

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

November 28, 2012 - 7:00 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 7:03 p.m. Present were Mayor George A. Fisher, Deputy Mayor Zachary T. Rich, Committeeman Thomas J. Molnar, Clerk Lora Olsen and Attorney Philip J. Faherty III. Also in attendance were Randy Hoagland, John DuPuis, Steve Bartzak, Harry Heller, Rob Tomenchok, Dave Beaumont, John Cronic, Cathy Urbanski, Sean Pfeiffer, Barbara Walsh, Hal Shute, Jeff Ent, Keith Hamilton (SERV), West Amwell/Lambertville Elementary Superintendent Mike Kozak, and SHR Interim Superintendent Joanne Calabro

Mayor Fisher 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 3, 2012, 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.

The meeting was recorded via digital recording system.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mayor Fisher led the assembled group in the pledge to the nation's flag.

AGENDA REVIEW BY TOWNSHIP CLERK

The following items were added: 10. New Business: DPW Emergency Carry Over of Vacation Days & Work During Office Closure. 12. D. Police was deleted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Township Committee Meeting Schedule – December 10th & 27th
- Municipal Offices Closed on December 25th & 26th and January 1st
- PSE&G ROW Easement Trimming Along Branchburg & Roseland Lines to Commence July 1st and Continue Thru 2013
- JCP&L Routine Aerial Patrols Commence September 24th
- Please Come to the Table if You Wish to Address the Committee
- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During Meeting

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 30, 2012 meeting, re-scheduled and held on November 5, 2012 were unanimously approved on motion from Molnar, seconded by Rich.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPIC NOT ON THE AGENDA

Sean Pfeiffer came forward to express praise for the actions of the Police Department during Hurricane Sandy. Especially noted was the nabbing of blockade running drivers that brought money into township coffers. Mr. Pfeiffer then requested that the website be looked at as its use by smart phones, etc. was slow and only partial views obtained, noting that it was inefficient in a situation with no power.

Dave Beaumont referenced previous conversations on school budgets and noted that the Director picks the ratio in October. He urged that the Committee keep watch around the March meeting date to see if the 84% vs 100% valuation is in line next year. The Director's ratio determines the local ratio.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING AND/OR SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Request for Municipal Consent for Use of Public ROWs – The project involves a fiber optic cable run from Lambertville to East Amwell, a portion of a larger project that will ultimately reach New York, and which will carry data to large businesses. A representative of Roamer Industries relayed that the company was hired by RJ Engineering to create survey and engineering documents for United Federal Data, the funding entity. The cable will be strung on existing poles along Route 179 below current phone lines but above existing cable. He expects the project will take 7 to 10 days once rental agreements are worked out with the various pole owners. An anticipated start date is sometime between February and April 2013. The possibility of hiring local police for flagging, if needed, was mentioned. There were no objections stated for the ROW agreement. Item approved.

Municipal Alliance: Jason Fuhr was not in attendance.

Regionalization Study: Mr. Beaumont noted that there was not much to report. The group is still waiting for approval on the ballot questions.

Public Hearing: Ordinance 17, 2012 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 109 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL – Engineering Inspection Fees

Proof of publication in the November 15, 2012 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat was presented. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public since its introduction at the November 5, 2012 Township Committee meeting and mailed to surrounding municipalities and the Hunterdon County Planning Board. The Ordinance has been reviewed by the Planning Board, found consistent with the Master Plan and adoption recommended. Mr. Fisher read the Ordinance by title and opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was unanimously closed.

Molnar moved for adoption of the Ordinance and Fisher seconded. Roll Call: Molnar-aye, Rich-aye, Fisher-aye

Public Hearing: Ordinance 18, 2012 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 109 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL – Checklist No. 1 Land Development Application

Proof of publication in the November 15, 2012 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat was presented. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public since its introduction at the November 5, 2012 Township Committee meeting and mailed to surrounding municipalities and the Hunterdon County Planning Board. The Ordinance has been reviewed by the Planning Board, found consistent with the Master Plan and adoption recommended. Mr. Fisher read the Ordinance by title and opened the public hearing.

Sean Pfeiffer noted that applicants are required to submit applications to either the Planning Board or Zoning Board secretaries. He suggested that the number of copies required be increased and then given to the Environmental Commission by those individuals. In the past, a specific person was named to receive applications and they had office hours. The Environmental Commission has no office hours and the current Chair may not always be around.

Hearing no further comments, the public hearing was unanimously closed.

Molnar moved for adoption of the Ordinance and Rich seconded. Roll Call: Molnar-aye, Rich-aye, Fisher-aye

Public Hearing: Ordinance 19, 2012 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 109 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL – Fee Schedule

Proof of publication in the November 15, 2012 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat was presented. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public since its introduction at the November 5, 2012 Township Committee meeting and mailed to surrounding municipalities and the Hunterdon County Planning Board. The Ordinance has been reviewed by the Planning Board, found consistent with the Master Plan and adoption recommended]. Mr. Fisher read the Ordinance by title and opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was unanimously closed.

Molnar moved for adoption of the Ordinance and Rich seconded. Roll Call: Molnar-aye, Rich-aye, Fisher-aye

Introduction: Ordinance 20, 2012 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 53 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

The following ordinance was read by title and introduced on first reading:

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell, Hunterdon County, State of New Jersey, that Section 53-7 of Chapter 53 be amended as follows:

1. Section 53-7 shall be amended for the following deletions:

53-7 "Suspension or revocation of license; ~~violations and penalties~~

Upon conviction, after hearing, of any violation of any provision of this article or any statute, rule or regulation aforesaid, any license issued or created by this municipality may be suspended or revoked in accordance with the rules and regulations heretofore or hereafter promulgated by the Director of Alcoholic Beverage Control, ~~and in addition thereto, any licensee violating any provision of this article shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,250, a term of imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a period of community service not exceeding 90 days, or any combination thereof.~~

2. This Ordinance shall take effect after final adoption and publication according to the laws of the State of New Jersey and shall be made part of the Code of West Amwell Township.

Molnar moved to introduce the Ordinance on first reading and Rich seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The public hearing will be held December 27th.

SPECIAL AND/OR STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Open Space

- *ROSI Update*: The document has been signed by the mayor and forwarded to the County Clerk for recording.

- *Adam Property Boundary Issue*: A letter to the owner of Block 32 Lot 23 concerning the existing fence line that impinges on Block 32 Lot 23.01 was approved for mailing. A copy of the survey showing the fence and concrete marker that establish the line between the two properties will be included.

- *Tree on Wires in ROW (B/C/T property on Rocktown-Lamb. Rd.)*: John Cronic relayed that a tree on the Township's open space is currently leaning into some wires and another tree all of which are heading toward a house. Concern was expressed that heavy snow or winds could bring this down and the Township would be liable. The tree has to be professionally dropped. A quote has been requested but not yet received from one individual. Mr. Cronic suggested someone from Pennington and will provide contact information. A price will be solicited. Also, noted was that a Certificate of Insurance will be needed from whomever gets the job. Mr. Cronic was given the okay to proceed.

- *Project Status Updates*: Nunn appraisals are underway.

Environmental

- *Green Team – Update on Sustainable Jersey Grant*: Cathy Urbanski reported that \$5000 has been received into the grant account. There's a time line to be followed with a status report due July 19th. A map will need to be made but the inventory has to be completed first. She already has 30 hours invested in the latter. The inventory includes easements for wetlands, conservation, Green Acres, ROSI, and open space. The tax/block/lot map has been compared with the ROSI and open space inventory and discrepancies found. All sources were checked in order to decide what numbers to use but some don't match at all. The next step is to map it and determined which have to be monitored. Open Space wants this map for their purposes and the ROSI and Green Acres also. The monitoring of wetlands was especially noted. Frank Banisch wanted \$1500 to do the mapping. The preparation of outreach materials will be accomplished through the efforts of Hal Shute, Ted and Laurel Hills, George Fisher and herself.

