

SPECIAL WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING October 15, 2010 – 4:15 p.m.

The West Amwell Township Committee met on the above date at 4:18 p.m. Present: Mayor Molnar, Committeemen Masterson and Fisher, Attorney Faherty, Catherine Park and John Cronic.

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 October 13, 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.

John Cronic led the pledge to the nation's flag.

CONSIDERATION OF RETIREMENT RESOLUTION:

RESOLUTION #141-2010

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:

PERSONNEL

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.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 4:50 p.m.

A revised resolution to change the retirement parameters currently in place was presented. This is a revision to the resolution adopted by a previous township committee when Betty Jane Hunt was Clerk.

RESOLUTION #142-2010

WHEREAS, a resolution has been passed by the West Amwell Township Committee to adopt the provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:14-17.38 under which a public employer may agree to pay for the State Health Benefits Program (SHBP) coverage of certain retirees; and

WHEREAS, the West Amwell Township Committee wishes to now amend the qualifications which will be required for retirees to receive State Health Benefits coverage

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following qualifications must be met for a West Amwell employee to receive the benefits as outlined in the Resolution addendum for Chapter 48:

1. Employee must have twenty-five (25) years or more of service credit in one or more locally administered retirement systems.
2. Employee must have worked full time and been eligible to receive Health Benefits for at least twenty-four (24) years.
3. The Township will pay up to \$548.00/month per retired employee and \$66.60/month for Medicare Reimbursement. The Township will not pay Health Benefits for dependent or surviving spouses.

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

A post retirement return to employment for the tax collector was discussed. Fisher motioned for the Committee's intent to appoint Catherine Park to a 4 year term as Tax Collector starting February 1, 2011, or as released by Pensions, in accordance with the terms of her letter of September 15, 2010; that work days will be Tuesdays; that she will be considered a new employee at that time with no vacation, sick, or personal days for the first year in accordance with the chart in the Policy Manual; and, that two vacation days be carried for use prior to October 31, 2011.

Mrs. Park questioned why she wasn't specially named in the resolution and was advised that this action has to stand for all employees across the board so that everyone is entitled to the same consideration.

Masterson seconded the motion. Roll Call: Fisher-aye, Masterson-aye, Molnar-aye.

AUTHORIZATION FOR CFO/TREASURER TO CUT PAYMENT CHECK FOR OUTSTANDING ATTORNEY BILL:

It was explained that this was the attorney's regular monthly bill but that it was inadvertently omitted from the bill list of the last meeting.

Fisher motioned to approve the requested action and Masterson seconded. Motion adopted unanimously.

In some related financial matters...

- the CFO seeks guidance for the upcoming payroll and payment of accumulated sick time for a pending retirement. Regular pay for three weeks is to be paid. As for payment of the accumulated absence, the choices are to either pay this out of the existing set aside or approve a Special Emergency Appropriation and pay out over five years. The unanimous decision was to approve the former.

- the estimate for repair of the 2005 Explorer came in at close to \$3000. The question is whether to repair or use the money towards the lease payment on a new vehicle. The unanimous decision was to 'look into' a new vehicle.

2011 STAFFING ISSUES/DIRECTION/SCHEDULE FOR POSSIBLE INTERVIEWS:

The CFO position will be re-advertised on the League website. An October 27th date, after 4 p.m., for interviews with the current respondents was proposed. Mr. Masterson indicated that he may not be available due to possible court duty.

The position of Township Planner has been deleted from the Professional Services list for the 'fair and open' advertisement. Positions that will be advertised include: Township Attorney, Township Auditor, Planning Board Attorney, Planning Board Engineer, Planning Board Planner, Township Engineer, Zoning Board Attorney, and Zoning Board Engineer. This action is being undertaken to comply with DCA's 'best practices' initiative.

The ad for Professionals Services will be published in the Democrat and posted on the Township's website.

Also noted was that an addition to the Township Auditor description will be made to include duties currently performed by the current auditor because a clear direction on department set-up can not be determined at this time.

Whether the position of prosecutor be brought in-house was raised. Mr. Molnar and Mr. Fisher stated that this was no reflection on the current prosecutor but that the Township needs to cut expenses. The Clerk was directed to advertise the position.

GARBAGE & TRASH SITUATION:

Mayor Molnar expressed his disappointment over the loss of the Hampton truck and the need for a Plan B. Mr. Fisher noted that if the Hampton truck cannot be obtained, there's not enough money in the ordinance for two vehicles. Discussion ensued over the Lambertville truck and the shared services agreement. Lambertville is obligated to provide a working truck, and has done so to date, since the one used previously has expired. How long this will continue was questioned given other issues but the agreement is in place and will remain unless the two month provision is invoked. If this happens, recycling will have to be quoted out.

A back-up plan is also needed for garbage as time is passing. Another request for truck bids is needed and/or a new bid for garbage removal advertised. If the latter, there's a 60 day notice

provision which means the ad would have to publish in the Democrat and Times on October 21st. Another option would be to negotiate for an extension of the current contract. The Clerk relayed the following:

- that a conversation held with Paul Cronic about using general specs as opposed to truck-specific ones yielded a recommendation to employ the latter, once an appropriate vehicle is found.

- that a call was received from Jane Kasper of Kasper Disposal indicating that they have heard the Township is looking for trucks and containers. They have equipment available, if there is any interest. This information has been disseminated via e-mail, along with the phone number. It was also noted that Kasper has been purchased by Premier Disposal.

The Clerk was directed to use the general specs provided previously by the mayor for a used garbage truck and proceed with a bid request. In addition, an ad will be placed for outside garbage collection. Paul Cronic will be advised of the decision to use general truck specs.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

John Cronic addressed the Committee about the hunting situation approved at the last meeting which was subsequently rescinded pending further review at the November meeting due to calls from members of the Mt. Airy Sportsmen Club to the mayor. Mr. Cronic noted that the Lambertville Rod & Gun Club is upset as they have already posted the property and sent a check in for insurance based on the approval given on October 6th. The club only plans to hunt the former Coleman/Toll property during November and December, as it is too cold in January and February. Another concern given for only taking November and December is that Open Space will be having people on the property in subsequent months in preparation for the proposed March 1st auction. However, he suggested that perhaps the other Township approved club be offered the first two months of 2011. They currently have hunting rights on the municipal property.

The consensus of the Committee was that the Lambertville Rod & Gun Club should proceed with their plans to hunt the former Coleman/Toll property as approved on October 6th. A Certificate of Insurance will be filed with the Clerk. An agreement for hunting this property will be prepared for execution.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:45 p.m. on motion by Fisher, seconded by Masterson.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora L. Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk