

SPECIAL WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

August 16, 2010 – 9:00 a.m.

The West Amwell Township Committee met on the above date at 9:00 a.m. Present: Mayor Molnar, Committeemen Masterson and Fisher. Also in attendance were Lt. Barzak (until 9:25 a.m.), Hal Shute, Zach Rich, Road Supervisor Hoagland and CFO Jane Luhrs

In compliance with the Public Meetings Act, Mayor Molnar announced that this Special Meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act with notices faxed to the Hunterdon County Democrat and the Trenton Times on August 10, 2010. A copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

The meeting was recorded via digital recording system and a copy of the CD is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

RESOLUTION TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION:

RESOLUTION #118-2010

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:
PROTECTING THE SAFETY & PROPERTY OF THE PUBLIC
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.

The Resolution was unanimously approved on motion by Fisher, seconded by Masterson.

GARBAGE & TRASH:

Continued Discussion Concerning In-House Collection – A truck similar to that acquired by Lambertville is sought and Mr. Molnar will verify the specifications of the truck under consideration. A back-up plan for possible break-downs employing 30 yard roll offs was discussed as was if these should be new or used. Concern was also expressed about whether a hauler would haul a roll off that was not his property, although the money is made in the hauling fee. A suggestion was made to contact a local vendor to see how this might be handled. The cost of a new roll off would run \$4200 and the recommendation is that two be purchased as there's no compaction as with an actual truck. The possibility of a 4 to 6 yard dumpster for emergencies was raised but this would depend on the capability of the particular truck purchased. Also mentioned was that the shed is deteriorating and replacement should be considered at some point.

The CFO was instructed to prepare an ordinance in the amount of \$70,000 for the purchase of a '25 cubic yard high compaction used leach 2Rll rear loading body mounted on a 2000 Sterling chassis' truck. The two 30 yard roll-offs would be covered under an 'incidentals' provision. As only \$65,000 was allotted in the capital budget, this will have to be amended.

Discussion turned to items for the 2011 operating budget; the possibility of eliminating permit fees; the effect of removing permit revenue; and, the need for a plan prior to January 1st. It was decided that a 5 hour per Saturday depot worker would be required. An ad will be run later in the year for a new hire at a rate to be determined.

Possible Introduction of Ordinance 11, 2010 – Purchase of Garbage Truck – Held for September 1st meeting.

RESOLUTION AWARDDING BID FOR TOLL CLEANUP:

It has been determined that the low bidder's price did not include everything; the paperwork for the next bidder in line is under review; and, the SADC has to approve the change. The initial plan was to auction the property in the fall but this may have to be moved to spring. Item held.

SHARED SERVICES UPDATE:

Mr. Fisher reported on another breakfast meeting with Lambertville mayor DelVecchio, where

Lambertville's engineers were in attendance and assessor sharing was discussed. There could be money saved with the latter but would have to be balanced against other issues. The consensus was that this would be something to look into. A meeting with the County Tax Assessor is also a possibility. A brief discussion ensued about the timing of re-assessments in the two communities; what this is dependent upon; cost involved; and, the current Township percentage of market value. The latter will be checked.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED SOLICITATION FOR 2011 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

A decision about what will be requested in the way of Auditor services will affect the job description for the solicitation. It was suggested that engineering services be coordinated with the Planning and Zoning Boards. Item held until after the Sept 1st meeting.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Hal Shute inquired about the website. Mr. Molnar relayed that he has two volunteers to assist with the design portion but has yet to speak with the webmaster. In-house maintenance would require staff instruction.

Mrs. Luhrs relayed, in response to a question posed previously by the mayor, that potential donations for the police department can only be for equipment, not salaries or general operating expenses. Donations could be tax deductible but a tax advisor should be consulted.

Possible use of open space donations made in memory of Gary Bleacher was raised by Mr. Shute. Benches and/or trees were mentioned for a couple locations, especially the pocket park and the municipal property. Any purchase has to be authorized by the Township Committee and used on open space.

Information on the solar initiative was relayed by Zach Rick. This included that the power lines along Rocktown-Lamb. Road carry 13,000 volts, which is low end vs high end lines of 26,000 volts and towers of 500,000.

A new daily work log for the DPW was presented. Mr. Molnar stated that, although he is aware of their many activities, residents have been questioning and want to know specifics.

Mr. Shute questioned the status of the former Perrine property and a discussion ensued about options and cost. Interested has been expressed in the place but not at the price that was asked. The consensus was to again offer the property for sale but with no minimum bid and for the Township to take the loss. The possibility of a Green Acres purchase was raised if access to preserved areas could be found. A resolution to re-advertise the property will be included on the Sept 1st agenda.

The East Amwell administrator has written a letter to the mayor concerning speeders on Rocktown Hill Road. They would like more patrols. Mr. Hoagland noted that the posted 25 mph speed limit may not be enforceable if not State approved. The Township Code will be consulted. (Note: Subsequent to the meeting it was determined that the speed limit is has been approved by the State.) A four-way STOP will be proposed although the State may require traffic studies about deaths and injuries in order for this to be approved.

Mr. Molnar is to relay to Delaware Township that West Amwell would like to meet with them.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:00 a.m. on motion by Fisher, seconded by Masterson.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora L. Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk