

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

October 22, 2014 - 7:30 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 7:34 p.m. Present were Mayor George A. Fisher and Deputy Mayor Zachary T. Rich, Clerk Lora Olsen and Attorney Philip J. Faherty III. Committeeman John Dale was excused. Also in attendance were approximately 50 citizens.

Mayor Fisher 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. A sign in sheet was provided for attendees to register their presence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

Mayor Fisher led the assembled group in the pledge to the nation's flag.

AGENDA REVIEW BY TOWNSHIP CLERK

The following items were added: 12.A. Court Report for Jan-Sept, 2014.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Day Light Savings Time Ends 2 a.m., Sunday, November 2nd
- General Election Day, November 4th, 6 a.m. – 8 p.m., Municipal Building
- West Amwell Rabies Clinic, Municipal Complex, November 8th, 1-3 p.m.
- Municipal Offices Closed November 11th for Veterans Day
- Hazardous Waste Day – November 8th; ~~Electronics Recycling, October 11th~~, all 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., County Complex, Rt 12
- Community Paper Shredding Day, County Complex, Rt 12, Nov 1st, 9-1 p.m.
- Please Come to the Table if You Wish to Address the Committee
- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During Meeting

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

The October 13, 2014 Regular and Closed Session minutes were unanimously approved on motion from Rich, seconded by Fisher.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPIC NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr. Fisher announced that PennEast was originally expected to attend this meeting but pulled out. However, there will be a time for discussion later in the meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S) – None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing: Ordinance 20, 2014 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 10, 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

Proof of publication in the October 2, 2014 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat was presented. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public since its introduction at the September 24, 2014 Township Committee meeting. Mr. Fisher 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 from Rich, seconded by Fisher.

Public Hearing: Ordinance 21, 2014 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 109 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL (Woodlands Protection)

Proof of publication in the October 2, 2014 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat was presented. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public since its introduction at the September 24, 2014 Township Committee meeting and mailed to surrounding municipalities

and the Hunterdon County Planning Board. The Ordinance has been reviewed by the Planning Board, found consistent with the Master Plan and adoption recommended. Mr. Fisher 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 from Rich, seconded by Fisher.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Open Space

- *Lambert*: John Cronce reported that the application has received the 'green light' from SADC to move forward to appraisal stage. Hal Shute is spearheading this aspect.

- *Toll North*: This project continues to move slowly as a sale is in the mix. Mr. Cronce requested that the Environmental Commission be asked to investigate the proposed use as it could be an issue, noting that a major recycling business in Delaware was shut down due to odor. He requested permission to enlist said assistance and will provide additional information to its Chair, Cathy Urbanski. Request approved.

Environmental

- *Authorization to Post September 11, 2014 Minutes to Website*: Approved

- *Pipeline Meeting*: Cathy Urbanski relayed that she, Janice (Zuzov) and Jennifer (Andreoli) would like to set up a meeting with the public and gather information from the residents on the pipeline. The involvement of some Delaware Township residents is also desired as they have a heads up on information. Mr. Fisher noted that Cathy, Janice and Jennifer have been recruited for this task and requested that their appointment be made at this time. The Pipeline Task Force was then appointed by the mayor and approved by the Committee. The members are: Cathy Urbanski, Janice Zuzov, Jennifer Andreoli and George Fisher. These individuals can act as interveners for the Township when dealing with FERC and can prepare and disseminate information to the residents as well as communicate with similar groups in other townships. Mrs. Urbanski presented an informational flyer to be sent out, noting that a lot of signs have gone up but there residents that are dying for information; have no idea of what is going on; or, what the ramifications are. It is very important that everyone e-mail FERC as comments are being taken now and the Sierra Club has made commenting very easy to do via their website. The idea is to flood FERC with comments. The audience was made aware that most of the information being discussed is on the Township's website. Every piece of information received from the pipeline or from other communities in the pipeline's path can be found there. The website address, www.westamwelltp.org, was relayed to the audience.

Returning to the requested mailing, Mrs. Urbanski noted that she would like to get this out and set a meeting date. Other possible avenues of distribution would be the depot and South's list serve. An anonymous donor may be available for the printing and there is enough money the Environmental account to cover the postage. Mr. Fisher questioned if it would be prudent to hold off in case something more important came along but Mrs. Urbanski and the newly appointed committee will work on the schedule and determine what would work best. Signs are expected to arrive shortly from the Sourlands Conservancy and will be available by calling Mrs. Urbanski at 397-8459.

The Township's action plan was then summarized by Mr. Rich as: 1) committee appointed; 2) FERC e-mailing for public comment; 3) information available on the website; 4) resolution to be adopted; and, 5) elected officer letter from Assemblyman Peterson concerning towns without PennEast meetings.

It was then acknowledged that most of the attendees were here due to the pipeline. Mr. Fisher relayed that there's information on the website and a resolution is on the agenda for consideration. He also announced that there's a letter going out from Assemblyman Erik Peterson, the State representative for the 23rd district, together with the signatures of all mayors of the involved municipalities. A committee has been set up to provide guidance to residents but this movement is just getting started. There will be a lot more to come as things move forward. In response to criticisms that the Township has not done anything, Mr. Fisher stated that nothing could be further from the truth. Given the fact that one of the biggest supporters of the anti-pipeline movement is Hopewell Township and they only passed a resolution a couple of days ago, West Amwell is not that far behind everybody else. Attorney Faherty offered that those property owners who may be affected might also consider 'No Trespassing' signs and that it may not be a bad idea. As to a question how one would know if their property was affected, there is a map being circulated, with Mr. Rich adding that the company is not releasing theirs at this point. Therefore, exactly which residents are affected is not fully known. It was also noted that the line on the website map is estimated to be 1000 feet wide and it is unknown whether the company will continue with the particular route. There has been no direct contact with an

attorney or an official of the pipeline, only their hired spokesman. Letters have gone out to residents along the proposed route.

Carol Lipson, a brand-new resident of the Orleans development, inquired whether there was someone that could provide guidance as to how to handle the survey request that she received and whether it would be fair to assume that her house is potentially on the route. She was advised that it may be close but there's no way of knowing if it would be on her property due to the very wide line found on the map. As far as guidance from the Township, it's private property being surveyed. However, options are available on the website.

Attorney Faherty inquired whether there was anyone present who could confirm the rumor that all this gas is ear-marked for overseas, something that would be the biggest insult. The mayor indicated that he, too, had read this but that there are no facilities for shipping gas in the United States. The construction of same has been approved but there are currently no facilities that liquefy gas and ship it out of the United States.

Patty Cronheim, 204 Pennview Drive, Pennington NJ in Hopewell Township, came forward and relayed that she is the coordinator for the Hopewell Township Citizens Against the PennEast Pipeline. A letter from Mayor Vanessa Sandom was then read into the record. (Letter attached to the original minutes.) Ms. Cronheim commented that the letter made the case pretty completely but that she was here tonight on behalf of the Hopewell Township Citizens Against the PennEast pipeline to offer their support. The group is organized and has a good website www.HTCAPP.org with a lot of previously mentioned information that West Amwell can put up on their own. The group looks forward to working with West Amwell; there's already a close collaboration with the Township; over 300 people have already signed up with their group; and, there's a core group with legal, environmental, safety, historical, lobbying, and local advocacy committees. They are working hard and look forward to working and sharing any resources they have with West Amwell because individually, PennEast has us beat. They're big, powerful and have a lot of money. But collectively, we can really be 'cooking with gas.'

