

# **WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**

## **July 17, 2019 - 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 by Mayor Zachary Rich. Present were Deputy Mayor Gary Hoyer, Committeemen Stephen Bergenfeld, James Cally and John Dale along with Township Clerk Maria Andrews and Attorney Katrina Campbell.

Mayor Rich 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 10, 2019, 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 Township Clerk.

### **FLAG SALUTE**

Mayor Rich led those in attendance in the pledge to the nation's flag.

### **AGENDA REVIEW BY TOWNSHIP CLERK**

Clerk Andrews noted there were no changes to the agenda.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Trash Permit Renewals are Due Now: \$180.00
- 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 6/19/19 Regular and Closed Session minutes with no revisions noted was unanimously approved by voice vote.

### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPICS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Mayor Rich opened the floor to public comment.

Kiyle Osgood of 147 Rocktown-Lambertville Road asked if the new tax rate will reflect the recent bond sale. Mayor Rich said yes.

Stan Prater, Regional External Affairs Consultant for JCP&L came forward and updated the Committee on their recent application to the BPU for the installation of "trip savers" which will provide better efficiency in the event a tree comes down on wires. He explained the outage will be isolated and in the event of power lines catching fire, they will reset themselves once the fire has burned out. The project is expected to cost \$87 million dollars and take approximately 18 months to complete.

With regard to tree trimming, Mr. Prater noted it is done on a 4 year cycle with high outage areas being targeted first.

Mayor Rich remarked that he recently met with PSE&G representatives regarding their replacement of aging towers within the township. He explained they will be meeting with Zoning Officer Latini to go over the project which is expected to start in 2021 and be completed sometime in 2023. Mayor Rich commented that PSE&G is supportive of the Township's Community Outreach efforts. He also noted that the PSE&G website has a page setup for each municipality explaining how the project will effect that specific community.

Seeing no other members of the public come forward, a motion was made by Cally and seconded by Bergenfeld to close the floor to public comment.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Rich referred to the email dated 7/15/19 from DPW Director Rollero responding to a resident's inquiry regarding the road conditions of the Rocktown Road "dog leg" section. Director Rollero explained that he intends to patch this section of the roadway in the near future.

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## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **PennEast Status**

It was noted for the record that no status update was provided.

### **Discussion: SHREC Lease Agreements Onyx, LLC – Possible Approval of Resolution #31-2019: Estoppel Certificate**

Mayor Rich requested this matter be removed from the agenda since it has been carried for over a year with no activity from Onyx, LLC.

## **NEW BUSINESS/OTHER**

### **Approval of Municipal Court Administrator Job Posting**

The Committee authorized the posting of the Court Administrator position. Mayor Rich noted that he and Committeeman Cally will participate in the interview process.

### **Approval of Class III Officer Contract for 2019-2020 School Year**

A motion by Bergenfeld, seconded by Dale to approve the 2019-2020 Class III Officer contract was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

### **Resolution #81-2019: Class III Officer Bartzak**

West Amwell Township  
Resolution #81-2019

**WHEREAS**, the contract renewal for the Class III Officer's in the Police Department to serve the Township schools is due; and

**WHEREAS**, Stephen Bartzak has been recommended by AOIC Skillman to continue to serve this position; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee and School Superintendent Louis Muenker are in agreement with AOIC Skillman that Stephen Bartzak serve as a Class III Officer for the 2019 – 2020 school year; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the West Amwell Township Committee, that Stephen Bartzak be appointed to the position of Class III Officer effective 7/17/19 at a rate of \$25.56 per hour

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the West Amwell Township Committee at their meeting on 7/17/19.

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Maria Andrews, Acting Clerk

A motion by Cally, seconded by Hoyer to approve Resolution #81-2019 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

### **Resolution #82-2019: Class III Officer Davis**

West Amwell Township  
Resolution #82-2019

**WHEREAS**, the contract renewal for the Class III Officer's in the Police Department to serve the Township schools is due; and

**WHEREAS**, David Davis has been recommended by AOIC Skillman to continue to serve this position; and

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**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee and School Superintendent Louis Muenker are in agreement with AOIC Skillman that David Davis serve as a Class III Officer for the 2019 – 2020 school year; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the West Amwell Township Committee, that David Davis be appointed to the position of Class III Officer effective 7/17/19 at a rate of \$25.56 per hour

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the West Amwell Township Committee at their meeting on 7/17/19.

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Maria Andrews, Acting Clerk

A motion by Cally, seconded by Hoyer to approve Resolution #82-2019 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

**Resolution #83-2019 Class III Officer McKeown**

West Amwell Township  
Resolution #83-2019

**WHEREAS**, the contract renewal for the Class III Officer's in the Police Department to serve the Township schools is due; and

**WHEREAS**, Daniel McKeown has been recommended by AOIC Skillman to continue to serve this position; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Committee and School Superintendent Louis Muenker are in agreement with AOIC Skillman that Daniel McKeown serve as a Class III Officer for the 2019 – 2020 school year; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the West Amwell Township Committee, that Daniel McKeown be appointed to the position of Class III Officer effective 7/17/19 at a rate of \$25.56 per hour

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the West Amwell Township Committee at their meeting on 7/17/19.

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Maria Andrews, Acting Clerk

A motion by Cally, seconded by Hoyer to approve Resolution #83-2019 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

**Resolution #79-2019: Grant Application for Rocktown-Lambertville Road – Section IV**

Township of West Amwell  
Resolution 79-2019

Resolution: Approval to submit a grant application and execute a grant contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Improvements to Rocktown Lambertville Road - Section IV project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Committee of the Township of West Amwell formally approves the grant application for the above stated project; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as MA-2020-Rocktown Lambertville Road Improveme-00496 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Township of West Amwell; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Township Clerk are authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Township of West Amwell and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Certified as a true copy of the Resolution adopted by the Township Committee on July 17, 2019.

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Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC

A motion by Cally, seconded by Dale to approve Resolution #79-2019 was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

**Discussion: Custodial Services for the Municipal Building**

Clerk Andrews explained she had advertised for the position and had received 2 applications. One candidate wanted considerably more money than what is currently being paid to do the job and the other candidate would have to travel quite a ways to get here. Clerk Andrews noted she then reached out to a commercial cleaning company who is willing to provide services for the same rate the Township currently pays and is relatively local.

Upon reviewing the proposed contract from JanPro, a motion was made by Dale and seconded by Hoyer to hire JanPro to provide custodial services at the Municipal building for the remainder of 2019. The motion was unanimously approved. The Committee authorized Clerk Andrews to sign the contract.

**Discussion: Private Heliport Notification – Block 21 lot 52: Property at 450 Route 31**

Mayor Rich noted Zoning Officer Latini will have to review this matter. Deputy Mayor Hoyer commented that the FAA has sent a letter indicating they take no issue with the proposed heliport. Attorney Campbell added that the property owner will also need to obtain approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

**Discussion: Solar RFP's – Possible Award**

Attorney Campbell requested this discussion be moved to Closed Session.

**Discussion: Maser Consulting's Pending Project – Status**

Mayor Rich explained he had requested a list of all township projects Engineer Burr is working on with status updates for each. He remarked the listing is just for the Committee's information. Committeeman Bergenfeld commented on the Stymiest Road erosion matter stating Engineer Burr is waiting for input from the SUEZ Engineer before they can move forward with any repairs.

Committeeman Bergenfeld also noted the speed study conducted by *goHunterdon*, a non-profit traffic safety organization located in Flemington. The study was done on Rock Road West during the month of June. The study tracks vehicle speed, amount of traffic and vehicles that were traveling close to the posted speed limit. Committeeman Bergenfeld noted that the speed limit on Rock Road West is 30 mph and the study indicates that the average speed of all the cars tracked was 27 mph.

Committeeman Cally requested the report be provided to the Planning Board for review when they draft their updated Circulation Plan Element of the Master Plan.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Prior to entering into closed session Mayor Rich opened to the public. Seeing no members of the public come forward, Mayor Rich closed the floor to public comment.

**OTHER**

**Resolution #84-2019: Closed Session – Personnel/Contracts – Litigation/Affordable Housing**

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#### Resolution #84-2019

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.

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Maria Andrews, Township Clerk

A motion by Cally, seconded by Hoyer to return to open session was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The Committee was in executive session from 7:59 PM – 9:08 PM.

Upon returning to open session the Committee noted that they had previously decided when the Construction Office Manager/Assistant Tax Collector went from being paid hourly to salary last year, the salary was not subject to the annual increase in 2019. They agreed to rescind their original decision and pay Ms. Brewi the annual 2.25% increase on her salary, pro-rated from January 1, 2019.

With regard to the solar bids, the Committee decided to reject all bids and re-bid the project with more specific details in an effort to get consistent proposals from companies interpreting the bid/project all the same way. It was noted the bids will be due 8/1/19 by 10 AM with a special meeting scheduled for 8:30 AM on 8/2/19 to award the bid. Attorney Campbell will provide the notice to bidders for Clerk Andrews to put in the newspaper.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

A motion by Hoyer, seconded by Dale to approve the 7/17/19 bill list was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

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

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by Rich, seconded by Bergenfeld to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

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Maria Andrews, Township Clerk, RMC  
Approved: 8/21/19