

**WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**January 18, 2023**  
**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 Gary Hoyer, Deputy Mayor Stephen Bergenfeld Committee Members James Cally, John Dale and Meghan Hudson along with Township Clerk Maria Andrews and Attorney Igor Bykov covering for Township Attorney William Pandos.

Mayor Hoyer 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, 2023, 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 Hoyer 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:

- 2023 Dog License Renewals are due in by January 31<sup>st</sup>
- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During the Meeting

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

A motion by Dale, seconded by Bergenfeld to approve the 12/7/22 regular and closed session meeting minutes as revised was approved by voice vote with Committeewoman Hudson abstaining.

A motion by Cally, seconded by Hoyer to approve the 12/28/22 regular session meeting minutes with no revisions noted was approved by voice vote with Committee Members Bergenfeld and Hudson abstaining.

A motion by Bergenfeld, seconded by Dale to approve the 1/3/23 reorganization meeting minutes as revised was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPICS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Mayor Hoyer opened the floor to public comment.

Melissa Masset of 21 Old River Road came forward and expressed concern over the owner of the "turn around" area at the end of Old River Road threatening to close access to this part of the roadway.

John Martorana of 34 Old River Road in Hopewell Township came forward and expressed the same concerns.

Harry Gordon of 17 Old River Road came forward and also expressed the same concerns.

Deputy Mayor Bergenfeld commented that he would speak with the Director of Public Works and reach out to Hopewell Township as well, regarding the matter.

Seeing no other members of the public come forward, a motion was made by Bergenfeld and seconded by Dale to close the floor to public comment. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution #29-2023: Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism & Drug Abuse: Fiscal Grant Cycle**

**Resolution #29-2023**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

**WHEREAS**, The Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Hunterdon;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

The Township Committee does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the South Hunterdon Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2024 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$ <u>3,980.00</u>
Cash Match	\$ <u>995.00</u>
In-Kind	\$ <u>2,985.00</u>

The Township Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Hoyer, Mayor

**CERTIFICATION**

*I, Maria Andrews, Municipal Clerk of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and exact copy of a resolution duly authorized by the Governing Body on this 18 day of January, 2023.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

A motion by Bergenfeld, seconded by Hudson to approve Resolution #29-2023 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

*Bergenfeld: Yes, Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hudson: Yes, Hoyer: Yes*

**Resolution #30-2023: Junkyard Permit Renewal for Block 35 Lot 6 – 1511 Hwy. 179**

Deputy Mayor Bergenfeld commented that the permit was not renewed last year because the owner indicated he was selling the business. Deputy Mayor Bergenfeld remarked that if that is not the case, and the owner wants the permit renewed for this year, he will need to pay last year’s fee as well.

**Resolution #30-2023**

WHEREAS, Steve Nalence of Nalence Auto, located at 1511 Hwy. 179, Block 35 Lot 6 has applied for renewal of a junkyard permit in accordance with Chapter 108 of the Township Code; and

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WHEREAS, the office has not received complaints concerning the operation of this facility; and

WHEREAS, the \$100.00 permit fee has been received; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has certified that the taxes are paid and current; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the West Amwell Township Committee that a permit to operate a junkyard be issued to Nalence Auto, 1511 Hwy. 179 for 2023.

Certification

*I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the West Amwell Township Committee at their regular meeting held on January 18, 2023.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

A motion by Bergenfeld, seconded by Dale to approve Resolution #30-2023 conditioned upon the 2022 permit fee being paid was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

**Reports by Department Heads**

OEM Director Harry Heller noted he received information on a “Community Development Block Grant” opportunity that he will look into and report back to the Committee on. He also stated he has received 2 years worth of power outage reports from the OPRA request he submitted to the County. Director Heller indicated he will review the information and get back to the Committee with his findings.

John Cronce, Chairman of the Open Space Committee stated he was given a letter from Green Acres outlining where the proper signage needed to be installed. He specifically referenced a Barry Road property. Deputy Mayor Bergenfeld asked why the Township must delineate open space for one property and not every property Green Acres helped fund. Mr. Cronce explained that this particular property was the only one Mr. Applegate from Green Acres noted needed signage.

Joel Coyne of 3 Old River Road came forward and stated he was removed from the Environmental Committee. Mr. Coyne provided a long list of credentials including working at NJDEP for 30 years and stated he would like to remain involved with the Township. Mr. Cronce expressed that he would appreciate having Mr. Coyne on the Open Space Committee.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Establishing Office Hours for Township Committee Members**

Mayor Hoyer proposed the Committee Members hold office hours 1 evening from 6 PM – 7 PM perhaps on the first Wednesday of each month just before the Township Committee meetings and on one Saturday each month perhaps the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 10 AM – 11 AM. Clerk Andrews commented that her office will create a table/chart with the dates and times for each Committee Member to hold office hours and provide it at the next meeting for approval.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Discussion: Request to Utilize Municipal Parking Lot for One Weekend Day in May 2024**

Clerk Andrews explained a Lakeview Road resident reached out to inquire whether or not they could utilize the municipal parking lot for guests of their daughter’s wedding to park one weekend, off hours, in May 2024. Clerk Andrews commented she believed there would only be about 40 to 50 cars.

It was noted for the record that the Committee took no issue with the municipal lot being used but suggested a Certificate of Insurance be provided and also commented that the resident would need to ensure no garbage or debris will be left on the grounds.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Open Space: No report was given.
- B. Environmental: No report was given.
- C. Ag Advisory: No report was given.
- D. Finance Committee: No report given.

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Committeewoman Hudson commented that the Historic Committee would like to advertise the sale of Betty Jane Hunt's "Wondering West Amwell" book. She also noted that Ms. Hunt could provide photos to be added to the website about the book as well. The Committee took no issue with advertising the book.

#### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mayor Hoyer opened the floor to public comment.

Dave Beaumont of 205 Rock Road West came forward and asked about the status of the equalized valuation appeal and the status of the potential school de-regionalization. Clerk Andrews noted that she believed the Tax Assessor was at the County this afternoon regarding the valuation issues and Committeeman Cally noted Attorney Pandos had requested appraisals from the school for each of the buildings and has received some, but not all.

Deputy Mayor Bergenfeld commented that he would like to hold the Annual Tree Lighting this year. Clerk Andrews noted that the Recreation Committee should take the lead on running this event. Mayor Hoyer and Committeeman Dale agreed but Deputy Mayor Bergenfeld stated he would rather have the Township staff and some other volunteers handle it.

Seeing no members of the public come forward, Mayor Hoyer closed the floor to public comment.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

A motion by Bergenfeld, seconded by Cally to approve the 1/10/23 bill list was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

*Bergenfeld: Yes, Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hudson: Yes, Hoyer: Yes*

#### **OTHER**

Mayor Hoyer noted the Committee will be going into Closed Session. A motion was made by Bergenfeld and seconded by Cally to go into Closed Session. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

A motion was made by Bergenfeld and seconded by Cally to return to Open Session. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

It was noted for the record that the Committee was in Closed Session from 9:35 PM to 10:09 PM.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

It was noted for the record that the Committee ordered the correspondence listed on the agenda to be filed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Hoyer adjourned the meeting at 10:10 PM.

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Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Approved: 2/1/23