

SPECIAL WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING December 15, 2011 – 6:00 p.m.

The West Amwell Township Committee met on the above date at 6:00 p.m. Present: Mayor Molnar and Committeemen Fisher. Also present were Rob Tomenchok, Hal Shute, John Dupuis, Rick Roseberry & William Burr (6:00), Christine Ballard (6:25), Peter Terrick, Jim Coe, Ralph Runge (6:45), Jim Cally, Ken Hart and Rick Kropp

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 December 13, 2011. 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 not recorded.

Mayor Molnar announced that the interviews previously scheduled for closed session would be held in openly.

The first interview was with representatives of Maser Consulting Engineers. Bill Burr and Rick Roseberry overviewed their experience with the firm and noted the various municipalities where they currently serve and in what capacity. Mr. Roseberry also relayed that has he previously worked in the Hunterdon County engineer's office where he was involved with West Amwell development reviews, so there is familiarity with the town. In addition to his work as an engineer, he is also a planner and has been doing both in one municipality for 16 years. Items mentioned in the discussion included such things as learning curve issues; what items would prompt the start of the fee schedule; file transfer and project considerations; availability/conflicts; experience with grants and identification of same; whether a shared service relationship/cooperative agreement with the school would be considered; road conditions/wash outs experienced on unpaved roads; whether millings are approved for use in road work; and, tax map responsibility, frequency, process, billing and survey work. Mr. Burr and Mr. Roseberry left the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Christine Ballard of T&M Associates relayed that the firm has 320 employees and 100 professional engineers throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania, with an expansion into Delaware pending. She has been Lambertville's engineer for three years and was their special projects engineer two years previous to that as her expertise is in flood control. Her work is on a project basis and attends those public meetings but does not attend council meetings. The mayor and she work out a scope of work, perform an evaluation, and form a proposal. Most of work in the city is accomplished through grant money. T&M's grants group was emphasized as they work up a grants master plan to understand a municipality's goals in order to locate appropriate grants. A sample spreadsheet was provided. There is no charge for this service; it helps officials to focus on goals; helps target grants that are available at different times, aligning them with the plan outlined. The firm also has a permitting agency, a transportation group, structural/bridge building engineers, culvert inspectors, and a stormwater management and flooding group. Discussion included the grant component; similarities/differences between the city and township, noting runoff, drainage and steep slopes issues; whether a shared service with inspectors between the two entities and splitting cost would be a possibility; if a shared/cooperative agreement with the school would be considered; and, the concern over the cost of rural roads and obtaining money necessary for their maintenance. Ms. Ballard stated that she works to save money for the towns by getting creative in finding revenue sources. Although she is not a planner, there are dozens of planner in the firm that have worked at DCA and keep up with such things as COAH, State Plan endorsement, etc. Ms. Ballard left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Peter Terrick, Jim Coe and Ralph Runge of Hatch Mott McDonald were introduced. The firm has over 2000 employees and 70 offices in North America. Mr. Coe is the division manager for wastewater and municipal development with an office in Perryville. An extensive list of municipalities, schools, and MUAs for which they provided engineering services was relayed. Also noted was that the firm is into many areas such as structural, electric and heating engineers with geographical diversity. Mr. Terrick relayed that he was township and planning board engineer in Delaware Township in the 90's and is currently their zoning board engineer. He's been with Chester Township in Morris County since 1994. Mr. Terrick offered that he is also a planner but does not focus on that side as it gets complicated with the two hats. Discussion included grant work familiarity and success; the road maintenance situation in the township and the similarity of problems with those in Delaware Township; tax maps and Green Acres survey ability; if a shared/cooperative agreement with the school would be considered;

rails to trails proposal; if there's a local group for the municipality to work with; and, keeping a sense of community and scope with road projects. Mr. Coe mentioned their emergency response group and that involved in the Route 29 washout and their data base that can mobilize 200-300 people in response to a critical problem. The firm has an engineer to address any problem that could arise. The gentlemen left the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

INSURANCE OPTIONS: Mr. Fisher reported on the meeting held yesterday with Peter Tarricone, Beth Britton and Steve Julis of Wells Fargo Insurance concerning 2012 proposals. Two proposals were received and reviewed. The comparison revealed advantage to PAIC over Statewide; that PAIC is \$9000 less than 2010; and, explained that homogeneous JIFs were sought, which limits the number that qualify. A chart showing a total of \$39,774 in 'return of surplus' to West Amwell since 2001 was presented.

RESOLUTIONS:

- *Revised Principal Public Works Manager Resolution* – A more formal and appropriate resolution than previously adopted was located and presented for consideration. The application to accompany the waiver request was also provided.

RESOLUTION #184-2011

WHEREAS N.J.S.A. 40A9:154.6g requires that commencing January 1, 1997 that the governing body of each municipality appoint a principal public works manager; and

WHEREAS N.J.S.A. 40A:9-154.6g(d) allows any municipality that conducts minimal or no public works activity to apply to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for an exemption to that requirement; and

WHEREAS such an exemption shall be valid for five years from the date of issuance; and

WHEREAS the West Amwell Township Road Department does mostly repair work, as per application, with large jobs reviewed by the Township Engineer; and

WHEREAS West Amwell Township Road Supervisor, Randy Hoagland, has twenty one years experience in his position and was granted an exemption in 1996, 2001 and 2006; and

WHEREAS said exemption expires 12/23/2011

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the West Amwell Township Committee that an application for exemption from the requirement to appoint a principal public works manager be submitted to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services for review and recommendation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the West Amwell Township Committee that said exemption request be granted.

Fisher motioned to adopt the Resolution and Molnar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

E-PURCHASE OF ELECTRICITY/SHREC: Mr. Fisher explained the reason for proceeding with this course of action, noting that the township solar panels will yield nothing to Lambertville. John Dupuis relayed that the schools wanted a similar rate to that of the township and that the way the resolution is written, the schools lose money. The high school will wait a year before joining and will align with the school calendar.

RESOLUTION #185-2011

Resolution of the Township of West Amwell, State of New Jersey Authorizing a Reverse On-Line Auction for the Purchase of Electricity for the south Hunterdon Renewable Energy Cooperative

WHEREAS, the members of the South Hunterdon Renewable Energy Cooperative ("SHREC") appointed Birdsall Services Group Inc. as the South Hunterdon Renewable Energy Cooperative's energy consultant on October 18, 2010 and

WHEREAS, Birdsall Services Group is an approved provider of on-line auctions for the purchase of energy generation services (Birdsall uses the World Energy Auction Platform) by the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey, and

WHEREAS, the County of Hunterdon has determined that the use of a reverse on-line auction for the purchase of electricity supply would enable the SHREC to obtain the most advantageous price for the commodity; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs, State of New Jersey permits the use of a reverse on-line auction for the purchase of energy generation services pursuant to the Local Unit Electronic Technology Pilot Program and Study Act, P.L. 2001, c.30; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. That the governing body authorizes Birdsall Services Group to conduct a reverse on-line auction for the purchase of electricity supply for the South Hunterdon Renewable Energy Cooperative.
2. That the Township of West Amwell does hereby authorize the receipt of bids for the purchase of natural gas through a reverse on-line auction for the South Hunterdon Renewable Energy Cooperative. The Township Clerk shall determine the time, date and place for the receipt of said bids.
3. That the reverse on-line auction shall take place on the date to be set on the newspaper publication.
4. That the City Clerk shall prepare a notice for a newspaper publication announcing the auction, indicating the Internet address, where the auction will take place, the date and time of the auction for the purchase of natural gas.
5. That a certified copy of this resolution shall be forward to the Chief Financial Officer, State of New Jersey-Department of Community Affairs-Division of Local Government Services, Birdsall Services Group and the Purchasing Agent.

Fisher motioned to adopt the Resolution and Molnar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

LETTER OF CREDIT REDUCTION FOR CREEKSIDE PRESERVE: Engineer Lorentz has approved this reduction and a resolution that was prepared by Attorney Faherty was presented for consideration.

RESOLUTION #186-2011

Resolution Authorizing Reduction of the Creekside Preserve Performance Bond
Consisting of a Letter of Credit and Cash

BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Committee of West Amwell Township, Hunterdon County New Jersey does hereby authorize the reduction of the Creekside Preserve Performance Bond as follows:

- A) The Letter of Credit portion of said bond shall be reduced from \$454,275.96 to \$382,547.33; and,
- B) The Cash portion of said bond shall be reduced from \$50,475.10 to \$42,505.25.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this reduction is based upon the approval of Heritage Consulting Engineers, project engineers for the Township of West Amwell, in accordance with the letter from Robert F. Lorentz, P.E., C.M.E of said engineering firm.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that National Penn Bank, issuer of the original Letter of Credit shall issue an amended Letter of Credit reflecting the new amount of \$382,547.33 and that the Township of West Amwell shall remit to BDNJ Limited, LLC a check in the amount of \$7,969.85 representing the reduction in the cash portion of the performance guarantee.

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP

DATED: December 15, 2011

BY: Thomas J. Molnar
Thomas J. Molnar, Mayor

George A. Fisher
George A. Fisher, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:

Not in Attendance
Zachary T. Rich, Committeeman

Lora L. Olsen
Lora L. Olsen, RMC, Township Clerk

Fisher motioned to adopt the Resolution and Molnar seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Dupuis relayed receiving a call from a resident questioning why the elementary school was not open during the storm. Rob Tomenchok responded that, as OEM Shelter and Evacuation person, they were never told to open anything and such things are not their decision. He did note, however, that the schools are designated emergency shelters. Mr. Dupuis was directed to contact Harry Heller for the OEM document.

Mr. Dupuis also reported on the gym floor at South, noting that the repair will be costly. As the contractor was bonded and there is insurance, he was informed that this is not something that the Township Committee is involved with. Jim Cally interjected that communication between the two entities is important considering taxpayer impact and that's the reason for the liaison position. It was also suggested that residents should attend the Board meetings to keep apprised of the situation.

The desire for an open meeting with JCP&L to discuss the outages was noted. A proposed date of January 9th will be relayed to area representative John Anderson.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:35 p.m. on motion by Fisher, seconded by Molnar.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora L. Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk