

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

December 29, 2021

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 Deputy Mayor James Cally, Committeemen Gary Hoyer and John Dale along with Township Clerk Maria Andrews.

Clerk Andrews 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 14, 2021, 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.

AGENDA REVIEW BY TOWNSHIP CLERK

Clerk Andrews noted there were 2 items to be added under New Business:

1. Acknowledgment of George Fisher's letter of resignation from various Boards and Committees
2. Resolution #109-2021: Authorization to Sell 2014 Super Z Mower

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During the Meeting
- The Township Committee Re-organization Meeting is Wed. 1/5/22 at 7:30 PM
- Municipal Offices will be CLOSED Fri. 12/31/21 & Mon. 1/3/22 – New Year's Holiday
- Special Thanks to Mike Spille and the Environmental Committee for all of their Dedication to Fighting the PennEast Pipeline and Keeping the Township Informed

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

A motion by Dale, seconded by Hoyer to approve the Committee's 12/1/21 Open and Closed Session minutes with no revisions noted was approved by voice vote.

It was noted for the record that the minutes from the Committee's 12/15/21 special meeting will be tabled until Committeeman Bergenfeld is present to vote on them since there were only 3 Committeemen present at that meeting.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPICS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Cally opened the floor to public comment. Seeing no members of the public come forward, Deputy Mayor Cally closed the floor to public comment.

Reports by Department Heads

OEM Director Harry Heller commented that reimbursement for \$85,000 has been submitted to FEMA. He noted West Amwell has already received \$6900 for COVID reimbursement so far.

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Open Space: No report was given.
- B. Environmental:
Mike Spille, Chairman of the Environmental Committee commented on the pipeline exposed in the Alexhauken Creek bed and noted the proposed repair from Texas Eastern will only be temporary. He remarked the "fix" is not substantial enough to prevent the pipe from becoming exposed again in the future. Mr. Spille stated that Mayor Bergenfeld had reached out to Enbridge. Mr. Spille wanted the Committee to push for them to help mitigate future flooding of

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the creek. OEM Director Heller commented that he is working with the Department of Agriculture to address stream flooding mitigation throughout the Township.

C. Ag Advisory: No report given.

D. Finance Committee: No report given.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

It was noted for the record that there were no unfinished business matters listed on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER

Acknowledgement: Resignation of M. Rassweiler from the Board of Adjustment

It was noted for the record that the Committee acknowledged receipt of Mr. Rassweiler's resignation.

It was noted for the record that Resolutions 96-2021 through 104-2021 along with Resolutions 107-2021 and 109-2021 were approved by roll call vote, by consent agenda on motion by Dale and seconded by Hoyer.

Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Cally: Yes

Resolution #96-2021: Authorizing Adoption of County Hazardous Mitigation Plan

RESOLUTION #96-2021

A RESOLUTION OF THE WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF THE 2021 HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

WHEREAS, all jurisdictions within Hunterdon County have exposure to hazards that increase the risk to life, property, environment, and the County and local economy; and

WHEREAS, pro-active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

WHEREAS, The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) established new requirements for pre and post disaster hazard mitigation programs; and

WHEREAS, a coalition of Hunterdon County municipalities with like planning objectives has been formed to pool resources and create consistent mitigation strategies within Hunterdon County; and

WHEREAS, the coalition has completed a planning process that engages the public, assesses the risk and vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards, develops a mitigation strategy consistent with a set of uniform goals and objectives, and creates a plan for implementing, evaluating and revising this strategy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the West Amwell Township Committee:

1. Adopts in its entirety, the 2021 Hunterdon County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (the "Plan") as the jurisdiction's Hazard Mitigation Plan and resolves to execute the actions identified in the Plan that pertain to this jurisdiction.
2. Will use the adopted and approved portions of the Plan to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of the hazards identified.
3. Will coordinate the strategies identified in the Plan with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority.
4. Will continue its support of the Mitigation Planning Committee as described within the Plan.
5. Will help to promote and support the mitigation successes of all participants in this Plan.
6. Will incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations.
7. Will provide an update of the Plan in conjunction with the County no less than every five years.

ATTEST:

By Order of the Township Committee

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

James Cally, Deputy Mayor

Certification

I, Maria Andrews, Clerk of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the West Amwell Township Committee on December 29, 2021.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Resolution #97-2021: Authorizing CY2021 Budget Transfers

RESOLUTION #97-2021

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CY2021 BUDGET TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, there are certain CY2021 Budget Appropriations of the Township of West Amwell with balances insufficient to meet requirements for operating Township affairs; and

WHEREAS, there are CY2021 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; and

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

TO:

CLERK S/W - \$600
GENERAL ADMIN S/W - \$13,000
TAX COLLECTOR S/W - \$100
LAND USE S/W - \$200
POLICE DEPT S/W - \$95,000
ROADS CHIP/SEAL - \$16,000
SOLID WASTE S/W - \$9,000
VEHICLE MAINT O/E - \$9,000
ELECTRICITY - \$2,300
TELEPHONE - \$7,500
PUBLIC DEFENDER O/E - \$2,000
HOUSING O/E - \$2,000
WATER - \$150
GASOLINE - \$1,500
SOCIAL SECURITY - \$2,900

TOTAL - \$161,250

FROM:

GENERAL ADMIN S/W - \$4,000
FINANCE ADMIN S/W - \$1,500
CODE ENF. S/W - \$10,000
POLICE DEPT O/E - \$37,900
PROSECUTOR O/E - \$700
STREETS & ROADS O/E - \$13,000
BUILDS & GRDS S/W - \$8,500
BUILDS & GRDS O/E - \$22,000
MAINT OF PARKS O/E - \$5,000
ANIMAL CONTROL O/E - \$5,000
COURT S/W - \$5,500
COURT O/E - \$10,000
SCHOOL SECURITY - \$23,000
PUBLIC HEALTH O/E - \$2,000
CLERK O/E - \$13,150

TOTAL - \$161,250

Certification

I, Maria Andrews, Clerk of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the West Amwell Township Committee on December 29, 2021.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Resolution #98-2021: Authorizing the Cancellation of Current Fund Appropriation Balances

RESOLUTION #98-2021
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELATION OF CERTAIN
CURRENT FUND APPROPRIATION BALANCES

WHEREAS, certain balances of Current Fund Appropriations in the 2021 Municipal Budget remain unexpended:

LOSAP CONTRIBUTION - \$8,000

WHEREAS, it is necessary to formally cancel the unexpended balances totaling \$8,000 from the Appropriations indicated above so that the \$8,000 may be credited to Current Fund Surplus (Fund Balance) and made available for use in the 2022 Municipal Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell that the CFO is hereby authorized and directed to cancel the unexpended balances totaling \$8,000 from the Appropriations indicated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Municipal Auditor.

Certification

I, Maria Andrews, Clerk of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the West Amwell Township Committee on December 29, 2021.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Resolution #99-2021: Appointment of Substitute Fire Inspector P. Rosso

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE FIRE INSPECTOR
RESOLUTION #99-2021

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell is in need of a substitute Fire Inspector; and

WHEREAS, Construction Official Philip Rosso is willing to fill the role of substitute as part of his current responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosso possesses the required license for this position; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Philip Rosso be appointed substitute Fire Inspector effective January 1, 2022.

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

Certification

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the West Amwell Township Committee at their regular meeting held December 29, 2021.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Resolution #100-2021: Appointment of Substitute Plumbing Inspector S. Rodzinak

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE PLUMBING INSPECTOR
RESOLUTION #100-2021

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell is in need of a substitute Plumbing Inspector; and

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WHEREAS, Construction Official Philip Rosso has recommended that Stephen Rodzinak be appointed as substitute Plumbing Inspector; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rodzinak possesses the required license for this position; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rodzinak has agreed to be compensated as substitute Plumbing Inspector for an hourly rate of \$38.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Stephen Rodzinak be appointed substitute Plumbing Inspector effective January 1, 2022.

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

Certification

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the West Amwell Township Committee at their regular meeting held December 29, 2021.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Resolution #101-2021: Appointment of Substitute Building Inspector S. Rodzinak

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE BUILDING INSPECTOR
RESOLUTION #101-2021

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell is in need of a substitute Building Inspector; and

WHEREAS, Construction Official Philip Rosso has recommended that Stephen Rodzinak be appointed as substitute Building Inspector; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rodzinak possesses the required license for this position; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rodzinak has agreed to be compensated as substitute Building Inspector for an hourly rate of \$38.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Stephen Rodzinak be appointed substitute Building Inspector effective January 1, 2022.

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

Certification

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the West Amwell Township Committee at their regular meeting held December 29, 2021.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Resolution #102-2021: Appointment of Substitute Mechanical Inspector P. Rosso

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MECHANICAL INSPECTOR
RESOLUTION #102-2021

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell is in need of a substitute Mechanical Inspector; and

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WHEREAS, Construction Official Philip Rosso is willing to fill the role of substitute Mechanical Inspector as part of his current responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rosso possesses the required license for this position; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Philip Rosso be appointed substitute Mechanical Inspector effective January 1, 2022.

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

Certification

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the West Amwell Township Committee at their regular meeting held December 29, 2021.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Resolution #103-2021: Hiring of Office Assistant S. Zambella

RESOLUTION #103-2021

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell advertised for the position of Construction/Zoning/Tax Office Assistant; and

WHEREAS, interviews were conducted; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Official has recommended that Suzanne Zambella is best qualified for said position; and

WHEREAS, an employment offer has been accepted by Ms. Zambella to work approximately 15 hours per week earning an hourly wage of \$18.00 which will be re-evaluated for a possible adjustment after 90 days; and

WHEREAS, this position is not subject to health and pension benefits but does include enrollment in the State's Defined Contribution Retirement Plan (DCRP); and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Suzanne Zambella be hired as the Construction/Zoning/Tax Office Assistant, effective January 4, 2022; and

Certification

I, Maria Andrews, Township Clerk of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, hereby certify this to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee on December 29, 2021.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Resolution #104-2021: In Memory of Robert M. Gordon

***Resolution #104-2021
In Memory of Robert M. Gordon***

WHEREAS, the Township Committee wishes to record its deep sorrow over the passing of Robert M. Gordon ("Bob"); and

WHEREAS, Bob began working for West Amwell Township as a volunteer around 2001; and

WHEREAS, in subsequent years Bob was appointed to paid positions as a Waste Security Laborer, Assistant Waste Security Officer and later promoted to the senior position of Waste Security Officer for the Township's Recycling Depot; and

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WHEREAS, Bob truly enjoyed his duties at the Depot, and enjoyed seeing and helping the residents he served; and

WHEREAS, Bob took recycling very seriously and ensured no one stepped out of line at the Depot, or entered without a permit; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body is grateful for his contributions as an outstanding citizen in our community; and

WHEREAS, Bob's service was given with such devotion that he earned the respect, admiration and friendship of his co-workers and many residents within the community; and

WHEREAS, a rose bush has been donated by Township employees and planted at the depot in memory of Bob; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED in recognition of Bob's contributions to the Township and its citizens, we hereby express our deep appreciation for his service to this community and extend to his family our sincere sympathy upon his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be transcribed in the minutes of the Governing Body and that the Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the family of Robert M. Gordon.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and caused the Seal of the Township of West Amwell to be affixed this 29th day of December, 2021.

ATTEST:

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

James Cally, Deputy Mayor

Resolution #107-2021: Cancellation of Taxes on Foreclosed Properties

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CANCELLATION OF BILLING DUE TO
FINAL JUDGMENT OF IN REM FORECLOSURE
RESOLUTION #107-2021

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell filed an In-Rem Foreclosure action on September 1, 2020 for certificates recorded in the Clerk's Office of the County of Hunterdon; and,

WHEREAS, Final Judgment was recorded on May 25, 2021, in the Office of the Clerk of Hunterdon County under instrument No. 2021-0525000159780 at Book 2535, Page 131; and,

WHEREAS, a Certificate of Regularity from State Capital Title and Abstract Company was provided indicating all proceedings in the matter have been inspected and appear in regular form; 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>
West Amwell Twp.	Block 10 Lot 4	\$15.80	Prior Billing – Foreclosed
West Amwell Twp.	Block 12 Lot 1	\$70.30	Prior Billing – Foreclosed
West Amwell Twp.	Block 16 Lot 19	\$63.22	Prior Billing – Foreclosed
West Amwell Twp.	Block 33 Lot 11	\$674.09	Prior Billing – Foreclosed
West Amwell Twp.	Block 43 Lot 2	\$628.90	Prior Billing – Foreclosed
West Amwell Twp.	Block 46 Lot 4	\$254.16	Prior Billing – Foreclosed
West Amwell Twp.	Block 46 Lot 8	\$622.32	Prior Billing – Foreclosed

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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, Deputy Mayor

Resolution #109-2021: Authorization to Sell 2014 Super Z Mower

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP
RESOLUTION #109-2021

WHEREAS, the West Amwell Township Committee authorized the auction of a 2014 Hustler Super Z Mower through MunicBid; and

WHEREAS, said auction concluded on December 28, 2021 at 1:00 PM; and

WHEREAS, the auction resulted in a high bid of \$3750.00 from Daniel Flath of 172 Pleasant Valley Road, Titusville, NJ 08560; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the West Amwell Township Committee that the bid received from Daniel Flath in the amount of \$3750.00 for the 2014 Hustler Super Z Mower is hereby accepted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the purchaser present a certified check made payable to West Amwell Township in the amount of \$3750.00 within 10 days of notification of this award.

Certification

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the West Amwell Township Committee at their meeting on December 29, 2021.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk

Discussion: Request/Authorization for an Alarm System at the Firehouse

A motion was made by Hoyer and seconded by Dale to authorize the alarm system installation at the Firehouse pending review of the quote by Mayor Bergenfeld. The motion was approved by voice vote.

Discussion: Repair of Hamp Road Bridge

It was noted for the record that the Committee requested this matter be tabled until DPW Director Rollero can attend the meeting and provide input on the issue.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Deputy Mayor Cally opened the floor to public comment. Construction Office Manager Gail Brewi commented that Construction Official Phil Rosso was recommending that substitute Electrical Inspector Keith Steele's hourly wage be brought up to \$38.00 so it is consistent with the other inspectors in the office. It was noted for the record that the Committee agreed with the suggested increased rate. Clerk Andrews stated she will have a resolution ready for approval at the Committee's 1/19/22 meeting.

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

ADMINISTRATIVE

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Dale to approve the vouchers for payment as listed on the 12/29/21 bill list was approved by roll call vote.

Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Cally: Yes

OTHER

Resolution #105-2021: Closed Session – Personnel/Contracts – Litigation/Affordable Housing

Resolution #105-2021

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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 discussion of and action upon the hereinafter specified subject matter.
2. The general nature of the subject matter to be discussed is as follows: Mt. Laurel Litigation, personnel, contracts and subjects falling under Attorney-Client privilege.
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public when the matter has been resolved.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

A motion by Cally, seconded by Hoyer to approve Resolution #105-2021 and enter into Closed Session was unanimously approved by voice vote.

A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale to return to Open Session was unanimously approved by voice vote.

It was noted for the record that the Committee was in Closed Session from 7:56 PM – 8:12 PM.

Upon returning to Open Session, a motion was made by Cally and seconded by Dale approving Resolution #108-2021 hiring Attorney Moench.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Cally, seconded by Hoyer to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Approved: 1/19/22