Michael Pisauro, policy director for the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association, offered the following in response to the question by Attorney Faherty concerning whether this gas is going to be shipped off coast. He stated that by looking at the PennEast pre-filed documents, it is quite clear that they are positioning this to get the biggest bang for their buck. As the mayor indicated correctly, there is currently no L&G plant. However, this pipeline doesn't plan on being in the ground until 2017. How quickly such a facility could come on line or a conversion of an existing plant be made for exporting maybe a matter of timing. The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association is strongly opposing this project and is looking forward to working with this township and others to organize a strategy to this end. He noted that he was in attendance at a forum of various environmental groups about the Delaware River Basin Commission. In speaking with an environmental committee member from a Pennsylvania township, he found that they're not any happier about the pipeline than we are. In response to a question from Mr. Rich concerning whether the Delaware River Basin Commission has had a meeting on this topic or if such is on their agenda, Mr. Pisauro indicated that he was not aware of same, although there has been a petition filed by the Delaware River Keeper to ask the Basin Commission to exercise its jurisdiction over this project. Whether or not they will do that is probably something they've not even started to analyze. As for the resolution, which will hopefully be passed tonight, Mr. Pisauro noted that the project is going to cross C1 streams, which will further degrade New Jersey's water quality and will fragment the forest. Despite what PennEast says, they can't restore the land and they're not going to restore the forest. Therefore, there's going to be a 90 – 125 foot swath of denuded forest going through the various counties and municipalities in state. This is not something we can afford. In closing, Mr. Pisauro stated that the organization is looking forward to working with this township and all the other towns in opposition to the pipeline and expressed appreciation to the Committee for taking this pro-active approach.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution Approving Power Purchasing Agreement (SHREC) – Action was held pending further investigation by Attorney Faherty as to need. He'll check with Lambertville to see exactly why they're asking the Township for it as key documents have already been signed.

PennEast Pipeline

- *Resolution of Opposition:* Copies of the proposed resolution were made available to the public. Mr. Fisher asked if there were any comments. Mr. Rich offered that he had no problem pushing this through although his big issue is not rushing into things where all facts are not

known. He would rather get all the facts and then proceed. Mrs. Urbanski countered by stating that she has researched this to no end and that this is not something we're rushing into. Mr. Rich continued that his previous experiences with FERC have not been pleasant and that where the pressure needs to be applied is on the Delaware River Basin Commission. He questioned who is pulling the levers on this project; if anything has been seen or heard from the governor; and, what is his stance may be. He understands the coalition but there needs to be backing from people that really have the muscle and strength to see this through.

Mr. Piaso reminded the Committee that the application goes into FERC this summer.

Jennifer Andreoli inquired about the hesitation and Mr. Rich relayed that his policy is to get all the facts and then execute the decision. With municipalities dropping the hammer on the company over the last 60 days, they've clammed up and won't talk to anybody. It would have been nice to have them here tonight and get the facts on the record, e.g., who's at FERC, what the governor has to say, etc., although his gut tells him that this project is not for us.

There has been an outreach to both the DEP and the SADC for their opinion as they are in charge of the preserved farmland but neither one of has offered an opinion, per the mayor. Mr. Fisher commented that he really doesn't want the pipeline coming through West Amwell because we get nothing out of it. There may be some taxation bump but it would not be enough to compensate for the aggravation. On the other hand, he realizes the need for home-grown energy. However, there seems to be rights of way all over West Amwell that could be utilized for this project instead of bringing through a brand new ditch, for which the Township receives nothing. So, for the reasons mentioned, Mr. Fisher stated that he opposes the pipeline.

Rick Weidel relayed that he has property that may be impacted. His question concerned preserved properties and who would receive the compensation when easements are involved. He was advised that there would be a split based on the stakeholders in that property. It was also relayed that the State usually contributes 60% of the easement value. Mr. Weidel concurred that this was his understanding as well but was looking for it factually. He noted that there's a potential conflict in that the SADC, if they don't have a position on it, stand to actually make money on the transaction. If nothing else, it's an interesting point.

