

SPECIAL WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

February 20, 2010 -10:30 a.m.

The West Amwell Township Committee met on the above date. Present: Mayor Molnar, Committeemen Masterson and Fisher. Also present were Bob Campbell, Rob Tomenchok, John Dupuis, David Del Vecchio, Dave Beaumont, Derek Roseman, Dan Seiter, Marie Collins, Michael Capabianco, and Ted Ehrenburg

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 February 17, 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.

Mayor Del Vecchio of Lambertville led the assembled group in the pledge to the nation's flag.

The meeting was not recorded.

DISCUSSION WITH SHREC MEMBERS RE: RFP'S FOR ENERGY AUDIT & POWER PURCHASING:

The history of the co-op, benefits and constraints were reviewed:

- formed in 2009 in response to energy increases
- a power purchasing agent/consultant is needed to manage the grid for up to 15 years in return for the savings generated.
- no out-of-pocket expense to the members of the co-op
- each entity was too small to see savings on their own; economy of scale
- uniqueness of this particular grouping; only one in the State that is inter-governmental
- determined that a dual track approach—audit and power purchasing—was best; it is also the only one currently being done this way
- long term savings are anticipated
- BPU may use this as a pilot program
- unlike a shared services agreement, this has some 'wiggle' room
- West Amwell has the most to gain due to its open space for solar grid; would get lower energy cost plus a host agreement
- money received for the sale of electricity comes into the co-op and then disbursed to the members
- all entities have to benefit financially or this won't work
- the grid system cannot generate electricity in excess of current co-op member needs but does not preclude members from having separate array system
- a 15% savings on electricity is the max
- entities still purchase their electricity from JCP&L
- cost of implementing audit recommendations is a financial risk; could be a part of the PPA

General discussion followed about the proposed RFP's; placement options for the solar panels; why packaging energy efficiency with solar generation made for better numbers; how the savings will pay for the managing consultant; and, that this effort is a starting point to test the market. The audit portion will show areas of waste. The contractor for the power purchasing will get federal and state credits but will be taking the risk for a 15 year period to guarantee performance, and maintain and replace elements in the system. There is no risk to the entities involved. It is anticipated that the contractor for the power purchasing will also do the audit. The numbers in the RFP's show a 3 megawatt system. This translates to 18 acres of ground cover. The best locations will be determined through the proposed process and a southern exposure is necessary.

Mr. Capabianco summarized the benefits as follows: 1) first of its kind in the state; 2) cost nothing; 3) has been an educational process; 4) a pilot program for the BPU; and, 5) Lambertville is the lead agency with the legal responsibility for the co-op.

He will be providing all entities with updated RFP's. After all entities have approved publication, advertisement will commence. A walk through of all buildings will be scheduled with a response date one month from that.

Approval for publication will be on the March 3rd agenda for Township Committee action.

The SHREC members left the meeting at 11:30 a.m. The meeting entered a closed session at 11:35 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

RESOLUTION #42-2010

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:
PROTECTING THE SAFETY AND PROPERTY OF THE PUBLIC
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 Masterson, seconded by Molnar.

The meeting returned to Open Session at 1:02 p.m.

A committee to further investigate parameters for a possible merger will be a topic for the March 3rd agenda.

POSSIBLE APPOINTMENTS:

The mayor appointed Patricia Masterson to a one year term on the Local Assistance Board and Zach Rich to the Finance Advisory committee. The appointments were unanimously approved on motion from Masterson and seconded by Fisher.

The status of appointments to complete the Recycling committee was raised as a new recycling ordinance has to be adopted by March 31st. Discussion ensued about possible appointees and the work involved. A request for volunteers was suggested for posting on the website.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 1:25 p.m. on motion by Molnar, seconded by Masterson.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora L. Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk