

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

August 15, 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 the final draft of the contract for the Class III Officers has been received and should be added under New Business for approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Municipal Offices Will be Closed Monday, September 3, 2018 – Labor Day
- 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 Cally, seconded by Hoyer to approve the Township Committee's 7/18/18 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 Hoyer, seconded by Cally to approve the Township Committee's 7/18/18 Closed Session minutes with no revisions noted was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPICS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Bergenfeld opened the floor to public comment.

Bill Corboy of 8 Stymiest Road came forward and provided the Committee with photos of the road taken in 2011 after Hurricane Sandy washed it out and from 2018 after the most recent rain storms. All of the photos depicted serious erosion. Mr. Corboy explained that the runoff follows the path of the water line that was put in by SUEZ, formerly American Water. He commented that he has spoken with the Township's Director of Public Works and Roads, Ryan Rollero as well as with the City of Lambertville to try and determine what can be done to stabilize the road. He suggested the cost of any repairs could be split 4 ways: SUEZ, West Amwell Township, the City of Lambertville and himself.

Mayor Bergenfeld commented that he will contact SUEZ to try and work something out.

Dave Beaumont of 205 Rock Road West came forward and provided an update on the taxes, highlighting the fact that the school tax decreased approximately 9% which is about \$11.00. He then remarked that the garbage depot issues have likely not been resolved because to date only 285 trash permits have been sold which leaves much of the township exploring other options.

Mr. Beaumont commented that he has a fairly lengthy presentation on roads and will wait until the end of the meeting to discuss his continued concerns.

Minutes: 8/15/18

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation – Old Rock Church 175th Anniversary

Mayor Bergenfeld read the following Proclamation into the record:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Old Rock Church, located on Mt. Airy-Harbourton Road in West Amwell Township, is celebrating its' 175th Anniversary in 2018 at the Church Homecoming on September 9, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the original church structure was erected in 1843 and known at that time as the Amwell Methodist Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS, the origin of the congregation actually dates back to 1774 when a Methodist circuit rider was appointed to ride through the region and preach in houses; and

WHEREAS, the rocks for the current structure were hauled from neighboring farms. The ceiling, attic, and roof are rumored to have been constructed from lumber salvaged from the first covered bridge between Lambertville and New Hope after it was washed out in the flood of 1837; and

WHEREAS, in 1970 the Methodist Conference deeded the church over to the West Amwell Cemetery Association and the name of the church was changed to Old Rock; and

WHEREAS, the church building and property were deeded to Old Rock Church from West Amwell Cemetery Association when the Fellowship Hall was added to the church in 1991; and

WHEREAS, Old Rock Church is currently known as a Bible believing, Non-Denominational Church with no formal membership however, commonly there are found to be 50 – 75 people in attendance weekly; and

WHEREAS, Old Rock Church serves the West Amwell Township community through its' Sunday School, Annual Outdoor Nativity Pageant, local mission projects, occasional hymn sings, and fellowship luncheons; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the West Amwell Township Committee hereby recognizes Old Rock Church as an historic and current asset to the Christian fiber of the residents of West Amwell Township and its surrounding communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Proclamation be placed in the official minutes of the West Amwell Township Committee's August 15, 2018 meeting.

It was noted for the record that Mr. Cally and Mr. Hoyer will attend the September 9, 2018 church service to present the Proclamation.

Resolution #92-2018: Recognition of Retirement – Frank DeFazio

Resolution #92-2018

WHEREAS, Frank DeFazio has regrettably filed his retirement resignation after a full career in West Amwell Township's Road Department; and

WHEREAS, Frank served this community for many commendable years as a servant to the public in the Department of Public Works and Roads and also as a member of West Amwell's Volunteer Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Frank is a life-long West Amwell resident growing up just a stone's throw from the DPW Garage. Like so many children; dump trucks, loaders and heavy equipment were found to be very appealing to young Frank. The lure of the machinery lead the youth to meander his way into the DPW Garage with eager hopes of hearing the men tell adventurous tales of snow storm clearings and road construction projects; and

WHEREAS, the appeal of operating the equipment himself never waned and Frank joined the crew as a Summer help laborer, beginning his career with the West Amwell Road Department in 1977. The following year, Frank became a full time employee of the Township and eventually earned the title Road Foreman; and

WHEREAS, in addition to road equipment; fire trucks, related apparatus, muscle and team work must have been so alluring that early in his adulthood Frank also found himself becoming a full member of the West Amwell Township Volunteer Fire Company. His service remains active and Frank sees himself continuing with the company for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, a forte' comes in handy and Frank's specialty was fabrication. Inevitable equipment failure allowed Frank to be the hero of the day by designing custom piece-work to create masterful parts for trucks and equipment. His talent could be counted upon to turn a waste hunk of scrap metal into working pieces to get machinery up and running again; and

WHEREAS, Frank thoroughly enjoyed operating the heavy equipment and caring for the Township's roadways. This was evident on so many occasions throughout his employment but his dedication was never quite as remarkable as during Winter Storm Jonas on January 23, 2016. In 30 inches of snow, the fleet was downed and incapacitated; crippled by mechanical failures, stuck trucks, and broken plow blades. Frank showed his dedication and leadership by plowing nearly the entire Township with coffee and a road grader; and

WHEREAS, it is further notable that during his career, Frank plowed West Amwell roads in 7 out of 10 of the top snow storms in this State's history; and

WHEREAS, Frank selflessly responded in an emergency and was always readily available for any after-hours call-out from his supervisors. Countless middle of the night and holiday occurrences roused Frank from sleep to tend to fallen trees, downed wires, flooded roads and numerous snow or ice events and other weather related hazardous conditions; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Frank is hereby duly recognized for his sincerity and willingness to make a career of public service to this community and viewing his time here as 'more than just a job'; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the West Amwell Township Committee extends its sincere appreciation to Frank DeFazio for his dedication and tireless efforts to serve the municipality for over thirty-nine years and further, that the retirement days ahead are filled with health, contentment and rides in trucks for leisure rather than emergencies; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that on August 15, 2018, this resolution be committed to the official Township Committee minutes in appreciation and acknowledgement of Frank DeFazio's outstanding and dedicated service to the community and that he hereby be honored and remembered as a citizen to be made a future example thereof.

Reports by Department Heads

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

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 – No report was given.

Environmental – No report was given.

Ag Advisory – A motion was made by Dale and seconded by Cally to approve the Ag Advisory's amended By-Laws and to post the 6/7/18 minutes. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Finance Committee – No report was given.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Re-location of Police HQ to Municipal Building Basement

Mayor Bergenfeld reported that he is working on securing a local painter and also indicated he believes the cost for the additional insurance needed for him to work as the General Contractor will be about \$3700. This information was provided as follow up to last month's discussion.

Receipt of Resumes for Police Lieutenant Position

Mayor Bergenfeld noted this discussion will be moved to Closed Session.

NEW BUSINESS/OTHER

Letter of Resignation from Road Class C – T. Burd, Jr.

A motion by Rich, seconded by Hoyer to accept the resignation of T. Burd was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Letter of Resignation from Zoning Board/Open Space Secretary – C. Rosikiewicz

A motion by Rich, seconded by Dale to accept the resignation of C. Rosikiewicz was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Resolution #93-2018: Raffle License – PTO WA School: 9/7/18 Event

RESOLUTION #93-2018

WHEREAS, application has been received 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 meeting.

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

TO: PTO West Amwell School
BENEFIT: To fund enrichment programs for the children of West Amwell School (after school programs; teaching supplies; educational assembly; etc.
DATE: September 7, 2018
TIME: 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
LOCATION: West Amwell School
1417 Route 179, Lambertville NJ 08530

A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale to approve Resolution #93-2018 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Discussion: Request for Signage on Rose Run cul-de-sac

Present for the discussion was Johnelle Whipple of 1 Milkhouse Lane. She explained she and a group of parents have approached School Superintendent Louis Muenker regarding the re-location of a bus stop in the Hills of Hunterdon neighborhood. This request would require the bus to be able to turn around in/drive through the Rose Run cul-de-sac without any obstacles. Ms. Whipple noted "No Parking" signs would need to be installed around the cul-de-sac to ensure an open roadway for the bus. Ms. Whipple remarked the matter is time sensitive because bus routes are currently being finalized for the upcoming school year.

After some brief discussion it was the consensus of the Committee that such a request needs to be made by the school. Mayor Bergenfeld and Mr. Rich indicated they would reach out to Superintendent Muenker to try and resolve the matter.

Discussion: Quote from Edmunds to Establish On-line Credit Card Processing

Acting Clerk Andrews explained Edmunds has provided a quote to establish an on-line credit card payment option for people to pay taxes, dog license fees and municipal court fines. She noted the tax payment will not work as efficiently as possible because the Township does not currently use the Edmunds tax collection software. It was noted that the Committee has no interest in establishing an on-line credit card payment process due to the fees associated with such a service.

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Discussion: Letter Dated 8/3/18 from SADC, re: R-O-W Inquiry

Acting Clerk Andrews noted the SADC had sent a letter indicating they were in the process of acquiring an agriculture development easement on Block 19 Lot 3.01 on Rock Road West and were requesting notification from the Township if there were any plans to extend the road right-of-way. The Committee expressed they had no plans to widen the right-of way.

Resolution #94-2018: Amending Salary & Wage Resolution

RESOLUTION #94-2018
Amending Resolution #61-2018

BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of the Township of West Amwell that the 2018 Salary and Wage Resolution, approved April 18, 2018 be amended as follows:

Position	Salary/Compensation
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Delete:

Building Custodian (Police) Durborow	\$15.60/hr
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Add:

Building Custodian (Police) Parsons (Effective 8/3/18)	\$15.60/hr
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A motion by Cally, seconded by Bergenfeld to approve Resolution #94-2018 with the conditions that it remain in effect only as long as the Police Department is a separate building and that Ms. Parsons cleans the Police Department outside of her scheduled working hours as Police Administrative Secretary, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Discussion: Request from G. Brewi, re: Zoning Officer Classes

Mayor Bergenfeld noted this discussion will be moved to Closed Session.

Discussion: Police Class III Contract

It was noted that no changes were made to the contract and the Committee instructed Acting Clerk Andrews to forward it to Superintendent Muenker.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mayor Bergenfeld reordered the agenda to allow Mr. Beaumont time to finish his comments before the Committee entered into Closed Session.

Mr. Beaumont of 205 Rock Road West came forward again and expressed that his continued concerns are not just with the township road conditions but also regarding consistency with the Master Plan. He noted the last Master Plan Re-exam was done in 2012 and the next one won't be until 2022.

Mr. Beaumont referred to the Circulation Plan Element and suggested the township roads be reviewed to establish a road improvement plan. Mayor Bergenfeld commented that Director Rollero has a 5 year road plan. Mr. Beaumont clarified he would like the roads reviewed from the perspective of what they are actually being used for vs. what their current designation is. He expressed he believes the Township is well past the time to consider implementing some of the recommendations in the 2012 Master Plan Re-exam. He noted inconsistencies within the Master Plan, the Ordinance and the Re-exam.

Mr. Beaumont suggested speed "humps" be constructed on the Mt. Airy side of Rock Road West, on Rock Road West/Rock Road Ext. and in the location of the stop signs at the Corsolo Road/Rock Road West intersection.

The Committee suggested Mr. Beaumont advocate to the State to lower the speed limit.

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Mr. Beaumont expressed that he believes the Township has been delinquent in addressing the recommendations in the Master Plan Re-exam and said the Committee is being negligent in their responsibilities. Mr. Rich took issue with that sentiment and instructed Acting Clerk Andrews to contact the State for instruction on how to initiate the process for requesting an official traffic study be done on Rock Road West.

Resolution #89-2018: Closed Session – Personnel/Contracts – Litigation/Affordable Housing

A motion by Cally, seconded by Hoyer to enter into closed session was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Resolution #95-2018

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, 8/15/18.

A motion by Dale, seconded by Bergenfeld 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 9:45 PM – 10:49 PM.

With regard to the request from G. Brewi to take the Zoning Officer certification classes, it was noted for the record that while the Committee encourages Ms. Brewi to continue her educational pursuits, there is no money in the Township budget to cover the costs associated with these classes.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Treasurer – Approval of Bill List 8/15/18

There was some discussion regarding a reimbursement payment for an elective medical procedure for a staff member's wife. Acting Clerk Andrews explained the policy allows for the police to get an annual stipend of \$1000 and office staff to get an annual stipend of \$750 for reimbursement of any medical, vision or dental procedures not covered by insurance. The Committee requested payment of this invoice be held until Mayor Bergenfeld can clarify the language in the policy.

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Cally to pay all of the other vouchers listed on the bill list was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

Tax Collector: Monthly Report – July 2018

It was noted that no comment was made on the Tax Collector's monthly report.

Construction – Monthly Report July 2018

It was noted that no comment was made on the Construction Office report.

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Zoning Office – Monthly Report July 2018

It was noted that no comment was made on the Zoning Office report.

Police Report – Monthly Report July 2018

It was noted that no comment was made on the Police report.

DPW Report – Vehicle Maintenance

It was noted that no comment was made on the DPW report.

Tax Assessor – Tax Rates

It was noted that no comment was made on the tax rates.

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 11:09 PM.

Maria Andrews, Acting Municipal Clerk

Approved: 9/5/18