

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

December 30, 2013 - 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 Zachary T. Rich, Deputy George A. Fisher, Committeeman John Dale, Clerk Lora Olsen and Attorney Philip J. Faherty III. Also in attendance were Dave Beaumont and Tim Lelie.

Mayor Rich 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 2, 2013, 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 Rich 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: Plumbing work for municipal building.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made by the mayor:

- Municipal Offices Closed New Year's Day – January 1st
- Township Committee Reorganization Meeting – January 6th, 7 p.m.
- 2014 Dog Licenses Due by January 31st
- Please Come to the Table if You Wish to Address the Committee
- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During Meeting

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

The December 9, 2013 Regular meeting minutes were unanimously approved on motion from Fisher, seconded by Dale.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPIC NOT ON THE AGENDA

Dave Beaumont came forward to extend holiday greetings; offer congratulations to John Dale; and, thanking the mayor for his service in 2013, including the school and website issues. Mr. Beaumont also offered his assistance with updating the website in January and confirmed his willingness to serve on the Finance committee next year. A brief update on Regionalization was given including that the transition team is meeting the 3rd Monday of the month and rotating the meeting between schools, with executive sessions held in-between. There will eventually be a website hosted most likely at South. Mr. Beaumont relayed that implementation is now the challenge as there are four separate contracts to be blended into one. Mr. Rich expressed his opinion that the new representatives were good ones and Mr. Fisher offered that he was amazed that the referendum passed. Appreciation was extended to Mr. Beaumont for his work on both the referendum and website.

In keeping with a suggestion made earlier by Jason Fuhr, the passing of World War II veteran and resident Dominic Zarlengo was recognized. Mr. Zarlengo served with the US Army, 106th Infantry division in the European theatre and was captured and became a POW after fighting in the Battle of Bulge. The latter information was new to some as he apparently never spoke about it.

Tim Lelie expressed appreciation to the Committee for the machinery that arrived for George Washington Road work. He had a couple of suggestions which included the blacktop and gates like those installed for the Lambertville South Franklin Street (Weeden Street) project be installed to limit traffic, with keys made for emergency personnel. Mayor Rich advised that the blacktop will be re-laid as a base with BGZ on top. Attorney Faherty advised that the status of the 'path' has to be determined, e.g., is it a dedicated roadway, and that deeds have been ordered to assist with the determination. Mr. Lelie also advised that he is not in favor of vacating the road as it's extensive, to which Mr. Rich noted that he is working on contacts for funding, and that the park sign is not working. He questioned whether there's been any success with the Parks Department concerning same.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S) - None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING - None

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Open Space

- *Property Status Updates*: No one in attendance.

Environmental

- *Authorization to Post November 14, 2013 Minutes to Website*: Approved

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Animal Control for 2014 – A proposal for services was presented. Mr. Rich noted his approval for a contract with ACIS but that movement is needed for a shared service with the others. Verification is needed from Delaware Township and Lambertville as to this with Mr. Fisher noting that East Amwell is out. The Clerk was instructed to contact Delaware and Lambertville concerning the sub-agreement/contract for animal control. Attorney Faherty will prepare same.

Updates – 1) Mr. Fisher relayed that SHREC is still waiting on Swan Creek to iron out the **PPA** item with the elementary school and the merger. As for **energy aggregation**, the process is moving forward and residents should receive a letter by the first of the week. Mr. Beaumont questioned whether there was a connection with the JCP&L sub-station work; was informed that it is not; and, that the work will provide for West Amwell with power at the head of the line instead of at the bottom. Whether or not the work will separate the Township power from that of the City of Lambertville, as their respective problems can be quite different, is unknown. 2) Mr. Fisher reported that Harry Heller is searching for switching gear on State contract in order to move forward with **generator** purchase and subsequent bids from electricians for installation. 3) The privatizing of **Coon Path** (End of GW Road) was discussed earlier in the evening.

Resolution to Sell Block 46 Lot 6 (83 Belvidere) – Availability of other lots for sale will be determined by Attorney Faherty. Size requirements for a building lot were noted. Item held.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Space Trust Fund Resolution –

Resolution #193-2013

Whereas:

The Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders has approved an Open Space Trust Fund and established a Municipal Grants Program to provide Program Funds in connection with municipal acquisition of lands for recreation, conservation and general open space purposes; farmland preservation; preparation of plan elements of a municipal Master Plan, and restoration of county owned or municipal owned historic facilities.

And Whereas:

The Governing Body of West Amwell Township desires to bank and reserve the Township's 2013 allocation of Open Space Trust Funds in the amount of \$16,486.71 to fund a project which has not been finally determined at this time. It is anticipated that the application for the funding will be submitted in 2013, and the funding will be applied to either the Amwell Chase Farm, Block 5 Lots 24 & 24.01 or the Lambert Farm, Block 3 Lot 16

Now Therefore the Governing Body resolves that:

1. The West Amwell Township Open Space Committee shall designate a member in January 2014 to: (a) make an application to the County of Hunterdon for Open Space Trust Funds, (b) provide additional application information and furnish such documents as may be required for the Municipal Grants Program and (c) act as the principal contact person and correspondent of the above named municipality.

2. If the County of Hunterdon determines that the application is complete and in conformance with the Hunterdon County Open Space, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Plan and the Policies and Procedures Manual for the Municipal Grants Program adopted thereto, the municipality is willing to use the approved Open Space Trust Funds in accordance with such adopted policies and procedures, and applicable state and local government rules, regulations and statutes thereto.

3. The Mayor of West Amwell Township is hereby authorized to sign and execute any required documents and agreements with the County of Hunterdon for the approved Open Space Trust Funds.

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

PTSO South Hunterdon Regional re: Raffle Application –

- Resolution:

RESOLUTION #194-2013

WHEREAS, application has been received by the Township of West Amwell to grant a raffle license, and

WHEREAS, no objections have been received the Clerk of the Township, nor were any objections made at the regular meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the raffle license be granted

TO: PTSO South Hunterdon Regional
BENEFIT: SHR Baseball Booster Club
DATE: Drawing on April 3, 2014
TIME: 4:00 p.m.
LOCATION: South Hunterdon Regional HS
301 Mt. Airy-Harb. Road, Lambertville NJ 08530

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

- Findings & Determination: This document was presented, reviewed and unanimously approved for signature.

Potential Claim Report for PAIC – The Township Committee members were questioned as to their knowledge of any new potential claim as a form needs to be filed with the carrier. The answer to be relayed is ‘no.’

2014 Reorganization – 1) A ***draft agenda*** was presented for review with the notation that there may be minor changes. 2) A couple revisions to the annual meeting date ***resolution*** were made. Mr. Dale noted that he will not be able to attend the January 22nd meeting. 3) The 2014 garbage/trash/recycling flyer now includes e-cycling information. Copies will be made for distribution at Saturday’s ***depot***.

Tom Molnar Note – The following note from former mayor and committeeman Molnar was approved for posting to the website.

I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to my friends and neighbors who came out to wish me well in my retirement on "Tom Molnar Day". The last 15 years that I have lived in West Amwell Township have been a very special time for me and my family. The friends that I have made and the great times that I had can never be duplicated.

My family and I have decided to retire to farm country in Southern Delaware. I don't expect to be a stranger to West Amwell, and will come back to visit often.

*God Bless you all, and have a Great New Year,
Tom Molnar, Former Mayor*

Plumbing Work for Municipal Building – A leak was discovered today and Tillett Plumbing came to the rescue. Mr. Tillett advised that the water should be tested as holes are developing in the soft copper. A water test will need to be ordered to check on acidity levels. In addition, the drains are clogged and brown water has been reported in the bathrooms. Maintenance on both water supply and drains will be scheduled for 2014.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Treasurer –

RESOLUTION #195-2013
(See attached)

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

Presentation of Bills for Approval:

RESOLUTION #196-2013

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 \$234,943.94, dated December 30, 2013, as presented by the Township Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, be paid from existing appropriations.

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

Treasurer Report, Statement of Cash, Revenue, and Investment Report: Appropriations through December 30, 2013 were provided and reviewed.

Tax Collector –

RESOLUTION #197-2013

WHEREAS Tax Sale Certificate #201304 for Block 40, Lot 12; 121 Hancock Street assessed to Howard Gailloux was sold on October 1, 2013 to West Amwell Township; and,

WHEREAS, the amount of \$60.30 has been received for Howard Gailloux 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 \$60.30 payable to West Amwell Township.

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

RESOLUTION #198-2013

WHEREAS, there has been an overpayment 2013 for Block 47, Lot 5, 129 Belvidere Ave assessed to Matthew & Nicole Payton in the amount of \$715.11; and,

WHEREAS, the homeowners have requested that this overpayment to be returned to them

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$715.11 for disbursement to:

Matthew & Nicole Payton
129 Belvidere Ave
Lambertville NJ 08530

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

RESOLUTION #199-2013

WHEREAS there an overpayment of taxes for the following blocks and lots, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Tax Collector to return these small balances to surplus before the New Year,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following credits be cancelled:

BLOCK/LOT	AMOUNT
3/25	.01
7/14.01 Q0006	.60
7.01/10 Q0165	.03
8/11	.08
8/30 Q0196	.82
11/5.11	.01
12/4.02 Q0252	.10

12/59 Q0100	.01
13/34 Q0016	.84
19/3 Q0043	.01
21/27 Q0225	.20
21/33 Q0122	.01
27/4	.08
29/2	.02
30/15.02	.01
31/4	.20
32/4.01	.55
32/13 Q0158	.03
32/22	.07
32/22 Q0018	.07
33/3	.39
43/3	.20

TOTAL : \$4.34

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

RESOLUTION #200-2013

WHEREAS, there has been a duplicate payment for fourth quarter 2013 added assessment taxes for Block 3, Lot 20.21; 25 Music Mt. Blvd in the amount of \$149.89; and

WHEREAS, Trident Land Transfer has requested that this overpayment to be returned to them
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Treasurer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$148.89 for disbursement to:

Trident Land Transfer
1409 North Kings Hwy
Cherry Hill NJ 08034

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

RESOLUTION #201-2013

WHEREAS there exists taxes due for the following blocks and lots; and,

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Tax Collector to cancel these small balances before the New Year

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following balances be cancelled:

BLOCK/LOT	AMOUNT
7.01/9 Q0305	.19
11/7	.02
13/34.08 Q0016	.84
13/41.01	.33
16/16	.57
17/4 Q0091	.58
17/8	.33
25/3.02 Q0166	.05
28/1.52	.09
28/13	.12
30/5	.20
32/14 Q0028	.46
33/1 Q0162	.17
33/1.01 Q0162	.08
33/6.02	.10
38/11	.10
39/1.01	.01
49/3	.92
49/4	.10
54/3	.80

TOTAL: \$ 6.06

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

Police – The November 2013 Monthly Report showing 863 incidents, 197 summonses and 2 warnings was received. The additional information provided was noted and appreciated.

Website Review – None

The Report was unanimously received as presented.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence as listed on the Agenda was ordered filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:54 p.m. on motion from Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk

APPROVED: January 22, 2014