

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING  
7:00 PM Closed Session 8:00 PM Regular Meeting

APRIL 14, 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:

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

Richard Rybak, Solicitor, was present.

Donna Ryan, Clerk/Administrator, and Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk, were present.

Minutes of the March 24, 2009 meeting. Closed Session minutes of March 24, 2009. Motion to accept by Mr. Maybury, second by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.

**Scheduled Appointments**

7:00 PM Closed Session – personnel issues were discussed

**Open Meeting to Public for Comment on Agenda Items**

Norm Miller – asked about the use of Open Space funds for the Sports Complex. He thinks we have spent way too much of our open space funding solely on recreation. He hopes this Committee will shut down the use of open space funds for this project. It will hurt us in the long haul.

Tom DiOrio – follows with what Norm Miller said. He thinks a lot of people in town were misled by the prior Committee as to what funds were going to be used for the project. He is finding out now that there are many more obligations going into this than was realized initially. It is getting to be quite a project at this point. He thinks that the County is out of money as far as open space, he wants to know where the funds are coming from for the DeNofa and Chitester farms. He thinks we should buy the land now while the values are down, and can always decide later if the land will be improved. Once the recession is over, the developers will be back. Over construction and building leads to flooding problems, amongst others. New Jersey has a very high building density problem.

Nancy Burkley – agrees with the prior comments made. She was at a huge meeting previously and thought the majority of the people did not want to go forward with the Sports Complex

project. She has been seeing dirt being moved around for parking lots to be built. Did the Committee give no heed to the people they represent and just go ahead and build it?

Mayor Camp – when they were approached with the project about a year ago, he had strong opposition to it, he had concerns about the funding for it and felt it was being fast tracked for whatever reason, without there being a correct set of plans. Former members of the Committee decided to vote it through. Ms. Burkley asked if the project was committed, he answered that it was. She asked if he had voted no at the time, he answered that he did. Mr. Maybury also voted no. She asked if the other new Committee members were permitted to vote on it, they were not on the Committee at that point and therefore could not vote.

Janet Curran – would like to see the project finished since it has been started, at least the first phase. She'd like to see some green out there and some children playing. She does not advocate moving any further with it, but should just finish what has been started. Regarding Timbuctoo, tomorrow night at 7:00 PM the Westampton Historical Society is meeting at the Community Center and discussing the sign for Timbuctoo. They would like to have it ready for a Memorial Day service.

There was no further comment from the public on agenda items.

### **Old Business**

Beazer Homes – Donna Ryan had spoken to them, they will be moving forward on last July's punch list to get off of performance bond and onto maintenance bond. Mr. Robbins asked that the Committee be provided with a copy of this punch list. Gene Blair has been talking with Bill Dunn about the sewer clean out elevation issue; there have been problems with this. If not solved shortly, our solicitor will have to become involved.

Timbuctoo – there were some test digs that were done last October. There is a need to cover those holes; it will be done on Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Daniels asked if there will be another informal meeting held, which was set up by the Temple student Patricia. They would check into this. Mr. Daniels has someone who would like to be a part of this project; he heads the Oliver Cromwell Society and would like to be part of the informal group.

Rancocas Community Center – there is nothing new to report. Mr. Maybury asked where we are as far as progress. Solicitor Rybak explained that their attorney has our proposed changes and are still reviewing the contract.

Cable Franchise – our agreement expires in fall 2009, we should at least get the ball rolling on this, and get the proceedings started. Mr. Maybury asked if we have an agreement with Verizon, there is nothing in writing at this point. Mayor Camp has two contacts from Verizon who want to come in and speak with the Committee and give a presentation regarding their franchise fee and how it works.

### **New Business**

1. Tax Collectors Annual Report 2008 – Mr. Robbins thinks we should commend the Tax Collector, the collection rate is superior. Mr. Daniels and Mr. Adams concur, and echo his sentiments.
2. EMS Report, February 2009 – Chief Wylie Johnson – Pete Witkowski and Craig Farnsworth attended a structural collapse course. They will have 12 people trained at the FEMA level at the end of this month; all costs of the training were picked up by grants. Mayor Camp asked if all of the 74 billed patients were Westampton residents; they are not. The department has picked up six new volunteer members in the last two weeks. Morale is still very high in the department. Mr. Robbins asked if a meeting was being pursued regarding the County and payment of our services that are rendered for County facilities. Mr. Maybury wants to do this as well. All patients picked up are billed, whether or not they get paid is another story. Mr. Daniels thanked the Chief for their response, his daughter had sprained her left knee, she was transported to the hospital.
3. Police Report, February 2009 – Mr. Camp asked if the one car was the one with the transmission problems, Chief Smith answered that it was. At this point it would be a loss to put a new transmission in the vehicle because it is only valued at \$1500.00. Mr. Daniels – great work on the letter from Mr. Breslin. He thanked the department for reaching out to him; he thinks this is what good public service is all about. It was a good job by Officer Polite as well, there was a thank you letter contained in the report. They should be cited for doing well, he stands by the department 100%. The Adopt a Cop program has started, they have completed one visit so far, the program involves the fourth grade classes and the kindergarten classes. The teachers like the program very much; it's been about ten years since the Police Department last conducted the program. They are also doing walk throughs at the Middle School. The department may only get one live scan unit instead of the two they thought they were going to get; Chief Smith is waiting to hear. Mr. Maybury asked if we are going to proceed with the COPS grant. It was due tonight and was submitted yesterday, and had been reviewed by the grant writers at BCIT and the Bridge Commission employees. The grant was submitted for three officers. One can replace Tony Marino, who is retiring, one for BCIT and one for our school system. The first three years of salaries are paid by the federal government; the fourth year is to be paid by the schools. You must guarantee to keep the officers for twelve months beyond the grant period.
4. Fire Prevention Report, February 2009 – the Fire Department has partnered with the EMS for the senior home inspection program, they have about 20 residents who have signed up so far for the program.
5. Pricing for full court Basketball (Spring Meadows) – Mike Meenan has started to get some pricing. There is another that came in a bit higher. Mr. Daniels spoke with the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce, specifically with Kristy Alakeda, who had spoken before the Committee, and asked if she could speak to Peter Hovnanian to see if he could contribute in some way, perhaps paying for the fencing, etc. She would open up the dialogue with him. There is no money in the Township budget for this.