- *New Invasive Species Update*: Mrs. Urbanski relayed that this new species is called 'mile-a-minute' and has been found on the United Water property and that of the D&R Canal. When the rock wall was cut by Adam Hershey for the trail, an opportunity was opened for this fast growing invasive. DEP needs to spray it but the new Watershed Ambassador, Jade Green, has advised that a particular weevil can be employed to kill it. If the weevils are not present come spring, they will be supplied.

Affordable Housing

- *SERV – Contract for Purchase & Resolution*: – Barbara Walsh relayed that a 5 bedroom house at 48 Frontage Road has been located for a group home. The requested contribution is consistent with the previously approved resolution. A 30 year deed restriction will be placed on the property due to legislation that only recognizes this time frame and SERV is agreeable. Keith Hamilton offered that although not the ranch style house originally looked for, this property has 2 bedrooms on the first floor and 3 on the second. The intellectually disabled residents will be arranged accordingly. The deed restriction would be applied at closing and would be part of the packet that would include a check. SERV is in this for the long haul and has no reservations

about the 30 year deal. Questions were raised about the septic rating, work done without permits and the appraised value. The former items will be addressed during the required inspections and any problem with the septic would be assessed as to cost to fix but Mr. Hamilton noted that the \$425,000 cost was supported by the appraisal received. This report should be available by the December 10th meeting. A January closing is anticipated. Item held for the next meeting.

- *Consideration of Plan Amendment* (see 10/10 minutes for background): Ms. Walsh noted that making the Rose house a deed restricted rental unit requires a change to the current COAH plan. There are several items that require more information, including the need for a new mortgage, the number of possible bedrooms, the assembly of a funding package that would include the \$30,000 and to whom the unit would be marketed. New construction with a very low income designation would satisfy the court order as well as an element of the obligation. The owner has to put together some financials but getting a mortgage on a deed restricted property will not be easy. Item held for 12/10 meeting.

The search for a replacement for Ms. Walsh is ongoing. Another application has been received.

Ms. Walsh inquired about the Affordable Housing website link that has vanished. She would like to have various items posted and will get these to the Clerk.

Technology

- *Possible Minutes for Posting*: The minutes of the August 30, 2012 & October 17, 2012 were approved.

- *Project Status Updates*, if any: Mr. Beaumont questioned the WiFi system and whether it is working. He noted that the reach of the signal stays within the building. The group's focus has been on the website and evaluation of it. The direction is to bring it to the next level and have it viable during emergencies. Quotes have been received from a couple of vendors. He noted that the current configuration is out and recommended that the site should be brought back to Brinkster and the 'cloud.' Further discussion and a recommendation will be on 12/10.

Parks & Recreation

- *Christmas Lighting Contest*: Judging will take place between Christmas and New Years—most likely December 27 & 28th, with three winners in both District 1 and 2. Prizes are \$25.00 gift certificates to Village Deli/Chicken Dog and Rob Tomenchok and Tom Molnar will prepare the plaques. Dissemination of contest information will be through the website, garbage depot, newspapers and the elementary and high school list serves and will be provided to the Clerk next week.

- *Hewitt Park Gate*: A swinging gate is being installed by Tony Birardi under the direction of the Parks & Recreation chairman. The reason for this installation is that there was vandalism at the park following the painting that was completed earlier. The police are to monitor and will have keys.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

"After Sandy" Review

- *Discussions with Various Township Entities*: Mr. Fisher offered that the Township did well as the police were all over, the roads were cleared, and the firemen were at the Firehouse before, during and after the storm. He's heard nothing but good things from the residents concerning the services. The problems areas were with the wires and JCP&L. The following reports were given:

Lt. Bartzak (Police)

The biggest need is in the area of generators. The existing WWII vintage one causes a power surge when it fires up resulting in the loss of computers.

Fire and OEM worked together and communications were better than previous experiences.

Cones and road closed signs are needed and were suggested as budget items. As a lot of barricades were lost due to the storm, he questioned whether this could be added for FEMA recovery.

Other than these items, his department is good.

Jeff Ent (Fire)

The firemen were at the station for three & a half 24/7 days and took off work to do so.

Department needs include generators and additional barricades (and method to secure them upright) as well as proper signage.

A survey of roads by segments was prepared to try to ascertain the number of residents that were inaccessible due to downed wires and trees so they would know if a call came in how to direct traffic around a blockage. Getting power restored is one thing but getting the required

Individuals here to open the roads (JCP&L) is the big issue. There needs to be an outreach on this concern. Mr. Fisher noted that several municipalities, including New Hope, Delaware Township, and Lambertville, will be getting together on Monday evening in an attempt to obtain some clout on the issue.

As Fire Chief he had to make tough decisions for the safety and welfare of the residents and noted that although there are a lot of well educated folks, they don't seem to understand 'road closed' signs.

Everyone assumes when there's no power that the wires are dead. This is not the case as some generators are back feeding the grid. This is a problem for first responders and the power company as well as how to trace them.

Township outreach was good; there was better dialogue between police-DPW-OEM; Nixle worked for those who signed up. Everyone worked together but be prepared as something like this will come again.

There will be compensation to the Township for the volunteer firemen time. Paperwork will be submitted including what costs were incurred and FEMA will decide what will be given as to reimbursement.

Harry Heller (OEM)

Storm landed exactly one year from the one last year. There was no Nixle last year but there were 400 subscribers by the end of the storm. No one was killed or maimed, but inconvenienced.

JCP&L has its own agenda. The Deputy Director 'rode' the JCP&L folks constantly. Township residents have relayed they want to start talks with the BPU.

Canadian group have noted that not much maintenance has been done. The area needs to get together to apply serious pressure on JCP&L.

The good news is that over \$41,000 in reimbursement has been received from Irene with another \$9000 to come, which is more than was spent.

The same paperwork that was submitted for Irene will be required this time. There was a kick off meeting with FEMA today as was held previously.

Dollar value for Sandy is \$8000 in police OT plus that of the DPW and \$4000 in generator time. There will also be reimbursement for straight time hours for clean up work. A reimbursement for the rental generator will also be submitted. There will be more hoops for tub grinding this round but FEMA will pay. They were happy to hear that the Township recycling is vegetative debris but a permitting process is needed to the mess at the shore.

Complements were extended to Fire, Police and Roads as well as the Clerk. Everyone did all they could and Mr. Heller and Mrs. Olsen were in constant communication.

As for the schools, it was suggested that the Business Administrator and Facilities Manager be consulted although the schools will have to submit separately.

Mike Kozak (West Amwell Superintendent)

Nixle is great! Those communications were included in the notices sent out to their list serve families. Having a notification system utilizing text-phone-email helped pass along information.

Fire Company and Police Department made the right calls and meetings with the mayor focused on the safety of the students. Even though the school had a generator, getting there was the issue.

They sent alerts to the various media stations several times a day but missed the local, WDVR opportunity.

Resident Dave Beaumont relayed that Nixle didn't work for his cell phone therefore he had no idea that there was ice, water and showers available--Incommunicato! His position was that there is an individual vs government role in this and offered that a call tree structure might be useful. There should also be a focus on seniors. He reminded the Committee that there are some who have no web access and regular phones were out as well and suggested that a 'how to volunteer' list be available, e.g., check on neighbors, pass on information. Appreciation was expressed for everything that was done by the township entities; that this evening's information was enlightening; and, that JCP&L is business based and goes first to density.

Maintaining a land line phone is important and one is kept at each school for emergencies.

He will keep passing Nixle information along but noted that this only hits the school population. However, this service should continue to be pushed to residents as it is a great information source.

Rob Tomenchok suggested that there be key communicators identified in the community, e.g, churches, scouts, 4H, FFA, etc. to pass information along.

Hal Shute inquired whether there was any communication between the various entities. Mr. Heller relayed that a township wide repeater system is employed for this purpose and is used by OEM and Roads. Portable radios were added and all worked well this time. However, a POTS phone should be acquired for the Township building in order to bypass the electrically

powered system in place.

Joanne Calabro (SHR Interim Superintendent)

Everything worked and went well. Mr. Fisher noted that he saw the Facilities Manager on a daily basis.

Randy Hoagland (DPW)

Residents who cut trees to clear the roads were taking chances by doing this themselves due to the generator back feed situation.

The DPW stayed out as long as they could and had a tree on one of the trucks.

The generator is not working. Problem yet to be identified.

George Fisher (Mayor)

A backup is needed for the website and phones. Generators will be investigated with the Township Engineer and a natural gas one eyed for the firehouse.

John Dupuis expressed appreciation for all the work undertaken by the various departments. Also mentioned were the 'road closed' signs that were ignored and that 18 wheelers were coming down Hewitt Road. Mr. Dupuis agreed that communication is key and that Nixle is wonderful. He suggested that the sign at South be made digital. In response, Mr. Tomenchok requested that the Planning Board secretary be contacted about placing a review of sign ordinance on the next agenda.

Mr. Heller commented that he tried to work with the State for signs on Route 202 about road closures but nothing happened until the 11th hour when things were starting to open up.

- *Generators for MB & DPW:* Mr. Ent emphasized the need for generators and that the one at the firehouse is down. It needs to be replaced or fixed. Mr. Fisher re-iterated that a gas generator is under consideration and that he is meeting with the Township Engineer concerning size. Mr. Hoagland offered that Jim Meskill could provide this information on a natural gas unit. The current generator won't turn over but it did run for 8 days. The batteries will be charged to see if that helps but the company that repaired it last year may have to be contacted. Caution again was given about the surge that causes computer problems in the building. This is most likely due to voltage issues. Mr. Fisher noted that heater and generator specs will be attended to next Wednesday. Concerning the former, and due to the 59 degree reading in the meeting room tonight, Mr. Hoagland relayed that there's not enough baseboard in the room to do the job and that the heating unit is one normally used for a house. He will pull the breakers on the a/c as the two systems fight. An electrician should be contacted to size the generator and to re-wire the blowers. Paul Steffanelli of Custom Cooling was recommended for this.

- *Storm Debris Removal/Disposal and/or Tub Grinding:* A storm emergency quote of \$3400 for tub grinding was received from L&S Contracting & Recycling. Approved by twp committee.

Updates

- *Fell Calton Mowing:* Concern was raised previously that the contractor only mowed twice and whether this was out of spec was questioned. Attorney Faherty inquired whether the grass had exceeded 3 inches (no) and if the guard rails/fence had been trimmed (yes). It was therefore determined that the contractor had met the conditions of the quote and was entitled to payment. The invoice on the bill list was for \$1600 and will be paid.

- *2013 Meeting Schedule:* It was determined that there will be two regular meetings per month—the 4th Thursday and 2nd Monday. The exceptions would be October and November where the Monday meeting would take place on the first Monday due to holiday closings on the second Monday. Bills would be paid at the second monthly meeting.

The Court Administrator has advised that there will be a minimum of 18 court sessions in 2013. This will affect the Prosecutors professional services agreement.

- *Enforcement of Pole Statute:* Attorney Faherty relayed that additional information has been received from Tom Allibone and a copy of the statute was presented. When poles (power, phone, cable) are replaced, the Township is to be notified. If the company fails to do so or leaves a pole on the ground, there's a fine of \$100/day. As enforcement requires an ordinance, Attorney Faherty will prepare same for introduction on December 10th.

- *Donation from Auction:* One of the bidders was so pleased with the auction that he forwarded a \$200 donation. The decision was to give this to the Historic committee as a re-payment for items gifted to the Canadian powerline workers as souvenirs.

