

SPECIAL WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

August 29, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.

The West Amwell Township Committee met on the above date at 5:38 p.m. Present: Mayor Molnar, Committeemen Fisher and Rich, Township Engineer Bob Clerico, CFO Tom Carro and Allen Sutch (6:55 p.m.)

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 24, 2011. 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 not recorded due to lack of electricity.

DISCUSSION WITH TOWNSHIP ENGINEER:

The scope of road projects and related options were discussed in light of engineering costs. Other items included how chip sealing is accomplished in other municipalities; types of work that are not covered in grants; how to curry favor with Trenton to improve chances of grant funding; concern over bonding for road work/the need to do road work; possibly developing a 5 five year program for road projects that would include chip seal and reconstruction of 'x' number of roads per year; funding issues; and, deciding upon how a road is to look. To the latter point, Mr. Clerico cautioned against selling short on engineering with respect to shoulder work. The Committee was also reminded that when the decision was made about roads to include in the bond ordinance, they specifically said that these road would be done even if no grants were received. The condition of George Washington Road was briefly discussed as to the possibility of grant funding due to the State park that is situated there. Mr. Clerico relayed that there are six DOT road programs plus a discretionary fund but the applications have no category 'roads to parks.' The discretionary category would be the area for political persuasion with local legislators. It was also noted that, for its size, West Amwell does better than most municipalities in the grant money received. Also mentioned was that Rutgers has a program that provides an evaluation of operating costs but certain parameters have to be met.

Discussion turned to the two roads specifically targeted in the bond ordinance—Rocktown Hill Section 2 and Old York Road Section 1 that applications to the State have been approved. Although there is no charge for filing the grant application, the former will need survey work as DOT grants won't pay for design. The Township would put up approximately 20% of the \$260,000 estimated costs on this application. The design work on the latter project has already been completed. Two resolutions were presented for consideration.

RESOLUTION #136-2011

RESOLUTION: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Old York Road Improvement Project Section 1.

WHEREAS, Old York Road Section 1 is in need of Improvement

WHEREAS, Robert J. Clerico, P.E., Township of West Amwell Engineer, has prepared a cost estimate for improvements to this road.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell formally approved the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2012-West Amwell Township-00207 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Township of West Amwell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of West Amwell and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approved the execution of the grant agreement.

The Resolution was unanimously adopted on motion by Fisher, seconded by Rich

RESOLUTION #137-2011

RESOLUTION: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Rocktown Hill Road Improvement Project Section 2.

WHEREAS, Rocktown Hill Road Section 2 is in need of Improvement

WHEREAS, Robert J. Clerico, P.E., Township of West Amwell Engineer, has prepared a cost estimate for improvements to this road.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell formally approved the grant application for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2012-West Amwell Township-00208 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of Township of West Amwell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of West Amwell and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approved the execution of the grant agreement.

The Resolution was unanimously adopted on motion by Rich, seconded by Fisher.

After further consideration of the priority to be assigned to the two applications, it was decided to designate Rocktown Hill Road Section 2 as number 1 and Old York Road Section 1 as number 2. Mr. Clerico was authorized to proceed with survey work, a concept plan and a more precise cost estimate for Rocktown Hill Road Section 2. Mr. Rich was not in agreement as he would prefer to wait on this particular work until grant money is assured.

CLOSED SESSION:

RESOLUTION #138-2011

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:
PERONNEL (Interviews)
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 Rich.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

No public in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:08 p.m. on motion by Molnar, seconded by Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora L. Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk