

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP

7:00 PM CLOSED SESSION REGULAR MEETING 8:00 PM

MAY 11, 2010

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, 2010. 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

George Saponaro, Solicitor, was present.

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

Minutes of the April 27, 2010 meeting. Motion to accept by Mr. Daniels, second by Mr. Adams. All voted yes. Closed session minutes of April 27, 2010. Motion to accept by Mr. Adams, second by Mr. Daniels.

New Business

Big Brothers/Big Sisters – 26th Annual Cycle/Walk (8/28/10) – will begin at 7 AM

Rancocas Conservancy –

EAC – appoint Seth Kaelin to alternate position – motion made by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Daniels. All voted yes. The EAC is full with this appointment; there are no longer any open positions.

Raffle License #7-2010 (Westampton Township Historical Society; 12/11/10) – motion to approve by Mr. Adams, second by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.

Raffle License #8-2010 (Masonic Charity Foundation of NJ; 9/27/10) – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes.

Ordinances

6-2010 Bond Ordinance – second reading. Motion to approve by Mr. Adams; seconded by Mr. Robbins. This was opened to the public for comment; no comment was made. All voted yes.

7-2010 Bond Ordinance – first reading. Motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; seconded by Mr. Maybury. All voted yes. The E ticket system is a computer system and will benefit the Police Department. There is an annual fee that is based on the number of tickets written per year. The system will increase efficiency and save the Township money, as well as saving time in the Court and Police Departments because they will not have to enter tickets manually.

Resolutions

61-10 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Adams; seconded by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.

62-10 Executive Session – for discussion of contract negotiations. Motion to approve by Mr. Maybury; seconded by Mr. Adams. All voted yes.

Public Hearing – 2010 Budget

The Mayor gave a synopsis of the budget. We sent the preliminary budget to the State who slashed it by \$95,000; this amount equates to 1.2 cents. The thirteen cents will be brought down to 11.8 cents. Mayor Camp and Donna would meet with the Local Finance Board tomorrow to discuss the cap waiver. The budget would go up for a vote on next Tuesday, May 18th.

Anthony D’Errico – asked about the 1.5 million dollar loss in revenue. Donna explained there is little to no construction going on at this time; construction permit fees are way down. This is our surplus base; it is how the budget process works. The Township has used revenue from construction fees over the past number of years and had avoided large tax increases until this time. Mr. D’Errico thinks this dip in permit fees should have been anticipated and taken into consideration. He asked what the current surplus for this budget was. There is no surplus this year. He asked about the Municipal Building closing on Fridays and if the employees would be losing pay. Donna explained how it would work.

John Mumbower – asked where the cap is set. It is set at 4 cents. We are asking for a waiver to allow for a tax increase of 11.8 cents. He asked what the impact would be on an average homeowner. Donna answered that it would amount to approximately \$180 dollars per year. This would not include any increase in school taxes or other taxes. This is for local purpose tax only.

Gil Gehin Scott – asked what the revenue is for EMS and why is it down; we answered calls in Willingboro and calls were down with that. Loss of permit revenue represents approximately 75% of the total amount of lost revenue.

John Mumbower – asked what the Recreation Trust account was and if this money is generated from tax dollars. The Mayor explained that the money does not come from tax dollars but is generated by sign up fees for sports programs.

Gary Kritz – asked when the school budget would be discussed. It is scheduled for discussion on Tuesday May 18 at 7 PM. He asked the Committee to explain their rationale in going for such a

large cap waiver; wanted to know how they rationalized asking for such a large increase when the governor has mandated no such increases.

Mayor Camp – they have a short period of time to make the cuts to the budgets. He spent last week with many Mayors; this increase is minimal compared to many other municipalities. There are some that were proposing 24 and even 80 cent municipal local purpose tax increases. This is something that is occurring across the State due to lost State aid. A large part of this loss was due to the State not allowing municipalities to get fees that they normally collect from public utilities, such as Comcast Cable.

Mr. Kritz – resents being compared to other municipalities; it doesn't matter. What matters is the increase that is occurring here in Westampton. He only cares about his pocket. He thinks we have to cut. You can't spend what you don't have; they shouldn't be asking for more. He thinks it is irresponsible.

Mr. Maybury – understands his point; but you must look at what our municipality has lost in aid.

Mr. Robbins – has mentioned before that the Committee is not in agreement; there are two of them that think more cuts need to be made and that they need to be made equitably. The majority of the Committee is going forward with the cap waiver, which he does not agree with. They have all worked hard; it is a difficult process and thinks it will be worse next year.

Herb Tanneberger, Spyglass Court – asked how much the \$95,000 in health care plan increases represents of the budget. This represents a 20% increase in health care costs over last year's amount. He wants to know what kind of work has been done with this. Mayor Camp stated that the State has mandated that 1.5% of an employee's salary be contributed towards health care.

Bill Rudolph – asked what the employees contribute to their pension plans. Employees enrolled in PERS contribute 5.5 %; Police contribute 8.5% of their salaries. Employees in PERS currently contribute \$10 a week towards their health care benefits; their 1.5% contribution would begin in January. EMS and Police do not currently pay anything towards their healthcare costs.

Gary Kritz – the governor is saying the health care contribution should be a minimum of 1.5%; could they have asked for a larger contribution. Donna answered that this would have to be part of contract negotiations. He asked why the contracts were not re-opened as a way to save tax payer dollars.

Herb Tanneberger – asked about the \$71,000 that we must pay to the State for pension plans; there is no negotiation or explanation from the State according to Donna; they simply have to pay it.

Anthony D'Errico – asked what contract was still open; it is just the Police contract. He noticed that comparisons were made with other municipalities; he wonders if we will make concessions and contributions to health care plans and wage freezes like others have. Mayor Camp explained that we cannot discuss negotiations at this time.

John Mumbower – the 1.5% contribution amounts to only \$23 dollars a week on an \$80K salary, he is paying \$195 every two weeks and pays a lot when it comes to deductibles, co pays and prescriptions.

Andrea Callow – asked if there is anything the Township can do to help revitalize the businesses in town. Mayor Camp explained that we still collect taxes on these buildings even if they are vacant.

Larry Tretola – he thinks that an inequality exists between the medical plans in private industry and medical plans that state, teachers and municipal employees receive. He says that they are asking the tax payers to support tax increases but adjustments must be made. There are more out there feeling the sting from the increase; he doesn't care about other Townships, this is the Township that affects him. He doesn't hear a lot of feedback from the Committee how they are going to make these cuts. The tax payers have to rely on the Committee to come up with better ideas; there isn't enough going without.

Mr. Maybury – the medical plans are something that have evolved over the years. We can't change things over night; the 1.5% contribution is a start.

Herb Tanneberger – asked what the percentage of homes is in the Township that are in foreclosure. It is not known.

John Mumbower – thinks that all employees should share equally in the cuts; it seems as if Public Works and the secretaries are taking it on the chin.

Bill Rudolph – got a notice from the State pension plan and from Social Security that there will be a zero increase this year. It is confusing to him and many people how the Committee can ask for such a large tax increase in this case.

Bill Holland – thinks it does not make sense to increase taxes on people that have lost money this year already. If it will be worse next year, now is the time to take care of it.

Gil Gehin Scott – his wife will be losing her job next month; they will be feeling the pain. He suggests that the other three Committee people work harder to shave more off the budget.

There being no further comment from the public on the budget, the meeting was closed for comment.

Correspondence

Superior Court of NJ – sent a letter of thanks for allowing them to use our building for their meetings.

Clean Communities 2010 Funding Allocations – we will receive \$12, 864 this year for litter pick up. This money goes towards OTC picking up the Township roads. We get this every year.

Volunteer groups such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts also volunteer to do clean ups of play grounds, etc.

Dates to remember

May 13, 2010 – Hilton Garden Inn grand opening celebration

May 31st – Memorial Day observed

Sam Hayes – the Westampton American Legion and Am Vets will hold a Memorial Day Service at 10 AM at the American Legion building. He invited the Committee to attend and say a few words.

Timbuctoo – the tentative dig date is June 8th through July 3rd and will take place Tuesdays through Saturdays. They will be looking for volunteers to participate.

Comments – Liaison Reports

Fire Marshal John Augustino – summer is coming, be careful with cooking on grills; check dryer vents and clean them out at least twice a year.

Fire Chief Wylie Johnson – tomorrow their first electronic newsletter will go out. Go to the website to sign up.

Solicitor George Saponaro – will have a few new ordinances ready by the end of the week.

Mr. Robbins – this budget process has been extremely difficult; he thinks the pain should be spread more equitably than it has; there is the possibility the cap waiver will be denied. He will not vote for the budget, he thinks that an 11.8 percent increase is outrageous. Even though they don't agree, they have all worked hard. They have not been able to find common ground.

Mr. Maybury – thanked everyone for their input on the budget process. The only place they have left to cut now is personnel. It's tough to cut more personnel, especially when you are talking about the Police Department. We have already cut the budget to the bare bones.

Public Comment

Gary Kritz – there isn't just cutting of personnel left; we gave you suggestions. Increase health care contributions, open the contracts again for concessions, and shop around for health care. You have more to do, you could do it, but you choose not to because it's hard. He can't keep paying for people to have free health care when he pays for 75% of his health care costs. You're going to have a Boston Tea Party on your hands next year.

Herb Tanneberger – does not envy the Committee's jobs; he moved here with the expectation of spending the rest of his life here; please do everything in their power.

Anthony D'Errico – asked about the legality of using open space funds for salaries. Donna stated that these funds could be used for maintenance and the salary is paid for maintenance of this open space. He asked if there is any cost to the Township for Timbuctoo. Mayor Camp answered that it will cost approximately five thousand dollars, which will be paid out of the open space fund. Mr. D'Errico stated that he was told that any contributions would come from grants. Mr. Robbins will answer this question. The open space fund is a separate fund and does not come out of the general fund. He thinks this money should be spent equitably. He thinks that since we spent 1.8 million on the Sports Complex that some should be spent on the preservation of historical sites, such as Timbuctoo.

Tony Dennis – he cautions everyone that you can't eat an apple in one bite; it takes time.

Janet Curran – grew up here, knows the Timbuctoo site, it is a treasure and of historical significance. She appreciates the pay cut the Committee took. National Police Officer week is approaching where fallen officers are honored. The Memorial Service for Police officers will take place on May 19th at 10:30 AM on Pioneer Blvd.

Chris (Main St., Rancocas) – wanted to know when the decision would be made about the cap waiver. It will be made tomorrow and will be posted on the website.

Jim Lutz – asked about the bond ordinance and how much land was being purchased. It is one acre of land adjacent to our parking lot and we are purchasing it from the State. He asked what the rate of interest is on bonds; currently it is around .9% according to Donna.

John Mumbower – asked if the Committee could amend the disapproved school budget. Mayor Camp explained that typically they come up with a number (dollar amount) that the budget would need to be reduced by. They had no input as to where in the budget the cuts must be made.

With no further comment from the public, public comment was now closed.

Mayor Camp – this process has been tough. With regards to the school budget, they are in need of further updates for Westampton schools. He is looking forward to having everyone back next Tuesday at 7 PM.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk