Cally opened the floor to public comment.

Dave Beaumont of 205 Rock Road West came forward and expressed gratitude to John Dale for all of his years of service. Next, he suggested a report be provided to JCP&L outlining the root cause of all of the outages within the Township. Lastly, Mr. Beaumont stated concern with the dead ash trees, specifically the one across the street from his house. Committeeman Bergenfeld commented that if the trees are on private property the land owners should take responsibility and have them cut down. Mr. Beaumont suggested letters be sent to the property owners alerting them of the dangers of having dead trees on their land.

Seeing no other members of the public who wished to speak, Mayor Cally closed the floor to public comment.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Reports by Department Heads

John Cronce, Chairman of Open Space came forward and wanted to follow up on a matter he brought forward previously regarding brush being dumped in the detention basin area of the Music Mountain development. He requested the Committee authorize him and the DPW to install a plastic chain and

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signage to block access to the basin. The Committee supported Mr. Cronce's request and authorized the chain and signage. Next, Mr. Cronce requested the Committee authorize the removal of trees opposite the Fulper pond and utilize Open Space funding to cover the cost of a tree service. It was noted for the record that the Committee authorized DPW Supervisor Gabel to coordinate with a tree service to have the trees Mr. Cronce referenced, removed.

OEM Director Harry Heller provided a storm update highlighting the fact that Verizon is no longer removing trees that fall in wires. Mayor Cally asked Mr. Heller to obtain a report from JCP&L breaking down the reasons for all of the outages.

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

It was noted for the record that there were no ordinances listed on the agenda for action.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #29-2024: Nalence Junkyard Permit Renewal

Committeeman Bergenfeld asked for this matter to be tabled until Mr. Nalence can come to the meeting and provide a status update on his business.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER

Approval of Final Payment \$19,606.49 to Barrett Paving – Mt. Airy Village Road Improvement Project

A motion was made by Bergenfeld and seconded by Hudson to approve the final payment of \$19,606.49 to Barrett Paving for the Mt. Airy Village Road Improvement Project. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Balaam: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Hudson: Yes, Cally: Yes

Authorization: Installation of 3 Additional Security Cameras \$1875.00

Committeewoman Hudson asked if a fourth camera could be added to swap out with the one in the meeting room because that one is equipped with audio and shouldn't be. There was some discussion on who has access to the audio with Committeeman Bergenfeld suggesting the audio wire just be cut. Mayor Cally suggested this matter be discussed further in Closed Session.

Approval to Donate Police LED Light Bar to Lambertville Rescue Squad

A motion was made by Cally and seconded by Bergenfeld authorizing the Police to donate their LED light bar to the Lambertville Rescue Squad. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Open Space: Mr. Cronce provided his report earlier in the evening.
- B. Environmental: No report was given.
- C. Ag Advisory: No report given.
- D. Finance Committee: No report given.

ADMINISTRATIVE

A motion was made by Hudson and seconded by Bergenfeld approving the 12/31/23 and 1/12/24 bill lists. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Balaam: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Hudson: Yes, Cally: Yes

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A motion by Hudson, seconded by Bergenfeld to open the floor to public comment was unanimously approved by voice vote. Dave Beaumont of 205 Rock Road West came forward again and thanked the Committee for having the "No Thru Truck Traffic" signage installed on specific roadways. He also questioned why he was not reappointed to the Finance Committee and asked that the matter be reconsidered. Seeing no other members of the public who wished to speak, a motion was made by Bergenfeld and seconded by Cally to close the floor to public comment. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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OTHER

Resolution #33-2024: Closed Session – Personnel/Contracts – Litigation/Affordable Housing and Matters Falling Under Attorney Client Privilege

A motion was made by Balaam and seconded by Hudson to approve Resolution #33-2024 and enter into closed session. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Resolution #33-2024

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, permits the exclusion of the public from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of West Amwell Township, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The public shall be excluded from the expected 30 minute discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows: Personnel/Contracts – Litigation/Affordable Housing and matters falling under attorney client privilege. Action may be taken.
3. As nearly as can be ascertained, the matter or matters to be discussed during this closed session will be disclosed to the public when such matters are resolved.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

It was noted for the record that the Committee was in closed session from 8:32 PM – 9:24 PM.

Upon returning to Open Session, a motion was made by Hudson and seconded by Cally authorizing a fourth security camera be installed in the mailbox/copier area of the main floor offices. The Committee also agreed to have Haas Security work with the Court and Lieutenant Skillman to remove the existing camera equipped with audio from the courtroom and install whatever the Court requires.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Hudson, seconded by Bergenfeld to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Approved: 2/7/24