- *2013 ACO Shared Services:* Mr. Fisher relayed conversations with all municipalities except East Amwell and everyone is on board for 2013. It was noted that East Amwell expressed interest earlier and that the administrator is the contact person.

Salary & Wage Amendment

RESOLUTION #183-2012
SALARY & WAGE RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of the Township of West Amwell that the 2012 Salary and Wage Resolution, adopted January 9, 2012 be amended as follows:

Position	Salary/Compensation
<u>Add</u> : Part-time Special Officer Klesney	\$18.54/hr
<u>Delete</u> : Part-time Special Officer Pantuso	\$22.91/hr

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

Possible Appointments – None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions for Consideration–

- *Appreciation to Entegrus Powerlines/Power Restoration Work:*

RESOLUTION #184-2012

WHEREAS, Hurricane Sandy hit the State of New Jersey on October 28 causing damage to throughout the eastern portion of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the coastline of New Jersey received damaging winds, high tides and devastated homes, businesses and boardwalks along the coastline; and

WHEREAS, the hurricane winds caused the uprooting of numerous trees, taking with them the overhead wires, causing an area-wide power outage beginning Monday, October 29 at 8 pm. This outage lasted through November 11 for many residents and businesses in the Township of West Amwell; and

WHEREAS, Entegrus Powerlines, a company from Canada, responded to provide assistance to Jersey Central Power and Light Company with the restoration of electric; and

WHEREAS, Gary Aitken, Director of Operations of Entegrus Powerlines and his crew, which include: Simon Bruinsma, Ken Taylor, Bob Salioe, Gary Gilbert, Derk Tewinkle, Greg Brown, Larry Trepanier, Fred Van Bavel, Dennis Knowler, Eric Hart, Guilio Robles, Martin Verberne, Mike Cook, Ron Pradence, and Doug Wells, worked in the Township of West Amwell; and

WHEREAS, from the time of their assignment to the Township of West Amwell until the last property received power, the crew from Entegrus Powerlines worked from morning until the dark of night to fix problems, repair downed wires, and to restore power in a safe and efficient manner.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon, in the State of New Jersey, that Gary Aitken and the crew from Entegrus Powerlines are hereby gratefully acknowledged and thanked for their hard work and dedication in the restoration of power to the residents and businesses of the Township of West Amwell.

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

- *Release Relating to Rehabilitation of Amwell Dam No. 1:* Mr. Rich raised the concern that Mr. Foran was the only member of the LLC with credit in the deal and that the Township was the back stop for the project; that he should not be off the hook until the taxpayer is covered; and, that he was the administrator and business partner in the deal. Attorney Faherty advised that he had reviewed the paperwork and had spoken with Mr. Foran. The purpose was to get his particular obligation completed and paid for. The property owners have a separate maintenance agreement and there are personal guarantees in place. The requested release from the Township came from John Ritchey of DEP. Mr. Foran will be informed that the Township Committee had some questions and requested the attorney to look into it. Item held.

- *Freeholder Sworen:* Freeholder Sworen's term expires at the end of the year. In appreciation for his service, the following resolution was presented.

RESOLUTION #185-2012

WHEREAS, Ronald M. Sworen has served the County of Hunterdon as a member of the Board of Chosen Freeholders since 2007 with his term ending on December 31, 2012; and

WHEREAS, while serving as a member of the Freeholder Board, Ronald M. Sworen has been a member to the Planning Board and served as Liaison to: the Vocational Board of Education (Polytech), the Department of Public Safety/Emergency Management, the Division of Information Technology, the Library Commission, the Parks and Recreation Division, the Open Space Advisory Board and the Health Services Division; and

WHEREAS, Ronald M. Sworen has served the residents of the County of Hunterdon through his activity with the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce Business and Government Committee; Co-Founder of the Delaware Valley Municipal Alliance; Trustee and Elder for the Frenchtown Presbyterian Church; Hunterdon County Municipal Officers Association; Hunterdon Economic Partnership; New Jersey Department of Transportation Coordinator Management Committee for Route 29; New Jersey League of Municipalities (NJLOM) COAH Task Force Committee and Conference; NJLOM Land Use and Environmental Committee; NJLOM Hometown Security Task Force; NJLOM Heavy Truck Task Force; Executive Board of the NJLOM; Board of Directors for the New Jersey Association of Counties; New Jersey Conference of Mayors President and Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Ronald M. Sworen has held the titles of New Jersey Mayor of the Year; Frenchtown Lions Club Citizen of the Year; New Jersey League of Municipalities Elected Officials Hall of Fame and the New Jersey League of Municipalities Mayor's Hall of Fame.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon, hereby recognizes Ronald M. Sworen for his many contributions accomplishments while in office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the West Amwell Township Committee wishes Ronald M. Sworen much success in all his future endeavors.

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

- Opposing S-2/A1171:

RESOLUTION #186-2012
Opposing S-2/A-1171

WHEREAS, S-2/A-1171 are meant to promote the more effective operation of local government and sharing of services among local units and

WHEREAS, initially S-2 removed or reduced many of the roadblocks that increase the costs of shared services – things like terminal leave, pay, civil service mandates, employee tenure requirements – many of the original provisions in the bill could reduce the costs and hurdles to shared services and consolidations, produce municipal savings and promote relief for our taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the recent amendments to S-2 removed many of the labor provisions that would have given municipalities tools to implement a shared service without the time consuming hurdles that diminished the savings and will now discourage shared services from a municipalities' perspective by continuing the hindrances imposed by Civil Service; and

WHEREAS, the amendments removed not only the preamble language that the bill would “supersedes existing Civil Service and tenure provisions” but also removed the suspension of Civil Service rules regarding layoff, transfer, seniority, testing, bumping rights and tenure; and

WHEREAS, the amendments would now require that any non civil service municipality who has a shared service agreement with civil service municipality serving as the Lead Agency be brought into the civil service system, thus expanding the civil service system; and

WHEREAS, the amendments would require that municipalities entering into the shared service agreement be subject to civil service rules and collective bargaining agreements for determining which employee stays, protects the seniority provisions removing management prerogative on retaining the best qualified and most efficient work force; and

WHEREAS, the amendments would require that any contractual provision dispute be settled by mediation, or if necessary, arbitration which will impede the process from moving expeditiously and will not result in cost savings, which will likely result in mediation and arbitration becoming the norm thus leading to delays and additional cost; and

WHEREAS, S-2 would, on the one hand, allow the voters to express their will; but on the other hand, inform those voters that they will lose their State Aid if their will does not comport with that of a majority of the appointed members of the Local Unit, Realignment and Consolidation Commissioner, (LUARCC); and

WHEREAS, while we appreciate the consideration and acceptance of the amendments that would clarify the process, on balance, the benefits of those amendments are outweighed by the loss of the suspension of the Civil Service rules and regulations; and

WHEREAS, S-2/A-1171 is based on the misconception that municipalities do not share services when in fact shared Services are not a new concept to municipalities, dating back well before the Interlocal Services Act of 1973;and

WHEREAS, S-2/A-1171 is also based on the misconception that that smaller governments are less efficient and effective than larger ones, an assumption that is necessarily the case and contrary to lessons learned from recent events in which the municipal elected officials and professional were very effective in pooling their resources and responding quickly; and

WHEREAS, there is no overnight cure to our property tax crisis and Shared services, consolidation or other cost saving measures are long-term actions where benefits/savings may not be seen for a number of years down the road;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the governing body of West Amwell Township, in the County of Hunterdon strongly opposes S-2/A-1171 not only on the issue of the voter penalty but on the loss of the Civil Service reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that S-2/A-1171 be reviewed by the Red Tape Review Commission, which has tirelessly worked to remove government hurdles, and the Civil Service Commission before the bill proceeds to ensure that the proposed amendments do not create additional Civil Service burdens and hurdles that further impede shared services and drive up cost; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, our State Legislators and the League of Municipalities.

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

Discussion re: Possible Waiver of Construction Fees for Storm Damage: As there is only one house with damage from a fallen tree, it was unanimously agreed that the fee be waived.

Block 46 Lot 6 (83 Belvidere) Property Status: This is a deteriorating house with asbestos shingles sitting on stilts near the Rissmiller property. A brief history of the property was relayed with Attorney Faherty noting the foreclosure on half of the property in 2002. No action can be taken unless an owner of record search is undertaken. Tax Collector Hyland will be consulted about who is paying taxes on the property. Once that information is received, Attorney Faherty will begin a records search.

Zoning Official Request for Computer: Mr. Baldino has advised that the computer currently used needs to be replaced due to age and slowness of operation. A laptop is preferred and specifications were provided. There is money in a 2010 office equipment ordinance for the purchase. Approved. A price will be obtained.

DPW Emergency Carry Over of Vacation Days & Work During Office Closure: Due to reduced manpower through resignation/non-replacement and injury, the use of vacation days in the time frame provided has been impossible. Extension through June 2013 was approved but any days remaining thereafter would be lost. As for a request for additional compensation/time for the DPW crews working while the Administrative offices were closed during the recent hurricane, the determination was that those who could work, did so. However, how this was handled by the Police Department will be checked.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Pfeiffer questioned the Toll mowing mentioned earlier. He was advised that this was an error and should have read "Calton."

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Treasurer – An appropriation transfer that includes funds for updated tax maps was presented.

RESOLUTION #187-2012 (see attached)

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

Presentation of Bills for Approval:

RESOLUTION #188-2012

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 \$721,084.98 dated November 28, 2012, as presented by the Township Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, be paid from existing appropriations.

Molnar motioned to approve the evening's bills for payment, seconded by Rich, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Molnar offered that the '96 International dump truck's clutch is out. The vehicle will be out of commission for a week. Replacement plans are needed.

Treasurer Report: Appropriations through November 28, 2012 were provided and reviewed.

Tax Collector –

RESOLUTION #189-2012

WHEREAS Tax Sale Certificate #201102 for Block 46, Lot 4; 73 Belvidere Ave assessed to Kenneth McElwee was sold on October 25, 2011 to Tadeusz Dabrowski, and

WHEREAS the amount of \$1,544.56 has been received from the owner of the property for the redemption of this certificate,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be authorized to prepare, and the Mayor, Clerk and Treasurer be authorized to sign a check in the amount of \$1,544.56 payable to Tadeusz Dabrowski.

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

RESOLUTION #190-2012

WHEREAS Tax Sale Certificate #201209 for Block 13, Lot 34.02; 332 Rocktown – Lambertville Road, West Amwell Township assessed to William and Cynthia Lovett was sold on October 9, 2012 to US Bank Custodian for Crestar Capital, and

WHEREAS the amount of \$7,260.43 has been received from the owner of the property for the redemption of this certificate,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be authorized to prepare, and the Mayor, Clerk and Treasurer be authorized to sign a check in the amount of \$7,260.43 for the redemption of this certificate and an additional check for the premium held for this certificate in the amount of \$5,500.00 payable to US Bank Custodian for Crestar Capital.

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

The monthly report for October 2012 was received showing receipts in the amount of \$373,876.01.

Construction – The Permit Fee Log details (19), Monthly Activity Report-Permits, Payment Audit Report (\$4,550.00/35 records), Monthly Activity Report-Certificates (13), Certificate Log Detail (13) were received for PermitsNJ. Deposits for September and October totaled \$10,056.00 and \$3,428.00, respectively.

Zoning Officer Report – The October 2012 report of activities was received. Numerous phone calls, interpretations, e-mail correspondence and office meetings were noted. Total permits for the month were five. Deposits for September and October totaled \$300.00 and \$330.00, respectively.

The reports were unanimously accepted as received.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence as listed on the Agenda was ordered filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:00 p.m. on motion from Molnar.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk

APPROVED: December 10, 2012