

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

June 21, 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 7:35 p.m. Present were Mayor John Dale, Deputy Mayor Stephen Bergenfeld, Committeemen James Cally, Gary Hoyer, Zachary T. Rich, Clerk Lora Olsen and Attorney Philip J. Faherty III. Also in attendance were John Crounce, Rob Tomenchok, Ryan Rollero, Hal Shute, Jim Hamtil, Zachary Harris, and Gregory D'Orazio of AHM, Colin Coffaro of Difference Card, together with 25 other West Amwell and surrounding area residents.

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

Nothing was added or deleted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Municipal Offices Closed July 4th for Independence Day
- Next Regular Township Meeting is July 19th at 7:30 p.m.
- 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)
- Please Come to the Table if You Wish to Address the Committee
- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During Meeting

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Bergenfeld to approve the June 7, 2017 Regular and Closed Session meeting minutes with no revisions noted were unanimously approved.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPIC NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Dale announced that the ACO matter has been forwarded to the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's office for review. The recommendation from that office was that there be no public or Township Committee comment during these legal investigations.

Linda Meier (West Amwell) questioned the procedure and inquired as to whether this recommendation by the prosecutor's office is being approved or denied by the governing body and if it is this body that is making the decision not to allow comment. She was advised by Attorney Faherty that the Committee's decision was based on the recommendation of the County prosecutor.

Judy Giordano (West Amwell) recommended that meeting recordings be re-instated. The mayor advised that such recording is not required under State law but that her comments were appreciated.

Mark Bowles (West Amwell) remarked that a full investigation was requested and, as this has been turned over to the prosecutor, everyone needs to let them handle it.

Lori Stagnitto (New Hope) commented that the Hunterdon County Prosecutor does not have an ACI; that they need the facts as there is no ACI report; and, that she is an ACO. She thinks the Township Committee is stonewalling by not allowing public discussion. Committeeman Cally suggested that Ms. Stagnitto does not know all of the information or what the Hunterdon County Prosecutor has.

Michelle Armstrong (West Amwell) commented that 'we elected you;' echoed Ms. Stagnitto about stonewalling; and, stated that 'the next time there will be media...be warned; be ashamed.' The mayor repeated that there was to be no discussion this evening and that the matter has been pushed to the next level.

Seeing no other members of the public come forward, closing to the public was unanimously approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)

AP/AJM re: Proposal on Employee Health Benefits

Zachary Harris, Gregory D'Orazio and Colin Coffaro came forward. Mr. Harris spoke about a new program for health insurance; that an analysis of benefits, current contract, union contract and plan experience has been completed. The solicitation presented meets or exceeds all clauses and saves money.

Mr. Coffaro gave an overview of the nuts and bolts of the Difference Card and how it works both immediately and long term. An informational booklet of various features and long-term financial savings was provided. He noted that the chart of plan design is within the state but at the mercy of future increases as there were none in 2017. The pamphlet depicted the three plan options with monthly premiums and how the difference card, funded by the township, brings down the co-pays. Also relayed was that the township has healthy employees and that current premiums subsidize entities that are not so healthy; that the proposal has 20% extra fat built in to over-estimate claims during the first year.

Mr. D'Orazio offered that with their current groups the projections come in below the estimate so they are conservative with their numbers and claim numbers during the first couple of years.

Mr. Harris added that this is as close a guess as can be made and overall shows a 41 cent savings on each dollar with the difference card whereby the township dollars rolls back to the township. A brief exchange over the size of the risk pool ensued.

Mr. Coffaro continued that this is a big package in that the township goes to a better plan; provides savings; and, is a good fit. He reviewed the various card features, noting that we are the client, not the carrier. These items include a fully integrated wellness program; flexible spending; has a proprietary medical reimbursement system; one customer service number; is HIPAA compliant in reporting; and, has claims experience. The card can be set up for certain venues; is loaded for built-in co-pays; and, spouses and dependents over 18 each get a card. The financial summary was reviewed and discussed in terms of projected savings and net savings to employees. Mr. D'Orazio commented that the state paid out more than they took in; had no increase last year on retirees; and, speculated that there will be a 9 to 12% increase next year. Mr. Harris noted adverse selection; that the state is in a death spiral; and, good to leave prior to collapse. Mr. D'Orazio added that the school systems of Newark and Elizabeth have already pulled out. A question about whether or not a return to the state plan was allowed was answered in the affirmative. An inquiry was also made as to whether the quotes provided were on leaving the state plan vs Aetna & Horizon. Mr. Harris advised that the township could stay in the state but that this particular program is proprietary. It shares in the risk pool at the state and passes on savings so that both employee and employer benefit and costs are brought under control.

Various other topics mentioned included competition; working with vendors; worse case scenarios; current rates; savings; that current retirees are not included in this preproposal; there is no change to future and current retirees if there is a pull out; the number of municipalities that have gone this direction (three); the importance of wellness participation; the company's role to educate employees on the programs offered through webinars and on-site seminars; Assured Partners is an advocate; that the fee for the difference card is billed to the township; and monthly funding and account access. Flexible Spending Accounts that make use of pre-tax dollars was also mentioned for consideration and how this would shift liability from the Township in medical reimbursements.