Dave Beaumont came forward with some suggestions for the resolution. He commented that it's very comprehensive and covers the environmental aspects but suggested adding another item that would speak to the level of compensation that homeowners would be getting. The second was some verbiage concerning potential safety issues of the pipeline. Mr. Fisher disagreed with the first item in that it would not be based on fact and noted that the second item is already addressed in several places. Mr. Beaumont continued by inquiring about the difficult time that the Committee was having with figuring out whether or not to support the resolution. He asked whether they were here to represent the desires of the public or some other aspect of the issue. In response to the latter charge, the mayor offered that the desires of the municipality are always difficult because those who show up have one particular point of view whereas those that may have a different point of view, or possibly no point of view, and then there are a few who are all for free enterprise at any cost. Mr. Fisher continued by noting that the number in attendance is hardly a majority, although in driving around the township, there are certainly an equal number those with signs vs those without signs. In addition, the closer one is to the route, the more signs are seen. Therefore, there's a lot of conflicting information to be weighed. Mr. Beaumont agreed that if the feelings of the entire community are unknown, it is a little hard to determine what path should be taken.

Mr. Shute commented that that this is a very good resolution but it's an all or nothing one. That's okay but sometimes if it's all or nothing, you get nothing. His suggestion was to add some language to the effect that we definitely oppose the project 'as proposed.' As this fight is West Amwell against FERC, it's not even a contest per the mayor, and business-wise the route makes sense because there aren't that many people here to oppose it. However, the Township should oppose the pipeline because it does nothing for the municipality. Whether or not township opposition to the pipeline will affect the outcome is to be seen but Mr. Fisher expressed the opinion that the resolution covers concerns about the historic district, preserved farmland, etc., although holding on to the fact that the pipeline could go through existing easements so as to avoid cutting through virgin lands. Mr. Shute agreed with this assessment noting that there's a lot of easements running through the township and that there has to be a way through the maze.

Mr. Fisher proceeded to offer a few minor changes to the proposed resolution to keep it in line with facts as opposed to conjecture. With those changes, the following resolution was presented for consideration:

RESOLUTION #155-2014

WHEREAS, PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC, a joint project of AGL Resources, NJR Pipeline Company, a subsidiary of New Jersey Resources, South Jersey Industries, and UGI Energy Services, proposed the construction of a new virgin pipeline for the transfer and deliverance of natural gas from areas of Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline is approximately one hundred (100) miles long of thirty to thirty six inch (30-36") diameter buried pipe crossing parts of Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania and Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, as currently proposed, the pipeline cuts through West Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, causing or contributing to the following:

1. The proposed route of the buried pipeline goes directly through the Sourland Mountain region. This 90 square-mile region is characterized by a fragile ecological balance and is the largest contiguous forest in Central New Jersey. The Sourland Mountain region's biological diversity, critical forest, wetland and grassland habitats is seriously threatened by the proposed PennEast pipeline; and
2. This fragmentation of the Sourland forest will result in increased prime habitat for white-tailed deer, in a region already extremely overpopulated with white-tailed deer. Deer overpopulation is a direct cause of damage to agricultural crops, increased automobile accidents and increased cases of Lyme's disease; and
3. The proposed route of the buried pipeline route crosses the Alexauken Creek, a C-1 stream, and its tributaries, at least four times and crosses Peter's Brook, a tributary of a C-1 stream. C-1 streams are defined as waters protected by the State from any measurable changes in water quality because of their exceptional ecological function, habitat value, water supply significance and unique geology; and
4. Removal of trees and vegetation along creeks, streams and waterways will result in the loss of sediment filtration, thereby causing sediment buildup in these waterways and the waterways that flow into the Delaware and Raritan Canal, a source of drinking water for millions of New Jersey residents; and
5. The proposed route crosses properties that were purchased with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Funds, New Jersey Department of Agriculture Funds, Hunterdon County Open Space Funds, West Amwell Township Open Space Funds, as well as other properties that are subject to conservation easements and/or deed restrictions against development; and
6. The taxpayers of the State of New Jersey, Hunterdon County, West Amwell Township as well as foundations and individual donors and landowners have invested an estimated 40 million dollars to permanently preserve our farmland and woodlands in perpetuity; and
7. The proposed pipeline route is in direct opposition to the West Amwell Township Master Plan which provides for the preservation, conservation and utilization of natural resources, including open space, water supply, forests, soil, marshes, wetlands, rivers, and other waters, fisheries, endangered and threatened species wildlife and other resources.
8. The proposed route crosses the Mount Airy Historical District which has New Jersey and Federal Historic Designation: it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and
9. The construction of the pipeline through the rock formations of West Amwell could cause serious damage to the well and septic systems throughout the township; and