6. Raffle License #4-2009 (BC 4-H Leader's Council, Inc. 10/23/09) - motion to approve by Mr. Adams; second by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.

7. Court Reports – March 2009 (Westampton & Hainesport Townships) – Mayor Camp asked the court administrator for a monthly report, we have merged with Hainesport Municipal Court. He attended Eastampton Committee's meeting last night, they finally voted to merge last night with our court system which should take place effective May 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Robbins stated that it would be helpful if Donna Ryan put together a short summary regarding our total expenses balanced against our revenue to show the total profit realized.

### **Resolutions**

63-09 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes. Mr. Robbins asked how conferences and training is approved and budgeted. Donna Ryan explained that anyone who needs these courses for certifications tries to find the least costly route when necessary. Mr. Robbins asked to start seeing the activity in the recreation trust fund, it would be provided for the Committee. Mr. Maybury questioned an expense for the pool, it will be reimbursed.

64-09 Green Acres Enabling Resolution, Township Sports Complex - motion to approve by Mr. Adams; seconded by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes. Mr. Robbins thinks it is important to clarify to the residents exactly what this resolution is. This was approved and submitted last year, because of timing reasons, the money was never paid. Mayor Camp asked if we have the ability to reference the original resolution number and date. Donna Ryan stated that she could not and had to do it this way. The State is very slow in their paperwork, they did award this last year. This is a loan request and must be paid back by the Township. Mr. Robbins stated we have spent a little over three million dollars on acquiring this land. The bulk of the Green Acres money has gone towards developing this Sports Complex, we need to balance this out with preserving open space. The Committee has not yet seen Phase II of the plan which includes the concession stand which is supposed to help pay back the grant money. We may as well complete what has been started at this point. It is his opinion that this resolution must be approved this evening; we cannot shut this project down now since we owe \$950,000 on this project. Mr. Maybury asked what phase this money would go to; Donna Ryan said it would go to Phase 1. Mayor Camp asked if we anticipate paying this back out of the recreation trust fund, Donna said we can pay it back anyway we want.

65-09 Honoring Our Troops and Support Our Troops Day – Mr. Daniels read the resolution aloud and thanked the Committee for recognizing our troops in uniform. Mr. Adams commented that some of them have been overseas two or three times, it is not like it was in his day when you had to serve only once. Motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Adams. All voted yes.

66-09 Change Order #1, Township Sports Complex - motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Adams. All voted yes, Mr. Maybury voted no. Mr. Robbins asked if the Township Engineer was not aware of the requirement to have fencing along Rancocas Road. Mr. Maybury stated that this moved too quickly, they didn't give the County enough time to

respond. There should be some accountability here. The seeding should be completed by the end of April, or beginning of May. Baseball won't be able to be played here until next spring. Mayor Camp knows what it is like doing change orders, he thinks this is where the contractors make their money, he wants reassurance from Denton's office that there won't be any more. They should have known that fencing was going to be required along Rancocas Road. He wants to know how many more of these change orders we are going to see.

67-09 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes. This is out of the stimulus package from Washington; the money will pay for a variety of equipment. Mr. Camp stated that his biggest concern is something happening in our school system, he applauds the resurgence of the Adopt a cop program.

68-09 Participation in the Sustainable Jersey Municipal Certification Program – motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes. Mr. Daniels had discussed this at an earlier meeting; it's a win win situation. He attended the Governor's press conference where he wrote this program.

69-09 Closed Session – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes. Closed session was held for the discussion of personnel issues.

### **Ordinances**

4-2009 Ordinance Establishing a Cap Bank – second reading. Motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes. Tom DiOrio asked for clarification. Donna Ryan explained that there is a cap on the budget increase; we can bank for an unforeseen expense, can bank this 1% and save it for next year in case we need to use it. It is put into reserve and does not increase the budget.

5-2009 Bond Ordinance – first reading. Motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; second by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes. Second reading would be on April 28, 2009. This is expected and planned for in our capital budget.

### **Correspondence**

Donna Ryan distributed copies of the RVRHS budget.

### **Workshop Items**

Sports Complex – Phase 2 – Donna is working on this

Fernwood Springs Farm – Open Space – this will be later this year, most likely in the fall.

Project Freedom – Donna Ryan is trying to set up a time to go up and see it, most likely the date will be May 1<sup>st</sup>, at the Robbinsville, NJ complex. Harry McVey would go along. Mr. Daniels attended the 2009 Housing Summit in New Brunswick at his own expense, one of the topics was

affordable housing. Mr. Doherty of Project Freedom gave a presentation. He looks forward to more discussions relative to this.

Environmental Resource Inventory - should know in May if we get the grant for this.

### **Dates to remember**

5/2/09 – Rancocas Ham Supper

April 21<sup>st</sup> – School Board Elections

### **Comments**

Fire Chief Wylie Johnson - Officer Whitley should be having her baby today. Jake, the Dalmatian mascot, has been doing well; they are at the schools at least once a week.

Police Chief Rick Smith – four thousand dollars for *Click It and Ticket*. The department has applied for over forty thousand dollars in other traffic grants.

Mr. Adams – they currently have three applications for openings on the Historic Commission. The Commission is still working on the ordinance, making it more user friendly, it is going pretty well so far. They are trying to speed up the process. The DeNofa farm property owner was offered 1.5 million for the development rights, he has turned this down, he wants 3 million. The Zimmerman farm has too high of a water table, they do not qualify. Fernwood Springs Farm does not qualify at this time; they are working on changing the ordinance so that they will. There is a lot of acreage out there that this Committee is trying to save. The old Committee and the new Committee are trying to preserve open space. You can't force owners to sell their ground.

Mr. Maybury – will be meeting with the senior citizens group tomorrow morning to play bingo.

Mr. Daniels – thanked Marion Karp for her quick response with several complaints he had phoned in, she handled it well. Met with the Tarnsfield Swim Club last Thursday; it was a good meeting, the pool will be opening on Memorial Day, there are some repairs that need to be made. The grass outside the pool doesn't look very good. The sand in the volleyball area needs replenishing. Tomorrow night is a Recreation Advisory Committee meeting. The Willingboro pools have offered to open their pools to our residents for the same price that they charge their own residents. He went to the Am Vets meeting this past Saturday, the State Am Vets will be holding their meeting on Sunday in Rancocas Village, it is an honor. Detective Rogers is the officer of the year, EMT of the year is Jen Lunfield, Chris Kramer is Firefighter of the year, unfortunately they did not make it to the County level. Congressman Adler had a press conference and is seeking 2 million to fund a women's vet wing at Virtua Memorial Hospital.

Mr. Robbins – asked about the pool repair expenses. He asked Donna what liability we have to pay for these repairs. He thinks there is some ambiguity in this contract, and would like it clarified for the next meeting.

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

### **Comments from the Public**

Tom DiOrio- thanked the Committee but this Township has done an abominable job preserving open space. We have spent 3 million dollars and we have 8 acres to show for it. The answer is not in chasing ratables, preservation of open space is much cheaper, his fear is that the Township is viewing the open space fund as a petty cash fund. He thinks the Committee must have a priority to preserve open space. Maybe the effort needs to be magnified.

He asked about the beaver dams, they are protected, you can't touch them. Their dams are causing flooding in the Kings Road area.

Nancy Burkley – the Rancocas Grange is for sale. She is confused about the cable franchise. Donna explained how the Township gets franchise money from the cable companies. She encouraged the Committee to reject the full court basketball project.

Norm Miller – asked how much money we take in a year for open space. Donna said about \$260,000 a year. If we keep spending the money on the recreation fields and the pool, we won't have any money left to spend on preserving open space. He doesn't think we should spend any more of these funds on recreation.

Mr. Maybury believes it was in 1999 that the first open space tax was voted on and approved, the increase in the tax was voted on in 2005, by referendum. He asked if an ordinance could be written to prevent any more money being taken out of this fund. Solicitor Rybak doesn't think so but will get back to him on this.

Janet Curran – the field in the Village belongs to the Friends, anyone is welcome to come and use the field for softball. She wishes that Mike Dolan would downsize his building to fit in with what is there. She guesses there is no stopping it now. She asked if the access road could be relocated onto Ikea Drive. Mayor Camp commented that he had Donna compose a letter to Ikea requesting that they look into this. She knows that the LDB had a tough decision to make when approving this application.

With no further comment the meeting was closed to the public.

Mayor Camp – thanked Janet for her comments. He was not able to attend the meeting. Like the LDB, it is hard for the Committee to make certain decisions as well. They are looking at possibly combining our construction department with Eastampton Township. The Walgreens opened yesterday. It is good to see that we are having businesses opening in town.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk

