

# **WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING**

**July 15, 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, Committeeman John Dale, Clerk Lora Olsen and Attorney Philip J. Faherty III. Deputy Mayor Rich was absent.

Also in attendance were John Anderson of JCP&L, Jim Cally, John Cronce, Hal Shute, Cathy Urbanski, Dave Beaumont, John Haug, Bruce Runkle, John Dupuis, Ron Shapella, Mike Spille and family plus a few unidentified individuals.

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**

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

## **AGENDA REVIEW BY TOWNSHIP CLERK**

Nothing was added.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Next Regular Township Meeting – August 19<sup>th</sup>
- A Township-wide Dog Census, Conducted by Animal Control & Investigative Services, will commence within the next couple of weeks. Hours of this Census count are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Census takers will have I.D.
- Please Come to the Table if You Wish to Address the Committee
- Kindly Turn Cell Phones Off During Meeting

## **PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

The following Regular, Special and Closed Session minutes were unanimously approved on motion from Dale, seconded by Fisher.

June 17, 2015 Special

June 17, 2015 Closed Session (Personnel Interviews)

June 17, 2015 Regular

July 2, 2015 Special

July 2, 2015 Closed Session (Safety & Protection of the Public)

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

John Anderson of JCP&L provided an update on the Rocktown-Lamb. Substation expansion by relaying that the facility is up and running with focus now on site remediation. There will be approximately 500 loads of soil removed from the site starting today and the trucks will head towards Lambertville and Pennsylvania. Once this material has been removed, the final remediation of the right of way (ROW) and temporary road will commence. Restoration of the top soil and seeding will follow. He requested that the citizenry bear with them due to the amount of stone and truck traffic. The road bed will be swept daily.

Mr. Fisher commented that he's been happy with the work, that there's been no problems, and it's been a pleasure working with the company with Mr. Dale adding appreciation for the updates. Mr. Anderson extended his appreciation for the cooperation experienced and will continue to provide project updates.

John Haug of 3 Broadway Court, inquired whether the Township has looked into providing curbside garbage pickup, noting that their current bills are approaching \$1000 a year with the private hauler. In response, Mayor Fisher explained that the Township can't do both depot and curbside, noting that the latter would require additional trucks, man power, and disposal fees. A suggestion was made that this type of collection be in concert with Lambertville. However, it

was relayed that Lambertville uses prisoners in the collection process, a program that has been halted and cannot be expanded.

Mike Spille of Citizens Against the Pipeline (CAP) inquired about the mayor's meeting with representative of PennEast, referencing a similar meeting recently in Delaware Township that made the papers. At that meeting, it was learned that PennEast offered \$5 million over 5 years and to make up any difference in money in another way...something that is apparently legal in Pennsylvania. Mr. Fisher acknowledged that he, the clerk and Jim Hamtil had met with PennEast representatives on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. He commented that this was a general meeting about changes to the route and landowner payments, with the reps advised that cell towers pay money to the landowner every year. The mayor also noted that the group is not meeting with the public due to these settings becoming a shout fest. The representatives were trying to get him involved but Mr. Fisher stated that he's not going to influence the pipeline. They spoke about taxes and adjustments with the Texas Eastern pipeline and how taxes for improvements are arrived at. The mayor saw no difference between this meeting and the one recently held with Comcast. Mr. Spille inquired whether the mayor would release a public statement. The indication was that he would.

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)**

None

### **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING**

**Public Hearing:** Ordinance 07, 2015 BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF A GARBAGE TRUCK IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$50,000 THEREFORE AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$47,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

Proof of publication in the June 25, 2015 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat was presented. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public since its introduction at the June 17, 2105 Township Committee meeting. Mayor Fisher read the Ordinance by title and opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, the public hearing was unanimously closed.

*The Ordinance was unanimously approved on motion from Dale, seconded by Fisher.*

**Introduction:** Ordinance 08, 2015

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

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE FUNDING OF THE TOWNSHIP'S COST SHARE OF AN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS EASEMENT TO BE ACQUIRED ON CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 3, LOT 16 (LAMBERT FARM) IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$135,000.00, FROM THE OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, as follows:

Section 1. The improvements described in Section 2 of this ordinance are hereby authorized as general improvements to be made or acquired by the Township of West Amwell, New Jersey. For the said improvements or purposes described in Section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$135,000.00, said sum being inclusive of all appropriations heretofore made therefore.

Section 2. The Township of West Amwell is hereby authorized to fund the township's share of the cost of the acquisition by the County of Hunterdon of an agricultural development rights easement on certain real property known as Block 3, Lot 16 (Lambert Farm) as part of the Township's Farmland Preservation Program, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and stated that the undertaking of the aforesaid work, acquisition or improvement is not a current expense of the Township of West Amwell, but rather a capital expense and the estimated cost of said work, acquisition or improvement of said purpose is \$135,000.00.

Section 4. The sum of \$135,000.00 is therefore appropriated for said purpose. The funding is provided by appropriating \$135,000.00 from the Open Space Trust Fund of the Township of West Amwell for said purpose as required by law and now available in one or more previously adopted budgets of the Township of West Amwell.

Section 5. There is no debt authorized for this improvement or purpose.

Section 6. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Township Clerk and Attorney, as the case may be, are authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 et seq., and any other applicable law, to prepare and sign any and all necessary documentation to effectuate the Township's share of the cost of the direct acquisition of an agricultural development rights easement by the County of Hunterdon through the New Jersey State Agricultural Development Committee's (SADC's) Municipal Planning Incentive Grant Farmland Preservation Program, concerning the property known as Block 3, Lot 16 (Lambert Farm), including, but not limited to, any agreements and amendments thereto and any closing documents needed to assist the County of Hunterdon in completing the purchase.

Section 7. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption according to law.

*Dale moved to introduce the Ordinance on first reading and Fisher seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The public hearing will be held August 19<sup>th</sup>.*

**Introduction:** Ordinance 09, 2015

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

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE FUNDING OF THE TOWNSHIP'S COST SHARE OF AN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS EASEMENT TO BE ACQUIRED ON CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS BLOCK 5, LOTS 24 AND 24.01 (AMWELL CHASE FARM) IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL, IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$335,000.00, FROM THE OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, NEW JERSEY, as follows:

Section 1. The improvements described in Section 2 of this ordinance are hereby authorized as general improvements to be made or acquired by the Township of West Amwell, New Jersey. For the said improvements or purposes described in Section 2, there is hereby appropriated the sum of \$335,000.00, said sum being inclusive of all appropriations heretofore made therefore.

Section 2. The Township of West Amwell is hereby authorized to fund the township's share of the cost of the acquisition by the County of Hunterdon of an agricultural development rights easement on certain real property known as Block 5, Lots 24 and 24.01 (Amwell Chase Farm) as part of the Township's Farmland Preservation Program, including all related costs and expenditures incidental thereto.

Section 3. It is hereby determined and stated that the undertaking of the aforesaid work, acquisition or improvement is not a current expense of the Township of West Amwell, but rather a capital expense and the estimated cost of said work, acquisition or improvement of said purpose is \$335,000.00.

Section 4. The sum of \$335,000.00 is therefore appropriated for said purpose. The funding is provided by appropriating \$335,000.00 from the Open Space Trust Fund of the Township of West Amwell for said purpose as required by law and now available in one or more previously adopted budgets of the Township of West Amwell.

Section 5. There is no debt authorized for this improvement or purpose.

Section 6. The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Township Clerk and Attorney, as the case may be, are authorized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 et seq., and any other applicable law, to prepare and sign any and all necessary documentation to effectuate the Township's share of the cost of the direct acquisition of an agricultural development rights easement by the County of Hunterdon through the New Jersey State Agricultural Development Committee's (SADC's) Hunterdon County Planning Incentive Grant Farmland Preservation Program, concerning the property known as Block 5, Lots 24 and 24.01 (Amwell Chase Farm), including, but not limited to, any

agreements and amendments thereto and any closing documents needed to assist the County of Hunterdon in completing the purchase.

Section 7. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon adoption according to law.

*Dale moved to introduce the Ordinance on first reading and Fisher seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The public hearing will be held August 19<sup>th</sup>.*

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Open Space

- *Approval of & Mailing of 2015-2016 Hunting Regulations, Letter to Contact Person, Deer Hunting Survey.* A set of revised regulations, together with a letter and survey were presented by Cathy Urbanski for review. Approved for posting and mailing.

- *Lambert Survey Resolution:* Hal Shute relayed that 3 quotes were received for the needed survey work. The recommendation is for Bohren & Bohren.

### RESOLUTION #112-2015

WHEREAS, a boundary survey is needed for Lambert, Block 3, Lot 16; and  
WHEREAS, quotes have been received as follows:

Bohren & Bohren	\$ 5,560.00
Goldenbaum Baill Engineering, Inc	\$ 7,000.00
Carroll Engineering	\$14,860.00

WHEREAS, the requested survey is to conform and be in accordance with current SADC standards and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the completed survey is to be completed within 4 weeks of engagement

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the West Amwell Township Committee that the boundary survey for Block 3 Lot 16 be awarded to Bohren & Bohren in the amount of \$5,560.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this expense be charged to Open Space preliminary expenses

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

- *Discussion of SADC Policy Concerning Condemnation:* Mr. Shute commented that there's a policy paper available on this topic, especially with PennEast concerns. A letter from the County containing a link to this information has also just been received. Mrs. Urbanski will provide the actual document for posting. Mr. Shute relayed that with preserved farmland, PennEast has to condemn. Once this has happened, the SADC gets 65% of the compensation. This has been vetted and is legal. Under this arrangement, the Township may get condemnation money if there was participation in the preservation deal to the tune of 20%. Mr. Shute inquired whether the township wants the money or waive it to give to the landowner and whether or not this would be legal. The mayor indicated that he was uncomfortable making a decision on the latter at this point although it is an interesting concept. Mr. Dale offered that this is something that would require a thorough review. It was suggested that the attorney contact the County for additional insight.

- *Project Status Updates:* There are currently four farmland preservation projects in various stages. **Lambert** and **Amwell Chase** are moving to survey stage and are anticipated to close in the fall. The Lambert contract has been signed but not Toll (Amwell Chase) as yet. However, the County and State are moving ahead with this and Mr. Shute indicated that he doesn't want to hold up the project. A recent meeting with the SADC concerning the two **Fulper** properties is in a jam in that the head appraiser said that the Township cannot just preserve one side as all the properties are linked due to the GDP. The only way it can be done is for all to be under 8 acre zoning. Mr. Shute will speak with Mr. Fulper as to whether there is any way to go. The **Holcombe** project has issues with the cell tower. The SADC looked closely and the lease gives an opportunity to expand onto another property. There is no limiting language. Attorney Faherty is looking into the lease provisions for clarification. The Ziegenfuss matter continues to be a work in progress, per Attorney Faherty.

Mr. Shute drew attention to the recently received **Green Acres** letter concerning the posting of signs on lands preserved with Green Acres funding. He relayed that Hewitt Park is in compliance but that it goes downhill from there. He foresees no problem with the installation of the large sign on Township properties but landowner notice will be required in other cases. The

public access sign is a thorny issue in that once advertised, the question is where it is located. It will be a big job to post all public access properties. There are also trail markers but no trails currently exist. Mr. Shute will draft a response to Green Acres.

**Environmental**

- *Authorization to Post May 14, 2015 Minutes to Website:* Approved
- *Discussion on the JCP&L Mitigation Plantings:* Held

**Finance**

- *Authorization to Post May 21, 2015 Minutes to Website:* Approved

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Possible Appointments** – None

**Updates** – 1) ***Rocktown-Lamb***. Road project is waiting for approval from NJDOT according to an e-mail received from the Township Engineer. Mr. Fisher requested that Mr. Burr be asked about whether the extra 100 ft of road work near the orchard was included in the submission. John Cronce offered that he has not been contacted by the engineer about the pipe at the Fulper farm as this needs to be discussed. 2) Attorney Dick Cushing has filed the ***Declaratory Judgement*** paperwork by the July 8<sup>th</sup> deadline on behalf of the Township in this affordable housing matter. 3) Mr. Fisher's proposed letter for Inclusion in tax bills was reviewed. Dave Beaumont gave a brief synopsis of collections from 2008 and offered the conclusion that there was still money saved through the regionalization. 4) A letter concerning the ***Dog Census*** that will be left when there's no one at home was reviewed and approved. 5) Quotes were solicited for replacing the ***municipal sign***. There was only one response and a possible award is pending receipt of required paperwork.

**Reversal of June 17<sup>th</sup> Decision of Chris Rose Request**

RESOLUTION #113-2015

WHEREAS, approval was given at the June 17, 2015 meeting to change the term of the Township loan to Chris Rose; and

WHEREAS, it has since come to light that the requested change is not permitted under NJSA 40A:12-13

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the decision made at the referenced meeting is hereby revoked

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

**Results of MuniBid Auction**

- *2000 John Deere Mower with Boom/Resolution of Award:*

RESOLUTION #114-2015

WHEREAS, the West Amwell Township Committee authorized the auction of a 2000 John Deere 5410 2WD Tractor with Boom Mower through MuniBid; and,

WHEREAS, said auction concluded on July 14 at 3:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the auction resulted in a high bid of \$15,977.00 from Eugene Smith, Jr.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the West Amwell Township Committee that the bid received from Eugene Smith, Jr. in the amount of \$15,977.00 for the 2000 John Deere 5410 2WD Tractor with Boom Mower is hereby accepted

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purchaser present a certified check made payable to West Amwell Township in the amount of \$15,977.00 within 10 days of notification of this award

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

- *1997 International Dump Truck/Resolution of Award:*

RESOLUTION #115-2015

WHEREAS, the West Amwell Township Committee authorized the auction of a 1997 International 4900 Single Axle Dump Truck through MuniBid; and,

WHEREAS, said auction concluded on July 14 at 3:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the auction resulted in a high bid of \$7,807.00 from William McDermott

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the West Amwell Township Committee that the bid received from William McDermott in the amount of \$7,807.00 for the 1997 International 4900 Single Axle Dump Truck is hereby accepted

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purchaser present a certified check made payable to West Amwell Township in the amount of \$7,807.00 within 10 days of notification of this award

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

*- 2008 Crown Vic/Resolution of Award:*

RESOLUTION #116-2015

WHEREAS, the West Amwell Township Committee authorized the auction of a 2008 Crown Victoria with police package through MuniBid; and,

WHEREAS, said auction concluded on July 14 at 3:00 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the auction resulted in a high bid of \$513.27 from Moises Arce

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the West Amwell Township Committee that the bid received from Moises Arce in the amount of \$513.27 for the 2008 Crown Victoria with police package is hereby accepted

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purchaser present a certified check made payable to West Amwell Township in the amount of \$513.27 within 10 days of notification of this award

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

**Fire Prevention Official** –

*- Resolution of Appointment:*

RESOLUTION #117-2015

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell has need of a Fire Official/Inspector; and

WHEREAS, interviews were conducted with three potential applicants; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has determined that Phillip Langon is best qualified for the position of Fire Official/Inspector for West Amwell Township; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Langon has accepted the Township's offer for the position

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Phillip Langon be appointed Fire Official/ Inspector, effective July 1, 2015

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this appointment expires on December 31, 2015

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

*- Resolution for State of Appointment:*

RESOLUTION #118-2015

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell is in need of a Fire Official/Inspector in line with the Township's Uniform Fire Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Langon is qualified to fill this position and has accepted the Township's offer for the position

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Phillip Langon, be appointed as Fire Official/Inspector effective July 1, 2015

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the Division of Fire Safety

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

**Sign Off for 2012/13 FEMA Projects** – Another confirmation of money received and projects completed was received

Dale motioned to authorize the mayor to sign off. Fisher seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion Concerning Depot Security Issues** – The mayor advised that there's been complaints and that the dumpsters are being used off hours. Ideas include the installation of security cameras and lights on motion sensors. The first step will be to put the gate back in use.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Estates @ West Amwell Maintenance & Trees** – Mr. Haug distributed a quote from Tamke Tree concerning care and protection of the plum trees along Music Mountain Boulevard. This was in addition to materials provided earlier about issues at the Estates. Mr. Fisher indicated that the tree situation would be looked at and noted that the plums are not a native species. If these were to be replaced, he suggested that perhaps pin oaks be used as they do not disrupt curbs. This is something to discuss with the Township Engineer. As for the weeds and rocks, the use of an herbicide was suggested and quote for same received.

**Liquor License Renewal Resolution** – The application has been filed with the State, all fees paid, and the Certificate of Tax Clearance received.

#### **RESOLUTION #119-2015**

WHEREAS, an application for renewal of a Plenary Retail Consumption License was duly filed with the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control in accordance with their 2015 rules and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the required fee of \$2500.00 has been received by the Township Clerk

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell pursuant to an act entitled "An Act Concerning Alcoholic Beverages" passed December 6, 1933 and amendments thereof and supplements thereto is hereby authorized to issue a license for the sale of alcoholic beverages in the Township of West Amwell, subject to the conditions prescribed in an Ordinance of the Township of West Amwell dated March 1, 1963, amended February 21, 1969, October 5, 1978, April 2, 1981, February 3, 1983, August 18, 1999, April 18, 2001, April 3, 2002, October 19, 2005, July 19, 2006, March 7, 2007, and further amended on December 27-2012.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, subject to the aforesaid conditions, the following Plenary Retail Consumption License be granted, the fee being \$2500.00 per year, effective date being July 1, 2015, Pine Creek Liquors, Inc., 394 Route 31, West Amwell Township, NJ license #1026-33-001-007. Governing Body of the said Township be and is hereby authorized to sign said license

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

**Resolution to Hire 3<sup>rd</sup> PT Summer Help in DPW** - No response has been received from either of the two previously interviewed applicants.

