

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
6:30 PM Closed Session 8:00 PM Regular Meeting

MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM by Mayor Sidney Camp. Requirements of the Sunshine Law were read. This meeting was advertised in the Burlington County Times January 6, 2009. The flag was saluted and there was a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

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| Committeeman Adams | Present |
| Committeeman Daniels | Present |
| Committeeman Maybury | Present |
| Committeeman Robbins | Present |
| Mayor Camp | Present |

Richard Rybak, Solicitor, was present.

Donna Ryan, Clerk/Administrator, was present.

Minutes of the February 10, 2009 meeting. Closed Session minutes of February 10, 2009. Motion to accept by Mr. Adams, second by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.

Scheduled Appointments

6:30 PM Closed Session – Personnel, litigation

8:00 PM Burlington County Chamber of Commerce – Kristi Howell-Ikeda. Each Committeeperson had received an invitation letter and a brochure. Ms. Howell Ikeda explained that the Chamber of Commerce has been in existence for 34 years; they host a Meet the Mayors forum amongst other programs and are trying to strengthen their ties with municipalities. The municipal membership program is free; it started a few years ago. Some of the events that are held require a payment; they have many economic development forums. They host speakers at monthly meetings as well as a monthly newsletter which goes out to about 2000 business leaders. Their last monthly luncheon drew over 70 people; the latest forums were sell outs with over 150 people attending. She looks forward to Westampton Township's participation. Mr. Daniels has participated in this before in another capacity, he thinks it is a win-win situation.

Open Meeting to Public for Comment on Agenda Items

No comment was made.

Old Business

Beazer Homes – no update at this time.

Timbuctoo – we are waiting for a report and trying to secure money for the first survey. Mayor Camp went to a Westampton Historical Society meeting; they have offered to contribute \$1000 towards the first survey. Mr. Daniels asked if there was a formalized committee, there is not, but he has a name of someone who would like to work on the project. The Holly Hills School fourth grade class would like to participate; there has been a lot of interest.

Rancocas Community Center – negotiations are on going, Solicitor Rich Rybak would report back at the next meeting.

New Business

1. Award Bid – Smart Future (Visioning) Grant. The bid will be awarded to the consultant group Kise, Straw and Kolodner. A motion was made by Mr. Maybury, seconded by Mr. Adams. All voted yes.
2. Economic Development Commission – the list of appointees were read by the Mayor. The Commission will include three business owners and three residents, along with the Deputy Mayor Robert Maybury. Margaret Dolan was appointed for 1 year, Bernice Keller for 2 years, Tony Carugno for 3 years, Mike Cormier for 1 year, Jason York for 2 years and Janet Curran for 3 years. The seventh member would be Mr. Maybury. Mr. Robbins wanted to clarify that this Commission would be an on going entity and not just focused on the Smart Grant. This is strictly an advisory commission and has no formal powers.
3. Raffle License #5-2009 (Masonic Charity Foundation of NJ, raffle to be held on 9/28/09) – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.
4. Police Report – Mr. Daniels commented that he was reminded just how dangerous it is to be a police officer especially in light of the Philadelphia officer who was recently killed. His thoughts and prayers are with the department. Mr. Robbins commented regarding the letter in the report written to the Chief from an individual involved in a motor vehicle accident that commended Sgt. Ferguson, he thought the letter spoke highly of the department.
5. Letter of resignation from Public Defender – this letter was received on February 18th, 2009. A notice for an RFP was put in the paper with a deadline of March 10, 2009 at which time a new public defender would be chosen. A motion was made by Mr. Daniels to accept the resignation; seconded by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.
6. Bureau of Fire Prevention Report – the State is under going an extensive change in the code system. They are over lapping each other for the next month or so. Mayor Camp commented that one of the biggest impacts he sees is the requirement that all businesses have a Knox box. Fire Chief Johnson stated that they have looked into it and the Fire Official has the power to determine whether or not each place of business would be required to comply.

7. Public Works Report – Mr. Robbins asked if we owned the property in Spring Meadows, we did but have just sold it. He asked if we have investigated gutter less downspouts to eliminate cleaning gutters. Mike Meenan, PW Supervisor has looked into it and the systems are very expensive. It doesn't take much time to do the job; it takes a few hours a few times a year.

8. EMS Report – Mr. Daniels got a phone call a couple of weeks ago regarding an accident on the NJ Turnpike; he got many compliments regarding our EMS employees. Mr. Robbins asked if Chief Johnson to add a column to his monthly report which would show the calls that are not billable. Mayor Camp got word yesterday from Mr. Green, a resident of Mt. Holly who had a fire in his backyard. He wanted the Mayor to know the first fire truck on site was the Westampton truck; Mt. Holly's truck didn't get there until 8 minutes later.

9. Approve Hiring Appraiser for Tax Appeals – motion was made by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

10. Appoint Fire Lieutenant/EMS Coordinator – appoint Craig Farnsworth. A motion was made by Mr. Adams; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

Resolutions

34-09 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes. Mr. Robbins asked about a payment for tuition reimbursement; it was involving a lawsuit. He asked about the supplies for Police Chaplains, Chief Rick Smith explained that they use the Chaplains for traumatic events such as fatal accidents. The fire alarm monitor charges are for the fire station and represent annual charges. He asked who verifies the D & M medical billing charges. We are still working on a monthly procedure; right now we use the procedure during audit time. He asked when we look at the contract for renewal that it is tightened up. He asked what the Home Depot credit services charges were. Mike Meenan answered that most of the items are covered in the January report, he has itemized bills. He asked about what was wrecked; it was a motor vehicle accident that Max Scherzer was involved in that was not his fault, we were reimbursed already. He asked what we paid Edgewater Park Municipal Court for. We had a joint case in which an interpreter was hired, we split the cost. He asked about the Louis Glass Associates bills; one for Mark Investment and Redstone Ridge. They are for bills charged to those applicant's escrow accounts. He asked if the Recreation Committee is permitted to purchase trophies without the Committee's approval. Traditionally the Committee is not approached with purchases such as these. Donna Ryan stated that we usually get two quotes; we want to get the best deal we can. He asked what police overtime is. It is overtime our officers get paid for; we bill the outside agency for payment.

35-09 Matching Grant – Environmental Resource Inventory – motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

36-09 Deferred School Taxes – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Adams. All voted yes. Mr. Robbins asked if this was the total amount for local and regional school taxes. We are allowed to defer 50% of the total tax levy.

37-09 Refund 2008 Taxes (exemption, Block 803.06, Lot 23) – motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; seconded by Mr. Adams. All voted yes.

38-09 Refund Taxes (overpayment, Block 804, Lot 7 & Block 106, Lot 21) – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.

39-09 Green Acres Enabling resolution – Sharpless Farm, Block 203, Lot 4 – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes. Mr. Robbins wanted to clarify that we are not committed at this time; this is just beginning the process.

40-09 Joint Purchasing Program – Municipal Apartment & Condominium Collection Services – motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

41-09 Closed Session - motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes.

Ordinances

1-2009 Ordinance Amending Chapter 117 (Disorderly Conduct) – first reading. Motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; second by Mr. Adams. All voted yes. This was opened to the public for comment. There was no comment from the public.

2-2009 Ordinance Amending Chapter 206 (Recycling) – first reading. Motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; second by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes. Second reading would be on March 10, 2009.

Correspondence

Letter from County Engineer – signage was installed on Rancocas Road for Church Street. Donna Ryan wishes they would do the same for Blue Jay Hill Road, which is even worse than Church Street.

Workshop Items

Sports Complex – Phase 2 – Donna will be cleaning up the paperwork on Phase 1, she will have financial information for the Committee in March

Fernwood Springs Farm – Open Space – this property is on our list, our planner is working with the County, the owner is interested in preservation/development rights.

Project Freedom – 50 unit building for the handicapped, part of our COAH obligation, the Township is ready to set up a meeting with the residents who live near by.

Environmental Resource Inventory – Norm Miller is hoping to move forward very quickly with this.

Dates to remember

Rancocas Ham Supper – first Saturday in May

Comments

Fire Chief Wylie Johnson – they have a new mascot at the station, a dalmation puppy. He has been to the schools already, will be ready hopefully in the fall for his debut. The puppy has been a great addition.

Police Chief Rick Smith – some traffic grants will be coming in the next month or two. The COPS grant has different criteria now; it can be used for replacements, rehires, etc. The department is looking at M14s through the military; there is a possibility of receiving them for free. "Adopt a Cop" for the 4th grade classes should be starting soon. Detective Rogers' name was submitted for officer of the year to the American Legion. Sean Welthy and Detective Rogers will be honored this Friday.

Marion Karp – updated the Committee on the addition of more recycling carts. Another thousand homes would be receiving the blue paper/cardboard carts.

Mr. Adams – asked for submittals of names for EMT/Police Officer of the year.

Mr. Maybury – there will be an additional check coming out for seniors this year in July, about \$250, this was announced by John Adler, it has already been approved.

Mr. Daniels – said that Veterans would receive \$250 as well. John Adler was excited about working with the GI bill. He spoke with Commander Thibeault about the Veterans marching from Timbuctoo to the American Legion building, even though it's a great idea, he doesn't know if they can do it physically. Mayor Camp explained that they had the idea of combining the two celebrations that took place last year for Memorial Day and having a parade from Timbuctoo back to the American Legion, including the Fire/EMS and possibly the Recreation Committee. Mr. Adams suggested that the Shriners get involved as well.

Mr. Daniels met with the Recreation Committee on February 11, they have many good ideas, are looking to make this Westampton Day the best one yet. He would like to have some offerings to engage the teenage population, give them something to do. He attended the Rancocas Valley Chiefs football and cheerleading banquet. Attended a meeting at the League of Municipalities, which was very informative. He will not be able to make our next meeting on March 10 due to a prior commitment, the National Parents and Teachers Association Legislative Conference.

At this point the meeting was opened to the public for comment.

Comments from the Public

Janet Curran – thanked the Mayor for attending the Historic Society meeting. She asked how the budget is going. The Mayor stated that they are still working on it, we are at a one cent tax increase right now, we have to wait until March to see if the State is reducing our municipal aid. She thanked our EMTs for their response for her sister.

There were no further comments from the public.

Mayor Camp – last Friday he had a student for the day. There was an essay contest at Westampton Middle School for Mayor of the Day and Police Chief of the Day, both 8th graders. They did a lot during the day; he kept them busy and entertained. The highlight of their day was going to the Firehouse, the Police Department and the tour of the Hilton Garden Inn, currently under construction. He thinks we should consider doing something like this every year. He introduced the students to Judge Andronici; we could expand on this process next year. Congratulations to Mr. Farnsworth on his appointment.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk