

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

September 5, 2018 - 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 Stephen Bergenfeld, Deputy Mayor Gary Hoyer, Committeemen James Cally, John Dale and Zachary Rich, Acting Clerk Maria Andrews and Attorney Philip J. Faherty III.

Acting 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 5, 2018, 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 Acting Municipal Clerk.

FLAG SALUTE

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

AGENDA REVIEW BY ACTING TOWNSHIP CLERK

Acting Clerk Andrews noted there were no changes to the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Municipal Offices are Back to a Regular Schedule: Mon – Fri 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
- Please Come to the Table if You Wish to Address the Committee
- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During the Meeting

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Dale to approve the Township Committee's 9/5/18 Regular Session minutes with no revisions noted was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Rich: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

A motion by Dale, seconded by Hoyer to approve the Township Committee's 9/5/18 Closed Session minutes with no revisions noted was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Rich: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPICS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Bergenfeld opened the floor to public comment. It was noted for the record that no members of the public came forward at this time.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Reports by Department Heads

It was noted for the record that no reports were given.

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

Introduction: Ordinance 10, 2018 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 153 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY – *No Parking Signage in the Rose Run cul-de-sac*

Mayor Bergenfeld read Ordinance 10, 2018 by title. A motion by Cally, seconded by Hoyer to introduce Ordinance 10, 2018 upon first reading was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Rich: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

It was noted the public hearing date for the second reading of Ordinance 10, 2018 was set for 9/19/18.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Open Space – No report was given.

Environmental – No report was given.

Aq Advisory – No report was given.

Finance Committee – A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale to approve posting of the Finance Committee's 5/18/18 minutes was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Minutes: 9/5/18

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Re-location of Police HQ to Municipal Building Basement

Mayor Bergenfeld reported the project is moving forward and that he is working with the Township QPA, Alex DeAngelis on finalizing some details.

Police Lieutenant Position – Status Update

Township Attorney Philip Faherty provided the Committee with a printout from NJSACOP and advised that someone needs to contact the organization to schedule the required testing for each candidate. The Committee gave Attorney Faherty the go ahead to get the process moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER

Resolution #96-2018: National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Resolution #96-2018 NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

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

WHEREAS, nationally, suicide is the ninth leading cause of death overall and the third leading cause of death among Americans aged 5 to 14 and the second leading cause of death among Americans aged 15 to 24; and

WHEREAS, most recent data shows that in New Jersey suicide has decreased to 9.7 self-inflicted deaths per 100,000 people demonstrating that through education and public awareness, suicide rates can improve; 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 Hunterdon County Stigma Free Task Force to end the bigotry against people afflicted with mental illness; and

WHEREAS, local suicide prevention efforts including Hunterdon's Stigma Free Task Force work 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 invites all residents of Hunterdon County to become educated about suicide and participate in National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the West Amwell Township Committee, does hereby recognize September 2018 as NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH throughout West Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the West Amwell Township Committee call upon our citizens to take the CureStigma test today to see if they are affected by stigma at CureStigma.org and pledge to be stigma free.

A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale to approve Resolution #96-2018 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Rich: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

Letter of Resignation from Patrolman M. Kelly

A motion by Rich, seconded by Bergenfeld to accept Patrolman Kelly's resignation was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Minutes: 9/5/18

Request from AOIC Skillman to Advertise for a Full Time Police Officer

It was noted for the record that the Committee authorized AOIC Skillman to advertise for a full time Police Officer.

Discussion: Rock Road West Traffic Study Process

Present in the public were several Rock Road West residents along with their spouses and children including:

Dave Beaumont of 205 Rock Road West

Bob Abitz of 201 Rock Road West

Doug Scheetz of 198 Rock Road West

Mr. Abitz referred to the traffic study by the State that was to be requested at the last meeting and asked what the problem statement will be. He indicated he is a civil engineer with NJDOT and referred to Public Law 2008, Title 39 noting the Township has the right to put up signage and paint striping as long as they aren't asking the state for funding.

Mr. Rich clarified that when the Township put signs up several years ago the State sent a letter challenging the Township's right to do so because of the road designation and NJDOT criteria.

Mr. Beaumont remarked that he believes the process is that the Township performs a traffic study to determine what problems may exist and then the Township Committee passes an ordinance to send to the State for their review and approval.

Mr. Rich commented that if he recalls correctly, the State indicated if the intersection does not connect to a state or county roadway then the Township can take action through ordinances.

Mr. Scheetz explained that he was the one who put the basketball hoop in the Rock Road West/Corsalo Road intersection for his kids to use and apologized for doing so. He asked that the Township put the stop signs back up because he believes they made a difference. Mayor Bergenfeld stated the basketball hoop posed a liability for the Township and now the stop signs must be installed legally if they are to be put back and be enforceable.

It was noted for the record that Acting Clerk Andrews will reach out to Township Engineer Bill Burr regarding a traffic study on Rock Road West, per the response received from NJDOT regarding the Township's request to have a study performed.

Discussion: Flyer from Foveonics – Digital Records Management

Acting Clerk Andrews explained information was received from Foveonics regarding their digital storage capabilities. It was noted for the record that the Committee expressed no interest in pursuing digital storage options at this time.

Discussion: Email from SolAmerica Energy, LLC – Solar on Twp. Property

Acting Clerk Andrews explained information was received from SolAmerica inquiring as to whether or not there is any interest in putting solar on township owned properties. The Committee expressed no interest in solar projects at this time.

Discussion: Email from J. Strauss – Landing Zone Class Request

Acting Clerk Andrews explained the Lambertville-New Hope Ambulance & Rescue Squad is conducting a training class on 9/27/18 or 10/4/18 and wish to utilize the Music Mountain Park as a landing zone. Their email is requesting permission from the Township to do so.

It was noted for the record that the Committee authorized the Lambertville-New Hope Ambulance & Rescue Squad to utilize the Music Mountain Park as a landing zone for the training class scheduled on either 9/27/18 or 10/4/18 with the condition that signage be put up or that the residents in the area are notified in some way of the pending landing zone class and arrival of the Atlantic Air Medical Unit.

Resolution #97-2018: Amending Salary & Wage Resolution

RESOLUTION #97-2018
Amending Resolution #61-2018

Minutes: 9/5/18

BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of the Township of West Amwell that the 2018 Salary and Wage Resolution, approved April 18, 2018 be amended as follows:

Position	Salary/Compensation
<u>Delete:</u> Board of Adjustment Secretary C. Rosikiewicz	\$7500.00 annual salary
<u>Add:</u> Board of Adjustment Secretary M. Andrews	\$7500.00 annual salary (pro-rated/effective date 8/3/18)

A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale to approve Resolution #97-2018 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Rich: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

Discussion: Reimbursement Request from AOIC Skillman: \$85.00 (Title Transfer)

A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale to approve the request from AOIC Skillman for an \$85.00 reimbursement to transfer the title for the new police vehicle was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Rich: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

Discussion: Reimbursement Request from AOIC Skillman: \$90.83 (Dept. Vacuum)

A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale to approve the request from AOIC Skillman for a \$90.83 reimbursement for a department vacuum was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Rich: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

Resolution #98-2018: Hiring Waste Security Laborer: A. Dowd

RESOLUTION #98-2018

WHEREAS, the Township's Trash/Recycling Depot requires a Waste Security Laborer for various depot duties on Saturday's from 7:30 AM – 12:30 PM; and

WHEREAS, Alexander Dowd has expressed interest in this employment opportunity; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the West Amwell Township Committee that Alexander Dowd be hired as a Waste Security Laborer effective September 1, 2018 at a rate of \$12.00 per/hour.

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Bergenfeld to approve Resolution #98-2018 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Rich: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

Discussion: Existing Reimbursement Stipends for Dental, Vision & Non-insurance Covered Medical Expenses

Mr. Cally referred to the specific sections in the police contract and staff policy manual noting the language expressly states the stipend is, "...per **employee** covered under this agreement, per year..." emphasis on the word employee, and expressed that he believes it does not include spouses or family members. It was noted this stipend is different than the actual insurance coverage an employee may have for family or spouse. Several other committee members agreed that the language seems to indicate the stipend is something extra just for township employees, unrelated to their separate insurance plans. It was noted this matter may be discussed further when the police contract comes up for renewal.

Discussion: Email dated 8/23/18 from C. Rose, re: Construction Office Hours/Staffing
Mayor Bergenfeld noted this discussion will be moved to closed session.

Minutes: 9/5/18

OTHER

Resolution #99-2018: Closed Session – Personnel/Contracts – Litigation/Affordable Housing

A motion by Cally, seconded by Hoyer to enter into closed session was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Rich: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

Resolution #99-2018

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.
4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

A motion by Dale, seconded by Bergenfeld to return to open session was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Rich: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

The Committee was in Closed Session from 8:38 PM – 11:42 PM

With respect to the email dated 8/23/18 from Construction Official Chris Rose regarding construction office hours and staffing, it was noted that Ms. Brewi's hourly wages will be converted into an annual salary of \$52,000. The specific parameters include 35 posted hours: Monday – Thursday 7:30 AM – 4:15 PM. It was noted that 3 hours on Thursday mornings from 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM will be designated as Ms. Brewi's Tax Assistant hours to work with the Township Tax Collector. The remaining 32 hours will be designated as Ms. Brewi's

Construction/Zoning Office Manager position as follows:

Monday 7:30 AM – 4:15 PM

Tuesday 7:30 AM – 4:15 P

Wednesday 7:30 AM – 4:15 PM

Thursday 7:30 AM – 8:30 AM and 11:30 AM – 4:15 PM

It was clarified that Ms. Brewi must have a minimum of 32 posted hours in order to be eligible for pension and benefits. The payment of salary will take effect upon adoption of the amended Salary and Wage Ordinance, it will be pro-rated to 9/5/18 and is not subject to any annual increase in 2019.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

It was noted for the record that there were no members of the public present at the meeting at this time.

ADMINISTRATIVE

It was noted for the record that there were no administrative reports received.

Minutes: 9/5/18

CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee ordered the correspondence listed on the agenda, filed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Rich, seconded by Cally to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 PM.

Maria Andrews, Acting Municipal Clerk

Approved: 9/19/18