

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
December 28, 2022
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 Committeemen John Dale and Lucas Lyons along with Township Clerk Maria Andrews and Township Attorney William Pandos.

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 13, 2022, 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.

Mayor Cally thanked the public for attending the meetings throughout the year and also thanked the Township staff for all of their hard work.

Deputy Mayor Hoyer invited newly elected Committeewoman Meghan Hudson to join the Township Committee at the dais this evening. Committeewoman Hudson accepted and thanked the Committee.

FLAG SALUTE

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

AGENDA REVIEW BY TOWNSHIP CLERK

Clerk Andrews noted Proclamations have been added under the Special Presentation line item on the agenda. Additionally, under New Business the Committee needs to Authorize Lieutenant Skillman to hire another Patrolman.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Municipal Offices will be CLOSED Fri. 12/30/22 and Mon. 1/2/23: New Year's Holiday
- The Township Committee's Annual Re-organization Meeting is: Tuesday, 1/3/23 at 7:30 PM
- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During the Meeting

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Cally read the following Proclamations into the record:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Gavin A. Balog, Boy Scouts of America, Troop #49, attained the designation of "Eagle Scout," Scouting's highest award; and

WHEREAS, Gavin A. Balog has been an active scout demonstrating outstanding leadership and has contributed many service hours during his years of scouting; and

WHEREAS, Gavin A. Balog's Eagle Scout project included construction of a large storage shed for the High School soccer teams at South Hunterdon Regional High School; and

WHEREAS, the project exceeded all expectations in design and craftsmanship; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Amwell Township Committee extends to Gavin A. Balog individually, collectively, and with great pride, their sincere congratulations for achieving this highest of scouting awards which symbolizes the American Ideal of good citizenship; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the West Amwell Township Committee wishes Gavin A. Balog much success in all his future endeavors.

ATTEST: December 28, 2022

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

James J. Cally, Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Trevor D. McCloughan, Boy Scouts of America, Troop #49, attained the designation of “Eagle Scout,” Scouting’s highest award; and

WHEREAS, Trevor D. McCloughan has been an active scout demonstrating outstanding leadership and has contributed many service hours during his years of scouting; and

WHEREAS, Trevor D. McCloughan’s Eagle Scout project included the restoration and improvement of the press box at Samuel E. Jeffries Field at South Hunterdon Regional High School; and

WHEREAS, the project exceeded all expectations in design and craftsmanship; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Amwell Township Committee extends to Trevor D. McCloughan individually, collectively, and with great pride, their sincere congratulations for achieving this highest of scouting awards which symbolizes the American Ideal of good citizenship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the West Amwell Township Committee wishes Trevor D. McCloughan much success in all his future endeavors.

ATTEST: December 28, 2022

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

James J. Cally, Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Liam C. Gillooly, Boy Scouts of America, Troop #49, attained the designation of “Eagle Scout,” Scouting’s highest award; and

WHEREAS, Liam C. Gillooly has been an active scout demonstrating outstanding leadership and has contributed many service hours during his years of scouting; and

WHEREAS, Liam C. Gillooly’s Eagle Scout project included construction of an entryway sign, pavilion, and garden boxes for the Learning Garden at Delaware Township School; and

WHEREAS, the project exceeded all expectations in design and craftsmanship; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Amwell Township Committee extends to Liam C. Gillooly individually, collectively, and with great pride, their sincere congratulations for achieving this highest of scouting awards which symbolizes the American Ideal of good citizenship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the West Amwell Township Committee wishes Liam C. Gillooly much success in all his future endeavors.