**Receipt of Petition to Increase Size of Township Committee to Five (5)** - James Cally of 201 Jackson Street came forward as he was the person in charge of collecting the signatures for the petition. This involved not only going around the Township but also making use of the Saturday depot. The petition has been presented to the Township Clerk for verification of the signers. Next steps were overviewed and the following resolution presented:

#### **RESOLUTION #120-2015**

*Resolution of the Township of West Amwell, Hunterdon County, New Jersey Upon Receipt of a Petition Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:63-3 (c)*

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell, in the County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey is governed by a Township Committee organized pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:63-3; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee has been presented with a Petition by resident legal voters on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July 2015 which Petition seeks to be placed on the ballot a proposition to increase the current membership of the three person Committee to a five person Committee; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.A. 40A:63-3 (c), upon receipt of such a Petition, the Township Committee is required to "order an election on the proposition, to be held at the next general election, whenever a petition is presented to the township clerk by the legal voters of the township in the number of at least fifteen per centum (15%) of the votes cast in the township at the last election in which members of the General Assembly were elected"; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Clerk is in receipt of an e-mail from Mary Melfi, the Hunterdon County Clerk, which provides that "the number of votes cast in West Amwell Township in the last election (November 2013) in which members of the General Assembly were elected is 979," and the Township shall rely upon Ms. Melfi's May 11, 2015 correspondence setting forth the actual number of votes cast in order to calculate the requisite fifteen per centum required at N.J.S.A. 40A:6 (c).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT REVOLVED, ON THIS 15th DAY OF JULY 2015, BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST AMWELL as follows:

1. The Township Clerk shall review the number of signatures on the Petition submitted by the Township legal voters to determine if the number of signatures thereon meets the statutory requirement of 15 per centum of the number of votes cast in the township at the last election in which members of the General Assembly were elected. The Township Clerk shall therefore review the number of signatures to ensure that at least 147 (15% of 979) legal voter signatures are present on said petition
2. In the event that the Township Clerk shall find that 147 legal voter signatures are present upon the Petition, the Township Clerk shall send the proposition to the Hunterdon County Clerk to be placed upon the ballot in the following form, which is the form of question required at N.J.S.A. 40A:63-3 (c):

"Shall the membership of the Township Committee of the Township of West Amwell be increased from three to five members?"

Explanation:

A yes vote would increase the membership of the Township Committee from three members to five members. A no vote would result in no change to the current three member Township Committee.

3. This Resolution shall become effective immediately.

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

**Resolution Awarding M & R Quote-**

RESOLUTION #121-2015

WHEREAS, the Township of West Amwell is in need of Road Maintenance and Repair materials; and

WHEREAS, quotes were solicited by the Road Supervisor as follows:

Description	Quantity	Trap Rock	Stavola	Yanuzzi Recycling
#1 1" Blend (DCA)	500 tons	\$10.50 (\$5250.00)	\$12.75 (\$6375.00)	

#2 I-5 Blacktop	150	\$56.15 (\$8422.50)	\$60.79 (\$9118.50)
#3 Base I-2	30	\$53.65 (\$1609.50)	\$57.94 (\$1738.20)

WHEREAS, the quote totals received are under the bid threshold; and

WHEREAS, Trap Rock Industries quote for the commodities listed represent the lowest overall cost of the Township;

WHEREAS, Trap Rock Industries has submitted the required Business Registration Certificate

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the supply of 2015-16 Road Maintenance and Repair materials listed in #1, #2, and #3 above be awarded to Trap Rock Industries in a amounts not to exceed \$5250.00 for #1; \$8422.50 for #2; and, \$1609.50 for #3, for a total of \$15,282.00), at the unit price quote for pick up at the respective local locations.

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

Mr. Cronce then approached the Committee about renting a paver and trailer for work on three roads to begin the first week in August. The materials needed are included in the resolution just adopted. The rental cost is \$2800.00 and has been cleared with the CFO

*Dale motioned to approve the requested rental and Fisher seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Telephone Proposal from Comcast** – Proposals from Comcast to switch phone service were presented. Mr. Fisher advised that since Verizon is not maintaining their landlines, our phone person, Tom Allibone, advised that Comcast be contacted. A back up cell phone would be needed for activation in an emergency. It was also requested that the cost of a single POTS line be obtained. Mrs. Olsen relayed that Mr. Allibone has reviewed the proposals and has found several items that need to be addressed prior to signing on. These concerns/questions will be forwarded to Comcast for clarification. Item held for the August meeting.

**Salary & Wage Amendment** –

RESOLUTION #122-2015  
Amending Resolution #84-2015

BE IT RESOLVED by the Committee of the Township of West Amwell that the 2015 Salary and Wage Resolution, adopted May 6, 2015 be amended as follows:

Position	Salary/Compensation
<u>Delete:</u> Fire Official Fretz	\$6,068.47
<u>Add:</u> Fire Official Langon	\$5,750.00 (pro-rated)

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

**Farmland Assessment & Roll Back Taxes** – A letter has been received from an older resident concerning moving his farmland assessment back to regular assessment, with a waiver of roll back (change of use) taxes. Mr. Fisher is supportive of this initiative as it would shake out other people who are questionable in so far as farmland activity. Normal taxation of the properties would result. Attorney Faherty advised that the letter be provided to the Tax Assessor as to whether there is a provision in the law. Mr. Shute offered the assistance of the Finance committee on the matter as well.

**Bike MS Ride on September 13<sup>th</sup>** – This is an annual request and the group has not been a problem in the past. Approved. Police and Fire will be alerted as to the date.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Ron Shapella of 26 Lakeview came forward concerning the earlier discussion about PennEast. He relayed concern over the need for public scrutiny and for the Township not to let them off the hook. He suggested that any meeting with PennEast be noticed, and recorded, as the level of opposition has not abated. Mr. Shapella mentioned the issue in Delaware Township and noted that more light needs to be shed on their activities. Mr. Fisher reiterated his earlier comment that PennEast will meet with landowners but will not do public meetings. He also noted that complaints were made about PennEast cancelling meetings; that he needs to be able to talk with other entities as part of this mayoral duties; and, that FERC will determine when he has no say. Mr. Shapella suggested that PennEast be invited to a Township meeting, which is okay but there may be need of a bigger room. Mr. Fisher offered that there was no deal, as this would be something that can only happen in an open meeting.

John Dupuis spoke about the upcoming Jason Fuhr golf tournament on July 27<sup>th</sup>. He will provide a flyer for the website.

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

**Treasurer –**

RESOLUTION #123-2015

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Construction Official of West Amwell Township that the following permit fee can be refunded due to the cancellation of Permit #13-00005 as the work was never done; 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 applicant:

Applicant	Amount Refunded
Mokaso Monono Crescent Village 385 River Oaks Parkway Apt #3040 San Jose, CA 95134	\$806.00

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

Presentation of Bills for Approval:

RESOLUTION #124-2015

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 \$232,272.08, dated July 15, 2015, as presented by the Township Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, be paid from existing appropriations.

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

Treasurer Report: Appropriations through July 15, 2015 were provided and reviewed.

**Tax Collector –**

Resolution to Extend Third Quarter 2015 Taxes:

RESOLUTION #125-2015

WHEREAS, the certified 2015 tax rate may be delayed from the Tax Board of Hunterdon County; and

WHEREAS, this amount is needed for the property tax bills to be printed; and

WHEREAS, there must be twenty-five days from the date of mailing for the return of the quarterly payment before interest is charged

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-66 et seq., the payment without interest for third quarter 2015 taxes will be extended to at least twenty-five days from

mailing of the tax bills, after which time all receipts for the third quarter shall be deemed delinquent with interest accruing from August 1, 2015.

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

The monthly report for June 2015 was received showing receipts in the amount of \$90,244.06.

**Construction** – The Permit Fee Log Summary for June 2015 reflects the issuance of 22 permits for a total of \$18,081.00 for West Amwell. Twenty three (23) CA's were processed per the Certificate Log Summary. The Permit Fee Log Summary for East Amwell reported 26 permits issued and \$5,620.00 collected. Twenty (20) CA's were processed according to the Certificate Log Summary.

**Police** – The June 2015 Monthly Report showing 887 incidents, 164 summonses and 10 warnings was received.

**Website Review** – None

*The reports were unanimously accepted as filed.*

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence as listed on the Agenda was ordered filed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:53 p.m. on motion from Dale.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lora Olsen, RMC  
Township Clerk

APPROVED: August 19, 2015