10. The proposed route of the pipeline may invade habitats of threatened and endangered species protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act, such as the bald eagle, the wood turtle, the long tailed salamander, the Indiana bat, the American Kestrel, and various plants and other animals protected by federal and state law; and
11. The construction of the pipeline will have a significant impact on private landowner's property with the pipeline needing a 50-100 foot permanent right of way and an additional unspecified amount of footage during the construction process, possibly hundreds of feet; and
12. The proposed pipeline causes damage to West Amwell Township residents by lowering property values, raising health concerns, raising safety concerns, impacting farms and residences, and generally degrading their quality of life and the historic, environmental and cultural resources they have dedicated themselves to protecting.

WHEREAS, the proposed pipeline through West Amwell will not provide energy to the Township or Hunterdon County residents and does not supply natural gas to this area and possibly not the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS if an amicable agreement cannot be reached, PennEast may have the ability to seek to take private property through eminent domain; and

WHEREAS, since the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is now hearing comments on the proposed PennEast pipeline proposed route through West Amwell Township, it is appropriate for West Amwell to take action to protect citizen's property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell, Hunterdon County, New Jersey as follows:

1. The West Amwell Township Committee does hereby object to the design and construction of a 30-36 inch pipeline passing through and under West Amwell Township Hunterdon County. The construction and operation of the pipeline will significantly damage C-1 protected streams, the Sourland ridge and region, wildlife habitat, existing farm operations, and the quality of life in West Amwell Township.
2. The West Amwell Township Committee calls for a moratorium on any and all planning for the PennEast Pipeline and requests that any such project, if approved, be removed from the reaches of Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey and Luzerne, Carbon, Northampton and Bucks Counties in Pennsylvania
3. The West Amwell Township Committee is cooperating with other similarly located and affected municipalities, asking that all nearby affected municipalities adopt a similar resolution.
4. The West Amwell Township Committee adopts, and calls upon similarly situated municipalities to adopt a resolution authorizing each municipality to join together to enter their appearance in any proceeding before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the Delaware River Basin Commission, the New Jersey Public Utility Commission, and any other regulatory authority, so that by the strength of numbers they may successfully oppose the PennEast Pipeline project and have the ability to cause the termination of the project so as to prevent environmental degradation and to protect the environment envisioned by the State of New Jersey.
5. The West Amwell Township Committee and its appointees will act as an Intervener and/or Objector to the proposed PennEast Pipeline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Township Committee authorizes the administration to participate and intervene in the regulatory process as necessary to protect the interests of the Township and its residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor Chris Christie, President Barack Obama, U.S. Senator Robert Menendez, U.S. Senator Cory Booker, Congressman Rush Holt, Senator Shirley K. Turner, Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman, Assemblyman Reed Gusciora, affected municipalities in Hunterdon and Mercer Counties in New Jersey and the New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

The Resolution was unanimously approved, with changes as made, on motion by Rich, seconded by Fisher.

- *Joint Legislator/Mayor Letter.* Mr. Fisher noted that the referenced letter is going out under Assemblyman Erik Peterson's signature, together with those of the mayors along the pipeline route in Hunterdon County. The letter, as read into the record, is as follows:

October, 2014

PennEast Pipeline Company LLC
One Meridian Boulevard, Suite 2C01
Wyomissing, PA 19610

To Whom It May Concern:

As elected representatives of those who will be directly affected by the proposed PennEast Pipeline, we are disappointed that PennEast has cancelled the public meetings in Alexandria, Kingwood, and West Amwell Townships.

We applauded and supported your initial public outreach plan to have PennEast representatives attend, make presentations, and answer questions regarding the proposed pipeline at town hall meetings in each town the pipeline travels through. The cancellation of these remaining town specific meetings indicates that PennEast has taken a markedly different attitude towards the people affected by this pipeline. To defend this by stating that you never had any obligation to hold meetings prior to submitting your plans for approval is disheartening to say the least.

The meetings you are obligated to hold, which would employ a station format and be regionalized, are not an adequate forum for property owners to voice their opinions. The format proposed by your company for the legally required meetings will fragmentize public discourse and minimize the access property owners will have to voice their concerns and to hear their neighbors' concerns.

Under federal law your organization has the power to invoke Eminent Domain should a property owner not be willing to sell your company an easement. The power of Eminent Domain is a draconian act and we believe that people deserve the right to be heard in an open public setting before your company even contemplates its use. Although not legally required, town hall meetings are the right thing to do under these circumstances.

Respectfully, we demand that you reschedule these meetings.

Sincerely,

Mr. Rich commented that it appears that the Township is 'not behind' anymore.

A brief interlude in the meeting ensued as most of those in the audience left the meeting.

Possible Appointments – The appointment of the Pipeline Task Force was made earlier in the meeting.

Construction Office Discussion

- *Possible Shared Service with East Amwell:* Mr. Fisher relayed that he met with East Amwell and they're interested in sharing service with the building department. A copy of the Township's fee schedule has been requested by Mr. Matheny who will in turn send over a copy of their current contract with Raritan. Various items were discussed and it looks very do-able. Construction Official Rose has also been involved and doesn't see any problems. The only negative is that the building department is running quite nicely now and interjecting change runs the risk of inserting problems. Mr. Fisher noted that his big concern was for whether the employees in the building department would be willing to cover another municipality, but they seem to be on board. The idea is for West Amwell to keep the fees for East Amwell permits.

East Amwell residents would come to the West Amwell building department for permits, pay the fees, and the Township's building department staff would take care of the plan review and inspections. The Clerk was requested to follow up with East Amwell for a copy of their current contract.

- *Additional Secretary:*

In conjunction with the previous discussion, Mr. Fisher relayed that the Construction Coordinator is talking about reducing her present hours. The options available are to either find someone full time or bring in another person part time to supplement the requested reduction. Mr. Rich added that he was contacted by the Construction Official about this particular issue as well as a couple others. All were in agreement that it would be detrimental to lose the current employee and that a way to bring the hours down to 15-20/week needs to be explored. Some suggestions offered were to bring the police secretary in for a few hours as she is looking to gain full time status to be eligible for paid holidays; bringing back a previous employee who is interested in returning to West Amwell; advertise; or, bring in someone with a TA certificate. The latter would be someone's spouse and Mr. Fisher inquired about whether the Township had a policy about this...which is, yes. A decision is not expected this evening on staffing but Mr. Rich advised that the expectation is that the Committee would not sit on the issue. Mr. Fisher will reach out during the week. Mr. Rich also noted that there's been a request for a printer in the Construction office. This will also be researched and discussed further with the parties involved.

Discussion on JCP&L Tree Logs –

- *Dissemination of Information on Availability:* JCP&L has started construction at the Rocktown substation which involves tree clearing. Mr. Rich advised that at first he thought that the contractors were going to cut them up over there and deliver the wood here but that has changed. At the moment it's the possibility of 100, 50 foot logs, which would result in around 100 cords. The concern here is about having residents cutting the logs on Township property...something that is not favored. The Road Supervisor has expressed a willingness to cut the first load of logs into manageable lengths but if it becomes overwhelming, it'll have to be shut down. How to handle the donation to township residents, and if there was a desire to limit quantities, was also questioned. The expectation is that the logs will start arriving soon and that a decision will have to be made on the foregoing items. Mr. Rich offered that this is meant to be a good thing and will be if managed properly. Concern was again expressed about residents and chain saws on municipal property, even if the wood was previously cut. Mr. Cronic questioned the activity being proposed; whether the Township has the manpower for it; offered that there's a lot of things that the road department doesn't get done; why the wood would be cut for someone else; and, that this is going to be a major production. He continued that this is not something the Township should be getting into. Mr. Fisher agreed that the DPW couldn't possibly cut the wood into 18 inch lengths as this would be a full time job and relayed that his conversation with the Road Supervisor is that he is not happy about the prospect. Discussion continued about other possible ways to handle the situation to benefit residents but liability issues remain. The receipt of the logs was an idea that originated at the Township level, according to Mr. Shute. Any change to what was set in motion needs to be conveyed to John Anderson at JCP&L as the contractor will start hauling soon. Mr. Fisher will speak with Mr. Anderson and Mr. Hoagland. Item held for the November 10th meeting.

Letter from Green Acres Concerning Turf Field Grant Request – Although a number has been assigned to the proposal, the letter advised that West Amwell is a standard municipality and eligible only for 100% loan funding...not a grant as submitted. The Township must either submit a revised resolution requesting loan funding or provide written notification to withdraw the application. The mayor requested that the Clerk get a letter out to the school board, along with a copy of the Green Acres letter, advising them that there will be no grant and that the only thing available is a low interest loan, which is not what was desired. The Board meets on October 27th.

CFO & CTC Advertisements – Previous ads, along with additional information concerning the positions, was provided for review and possible revision. Mayor Fisher stated that, for the record, he's opposed to both situations but was outvoted. The Clerk was instructed to use the existing ads and place same on the League website.

Updates – 1) The October 19th **300th Event @ Mt. Airy** went well with approximately 25 people in attendance. There was a tour of some older homes and lots of interesting historical information presented. Mt. Airy lived up to its name in that it was quite breezy but the sun was bright. Peter Buchsbaum deserves kudos for a good job. 2) Attorney Faherty noted that County Counsel has been contacted concerning the **Rygg** letter but there's been no return call as of 4:30 today. Kathleen Petrelli, 16 Williamson Lane, an original member of the Orleans

board of directors, left her contact information with the Clerk should anyone wish to reach out. She knows exactly what happened and what they just now circumvented

NEW BUSINESS

West Amwell PTO – The raffle application is for an X-box1. The Findings and Determination were reviewed and approved.

RESOLUTION #156-2014

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 regular meeting.

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

TO: PTO West Amwell School
BENEFIT: West Amwell Elementary School 6th Grade Class
DATE: December 22, 2014
TIME: 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: West Amwell School
1417 Route 179, Lambertville NJ 08530

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

West Amwell PTO – The raffle application is for a flat screen HDTV. The Findings and Determination was reviewed and approved.

RESOLUTION # 157-2014

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 regular meeting.

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

TO: PTO West Amwell School
BENEFIT: West Amwell Elementary School 6th Grade Class
DATE: January 26, 2015
TIME: 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: West Amwell School
1417 Route 179, Lambertville NJ 08530

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

West Amwell PTO – The raffle application is for an iPad. The Findings and Determination was reviewed and approved.

RESOLUTION #158-2014

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 regular meeting.

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

TO: PTO West Amwell School
BENEFIT: West Amwell Elementary School 6th Grade Class
DATE: March 30, 2015
TIME: 12:00 p.m.
LOCATION: West Amwell School
1417 Route 179, Lambertville NJ 08530

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

Award of Kari Drive Bid – Attorney Faherty has reviewed the bid packets and found them to be in order.

RESOLUTION #159-2014

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell advertised, and subsequently received bids, for the Kari Drive improvement project on October 15, 2014, as outlined on the attached bid summary:

WHEREAS, three bids were received as follows:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Hale Built/Glen G. Hale, Inc.	\$ 56,210.01
Diamond Construction	\$ 91,600.00
Top Line Construction Corp.	\$ 66,290.00

WHEREAS, Richard Roseberry, Township Engineer, has reviewed the submitted bids and determined that Hale Built/Glen G. Hale, Inc., 3511 Glover Road, Easton, PA 18040, submitted the lowest bid in the amount of \$56,210.01 and;

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell has sufficient funds to award the Contract.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Committee of the Township of West Amwell that the Contract for the Kari Drive Improvement Project be and is hereby awarded to Hale Built/Glen G. Hale, Inc. 3511 Glover Road, Easton, PA 19040, subject to the following condition:

1. The Contract is awarded as a unit price bid Contract and final payment will be based upon the actual quantities installed at the unit prices bid, as outlined in the Plans and Specifications prepared by Richard Roseberry, P.E., Township Engineer.

