

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

September 19, 2018 - 7:30 PM

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 agenda but noted Patrolman Gibney was present this evening and wished to briefly address the Committee.

Mayor Bergenfeld noted he will be re-ordering the agenda to address the Closed Session matters after Open to the Public on the agenda because the Township Attorney is needed for the discussion but cannot stay late.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please Come to the Table if You Wish to Address the Committee
- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During the Meeting

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Dale to approve the Township Committee's 9/5/18 Regular Session minutes as revised was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

A motion by Dale, seconded by Hoyer to approve the Township Committee's 9/5/18 Closed Session minutes with no revisions noted was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

It was noted for the record that subsequent to last month's meeting discussion regarding the Construction/Zoning Office Manager's hours, the designated hours depicted in the 9/5/18 minutes have been changed to Monday – Friday 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM, to be consistent with the Municipal Office hours.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPICS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Dave Beaumont of 205 Rock Road West came forward and advised the Committee that he and Tax Assessor David Gill have reviewed the list of home sales that will be used to do the valuations and noted the data appears to depict that homes have sold in amounts slightly higher than their assessed value. However, Mr. Beaumont believes the ratio should still be about 100%.

Betty Jane Hunt of 236 Rocktown-Lambertville Road came forward and thanked the Committee for the Proclamation recognizing the 175th Anniversary of Old Rock Church. She also noted the Fire Department Auxiliary would like to do a commemorative project in honor of all deceased members. She commented there have been some suggestions including a clock tower at the municipal building. Ms. Hunt asked that the Committee give some thought to the project and provide her with any ideas they may come up with.

Mr. Cally noted that Scout Troop 49 will be rehabbing the old Korean War sign to be displayed at the municipal building once the project is complete.

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Ms. Hunt also asked about plans for the police building once the department is moved over to the municipal complex. Mayor Bergenfeld stated the Committee hasn't discussed any future plans for the site. Ms. Hunt suggested it could be used as a township museum.

OTHER

Resolution #102-2018: Closed Session – Personnel/Contracts – Litigation/Affordable Housing

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Dale to approve Resolution #102-2018 and enter into Closed Session was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Resolution #102-2018

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 Cally, seconded by Rich to return to Open Session was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

It was noted for the record that the Committee was in Closed Session from 7:45 PM – 8:31 PM.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)

Reports by Department Heads

Construction and Zoning Office Manager Gail Brewi reported that a tree had fallen on the property located at 1349 Route 179 and as a result of the damage, the dwelling has been posted as unsafe. She assured the Committee that the inspectors are working to get the homeowners back in their residence as soon as possible.

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCES

Introduction: Ordinance 11, 2018 Amending Ordinance 06, 2018: AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY

Mayor Bergenfeld read Ordinance 11, 2018 by title.

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP

Public Notice

ORDINANCE 11, 2018 Amending Ordinance 06, 2018

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY.

SECTION 1

The following shall be the rate and ranges of compensation for the following officials and employees of the township for the year 2018.

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Mayor	\$3537.00
Township Committee	\$2966.00
Township Clerk	\$54,181.00 - \$80,000.00
Plus \$35.00/hr. for special & emergency meetings	
Acting Clerk.....	\$60,000.00 - \$70,000.00
Plus \$35.00/hr. for special & emergency meetings	
Registrar of Vital Statistics	\$2,500.00 - \$3,500.00
Administrative Assistant	\$5,000.00 - \$65,000.00
Deputy Township Clerk	\$22,464.00 - \$33,000.00
Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics.....	\$900.00 - \$1,500.00
Escrow Clerk	\$2,000.00 - \$4,000.00
Assessor	\$26,891.00 - \$40,000.00
Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer.....	\$27,000.00 - \$40,000.00
Certifying Officer for Pensions	\$1,080.00 - \$2,100.00
Assistant Treasurer	\$8,424.00 - \$14,000.00
Payroll Clerk	\$2,314.00 - \$3,500.00
Planning Board Secretary	\$11,700.00 - \$17,500.00
Plus \$200.00 per additional meeting over 12/year	
Deputy Planning Board Secretary	\$200.00/meeting
Board of Adjustment Secretary	\$5,490.00 - \$8,500.00
Plus \$200.00 each for special meetings	
Deputy Board of Adjustment Secretary	\$200.00/meeting
Board of Health Secretary	\$2,500.00 - \$4,500.00
Plus \$35.00/hr. for special & emergency meetings	
Dog Registrar	\$1,800.00 - \$3,000.00
Dog Census Takers	\$500.00 per district plus \$325.00 mileage per district
Judge	\$11,250.00 - \$17,000.00
Court Administrator	\$34,524.00 - \$55,000.00
Construction Code Official (West & East).....	\$9,000.00 - \$30,000.00
Plumbing & Mechanical Sub-Code Official & Inspector (West & East).....	\$7,000.00 - \$25,000.00
Electric Sub-Code Official & Inspector (West & East)	\$8,000.00 - \$25,000.00
Building Sub-Code Official & Inspector (West & East)	\$9,000.00 - \$30,000.00
Fire Sub-Code Official & Inspector (West & East)	\$5,000.00 - \$15,000.00
Fire Official	\$5,429.00 - \$8,000.00
Zoning Officer	\$5,000.00 - \$9,500.00
Municipal Housing Liaison/AA	\$4,500.00 - \$7,500.00
Assistant Collector of Taxes	\$3,900.00 - \$5,460.00
General Office Secretary/Clerk	\$12.17 - \$18.00/hr
Rabies Clinic – Secretarial	\$25.00 - \$35.00/hr per person
Open Space Secretary	\$13.50 - \$20.00/hr
Municipal Bldg. Custodian	\$235.00/month
Building Custodian (Police)	\$10.30 – 19.00/hr
Waste Security Officer	\$12.84 - \$19.00/hr
Assistant Waste Security Officer.....	\$10.42 - \$15.00/hr
Waste Security Laborer	\$10.30 - \$15.00/hr
Substitute Waste Security Laborers	\$10.30 - \$15.00/hr
Violations Clerk	\$16.00 - \$24.00/hr
Court Security Officer.....	\$100.00 per court session
Substitute MCO	\$30.00 - \$45.00/hr
Substitute Sub-Code Officials & Inspectors	\$28.97 - \$40.00/hr
Construction/Zoning Office Assistant	\$13.50 - \$25.00/hr
Construction/Zoning Office Manager.....	\$33,280.00 - \$58,240.00

Substitute T.A. – Construction/Zoning Office.....	\$13.50 - \$22.00/hr
DPW Coordinator	\$25.00 - \$35.00/hr
Director of P.W. & Roads	\$24.00 - \$45.00/hr
Road Foreman	\$20.44 - \$30.00/hr
Road Class A (10 or more years of service)	\$18.69 - \$27.00/hr
Road Class B (5-10 years of service)	\$15.47 - \$23.00/hr
Road Class C (Less than 5 years of service)	\$14.51 - \$21.00/hr
Road Laborer	\$10.00 - \$18.00/hr
Temporary Laborer	\$12.05 - \$18.00./hr
Summer DPW Workers	\$9.00 - \$13.00/hr
Police Administrative Secretary	\$13.50 - \$25.00/hr
Substitute Police Secretary	\$13.50 - \$20.00/hr
Part-time Officers	\$20.62 - \$30.00/hr
Part-time Officers Spec Duty	\$22.41 - \$33.00/hr
Police Matrons	\$13.50 - \$25.00/hr
with a minimum of 4 hours pay if called out between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.	

SECTION II

Definitions and Benefits are outlined in the West Amwell Township Policy Manual adopted December 28, 2005 with amendments through April 23, 2014

SECTION III

All Ordinances and parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION IV

This Ordinance shall take effect after final adoption and publication according to the laws of the State of New Jersey.

APPROVED BY TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Stephen Bergenfeld, Mayor

ATTEST:

Maria Andrews, Acting Clerk

A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale to introduce Ordinance 11, 2018 upon first reading was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

It was noted for the record that the public hearing date for the second reading of Ordinance 11, 2018 was set for 10/3/18.

Public Hearing: Ordinance 10, 2018 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 153 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY – No Parking Signage in the Rose Run cul-de-sac

Mayor Bergenfeld read Ordinance 10, 2018 by title.

Acting Clerk Andrews provided proof of publication noting the 9/6/18 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat.

Ordinance 10, 2018

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 153 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Installation of “No Parking” Signage on the Rose Run cul-de-sac**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey that Chapter 153, Section 153-15.
Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours on Certain Streets.

No person shall park a vehicle between the hours specified any day (except Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays) upon any of the streets or parts of streets described:

Name of Street	Location	Sides	Hours
Rose Run	cul-de-sac	entire cul-de-sac	7:00 AM – 5:00 PM

This ordinance shall take effect upon publication and passage according to law.

Approved by the Township Committee

Stephen Bergenfeld, Mayor

ATTEST:

Maria Andrews, Acting Clerk

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Cally to open the floor to public comment was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Seeing no members of the public come forward, a motion was made by Bergenfeld and seconded by Cally to close the floor to public comment. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Cally to adopt Ordinance 10, 2018 upon second reading was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Open Space – Mr. Shute reported that the Runkle preservation project should be closing soon. He also noted that the CADB had recently hired Bob Hornby as their Administrator and commented he is a real, “go getter” and has created a flow chart for the process of preserving farms under the PIG program that consists of 128 steps.

Mr. Shute asked the Committee for guidance on how the Township wishes to move forward with the preservation program. Mayor Bergenfeld remarked that he believes the Township should be receptive to any landowner who expresses an interest in the program but doesn’t think the Township should be knocking on anyone’s door. Mr. Shute agreed and added that recent land appraisals have been coming in very low which may be discouraging to property owners.

Environmental – Mayor Bergenfeld acknowledged the letter received from the Environmental Commission regarding the recent mowing of the wildflowers around the bio-retention swale on the Township property. It was noted that the consensus of the Committee was to not change the language in the existing farming contracts per the suggestion made by the Environmental Commission, but rather to reach out to Mr. Fulper regarding the matter. Mr. Beaumont spoke up from the public and explained the wildflowers must mature. He stated the mowing was done too soon which could negatively impact the seeding of the wildflowers and their ability to sustain themselves.

It was noted that Mayor Bergenfeld said he will contact Mr. Fulper.

Mayor Bergenfeld acknowledged Janice Zuzov’s resignation from the Environmental

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Commission and appointed Mike Spille to the unexpired 3 year term ending 12/31/18.

A motion was made by Cally and seconded by Hoyer to post the Environmental Commission's 4/12/18 minutes to the township website. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Ag Advisory – No report was given.

Finance Committee – Mr. Hoyer reported that the Finance Committee will be reviewing the Township's reimbursement policy regarding classes, CEU credits and certifications. Once they draft something it will be forwarded to the Township Committee for their input.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Re-location of Police HQ to Municipal Building Basement

Mayor Bergenfeld reported the project is moving forward and that he is working on getting the fire rated paint purchased.

Police Lieutenant Position – Status Update

Township Attorney Philip Faherty reported that he has spoken with the person at the Chief's Association who coordinates the required exams and noted he will be sending information along so he can get the Township's candidates scheduled accordingly.

Rock Road West Traffic Study – Status

Mr. Rich noted he received an email from Township Engineer Bill Burr who indicated he will have a report to the Committee by 10/3/18 regarding the traffic study.

Mr. Abitz spoke up from the public and asked if the Committee could authorize permanent digital speed signs on Rock Road West. Mr. Rich stated he would speak with AOIC Skillman regarding traffic enforcement on Rock Road and also commented that he would ask about borrowing Delaware Township's digital speed sign.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER

Resolution #100-2018: Promotion of C. Gabel to Road Class C

RESOLUTION #100-2018

WHEREAS, the Township's DPW wishes to promote Christian Gabel from a Temporary Laborer to a Road Class C personnel member to perform various public works and road projects as well as general maintenance, mowing and snow removal duties; and,

WHEREAS, Christian Gabel has obtained his CDL License in accordance with his hiring agreement; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the West Amwell Township Committee that Christian Gabel be promoted to Roadman Class C for the DPW at a rate of \$18.50 per hour effective September 19, 2018.

A motion by Dale, seconded by Hoyer to approve Resolution #100-2018 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Resolution #101-2018: "Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day – 10/6/18"

RESOLUTION #101-2018 Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day October 6, 2018

WHEREAS, New Jersey is in the midst of a life-threatening opioid abuse epidemic; and

WHEREAS, the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey has designated October 6, 2018 as Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day – an initiative with a dual purpose: to educate families of the addictive qualities of opioid pain medicines and their link to heroin abuse rates in New Jersey, and communicate to physicians information on safer prescribing messages found in the Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for prescribing opioids, which include considering other therapies, setting realistic treatment goals with patients and discussing with patients the positives and negatives of opioids; and

WHEREAS, the State Senate and General Assembly jointly resolved that October 6 shall be permanently designated as Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day in New Jersey in order to raise awareness about the dangers of, and the link between, opioid abuse and heroin addiction and to educate health care providers, community leaders, state lawmakers and members of the public about the opioid abuse epidemic and its effects throughout the State of New Jersey and across the country; and

WHEREAS, West Amwell Township supports initiatives designed to raise awareness about opioid abuse in New Jersey and take steps to prevent addiction;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that October 6, 2018 be recognized as Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day in West Amwell Township, New Jersey.

A motion by Cally, seconded by Bergenfeld to approve Resolution #101-2018 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Discussion: Shared Police Services Agreement

The Committee authorized Acting Clerk Andrews to forward the proposed 2019 – 2021 Police Shared Services Contract over to East Amwell Township.

Discussion: Shared Construction Department Services Agreement

Mayor Bergenfeld commented that the Construction Department numbers are down due in large part to the DCA changing the required permit fees. Ms. Brewi also noted that there were several projects done this year which were exempt from fees such as the East Amwell Township School and Clawson House. Mayor Bergenfeld suggested considering a flat administration fee in the contract. The Committee supported the idea and it was suggested an annual fee of \$5000.00 be added to the 2019-2023 Construction Shared Services Contract. Acting Clerk Andrews was authorized to forward the contract to East Amwell Township once the suggested revisions were made.

Discussion: COAH Accessory Unit Stipend: 10 or 30 Year Deed Restriction

Mayor Bergenfeld suggested the stipend for creating a COAH accessory unit be \$20,000 and that the deed restriction be for 30 years. He commented that this is in line with what has been done in the past.

Mr. Osgood spoke up from the public and asked why the Committee isn't considering a 10 year deed restriction. Mayor Bergenfeld noted again that 30 years is consistent with what has been done in the Township in the past and noted that during recent negotiations, Fair Share Housing is currently trying to push 50 year deed restrictions.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Beaumont came forward again and explained the school board is mulling over options on what to do with their current facilities and are considering potentially building a new school (to encompass all of the facilities) on a site in Lambertville. Mr. Beaumont asked the Committee if they wished to have someone from the school board attend an upcoming Township Committee meeting to discuss the matter.

Mr. Rich remarked that his wife is on the school board and commented that he has not heard anything about this subject. Mr. Beaumont clarified that the issue had been discussed 2 years ago and thought it may be coming up again. Mayor Bergenfeld stated it may be a good idea to have a school board member attend a Committee meeting if and when specific details become available, but not now.

Mr. Beaumont also commented on the church for sale on County Route 518. He stated it's listed as commercial but explained the building, designated as 5 acres, is actually in the SRPD Zone while the remaining 16 acres of land is listed as commercial. He asked if there was something the Township could do to provide an incentive for it to all be sold as commercial. Mayor

Bergenfeld stated the township cannot change the zoning because that would be considered “spot zoning” which is illegal.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Mr. Cally asked Ms. Brewi, who was still in attendance at the meeting, to remind Construction Official Chris Rose that the Committee is still waiting to see his protocol memo regarding the quarterly construction reports that were not sent to the state. He explained he spoke with Mr. Rose about this and has requested a procedures memo be done to address the oversight and hopefully prevent it from occurring again. He said this is the third request and wondered if anything has been drafted. Ms. Brewi stated she will remind Mr. Rose again.

Mayor Bergenfeld referred to an email he had received from East Amwell regarding revenue reports for the construction shared services. He asked Ms. Brewi if the Township is obligated to provide these. Ms. Brewi said no and clarified that her system doesn’t have the capability to provide monthly revenue reports broken out in the manner requested by East Amwell, just year end reports. She indicated she will follow up with them on the matter.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Maria Andrews, Acting Municipal Clerk

Approved: 10/3/18