ATTEST: December 28, 2022

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

James J. Cally, Mayor

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

It was noted that the 12/7/22 regular and closed session minutes will be carried to the 1/3/23 agenda for approval because they have not yet been drafted.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPICS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Cally opened the floor to public comment. It was noted for the record that no members of the public came forward to make any comments.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #110-2022: Authorization of CY2022 Budget Transfers

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CY2022 BUDGET TRANSFERS
Resolution #110-2022

WHEREAS, there are certain CY2022 Budget Appropriations of the Township of West Amwell with balances insufficient to meet requirements for operating Township Affairs; and

WHEREAS, there are CY2022 Budget Appropriations with unexpected balances that are not needed for such purposes; and

WHEREAS, Statutes 40A:4-58 provides for Transfers to those accounts having insufficient balances during the last two months of the fiscal budget year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell that the following transfers are:

| | | | TO | FROM |
|--------------------------|--|-----|----------|----------|
| General administration | | S/W | 17.00 | |
| General administration | | O/E | 8,500.00 | |
| Mayor and Council | | O/E | 106.00 | |
| Municipal Clerk | | S/W | | 2,000.00 |
| Municipal Clerk | | O/E | | 1,623.00 |
| Financial Administration | | S/W | 3,200.00 | |
| Financial Administration | | O/E | 1,000.00 | |
| Auditing Services | | O/E | 1,750.00 | |
| Revenue Administration | | S/W | | |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----|-----------|-----------|
| | | | 5,000.00 | |
| Revenue Administration | | O/E | | 1,000.00 |
| Tax Assessment | | S/W | | 400.00 |
| Tax Assessment | | O/E | | 5,000.00 |
| Legal Services | | O/E | | 8,000.00 |
| Engineering | | O/E | | 8,000.00 |
| Land Use Admin | | O/E | | 3,000.00 |
| Zoning Board | | S/W | 7,900.00 | |
| Zoning Board | | O/E | 600.00 | |
| Housing | | O/E | | 500.00 |
| Code Enforcement | | S/W | | 1,500.00 |
| Code Enforcement | | O/E | | 1,500.00 |
| Group Medical Ins | | O/E | | 5,000.00 |
| Police Dept | | S/W | | 15,000.00 |
| Police Dept | | O/E | | 3,000.00 |
| Streets and Roads | | S/W | 22,000.00 | |
| Streets and Roads | | O/E | | 5,000.00 |
| Building & Grounds | | S/W | | 1,200.00 |
| Building & Grounds | | O/E | 1,500.00 | |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|-----|------------------|------------------|
| Vehicle Maintenance | | | O/E | 10,000.00 | |
| Public Health | | | O/E | | 6,000.00 |
| Celebration of Public Events | | | O/E | | 500.00 |
| Accumulated Absences | | | O/E | | 2,000.00 |
| Street lighting | | | O/E | 2,000.00 | |
| Telephone | | | O/E | 2,000.00 | |
| water | | | O/E | 100.00 | |
| Fuel Oil | | | O/E | 2,000.00 | |
| Gasoline | | | O/E | 2,500.00 | |
| Social Security | | | O/E | 800.00 | |
| DCRP | | | O/E | | 750.00 |
| | | | | 70,973.00 | 70,973.00 |

Certification

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the resolution passed at the meeting held on December 28, 2022.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Dale to approve Resolution #110-2022 was unanimously approved by roll call vote:

Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Lyons: Yes, Cally: Yes

Resolution #111-2022: Cancellation of Tax Billing – B:33 L:11

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION OF BILLING
DUE TO COUNTY BOARD OF TAXATION JUDGMENT
RESOLUTION #111-2022

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell Tax Assessor filed a Memorandum of Judgment for assessor correction in the Hunterdon Board of Taxation Office of the County of Hunterdon; and,

WHEREAS, Final Judgment was recorded on June 09, 2022, in the Office of the County Board of Taxation under Appeal No. 26-2200008A; and,

WHEREAS, Certain adjustments are necessary to the records of the Tax Collector.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, hereby authorize the following adjustments be approved:

| TAX-CANCEL | | | |
|---|------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| <u>OWNER</u> | <u>BLOCK/LOT</u> | <u>AMOUNT</u> | <u>REASON</u> |
| Susan & Christopher Bannon (2022 Billing - 3 rd & 4 th Qtr.) | Block 33 Lot 11 | \$1,275.01 | Assessor Correction |
| Susan & Christopher Bannon (2023 Preliminary Billing - 1 st & 2 nd Qtr.) | Block 33 Lot 11 | \$1,313.35 | Assessor Correction |

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Tax Collector and Finance Officer.

By Order of the Township Committee,

James Cally, Mayor

A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale to approve Resolution #111-2022 was unanimously approved by roll call vote:

Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Lyons: Yes, Cally: Yes

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Reports by Department Heads

OEM Director Harry Heller noted he had attended the “Dam Failure Drill” in Lambertville yesterday and commented that it seemed to be more internally related to Lambertville. Director Heller also noted that last month Pat Pittore ran a CPR Class for the DPW with another class planned for the municipal office staff in January. Additionally, Director Heller noted a total of \$240, 855 in FEMA funds have been awarded to the Township along with a total of \$471,000 in USDA funds. He remarked the Township should also be getting \$58,000 more from FEMA to assist with the Stymiest Road repairs.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion: Permission for EMS Staff to Conduct Search & Rescue Training on Municipal Property

Present for the discussion was Pat Pittore. He explained he and his wife have a canine rescue unit and asked if they could utilize the municipal property to train their dogs. He noted it would only be 1 or 2 times annually, probably on a Sunday, and stated they have liability insurance and would only be working in the area behind the building in the tree line and maybe at the depot. Mr. Pittore noted he would coordinate with the Township Clerk, Police Department and DPW prior to coming to the property.

It was noted for the record that the Committee took no issue with Mr. Pittore training his dogs on the municipal property as long as he notified the proper departments before doing so.

Discussion: Possible Refund of Trash Permit Fee to E. Hinrichsen

It was noted for the record that the Committee recognized Mr. Hinrichsen apparently had some sort of verbal altercation with Depot staff over what type of trash/recycling that can be accepted at the depot and has since decided to contract with a private hauler for his garbage services. The Committee decided to uphold the current policy and denied Mr. Hinrichsen’s request for a refund of his trash permit fees because it is clearly stated on the permit that the fees are non-refundable. It was also noted that the Committee believes the depot staff has a responsibility to monitor what is collected in the dumpsters and that it was Mr. Hinrichsen’s choice to contract with a private garbage service.

Minutes: 12/28/22

Discussion: Possibly Establishing “Office Hours” for Committee Members

Deputy Mayor Hoyer explained that it was suggested the Committee Members hold office hours once a month in order to give the public an opportunity to meet with them. He noted the Committee would rotate time slots once a month, every 5 weeks. Mayor Cally advised everyone to think about establishing office hours.

Discussion: Township Animal Control Services – Possible Authorization of Contract

After some discussion the Committee agreed to contract with Animal Control Solutions for services in 2023. There was some continued discussion on a 1 year vs. 3 year contract with Clerk Andrews noting she would look into it further.

Authorization for Lieutenant Skillman to Hire an Additional Patrolman

A motion was made by Hoyer and seconded by Cally authorizing Lieutenant Skillman to start the process to hire an additional Patrolman. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Open Space: Chairman of the Committee John Cronce commented on a previous discussion regarding the Dupuis property abutting Hewitt Park. He noted the property is not contiguous. He then provided an update on the preservation signage, saying it is all up now. Next he updated the Committee on the following matters:
 - 1. He remarked that for the first time in 16 years there was a trespasser hunting on Township property. He confirmed the Police Department handled the situation
 - 2. He commented the Wooden Farm is changing their farming and may be producing grain in their back field
 - 3. He suggested a Certificate of Insurance be obtained from the Fulper Farm for the farming they do on Township property
- B. Environmental: No report was given.
- C. Ag Advisory: No report was given.
- D. Finance Committee: No report given.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

ADMINISTRATIVE

A motion by Lyons, seconded by Dale to approve the 12/20/22 bill list was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Lyons: Yes, Cally: Yes

OTHER

Mayor Cally thanked the DPW for all of their work during the holiday storm.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Lyons and seconded by Dale to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Approved: 1/18/23