

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

September 6, 2017 - 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The regular meeting of the West Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mayor John Dale, Deputy Mayor Stephen Bergenfeld, Committeeman Gary Hoyer, Clerk Lora Olsen and Attorney Philip J. Faherty III. Committeemen James Cally and Zachary T. Rich were excused. Also in attendance were Dave Beaumont, Hal Shute, Kiyle Osgood, Jonathan Sellner, Matt Kelly, Jeff Ent, Gail Brewi, Jonathan Wendeborne, Krista Parsons and an unidentified couple.

Mayor Dale announced that this meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was included in the Resolution faxed to the Hunterdon County Democrat and Trenton Times on January 2, 2017, was posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on said 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 Municipal Clerk.

FLAG SALUTE

The mayor led those in attendance in the pledge to the nation's flag.

AGENDA REVIEW BY TOWNSHIP CLERK

No additions were made.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Regular Township Committee meeting – September 20th
- County Ident-a-Shred Days @ Court House, 9 a.m.to Noon on Sept 9, Oct 7, Nov 4 (County residents only; No Businesses; 10 Box Limit)
- JCP&L/Jaflo Tree Service Vegetation Maintenance Work, July-September
- PSE&G/Asplundh ROW Herbicide Application, Begins August 15th
- Please Come to the Table if You Wish to Address the Committee
- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During Meeting

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

The August 16, 2017 Regular and Closed Session minutes were held.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPIC NOT ON THE AGENDA

Seeing no members of the public come forward, the open to the public segment was closed on unanimous vote.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)

Reports by Department Heads – Fire Chief Jeff Ent reported on the following:

- The installation of a 10 Kw generator at station 2 was completed in record time. The facility is now self sufficient
- The 4H fair went well with no reported incidents
- Two members will be taking the fire fighter course through PolyTech. Although both are 18, the fire company was able to utilize the school and the program for this training. Mr. Ent advised that this is their first time with the PolyTech program; that it is good to get younger members; and, affiliation with a fire company is required for participation. He also relayed that the fire company has gear in its last year of usefulness that will be used by the participants in lieu of renting gear for this purpose.
- A member of Task Force 1 returned today from Texas.

Johnathan Wendeborne presented an over view of his 'Washington College Senior Capstone Experience – A Path to Community Growth & Wellness' project that involved an analysis of and impact on property, as well as the social and health benefits to West Amwell, for a park. Several locations were investigated but the municipal complex with its 105+ acres became the focus of this endeavor. Envisioned for this park were such amenities as baseball and softball fields, trails for biking, running, dogs), soccer and field hockey fields, tennis courts and a playground. The municipal property location was also noted as accessible to the development as well as Mill Road and Route 179. The projected cost was \$3.2 million with an annual budget of \$262,000. Mr. Wendeborne observed that the main obstacle was the capital requirement. However, there is a need for fields as the school expands and there is support for a park in the

township. He has been working with Mr. Rich since March and was urged by the mayor to reach out to Mr. Rich again. Mr. Hoyer noted that this is an interesting concept; commented on the research that was done; and, inquired about the grade received. Mr. Wendeborne advised that he won the best business capstone award. Congratulations were extended.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing: Ordinance 07, 2017 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY

Proof of publication in the August 24, 2017 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat was presented. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public since its introduction at the August 16, 2017 Township Committee meeting. Mayor Dale read the Ordinance by title and opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed.

Hoyer motioned to approve the Ordinance and Bergenfeld seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Open Space

- *Woodmeir & Danberry SADC Farmland Preservation Applications & Requested Municipal Response.* Hal Shute advised that these filings came from a SADC picnic. Applications have been filled out and support for preservation is sought. No funding is mentioned in this request. However, Mr. Shute noted that the Open Space Trust is cleaned out, and although township debt service will drop next year, funding is a commitment. Also mentioned was the possible reduction in the open space tax that has been under discussion recently. Mr. Shute relayed that he has looked at both properties but the ownership situation is different. These will be agricultural easements and a complete cycle for preservation runs 2 to 3 years. The Danberry parcel is contiguous to Adams, which might help in the scoring and Woodmeir (Hanover) borders the Fulper/Stoy property. Mr. Shute also noted that there's not a lot of funding at the State level and that this request may be premature.

Mayor Dale was authorized to sign the response form on motion by Bergenfeld, seconded by Hoyer seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Project Status Updates: All approvals are in for the Runkle properties—township, CADB/Freeholder, SADC and Governor. The wait is now for County contracts after which surveys will be conducted. Closings will be held next year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Possible Appointments – none

Updates – 1) No comment on ***possible cost savings measures***. 2) The latest bid for electricity through ***community aggregation*** was not accepted. A re-bid in October-November is being considered.

Employee Health Benefits Proposal – A letter from the ***PBA attorney*** was received advising of the SHBP's position on the use of the "difference card" and therefore changing health plans would result in increased costs. Mayor Dale's position was not to respond to the attorney in that no changes would be made. An e-mail from Colin Caffo concerning the card was received and reviewed. A brief discussion ended with a recommendation that health benefits be re-visited next year. Any investigation of a private insurance option/bid is now mute.

Results of Auction on Block 46, Lots 5, 6 & 7 – Clerk Olsen reported that there were no bidders at today's auction. Attorney Faherty will review possible negotiation options.

NEW BUSINESS

PTO West Amwell School re: Raffle Application

- Findings & Determination. These were presented, reviewed and approved.
- Resolution

RESOLUTION #116-2017

WHEREAS, application has been received the Township of West Amwell to grant a raffle license, and

WHEREAS, no objections have been received the Clerk of the Township, nor were any objections made at the meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the raffle license be granted

TO: PTO West Amwell School
BENEFIT: To fund enrichment programs for the children of West Amwell School (after school programs; teaching supplies; educational assembly; etc.
DATE: September 15, 2017
TIME: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
LOCATION: West Amwell School
1417 Route 179, Lambertville NJ 08530

The Resolution was unanimously approved on motion by Bergenfeld, seconded by Dale.

Statewide Insurance Fund Renewal

- Resolution to Join/Renew the Fund:

RESOLUTION #117-2017
(attached to original minutes)

The Resolution was unanimously approved on motion by Hoyer, seconded by Bergenfeld.

- Indemnity & Trust Agreement:

The mayor was unanimously authorized to sign the Agreement on motion by Hoyer, seconded by Bergenfeld.

- Contact Information: Primary Contact – Clerk; Fund Commissioners – Dale & Rich

Consideration of Resolution for National Suicide Prevent Awareness Month – A request for support of this resolution was received from Rob Walton, who is President of NAMI Hunterdon. A copy of the adopted resolution will be sent to NAMI Hunterdon.

RESOLUTION #118-2017
NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, suicide is a serious but preventable public health problem that can have lasting harmful effects on individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, nationally, suicide is the tenth leading cause of death overall and the second leading cause of death among Americans aged 10 to 34; and

WHEREAS, most recent data shows that in New Jersey there are 8.8 self-inflicted deaths per 100,000 people; and

WHEREAS, the best way to minimize risk of suicide is to learn about risk factors, recognize warning signs and take them seriously, and know how to respond to possibly save a life; and

WHEREAS, National Alliance on Mental Illness – Hunterdon Chapter (NAMI Hunterdon) is proud to partner with organizations like the Hunterdon County Department of Human Services, Division of Social Services and the Hunterdon County Mental Health Board to collaborate with other stakeholders, organizations and individuals to save lives; and

WHEREAS, local suicide prevention efforts including Hunterdon's Stigma Free Task Force have been formed to raise awareness, eliminate stigma, promote suicide prevention as a public health issue and increase help-seeking behavior; and

WHEREAS, effective prevention strategies are needed to promote awareness of suicide while also promoting prevention, resilience, and a commitment to social change; and

WHEREAS, NAMI Hunterdon invite all residents of Hunterdon County to become educated about suicide and participate in National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, every Hunterdon citizen can play a role in bringing mental illness out of the shadows, and every Hunterdon resident deserves a chance to succeed and has a right to achieve his or her God-given purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, the governing body of West Amwell Township, do hereby recognize September 2017 as NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH throughout the Township and call upon the citizens of this great area to observe this month with appropriate programs, activities and ceremonies, and to take the NAMI Stigma-free Pledge to take action, know the signs, reach out and know that there is help and hope.

The Resolution was unanimously approved on motion by Dale, seconded by Bergenfeld.

2018 NJDOT Municipal Aid Grant Program & Possible Application – An e-mail from Township Engineer Burr requested guidance on selecting a deserving road candidate for an application for grant money. DPW Director Rollero will be contacted for recommendations.

Consent of Governing Body re: TWA for 285 Mt. Airy-Harb. Road – Although the Board of Health approved the submission of a TWA for the referenced, a second consent is required of the governing body as the system will be over 2000 gpd. The need for this action was verified with the County.

RESOLUTION #119-2017

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Township Committee of West Amwell Township that West Amwell Township has been made aware of the Treatment Works Approval Application (TWA); NJDEP Application No. NJG0259926, for property owners Jeanette Christopher; Block 12 Lot 9; 285 Mt. Airy-Harb Road, on the tax map of West Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey; for the alteration/replacement of an existing septic system for which the total gallons per day of sewage for the entire site is 2,100 gpd; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Committee certify that West Amwell Township consents to the submission of the TWA application to the Department of Environmental Protection for approval; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the project as proposed conforms with the requirements of all municipal ordinances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Committee of West Amwell Township do not assume responsibility for the TWA application or the design; which will remain the responsibility of the applicant (Christopher) and the applicant's engineer (Eric Mehalik, Engineering and Land Planning Associates Inc.); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Committee of West Amwell Township and the West Amwell Township Board of Health respectfully request that they be advised of the status of the technical review and subsequent progress of the project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Clerk, Lora L. Olsen, is hereby authorized to sign and execute Section A-1 on the NJDEP Statements of Consent; "Consent by the Governing Body."

The Resolution was unanimously approved on motion by Bergenfeld, seconded by Hoyer.

Possible Open Gym – Joe Petrucci has been in touch concerning re-instating this program at the high school. The concept has been approved by Parks & Recreation and initial conversations have been held with school personnel. In the past, the person in charge has been provided with a stipend of \$25/night. Additional information is to be forthcoming so that an application can be submitted to the Board of Education for approval.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Dave Beaumont came forward spoke on how to help disseminate information for the upcoming referendum. He has been in touch with Heidi Tomenchok about this and a meeting of the

Community Outreach committee is scheduled for September 12th. He suggested that a letter to the editor be considered as well. Also noted were that questions have been raised about why police are being looked at as the only viable area to cut costs; why administrative functions are not outsourced; and, how this particular direction was arrived at. Mr. Beaumont relayed these types of concerns need to be headed off.

Mayor Dale suggested that the communications committee make these types of decisions, noting that September is pre-mature for a November vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS.

None

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence as listed on the Agenda was ordered filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:25 p.m. on motion from Dale.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk

APPROVED: September 20, 2017