

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

April 5, 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, Committee Members Stephen Bergenfeld, James Cally, John Dale and Meghan Hudson along with Township Clerk Maria Andrews and 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:

- Municipal Offices will be CLOSED 4/7/23 – Good Friday
- Cty. Certificate of Completion to H. Heller: Incident Command Sys./Emerg. Operations Training
- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During the Meeting

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale to approve the 3/15/23 regular and closed session meeting minutes with no revisions noted was unanimously approved by voice vote.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPICS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Hoyer opened the floor to public comment.

Dave Beaumont of 205 Rock Road West came forward and updated the Committee on the recent school board meeting noting the preliminary budget was passed with a 2% increase. He then commented on how he believes it will impact West Amwell residents noting a potential \$380.00 annual increase in taxes for the average homeowner.

Mark Huber of 1769 Linvale-Harbourton Road came forward and asked if anyone has contacted the Township regarding the recent letters sent to homeowners about purchasing their properties which are within the redevelopment area. Mayor Hoyer indicated no one has contacted the Township and advised Mr. Huber that those letters would be private negotiations between landowners and the potential developer.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Status of Township Facebook Page

Mayor Hoyer commented that the Technology Committee is still pulling information together regarding a potential Township Facebook page. Harry Heller spoke up from the public and stated Rob Tomenchok has established the page and is just waiting to go live. Committeewoman Hudson asked if someone could follow up on what the expected timeframe is and offered to assist.

Minutes: 4/5/23

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #42-2023: Appointing Statewide Insurance Fund Commissioners

Resolution #42-2023: APPOINTING FUND COMMISSIONER
STATEWIDE INSURANCE FUND
2023 Fund Year

WHEREAS, West Amwell Township (*hereinafter “Local Unit”*) is a member of the Statewide Insurance Fund (*hereinafter “Fund”*), a joint insurance fund as defined in N.J.S.A. 40A:10-36 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Fund’s By-laws require participating members to appoint a Fund Commissioner; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Township of West Amwell that Mayor Gary Hoyer is hereby appointed as the Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the **Fund Year 2023**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Deputy Mayor Stephen Bergenfeld is hereby appointed as the Alternate Fund Commissioner for the Local Unit for the Fund Year 2023; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Local Unit’s Fund Commissioner is authorized and directed to execute all such documents as required by the Fund.

West Amwell Township

ATTEST:

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Gary Hoyer, Mayor

This Resolution agreed to the 5th day of April, 2023, by a vote of:
Affirmative: Bergenfeld, Cally, Dale, Hudson, Hoyer
Abstain: 0
Oppose: 0
Absent: 0

A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale to approve Resolutions #42-2023 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
Bergenfeld: Yes, Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hudson: Yes, Hoyer: Yes

Resolution #43-2023: Emergency Temporary Appropriations

RESOLUTION #43-2023
RESOLUTION OF EMERGENCY TEMPORARY APPROPRIATION

WHEREAS, the Township is expected to make payments prior to the adoption of the 2023 budget and no provision has been made in the 2023 temporary budget, adopted on the 3RD day of January 2023 for the aforesaid purposes; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for said purpose; and

WHEREAS, the total emergency temporary appropriation resolutions adopted in 2023 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-20) including this resolution total \$943,100.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this the 5th day of April 2023 it is by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon, in the State of New Jersey that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A 40A:4-20: Emergency temporary appropriations be and the same are hereby made in the amount of \$184,600.00 as follows:

General Administration	S/W	300.00
General Administration	O/E	5,000.00

Mayor & Council	S/W	150.00
Municipal Clerk	S/W	6,000.00
Municipal Clerk	O/E	2,500.00
Financial Administration	S/W	6,000.00
Financial Administration	O/E	3,000.00
Auditing Services	O/E	13,000.00
Revenue Administration	S/W	2,000.00
Revenue Administration	O/E	1,500.00
Tax Assessment	S/W	1,600.00
Legal Services	O/E	10,000.00
Land Use Administration	S/W	1,500.00
Land Use Administration	O/E	2,000.00
Zoning Board	S/W	2,000.00
Zoning Board	O/E	1,000.00
Housing	S/W	800.00
Code Enforcement	S/W	13,000.00
Code Enforcement	O/E	5,000.00
Employee Group Ins.	O/E	11,000.00
Police Dept.	S/W	56,000.00
Office of Emerg. Mgmt	O/E	250.00
Fire Bureau	S/W	800.00
Prosecutor	O/E	5,000.00
Streets & Roads	S/W	6,000.00
Solid Waste	S/W	2,000.00
Solid Waste	O/E	3,000.00
Buildings & Grounds	S/W	3,000.00
Animal Control	O/E	4,000.00
Public Health	S/W	200.00
Social Security	S/W	10,000.00
Municipal Court	S/W	7,000.00
		<hr/>
		184,600.00

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 April 5, 2023.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

A motion by Cally, seconded by Bergenfeld to approve Resolutions #43-2023 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Resolution #44-2023: Hiring Patrolman K. O'Connor

West Amwell Township
Resolution #44-2023

WHEREAS, an opening exists for a full time Patrolman in the Township Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Kyle O'Connor has submitted an application for employment; and

WHEREAS, Kyle O'Connor has been recommended by Lieutenant Skillman to fill this open position; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee is in agreement with Lieutenant Skillman that Kyle O'Connor be hired as a full time Patrolman and will be a probationary employee for one year; and

Minutes: 4/5/23

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the West Amwell Township Committee, that Kyle O'Connor be appointed to the position of Probationary Patrolman effective 4/10/23 pending the outcome of all background investigations and required testing, with a starting date of 4/10/23 at an annual salary of \$55,409.00.

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 April 5, 2023.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

A motion by Hudson, seconded by Dale to approve Resolutions #44-2023 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Resolution #45-2023: Hiring of Assistant Assessor N. Izzo

It was noted for the record that the Committee tabled this Resolution.

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

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

NEW BUSINESS

Acknowledgment of Raffle License – 50/50 Raffle: WA Elementary School 5/5/23

It was noted for the record that the Committee acknowledged the 50/50 raffle scheduled for 5/5/23.

Acknowledgment of Updated Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan

Clerk Andrews explained the Plan has already been approved by SADC, the Township Ag Committee and Planning Board. She stated it is just being given to the Township Committee for their information. It was noted for the record that the Committee acknowledged receipt of the updated Farmland Preservation Plan.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Director of OEM Harry Heller spoke up from the public and informed the Committee again that the Emergency Operating Procedure manual is only good for 2 years and must be updated by 5/19/23. It was noted that Mayor Hoyer will be listed as the Public Information Officer, Committeeman Cally will be in charge of Public Health and Committeewoman Hudson will be responsible for Social Services.

Director Heller also noted that the gentleman from FEMA stopped by the offices today, unannounced, looking for detailed plans on the Stymiest Road repairs from Engineer Burr. Director Heller indicated Engineer Burr stated he will have the updated plans to him by Wednesday, 4/12/23.

Committeewoman Hudson noted the Historic Committee will be starting their tours up again in May. She also followed up on the previous request to appoint Jean Yarrow and Linda Cook to the Committee. Deputy Mayor Bergenfeld commented that anyone can attend the meetings and participate and remarked that he didn't believe the Township Committee wished to appoint any more members. Mayor Hoyer stated he would follow up with Betty Jane Hunt.

Ms. Yarrow, who happened to be in attendance, spoke up from the public and stated she was no longer interested in serving on the Historic Committee.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Hoyer opened the floor to public comment.

Minutes: 4/5/23

Dave Beaumont of 205 Rock Road West came forward again and commented on the limited number of people in the Township taking advantage of the “senior freeze.” He remarked that Collector Brewi is very helpful to the seniors when filling out their PTR booklets.

ADMINISTRATIVE

A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale to approve the 3/21/23 and 3/28/23 bill lists was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

OTHER

Resolution #46-2023: Closed Session – Possible Litigation/Matters Falling Under Attorney Client Privilege

Resolution #46-2023

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: Possible Litigation – Eminent Domain and Prescriptive Easement for DPW 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

A motion by Hudson, seconded by Bergenfeld to approve Resolution #46-2023 and enter into Closed Session was unanimously approved by voice vote.

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

The Committee was in Closed Session from 8:15 PM – 9:07 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 Bergenfeld, seconded by Dale to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM.

Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

Approved: 4/19/23