

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

February 4, 2015 - 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 7:35 p.m. Present were Mayor George A. Fisher, Deputy Mayor Zachary T. Rich, Committeeman John Dale, Clerk Lora Olsen and Attorney Philip J. Faherty III. Also in attendance were

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, 2015, 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

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

AGENDA REVIEW BY TOWNSHIP CLERK

The following items were deleted: 12.A & 12.B, Treasurer; Tax Collector

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2015 Dog Licenses Overdue – Late Fee Applies
- Municipal Offices Closed February 16th for Presidents Day
- Please Come to the Table if You Wish to Address the Committee
- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During Meeting

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 28, 2015 meeting, which was re-scheduled from January 21, 2015, were unanimously approved on motion Dale, seconded by Rich.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPIC NOT ON THE AGENDA

No one came forward.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S) - none

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING - none

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS - none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Possible Appointments – No appointments were made.

Closed Session –

RESOLUTION #36-2015

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:
PERSONNEL – PENDING RETIREMENT
3. It is anticipated at this time that the above stated subject matter will be made public when the matter has been resolved.
4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

The meeting returned to Open Session at 8:01 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Requests from Boards/Committees/Dept. Heads –

Road Supervisor Randy Hoagland requested the following:

- the OE budget be increased by \$10,000
- that the salt acquisition total be raised to 800 tons and funded accordingly
- a 3% raise for the employees
- a new dump truck should be anticipated in the capital budget for 2016; otherwise the township is in good shape equipment-wise for 2015.

He relayed that the road chip/seal program is such that it'll never catch up, noting that Gulick Road had to be dropped last year due to the budget deficit. A letter from the County has been received for program participation in 2015 with a response due by February 24th.

Captain Steve Bartzak's police department requests included:

- \$5,000 for education and training
- \$16,000 for uniform cleaning/allowance
- \$16,000 for supplied/equipment
- \$60,000 in other expenses
- \$35,000 for vehicle maintenance
- \$15,000 to lease an all-wheel drive 2015 SUV, although there is nothing on State contract at the moment, and that acquiring one new vehicle per year reduces maintenance costs
- Increasing the police secretary to \$18.00/hr

Also on the list were ten new Glock 40 caliber weapons to replace those that are 15 years old and three additional rifles for school security purposes.

Construction Official Chris Rose provided a brief update on receipts to date. East Amwell permits brought in \$7500 with those from West Amwell at \$3500, noting that the months of January and February are slow in the code enforcement department. There were no capital requests but a doubling of the salaries of the sub-code officials was solicited as was an increase in the weekly gas allowance. A proposed \$20.00/hr for the Office Coordinator was noted as well the need for funds for the proposed second office person.

Rob Tomenchok, Planning Board Chair, relayed that the operating portion of their budget can remain at 2014 levels and that he anticipates no more than 12 meetings for the year. The main projects include finishing the Land Use ordinance, making minor changes to the Master Plan and completing the review other ordinances. For the latter work, plan an extra \$2500 to cover the planner and engineer fees.

Fire Company Chief Jeff Ent presented his operating and capital budgets. He also requested \$5000 be included in the temporary budget. A slight increase in the operating budget over last year for mandatory maintenance/repair and testing (\$20,985.00) was noted. A balance of \$8,447.00 remains in SCBA upgrade kit reimbursement category. The ongoing request from 2012 to replace Engine 26 was reviewed in that this is the last year for the \$407,921 State contract price. The position of the Committee is that once the payments for the ladder truck are completed, funds will be available to consider a truck purchase. A capital budget request of \$15,000 was made for new and replacement turn out gear, as there are several new members.

Mr. Ent then spoke about insurance. He was unaware that the company had been changed as he had been working with Beth Britton of Wells Fargo and reviewing a list of equipment that was not on the PAIC policy. He has since been in contact with the new risk manager and will schedule a time to meet and review coverage, noting that the portable equipment has a value of \$700,000 but was only insured previously for \$300,000. There is also the issue of 15 year full replacement on the apparatus that will need to be ascertained and verified with the new company.

A general discussion on budget issues were brought back to the table. Future budget meetings are to be scheduled for either a Monday or Wednesday when the CFO is available. With the pending retirement of Mr. Hoagland, an extended discussion ensued over job description, replacement and direction. An employment ad is to be drafted for a full time/part-time person and shared for comment.

Also mentioned was that the shared service with Lambertville for the use of their recycling truck ends September 30th. A determination of whether to renew the shared service or purchase a truck independently is needed.

The request for payment of sick time similar to that received by police officers was discussed as a result of the closed session held earlier in the evening. The current policy manual states that there is no payment for sick time upon termination of employment. To do so would require a change to the policy manual and would apply to all employees. Fisher motioned to change the policy manual to allow payment. There was no second. Motion died. Chapter 48 provisions for retired employee health benefits was also a topic of conversation that will require further research.

LOSAP

- *Receipt of Eligible Members List*: There are only 9 eligible recipients for 2014.
- *Resolution*:

RESOLUTION #37-2015

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 from Fisher, seconded by Rich.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There was no longer any public in attendance.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Construction – Permits NJ reports were received as follows:
West Amwell Monthly Activity Report-Permits (10); Monthly Activity Report-Certificates (12).
East Amwell Monthly Activity Report-Permits (21); Monthly Activity Report-Certificates (2).
Reports from the Road Runner system for East Amwell were:
Monthly Activity Report-Permits (11); Monthly Activity Report-Certificates (31).

Police – The January 2015 Monthly Report showing 855 incidents, 138 summonses and 2 warnings was received.

The reports were received without comment.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence as listed on the Agenda was ordered filed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:29 p.m. on motion from Dale.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora L. Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk