

WEST AMWELL TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

May 4, 2016 - 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 7:32 p.m. Present were Mayor Zachary T. Rich, Deputy Mayor John Dale, Committeeman Stephen Bergenfeld, Clerk Lora Olsen and Attorney Philip J. Faherty III. Also in attendance were Hal Shute, Bud Etchells, CFO Carro and one unidentified individual.

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 7, 2016, 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 those gathered in the pledge to the nation's flag.

AGENDA REVIEW BY TOWNSHIP CLERK

No additions or deletions were noted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Municipal Offices Closed May 30th for Memorial Day
- Hunterdon County Hazardous Waste Collection (POPS-paint, oil, propane tanks, smoke detectors), May 14th, 9am to 1pm, County Complex Rt 12
- Last to Register for June Primary is May 17th
- Primary Election is June 7th, 6 a.m. to 8 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 April 20, 2016 Regular and Closed Session minutes were unanimously approved on motion from Dale, seconded by Bergenfeld.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC/TOPIC NOT ON THE AGENDA

No one came forward.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION(S)

None

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE AND/OR PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing: Ordinance 04, 2016 AN ORDINANCE CREATING A UNIFIED ELECTRONIC REPORTING SYSTEM FOR DEALS IN SCRAP METAL

Proof of publication in the April 14, 2016 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat was presented. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public since its introduction at the April 6, 2016 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 Dale, seconded by Bergenfeld.

Public Hearing: Ordinance 05, 2016 AN ORDINANCE CREATING A UNIFIED ELECTRONIC REPORTING SYSTEM FOR DEALS IN PRECIOUS METALS AND OTHER SECONDHAND GOODS

Proof of publication in the April 14, 2016 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat was presented. The ordinance has been posted and available to the public since its introduction at the April 6, 2016 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 Bergenfeld, seconded by Dale.

Introduction: 2016 Budget

Mayor Rich overviewed the main points of his budget review, together with concerns about state aid cuts in the future, noting how this budget effort 'ruined' his life. CFO Carro presented a memo from the bank concerning the loan and relayed that the cost would be spread out over 8 years. This is a private, not municipal, sale (bank sale) and will supplement the surplus which is being depleted by this budget. His goal is to keep \$300,000-\$400,000 in surplus. The lack of sufficient funds devoted to the chip seal road program resulted in a review of other areas of the budget to obtain same. Reductions to general administration, police, vehicle maintenance and parks and recreation were specifically tagged. The CFO is to make other adjustments as required in order to bring the roads budget up to \$170,000. The cap limit prevents precludes any other way to reach that goal. A bond ordinance to fund capital projects will be prepared for introduction at the May 18th meeting. A list of salary and equipment requests were relayed but most were not seen as do-able. Funding for the possible demolition of a property on Route 31 will require a bond ordinance.

RESOLUTION #64-2016
MUNICIPAL BUDGET NOTICE

Municipal Budget of the Township of West Amwell, County of Hunterdon for the Fiscal Year 2016

Be It Resolved, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations shall constitute the Municipal Budget for the year 2016;

Be It Further Resolved, that said Budget be published in the Hunterdon County Democrat in the issue of May 12, 2016

The Governing Body of the Township of West Amwell does hereby approve the following as the Budget for the year 2016:

A Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at the Municipal Building, on the June 1, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at which time and place objections to said Budget and Tax Resolution for 2016 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT FUND SECTION OF APPROVED BUDGET

General Appropriations For:

1. Appropriations within "CAPS"	
(a) Municipal Purposes	\$2,730,531.00
2. Appropriations excluded from "CAPS"	
(a) Municipal Purposes	755,440.00
3. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	<u>220,000.00</u>
4. Total General Appropriations	3,705,971.00
5. Less: Anticipated Revenues Other Than Current Property Tax	<u>2,334,849.00</u>
6. Difference: Amount to be Raised by Taxes for Support of Municipal Budget	
(a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes Including Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	<u>\$1,371,122.00</u>

Rich moved to approved the Resolution and Dale seconded. Roll Call: Bergenfeld-aye, Dale-aye, Rich-aye

Bud Etchells was recognized at this point as he missed the earlier opportunity to speak. He inquired whether the Committee were planning to discuss the Hunter property. Mayor Rich relayed that there is nothing for the Committee to look at. Mr. Etchells left the meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Open Space

- *Option Agreement, Block 28 Lot 23:* Hal Shute relayed that Thompson was given a week to decide or the deal was off. The e-mail acceptance came on Friday although the numbers are different than the originals, e.g, \$6,000-\$10,000 acre is now \$7,000 to \$12,000 acre. The agreement will be discussed at the next open space meeting with a recommendation forthcoming thereafter. Mr. Shute continued that the pipeline concerns him as it's no longer adjacent to the power line once the line was moved away from Hewitt. The property would be hard to develop 'as is' due to the boulders, pipeline and power lines.

- *Project Status Updates*: The Holcombe application is undergoing State review and the wait is for a certified value number. This should be in \$100,000 range with Township costs between \$25,000 and \$50,000. Mr. Shute inquired about the proposed reduction in the open space tax. Whether this change has to be done by ordinance or referendum is still to be officially determined.

Finance

- *Authorization to Post February 4 & 29, 2016 Minutes to Website*: Approved

Parks & Recreation

- *Authorization to Post April 11, 2016 Minutes to Website*: Approved

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Possible Appointments – none

Updates – 1) Attorney Faherty has been in touch with Mr. Warford concerning **Block 46 Lots 5, 6, 7** and outlined the three options concerning the property – maintain status quo with the Township proceeding to clear title; accept property as it and undertake title clearance; or, back out and receive the return of money involved but turning over all testing results to the Township. An answer is pending. 2) Municipalities are exempt from payroll deductions for **disability insurance** per a conversation with the State. This means that there's no employee contribution and no coverage. The municipality can make application for voluntary participation but can only sign up between December 1 and January 31. The consensus was that application be made in December for this. A governing body resolution is also required. Mr. Bergenfeld wants a total analysis of payroll contributions together with something in writing. Auditor Ardito will be contacted and given Mr. Bergenfeld's phone number with a request to call. 3) Contact has been made with two companies that provide **alarm service** and the representatives are to meet with the road supervisor on Thursday. 4) Contacts have been made with other state contract providers for **copier lease** quotes.

Clean Up Days – Scheduling one cleanup day, possibly in June, will be posed to the recycling committee for consideration.

SHREC Consent & Assignment Documents – Attorney Faherty advised that both agreements are essentially the same except that in the original agreements, there was no assignment without consent. This has been removed. No particular concern was seen with this change and no delay sought in receiving the lease money.

Dale motioned to authorize the mayor to sign the pro-offered documents and Bergenfeld seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

- *National Police Officer Week*:

RESOLUTION #65-2016

WHEREAS May 15th through 21st is National Police Officer Week; and

WHEREAS, May 15th is "Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Day" as so legislated by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the people of West Amwell hold their police officers in great esteem and value their local police force as an essential part of their community; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this designation is to generate increased public support for the law enforcement profession by permanently recording and appropriately commemorating the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers and to provide information that will help promote law enforcement safety; and

WHEREAS, this legislation requires that all American flags be lowered to half-staff on May 15th in commemoration of this service and sacrifice

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the West Amwell Township Committee that the week of May 15th through 21st is hereby declared as National Police Officer Week in West Amwell Township; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all municipal flags be lowered to half staff on Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Day on May 15th

- *Municipal Clerks Week:*

RESOLUTION #66-2016

Proclamation

Municipal Clerks Week - May 1 Through May 7, 2016

Whereas, The Office of the Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government, exists throughout the world, and

Whereas, The Office of the Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants, and

Whereas, The Office of the Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels, and

Whereas, Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all, and

Whereas, The Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community, and

Whereas, Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, province, county and international professional organizations, and

Whereas, It is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

Now, Therefore, I, Zach Rich, Mayor of West Amwell Township, do recognize the week of May 1 through May 7, 2016, as Municipal Clerks Week, and further extend appreciation to our Municipal Clerk, Lora L. Olsen and to all Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

- *Relay for Life of Hunterdon County:*

RESOLUTION #67-2016

Proclamation

Relay For Life of Hunterdon County

American Cancer Society Relay For Life Proclamation for Hunterdon County

WHEREAS, the Relay For Life program is the signature activity of the American Cancer Society and celebrates cancer survivors and caregivers, remembers loved ones lost to the disease, and empowers individuals and communities to fight back against cancer; and

WHEREAS, money raised during Relay For Life of Hunterdon County supports the American Cancer Society's mission of saving lives by helping people stay well and get well, by finding cures, and by fighting back; and

WHEREAS, Relay For Life events helped fund more than \$144 million in cancer research last year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Zach Rich, Mayor of West Amwell Township do hereby proclaim May 21st and 22nd of 2016 as,

"RELAY FOR LIFE OF HUNTERDON COUNTY DAYS"

in our community and encourage citizens to help finish the fight against cancer by participating in the Relay For Life event at Hunterdon Central Regional High School on May 21st and 22nd of 2016.

- *Supporting the Click It or Ticket Mobilization of May 23-June 5, 2016:*

RESOLUTION #68-2016
Resolution Supporting the Click It or Ticket Mobilization of May 23 – June 5, 2016

WHEREAS, there were 560 motor vehicle fatalities in New Jersey in 2015; and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the motor vehicle occupants killed in traffic crashes were not wearing a seat belt: and

WHEREAS, use of a seat belt remains the most effective way to avoid death or serious injury in a motor vehicle crash; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 135,000 lives were saved by safety belt usage nationally between 1975-2000; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey will participate in the nationwide *Click It or Ticket* seat belt mobilization from May 23 – June 5, 2016 in an effort to raise awareness and increase seat belt usage through a combination of enforcement and education; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Highway Traffic Safety has set a goal of increasing the seat belt usage rate in the state from the current level of 91% to 93%; and

WHEREAS, a further increase in seat belt usage in New Jersey will save lives on our roadways.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the West Amwell Township Committee declares its support for the *Click It or Ticket* seat belt mobilization both locally and nationally from May 23 – June 5, 2016 and pledges to increase awareness of the mobilization and the benefits of seat belt use.

The foregoing four Resolutions were unanimously approved on motion by Dale, seconded by Bergenfeld.

Invitation to Host a Freeholder Board Meeting – No interest in this was expressed.

Discussion/Referral of Sewer Service Amendment/Investment Group, Block 3 Lot 20.60 – Mr. Rich relayed conversations held with Cathy Urbanski and Rob Tomenchok concerning this situation. The applicant (Strober) went to the State with the request and received approval from the DEP. However, package plants are not allowed in the Township. Mr. Bergenfeld noted that this would provide opportunity for the owner to do more with the property. Apparently, the Township's ordinance was amended by the DEP, after conducting wetland studies, and is requesting approval by both the County and Township. The original mailing from Goldenbaum Baill went to East Amwell in mid-April in error. The item was remanded to the Planning Board for a recommendation.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There was no longer any public in attendance.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Treasurer –

RESOLUTION #69-2016

WHEREAS, it has been determined by the Construction Official of West Amwell Township that the following permit fee for Permit #16-00064 can be refunded due to the contractor providing an incorrect property address; and

WHEREAS, this permit has been voided; and

WHEREAS, the refund reflects a 20% plan review and processing fee; 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
Princeton Air
PO Box 4060
Princeton NJ 08543

Amount Refunded
\$320.00

The Resolution was unanimously approved on motion by Rich, with a second from Dale.

Tax Collector – The monthly report for April 2016 was received showing receipts in the amount of \$559,166.79. The following properties have uncollectible taxes for the year 2015: Block/Lot 12/13 (\$3,468.26 – owned by State of NJ); 28/35 (\$3,035.31 – owned by West Amwell Township); and, 46/6 (Lien 2-2008, West Amwell Township).

Court – The March 2016 monthly report was received showing a ticket total of 313 (211 local; 102 SP) and the receipt of \$8,499.80 by the Township.

The foregoing reports were accepted, without comment, 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 8:34 p.m. on motion from Dale.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Olsen, RMC
Township Clerk

APPROVED: May 18, 2016