

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

October 17, 2018 - 7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

The regularly scheduled meeting of the West Amwell Township Committee was called to order at 7:30 PM. Present were Mayor Stephen Bergenfeld, Deputy Mayor Gary Hoyer, Committeemen James Cally, John Dale and Zachary Rich, Acting Clerk Maria Andrews and Attorney Philip J. Faherty III.

Acting Clerk Andrews announced that this meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was faxed to the Hunterdon County Democrat and Trenton Times on January 5, 2018, 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 Acting Municipal Clerk.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Bergenfeld led those in attendance in the pledge to the nation's flag.

AGENDA REVIEW BY ACTING TOWNSHIP CLERK

Acting Clerk Andrews noted there were no changes to the posted agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Prescription Take Back Program – Municipal Bldg. Parking Lot 10/27/18 from 8 AM – 12 PM
- Township Rabies Clinic – Saturday, Nov. 3rd from 1 PM – 3 PM
- Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 6th – Polls Open from 6 AM – 8 PM
- 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 Cally, seconded by Dale to approve the Township Committee's 10/3/18 Regular Session minutes with no revisions noted was unanimously approved by voice vote.

A motion by Dale, seconded by Hoyer to approve the Township Committee's 10/3/18 Closed Session minutes with no revisions noted was unanimously approved by voice vote.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPICS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Bergenfeld opened the floor to public comment. Seeing no members of the public come forward, a motion was made by Cally and seconded by Hoyer to close the floor to public comment.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Reports by Department Heads

It was noted for the record that no reports were presented.

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

It was noted for the record that there were no ordinances listed on the agenda for introduction or public hearing.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Open Space – Mr. Shute spoke up from the public and noted the closing on the Runkle property took place on 10/11/18 and he thanked Attorney Faherty as well as the Runkles for their work in getting this preservation project accomplished.

Environmental – No report was given.

Ag Advisory – No report was given.

Finance Committee – No report was given.

Mayor Bergenfeld commented that as part of their community outreach effort, Enbridge will be giving the Township a check in the amount of \$75,000 to assist in covering the costs for the new police car and the generator required for the municipal building renovations for the Police Department's relocation to that site.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

East Amwell Traffic Enforcement

Mayor Bergenfeld noted East Amwell Township did not sign the 2019 Police Shared Services Contract due to budget constraints. Therefore traffic enforcement by West Amwell Police Officer's ceased as of 10/12/18. He remarked this will result in an additional 5 hours of police coverage to the Township's residents, here.

Relocation of Police HQ to Basement

Mayor Bergenfeld noted the fire proof paint will be ordered this week.

Rock Road West Traffic Study

Mr. Rich noted Engineer Burr is still working on the traffic study and will report to the Committee when he has completed his review.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER

Volunteer Junior Firefighters

The Committee acknowledged new volunteer Junior Firefighters: Joey Opdyke and Luke Snyder.

Resolution #105-2018: West Amwell PTO Raffle

Acting Clerk Andrews explained there is a mandatory 7 day waiting period and noted the Resolution will be listed on the Committee's 11/7/18 agenda. She stated no action can be taken this evening.

Discussion: Block 23 Lot 25 – Right of First Refusal

Attorney Thomas Bullock was present and explained he had appeared before the Committee back in April regarding the pending sale of Block 23 Lot 25. He noted the Township's right of first refusal is contained in the conservation easement language. Attorney Bullock remarked the previous perspective buyers did not close on the property and now the current contract purchasers wish to proceed. It was noted for the record that the Committee did not exercise its right of first refusal.

Discussion: Letter dated 10/11/18 from H. Samms, re: Hills of Hunterdon – Road Conditions

Mr. Samms, a resident in the Hills of Hunterdon and also a Board Member on their Homeowner's Association sent the Township Committee a letter with supporting photographs expressing concerns with various road conditions within the development. The purpose of the documentation was to assist the Committee with planning for next year's road budget so the requested repairs could be addressed. Mayor Bergenfeld noted DPW Director Ryan Rollero is aware of the issues and working on addressing the items as part of next year's road budget.

Acknowledgement: Resignation of BOA Member Frank Sabatino – Consideration of Additional Appointments

The Committee acknowledged the resignation of Mr. Sabatino and Mayor Bergenfeld moved Marvin Hartpence, Alternate #1 up to fill Mr. Sabatino's Class IV unexpired term. Michael Rassweiler, Alternate #2 was moved up to the unexpired term of the Alternate #1 position and it was noted the Alternate #2 position is presently vacant and must be filled.

Discussion: Email dated 10/12/18 from Engineer Burr, re: Block 26 Lot 17 – Stormwater Maintenance Agreement

Attorney Faherty commented that a site plan was approved for the property known as Block 26 Lot 17 which required stormwater mitigation be installed within the public right-of-way. He stated the applicant had to enter into an agreement with D&R Canal Commission regarding the on-going maintenance. Attorney Faherty suggested the Township may wish to have a separate agreement or easement to ensure that the stormwater mitigation device remains privately owned and maintained even though it is situated in the Township right-of-way.

The Committee asked that the property owner sign off on the proposed stormwater maintenance agreement and then forward it to the Township for signature.

Discussion: Quote from Northfield Bank, re: Offering Credit Card Payment Options

Acting Clerk Andrews noted a quote had been received from Northfield Bank to provide a Township credit card payment option. The Committee expressed that they were not interested in pursuing any credit card payment options at this time.

OTHER

Resolution #106-2018: Closed Session – Personnel/Contracts – Litigation/Affordable Housing

Present for the discussion was Attorney Tara St. Angelo, Special Planner Chuck Latini, Planning Board Chairman Rob Tomenchok and Open Space Member Hal Shute.

A motion by Rich, seconded by Bergenfeld to approve Resolution #106-2018 to enter into Closed Session was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes Hoyer: Yes, Rich: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

Resolution #106-2018

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: Mt. Laurel Litigation, personnel/contracts and subjects falling under Attorney-Client privilege.
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.

A motion by Dale, seconded by Cally to return to open session was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Rich: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

The Committee was in Closed Session from 7:47 PM – 8:45 PM.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

It was noted for the record that there were no members of the public present at the meeting at this time.

Attorney Faherty noted that the deed for the property located at 83 Belvidere Avenue was finally recorded and will be coming back from the County with signatures.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Treasurer – Bill List 10/17/18

A motion by Dale, seconded by Rich to approve the vouchers for payment as listed on the bill list was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Cally: Yes, Dale: Yes, Hoyer: Yes, Rich: Yes, Bergenfeld: Yes

CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee ordered the correspondence listed on the agenda, filed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Rich, seconded by Dale to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 PM.

Maria Andrews, Acting Municipal Clerk

Approved: 11/7/18