

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

January 22, 2014 - 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 7:06 p.m. Present were Mayor Zachary T. Rich, Deputy Mayor George A. Fisher, Clerk Lora Olsen and Attorney Philip J. Faherty III. Committeeman John Dale was absent. Also in attendance were Cathy Urbanski and Hal Shute (7:30 p.m.)

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 6, 2014, 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

The mayor led the assembled group in the pledge to the nation's flag.

AGENDA REVIEW BY TOWNSHIP CLERK

The following items were added: 10.E Unfinished Business: Building issues & Salt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- 2014 Dog Licenses Due by January 31st; Late Fees Apply Thereafter
- Municipal Offices Closed on February 17th for President's Day
- Hazardous Waste Days – March 8th, July 12th, & November 8th; Electronics Recycling, April 12th, all 9 a.m.-1p.m., County Complex, Rt 12
- Please Come to the Table if You Wish to Address the Committee
- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During Meeting

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

The December 30, 2013 Regular and January 6, 2014 Reorganization meeting were unanimously approved on motion from Fisher, seconded by Rich.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPIC NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mrs. Olsen relayed the passing of Township resident Joseph Janiszewski on December 24th. Mr. Janiszewski served in the Merchant Marine during WWII.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)

None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing: Ordinance 1, 2014 AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY

Proof of publication in the January 9, 2014 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat was presented. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public since its introduction at the January 6, 2014 Township Committee meeting. Mr. Rich read the Ordinance by title and opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed.

The Ordinance was unanimously adopted on motion by Fisher, seconded by Rich.

Introduction: Ordinance 2, 2014

The following ordinance was read by title and introduced on first reading:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 1, 2014 TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY

SECTION 1

The following shall be the rate and ranges of compensation for officials and employees of the township for the year 2014.

Substitute Police Administrative Secretary \$13.50 - \$16.50/hr

SECTION III

All Ordinances and parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION IV

This Ordinance shall take effect after final adoption and publication according to the laws of the State of New Jersey.

Fisher moved to introduce the Ordinance on first reading and Rich seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The public hearing will be held on February 26, 2013.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Open Space

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

Environmental

- *Authorization to Post December 12, 2013 Minutes to Website*: Approved

- *Authorization to Post 2013 Annual Report of Activities to Webpage*: Approved. Mrs. Urbanski called attention to the report and the impressive amount of work accomplished this past year. A re-application will be made for Sustainable Jersey status and a grant for a 'green' heating system for the municipal building is under consideration.

Aq Advisory

- *Authorization to Post December 5, 2013 Minutes to Website*: Approved

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Possible Appointments – Mayor Rich made appointments as follows:

Jamie Kamph and Richard Schaible – 3 year term each on Open Space
Jill Haug – unexpired 2 year term (12/31/15); Environmental Alt #2
Dave Clapp – unexpired 2 year term (12/31/14); Environmental Alt #1
Dan Longhi – unexpired 3 year term (12/31/15); Environmental
Peter Buchsbaum – unexpired 3 year term (12/31/2015); Parks & Rec. Mr. Ent has bowed out. Appointments as made were unanimously approved.

Mrs. Olsen relayed that there is an unexpired 3 year term available on Historic as Caitlin Molnar has moved away. In addition, there is still no liaison to the County's 300th committee. Suggestions offered for these openings were Alex Greenwood and Peter Buchsbaum, respectively. The opportunities will be advertised on the website.

Updates – 1) Mr. Fisher advised on SHREC projects in that **energy aggregation** is moving along. Including municipal power in the bid may be considered for next year. A meeting for **solar** is anticipated but there is still no contract and depends on whether the school will participate or continue with the ACEs preprogram. A recent article found on nj.com reported that utilities want to change net metering policies in several states. Mr. Fisher relayed that this is not a concern in New Jersey as the sell back is wholesale here. 2) **Generator** status still on hold. 3) Deeds for properties for the discussion on privatizing **Coon Path** have been received by Attorney Faherty, who noted that most make reference to it. 4) Although there has been no confirming word from the other two municipalities, the decision was made to proceed with a shared **Animal Control** in anticipation thereof.

RESOLUTION #31-2014

Authorizing a Shared Services Agreement for Animal Control Services

WHEREAS, the municipalities of Delaware Township, the City of Lambertville and West Amwell Township have proposed to share the services of an Animal Control Officer (ACO); and

WHEREAS, shared services are authorized by N.J.S.A. 40A:65-1, et seq; and

WHEREAS, said municipalities have reviewed the Shared Services Agreement as proposed by West Amwell Township

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon and State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and Clerk are authorized

to sign the Shared Services Agreement for Animal Control Services as presented under the terms and conditions agreed to by the signatories.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the terms of the Shared Services Agreement shall be for one year

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution and the executed Shared Services Agreement be forwarded to the Department of Community Affairs.

The Resolution was unanimously approved on motion by Fisher with a second by Rich.

5) Mr. Fisher recommended that TJ Burd be brought on every week for ***manning the recycle depot***, and providing relief also for garbage as well as helping with anticipated clean up days. Mrs. Urbanski commented that the young man is an excellent worker.

Resolution to Sell Block 46 Lot 6 (83 Belvidere) – Attorney Faherty requested that this be held as further file review is needed for this pre-existing, non-conforming lot.

Meeting Date for Policies & Procedures Review – This will be a February 10th agenda item.

Building & Salt Issues – The township engineer was contacted about heating issues in the municipal building; has advised that this is one service that they do not provide; but, will see if a local MEP can be recommended. Mr. Rich commented that Rob Walton is in this type business. A quote was received last year for re-zoning the construction loop but was not acted upon. In another matter, the hot water faucets are emitting brown water. According to the plumber, this is due to the age of the hot water heater, which is rusting on the inside, and means that it is about to fail. The quote for a replacement is \$1500. Item approved. Clerk Olsen relayed that DPW Supervisor Hoagland has ordered the last of his authorized 300 tons on salt. However, he doesn't know when delivery will be made due to problems in the industry. In addition, he is not confident that this will be enough given the time of year. As a precaution, consideration is requested on another 300 tons. Mr. Rich elaborated on the acquisition problem being encountered—worker death and shipment hold by OSHA.

RESOLUTION #32-2014

WHEREAS, a master contract was awarded to International Salt Company, LLC (Rock Salt) by the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Bid No. 2013-17 for the 13/14 season, and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has previously authorized the purchase of up to 600 tons of said materials; and,

WHEREAS, the Road Supervisor has advised that an order has been placed for the remaining 300 tons and is concerned whether this quantity will be sufficient given the remaining months of winter weather to come

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell, that the Road Supervisor is hereby authorized to obtain, if and when needed, an additional 300 tons of snow and ice control materials from the referenced company

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CFO be notified of this authorization for budgetary purposes.

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

The mayor requested that the DPW Supervisor make contact with either himself or the deputy mayor prior to acting on the additional amount being approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Solar Ordinance – Mr. Fisher relayed that he was apprised of a problem with the ordinance and Mrs. Urbanski explained that the Code is missing definitions, zones, etc. and that it makes no sense as presented. The problem will be researched and General Code contacted. The East Amwell solar ordinance was mentioned and will be looked at by the Environmental Commission.

Amended S & W Resolution –

RESOLUTION #33-2014

BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of the Township of West Amwell that the 2014 Salary and Wage Resolution, adopted January 6, 2014, be amended as follows:

Position	Salary/Compensation
<u>Add:</u> Police Matron Williamson	\$15.00/hr
<u>Add:</u> Substitute Police Administrative Secretary	\$15.00/hr

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

LOSAP –

The ***eligible members list*** has been received from Chief Ent. There are only 7 members eligible to receive the stipend for 2013. The Committee was advised that they can request additional information but accepted the listing as presented.

RESOLUTION #34-2014

WHEREAS the LOSAP program requires that a certified list of eligible volunteers from an emergency service organization be submitted for review by the sponsoring agency; and,

WHEREAS said required list of members eligible to receive LOSAP awards for 2013 was received from the West Amwell Fire Company; and,

WHEREAS the sponsoring agency has 30 days to review the submitted list and request any records deemed necessary to ensure that the list is accurate; and,

WHEREAS the sponsoring agency has accepted the list as submitted

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the West Amwell Township Committee that the list is hereby approved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of the eligible member list, together with a copy of this Resolution, be returned to the West Amwell Fire Company for the 30-day required posting.

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

Township Volunteer Dinner Date – This annual event was confirmed for February 7th at the Fire House. Invitations will be sent out soon.

Department Budget Meetings – Mayor Rich requested that the two February meeting dates be offered.

Fire Company Membership Application – The membership application for Jeffrey Jamison was approved on motion by Rich, with a second by Fisher.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Attorney Faherty advised that he is working on the bid package for the Toll auction. A modified listing agreement for closing loopholes involving commission payment was provided by Mr. Fisher. The agreement is to be faxed to the listing broker with a notation that the property profile sheet will follow.

Priorities for snow plowing activities were discussed. The mayor noted his conversation with the DPW Supervisor about having the municipal lot/building ready to open by 8 a.m. during snow events. Mr. Fisher offered to work up a flow chart and plan for same for discussion during the department budget meeting.

Mr. Rich relayed that the transmission on the big DPW truck went out and expressed appreciation that the guys were able to hobble the vehicle back to the yard without calling for a tow truck.

Mr. Shute expressed kudos on the fine job that was done on Rocktown Road as the pot holes are gone.

Mayor Rich indicated interest in participating in the County's 2014 Surface Treatment (chip/seal) program. The status of the previously approved defibrillator was questioned. Harry Heller and/or Jeff Ent to be contacted. The anticipated cost of a new municipal building heating system was also raised.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Treasurer –

Presentation of Bills for Approval:

RESOLUTION #35-2014

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 \$1,713,166.23, dated January 22, 2014, 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.

Tax Collector – The monthly report for November & December 2013 were received showing receipts in the amount of \$2,196,332.22 and \$90,207.49, respectively. The Annual Report for 2013 is attached to these minutes.

Construction – The Permit Fee Log details (20/21), Tax Assessor Report/Permits (20/ 21) Monthly Activity Report-Permits, Payment Audit Report (29-\$6,515/30-\$9,691), Payment Summary Report (29/30), Tax Assessor Report-Certificates (17/16) Monthly Activity Report-Certificates (--/ 16), Certificate Log Detail (17/--)were received for PermitsNJ for September 2013 and December 2013.

Police – The December 2013 Monthly Report showing 818 incidents, 174 summonses and 1 warning was received.

Website Review – none.

The reports are filed were unanimously accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence as listed on the Agenda was ordered filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on motion from Rich.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk

APPROVED: February 10, 2014