

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
March 2, 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.

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.

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:

- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During the Meeting
- Dog License Renewals for 2022 were due by 1/31/22 – Late Fees are in Effect!

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

A motion by Dale, seconded by Hoyer to approve the Committee's 2/16/22 Open 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. Seeing no members of the public come forward, Mayor Cally closed the floor to public comment.

Reports by Department Heads

OEM Director Harry Heller commented that he is still working with FEMA on a regular basis to obtain reimbursements from the Hurricane Ida damage. He noted 120 pieces of information (*photos, policies, data, etc.*) have been uploaded to the State with an expected reimbursement of about \$150,000.

DPW Director Rollero commented there are 33 working days (*from 9/1/21 – 10/19/21*) which they are trying to recover storm costs for. He remarked there are funding sources under the Watershed Protection, FEMA Mitigation and the USDA.

Director Rollero expressed that the Township needs to declare emergency appropriation funding as soon as possible, noting an 8/15/22 Rocktown-Lambertville Road project deadline and commenting that \$60,000 has been awarded to West Amwell by the USDA.

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Open Space: No report was given.
- B. Environmental: No report was given.
- C. Ag Advisory: The Committee authorized the posting of the 10/1/20 minutes and 5/6/21 minutes to the website.

Minutes: 3/2/22

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: 2022 Hell of Hunterdon Bicycle Ride on 4/10/22

It was noted for the record that the Committee took no issue with the Hell of Hunterdon bicycle ride event.

Discussion: Hamp Road Bridge Repairs

The Committee had received a letter from County Engineer Thomas Mathews requesting input regarding the repairs or the permanent closing of Bridge W-120 on Hamp Road. DPW Director Rollero explained the creek has shifted with the water cresting several times over the years which has changed the banks. He commented that if the bridge is repaired the Township would need to fix approximately 100 ft. of roadway.

Mayor Cally confirmed that there are no West Amwell residents living on Hamp Road. Director Rollero commented that there are no residents but noted the 20 acre parcel on Hamp Road known as the Titus Meadows Property is owned by West Amwell and utilized by a hunting group.

The Committee requested additional details from the County on the cost to repair the bridge and exactly what West Amwell would be responsible for. Clerk Andrews noted she would follow up with Mr. Mathews.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Cally opened the floor to public comment. Jen Batchellor of 158 Rocktown-Lambertville Road came forward and expressed support for the Committee pursuing the lawsuit against the passing of the school referendum.

DPW Director Rollero commented on the 7 large ash trees that JCP&L cut down on the DPW yard property. He asked if the Committee wished to donate them or do a public BID. He estimated the trees were about 36" in diameter and would total approximately 5 cords of wood. Clerk Andrews noted Attorney Campbell had sent an email citing liability issues and cautioning the Township from having private citizens attempting to cut or remove the wood. Mayor Cally stated he would follow up with Attorney Campbell on the matter.

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Committee made no comments on any of the administrative reports.

OTHER

Resolution #40-2022: Closed Session – Personnel/Contracts – Litigation/Affordable Housing

Resolution #40-2022

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.

Minutes: 3/2/22

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Dale to approve Resolution #40-2022 and enter into Closed Session was unanimously approved by voice vote.

A motion by Hoyer, 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 8:34 PM – 9:06 PM.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Approved: 3/16/22