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

Items for Discussion

- *Possibility of Official RFP for Insurance/Risk Manager:* Mr. Rich relayed that he's been in touch with Freeholder Walton and had hoped to piggy-back on the one from the County. This has not yet been developed according the Clerk's conversation with John Davenport. Mr. Rich offered to provide a sample RFP. Agenda item for the November 10th meeting.

- *DCA Contact for Inquiry on Additional Energy Receipts for JCP&L Substation:* A verdict on the expansion and its possible effect on Township receipts is something that Mr. Rich is interested in determining. A contact name is needed and it was suggested that the Clerk reach out to the League for same.

Resolution Concerning Proposed Amendment to Hunterdon County Water Quality

Management Plan – Held pending Planning Board review. Agenda item for the November 26th meeting.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Attorney Faherty requested permission to reach out to the engineer concerning the Rygg/Hills @ Hunterdon issue. Approved. Mr. Fisher also suggested that Attorney Faherty speak with the County Engineer to ascertain who takes care of the County bridges. Attorney Faherty will explain and send a copy of both agreements, noting that there are a lot of inconsistencies in Mr. Rygg's statement. He also questioned what the Estates at West Amwell had to do with this as it's Township grass being cut there.

CFO Tom Carro requested clarification on the \$990,000 bond borrowing amount. After a brief discussion over the budget situation and the risk for next year, Mr. Carro was approved to borrow \$650,000.

Mr. Beaumont inquired whether the ballot question concerning increasing the township committee to five members was a survey or a binding question. He was advised that it was

non-binding. Mr. Beaumont suggested that a Letter to the Editor be sent to the Beacon and Democrat. This was met in the affirmative.

Mrs. Olsen relayed that in 1846 the township had a five member committee per her research for the 300th. This lasted until 1879 when the number was reduced to three. There was no explanation given as to the reasons for the shift. The first meetings were held in April. In 1905 this changed to January 1st. Again, no explanation was given.

Mr. Beaumont also inquired about setting up list serve capability on the website but was advised that this would entail compiling e-mail addresses. The management of same was noted as well as the fact that the high school has a big advantage in sphere of influence and interest. Mr. Beaumont expressed appreciation to the Committee for the pipeline resolution.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Treasurer –

RESOLUTION #160-2014

WHEREAS, it has been determined by Township Committee of West Amwell Township that the following applicant's escrow fees are in excess of what was needed to cover their charges, and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has approved a refund of the following amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to refund the following amount to the applicants:

Applicant	Amount Refunded
Elizabethtown Gas (52 Frontage Road)	\$240.00

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

Presentation of Bills for Approval: An addendum to the bill list was received in the amount of \$3,331.13.

RESOLUTION #161-2014

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 \$197,416.48, dated October 22, 2014, as presented by the Township Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, be paid from existing appropriations.

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

Treasurer Report: Appropriations through October 22, 2014 were provided and reviewed.

Tax Collector – The monthly report for September 2014 was received showing receipts in the amount of \$90,560.06.

Court – The January through September 2014 report was received showing a ticket total of 378 (184 local) and the receipt of \$90,265.65.

The reports were received and reviewed without comment.

Mr. Fisher noted the receipt of an e-mail from Deputy Clerk Haberle with the suggestion that a letter be sent informing people that they can pay their taxes early next year to avoid the jump that will come in the 3rd & 4th quarters. Mr. Fisher will speak with the Tax Collector and the possibility of re-sending the earlier letter was floated. It was relayed that the ability to pre-pay taxes is always available and that there are some residents that do this now.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence as listed on the Agenda was ordered filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:18 p.m. on motion from Fisher.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk

APPROVED: November 10, 2014