Mr. Harris advised that no decision was needed this evening but that in order to make a September-October employee enrollment, action at the July 19th meeting would be in order.

Reports by Department Heads – Ryan Rollero, Road Supervisor, referenced the previous conversation by noting that receipts are submitted for dental reimbursement; that he understands the issue of saving money but has concern for employee cost as some of his workers have already exceeded the estimated number of annual doctor visits; it was a nice pitch; and, that there are better ways to save money for the township. Mr. Rollero continued with the following:

- He is now a Certified Public Works Manager, licensed by DCA. West Amwell has gone 21 years with an exemption to this requirement but is now compliant.
- A resolution of appointment as Public Works Manager is needed; 7/19 agenda item.
- The 2016 stormwater report has been filed with the DEP. Each structure has to be inspected annually. Mr. Rollero credited TJ Burd with setting up the technology to geo-locate all 477 of these structures in the Township. Three pages depicting the locations was presented. There are 266 catch basins north of Rocktown-Lamb. Road; 211 South of Rocktown-Lamb. Road, and 120 in the Estates at West Amwell. Most are okay

although those in yellow need attention. All are clean, free flowing and draining properly. In addition, all are numbered and able to be tracked via phone through Google-my maps, a free app. Appreciation was extended to TJ for his efforts on this project.

- The next geo-location project will be to inventory all the road signs.
- TJ Burd is working on brake certification but has not yet taken the test.
- A meeting with the recycling committee for ideas on the garbage depot situation prior to any fence or gate installation is planned as there is concern that the problem will just move. Mr. Rollero will work with the recycling committee on a final plan with the goal of making this more efficient and will report on same at the next meeting.
- There have been several calls inquiring about a clean- up day per Clerk Olsen. This will be added to the recycling meeting discussion as to possible scheduling.
- A inquiry was received from a homeowner at the Estates about replacing a section of sidewalk. Mr. Rollero explained that there is nothing in the ordinance concerning responsibility for replacement. Attorney Faherty advised that the property owner is responsible and an ordinance would only be to insure maintenance and would have to be enforced. Brief discussion followed. Decision – no ordinance/owner responsibility.
- A resolution for surface treatment is scheduled later in the meeting. This work is in the game plan and is scheduled for completion by the end of August...both re-surfaced and striped.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING

None

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Open Space

- *Authorization to Post April 11, 2017 Minutes to Website:* Approved
- *Project Status Updates:* Hal Shute reviewed the stalled **Runkle** application, noting that the County turned down the letter requesting additional funding. Apparently they pay to CMV only. A proposal upping the Township's portion was made to Bruce Runkle and has been accepted. The Barry Runkle farm signed on at CMV. Mr. Shute relayed that he now needs to find the money due to allocations for open space maintenance items but the big farm has been a long time goal. Closings are projected for next year.

Environmental

- *Authorization to Post April 13, 2017 Minutes to Website:* Approved
Mr. Cally inquired about the Ash tree assessment at Hewitt Park and was advised by the mayor that this has been completed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Possible Appointments – none

Updates – 1) There was no discussion on the **construction clearance** ordinance. 2) The **fire house generator** has been completed with the exception of final grading. The problem with the timer has been corrected. 3) There was no discussion or action on **cost savings measures**. 4) As a follow-up to the inquiry about **Rock Road West speed limits**, a 2013 e-mail from Captain Bartzak advised that these were legally established 20 years ago following a roadway survey conducted by NJDOT. Speed checks are being run on **Gulick Road** but no tractor trailers have been spotted during those times.

Auction Resolution for Block 46 Lots 5, 6, 7

RESOLUTION #90-2017

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell has acquired title to certain lands through purchase, gift and foreclosure on the Township's liens for taxes thereon; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has determined that the said lands are not needed for public purposes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following lots be sold pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:12-13 at public sale to the highest bidder, after public advertisement thereof, in the Hunterdon County Democrat on the 29th day of June, 2017 and the 6th day of July, 2017, said sale to take place at the Township's Municipal Building, 150 Rocktown-Lambertville Road on the 6th day of September, 2017 at 1:00 o'clock P.M.

<u>Lots</u>	<u>Block</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>
5, 6, 7	46	79 Belvidere; 83 Belvidere; 117 Skillman

The use to be made of such real property by any successful bidder shall be only those uses as allowed by the Land Use Ordinance and the Building Code of the Township of West Amwell in effect at the time of the sale. This property combined is an undersized lot.

All sales are subject to such facts as would be revealed by an accurate survey.

At the time of sale, purchasers will be required to deposit with the Township Clerk ten percent (10%) of the bid price. The remainder shall be due at or before conveyance of Title to purchaser.

Closing shall take place within thirty (30) days of the date a bid is accepted by the Township.

The Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:12-13 (upon completion of the bidding, the highest bid may be accepted or all bids may be rejected).

Purchasers accept the property as is.

Minimum bid is \$6200.00

It is a condition of this sale that the successful bidder merges all three lots into one single lot. The sale is further conditioned upon removal of the building by the successful bidder.

APPROVED BY THE WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE AT THEIR MEETING OF June 21, 2017.

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

Mr. Rich requested that Karen Rissmiller be advised of this auction. It was also noted that Mr. Rose is another interested party.

Zoning Consultant – It was agreed to discontinue this arrangement as there's been no utilization of the person's services since last year. Zoning Official Rose to be tasked with relaying this message as well as possibly establishing an hourly rate with a call as needed provision with the consultant.

NEW BUSINESS

Inquiry Concerning Donation of Block 21 Lot 50 – The property is located at 205 Mt. Airy-Harb. Road. However the block/lot needs verification as it doesn't align with the address. Open Space is to review the request at their August meeting. This information will be transmitted to the owner's daughter, Tracey Nixon-Rogers. (The block/lot has since been verified as 12/50.)

Approval of Dog Registrar Tax Bill Insert – The inclusion of the flyer is to alert both existing and new residents about this licensing requirement. The money received goes into the dog trust and is used to pay the animal control vendor. Approved.

Chip Seal Award Resolution (County Contract)

RESOLUTION #91-2017

WHEREAS, a master contract was awarded to Stavola Contracting Co., Inc. by the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Bid No. 2016-10 (51-HCCPS) on September 6, 2016 to provide resurfacing and surface treatment services; and

WHEREAS, West Amwell Township projected the need for 13,413 gallons of surface treatment CRS-2M and 490 tons of surface treatment cover material #8 clean broken stone; and

WHEREAS, the total for these surface treatment commodities is \$72,668.15; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the 2017 Budget under the category of Public Works, Streets and Road Maintenance, Other Expenses, as certified by the CFO

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that Stavola Contracting Co., Inc., 175 Drift Road,

Tinton Falls, NJ 07724 be awarded the surface treatment contract as above for the period of June 26, 2017 through August 25, 2017.

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

Police Office Custodian Position – Krista Parsons has resigned this position effective June 16th but has since indicated that there may be an interested party to fill the slot. An employment application has been provided should this lead bear fruit. As there will also be an opening for a recycling depot work later this summer, a flyer with these job opportunities will be made available for distribution at the depot and placed on the website.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No one came forward.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Treasurer –

Presentation of Bills for Approval: Mr. Bergenfeld questioned a couple expenditures and was provided with satisfactory answers.

RESOLUTION #92-2017

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell that the vouchers listed on the Bill List, in the amount of \$2,057,728.03, dated June 21, 2017, as presented by the Township Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, be paid from existing appropriations.

Dale motioned to approve the evening's bills for payment. Bergenfeld provided the second. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report: Appropriations through June 21, 2017 were provided and reviewed.

Award of Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) Sale – A summary of the recent ban sale was received and reviewed. The net interest rate on the \$1,200,000.00 principle was 1.87%, with a coupon interest rate of 2.25%. The closing will be held on June 22nd.

Tax Collector –

- *Resolution for Redemption of Tax Sale Certificate:*

RESOLUTION #93-2017 REDEMPTION TAX SALE CERTIFICATE

WHEREAS there has been a redemption made for Tax Sale Certificate #201303, Block 28, LOT 1.07, 207 Goat Hill Road, assessed to Richard and Terry Anderson which was sold on October 1st 2013 to US Bank Cust for Pro Cap III and,

WHEREAS the amount of \$266,275.43 has been collected from Brian J. Schaffer, Esq. Attorney for Plaintiff, Republic Bank for the redemption of this Tax Sale Certificate #201303,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that a check in the amount of 266,275.43 be prepared and the Mayor, Treasurer and Clerk be authorized to sign this check and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT an additional check be approved and returned in the amount of \$130,000.00 for the premium paid by US Bank Cust for Pro Cap III, and that these checks be forwarded to:

US Bank Corporate Trust Services
Tax Lien Services Group
2 Liberty Place
50 South 16th Street-Suite 1950
Philadelphia PA 19102

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

Construction – The Permit Fee Log Summary for May 2017 reflect the issuance of 21 permits and 5 updates for a total of \$9,025.00 for West Amwell. Ten (10) CA's were processed per the Certificate Log Summary. The Permit Fee Log Summary for East Amwell reported 22 permits

and 4 updates issued and \$3,583.00 collected. Four (4) CO's and 34 CA's were processed according to the Certificate Log Summary.

Court – The May 2017 monthly report was received showing a ticket total of 290 (169 local) and the receipt of \$9,386.81.

Website Review – No comments made.

The preceding reports were accepted, without comment, as filed.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence as listed on the Agenda was ordered filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:48 p.m. on motion from Dale.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk

APPROVED: July 19, 2017