

WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 12, 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, was present.

Minutes of the December 8, 2009, December 15, 2009 and January 5, 2010 meeting. Motion to accept by Mr. Robbins, second by Mr. Adams. All voted yes.

Closed Session minutes of December 8, 2009. Motion to accept by Mr. Daniels, second by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes.

Old Business

Engineering Fee Estimate for Rancocas Village – this figure can be included on the budget list; perhaps the Historic Society might be able to contribute some money towards this. Mr. Maybury commented that Lumberton Township has installed solar powered speed panels in the Bobby's Run subdivision. He does not know what the cost is; Norm Miller thinks they are about four thousand dollars each. They are very bright and seem to work well. Mr. Robbins asked if our engineering firm would perform the work, Donna answered that they would. He asked if we were tied into using them, Donna thinks that this is something we would use them for since they are the Township engineers.

New Business

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Breakfast, 1/18/10 – will take place at 10 AM. Mr. Maybury attended last year; they were looking at Westampton to fund programs for free. They have been working with Todd Mitzelman on this since one of their big causes is recreation. Mayor Camp said that they are looking for 15 speakers; 3 from each township or sending district; the Mayor, administrator and Police Chief. Chief Smith can't go but has two officers going. Mr. Daniels will be attending.

2. Engineering Fee Estimate for Parking Lot & Timbuctoo – we don't have a choice on this, we must do the work, this will be in the budget packet
3. Municipal Court Report – Mr. Daniels asked what the one year anniversary was for the court merger; it is March for Hainesport, June for Eastampton. Mr. Robbins asked if the fees that are coming in are what were expected. Hainesport is sometimes a bit low since it is all State Police writing tickets, according to Donna.
4. 2010 Road Resurfacing Program – the County will be resurfacing 1.6 miles of Rancocas Road within the Township; also a section of Centerton Road.
5. Bureau of Fire Prevention Report
6. Appoint Fire Marshal (3 year period) – Mr. Daniels made a motion to appoint John Augustino; Mr. Robbins seconded the motion. All voted yes.

Resolutions

14-10 Payment of Vouchers – motion to approve by Mr. Adams; seconded by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes. Mr. Robbins asked for a status update on recreation; he wanted to know if they would be getting a budget; Donna answered that it would be included in their budget packet. Mr. Robbins asked about the Exit 5 Associates charge on the bill list, it is an interest payment on their escrow account. Mayor Camp asked what the extra sheets were in the bill list; it is just the normal payroll according to Donna. It was determined that this is a payroll detail.

15-10 School Board Recognition Month – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes. Mr. Daniels attended the school board meeting yesterday. He wanted to commend the work that our Township school board members perform. Mr. Robbins commended them too and hopes they work to consolidate school districts; there are too many districts in the state. Mr. Daniels will convey a signed copy of this resolution to the Board at their next meeting.

16-10 Martin Luther King Jr. Day – motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; seconded by Mr. Adams. All voted yes. Mr. Daniels read the resolution aloud.

17-10 Executive Session – for discussion of a personnel matter. Motion to approve by Mr. Robbins; seconded by Mr. Adams. All voted yes.

Ordinances

1-2010 Authorize Emergency Appropriation for Preparation and Execution of Approved Tax Revaluation Program – first reading. Motion to approve by Mr. Daniels; second by Mr. Robbins. All voted yes. This cost is only an estimate prepared by the Assessor.

Correspondence

1. Mock Trial Training Exercise – our Police Department participated with the Burlington County Public Defender’s office in this exercise, held here at the Municipal Building.
2. Gypsy Moth Egg Mass Survey – there is no need to spray this year, according to the survey that was performed.
3. County Engineer – Centerton Bridge – the County has put a weight and width limit on this bridge
4. Westampton Public Schools – letter of thanks (Senior Citizen Dinner) – from Walt Keiss, Superintendent.
5. Letter of Interest – LDB – received a letter from Wanda Coe expressing interest in the vacant LDB position.
6. EAC – letter of thanks (Gene Blair) – helped with the DVRPC tour of the Township
7. Burl. Co. Freeholders – compensation for services – we hope to meet with the County soon even though they are not prepared to meet at this time.
8. Letter of resignation from Tom DiOrio – Mr. DiOrio is resigning from the EAC and the LDB. Mr. Robbins wanted a letter of thanks sent. Mr. Adams commented that it would be nice for all of the Committee to sign this.

Workshop Items

Fernwood Springs Farm – this is on hold until Donna sees if the State will be forthcoming with more money. Donna would reach out to them after the budget is done.

Tarnsfield Pool Lease – Mr. Robbins and Mr. Daniels met with the pool representatives to go over the lease. They had a good conversation with them and are waiting for them to come back; Donna would reach out to them for a response. Mr. Robbins thinks they are amenable fine with changing the name of the pool.

Fire Official Ordinances – will put this on for the spring

Dates to remember

2010 Budget Meetings – January 20th @ 6 PM – first meeting

February 2nd – visioning plan presentation @ 7 PM

January 29, 2009 – Chamber of Commerce Meeting @ 9-11 AM

Comments

Fire Marshal John Augustino – asked about the Tarnsfield pool lease; the pool will still be under the Township’s control.

Fire Chief Wylie Johnson – everything is going well.

Police Chief Rick Smith – this week's court session is one of the largest courts we’ve ever held; over 400 cases will be heard. The original K-9 the police had was tested and found to have aggression issues. They have a new dog now; its name is Robbie, he has a great personality. The dog will start a 10 week narcotics training program at no cost to the Township. Tracking and patrol training will take place in the fall also at no cost to the Township. Live scan will be installed in the next 30 days. It was paid out of our Homeland Security grant, again at no cost to the Township.

Solicitor George Saponaro - is happy to be working for the Township.

Mr. Daniels – congratulations to the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor and Mr. Maybury on his election. Happy New Year to all. He attended the school board meeting last night with the Mayor. This is a transitional year with Governor Christie coming on. Schools have frozen all spending. Our schools are the lowest in the County on their spending budget and the second lowest in the State. At this point no one knows if the school board election will be moving to November or will remain during the month of April. There will be an essay contest in the school with the winning students getting to be Mayor for a Day, Police Chief for a day, he will try and get other departments involved. He is trying to facilitate Westampton’s progress in the census. We need the names of people to serve on the Complete Count Committee; we are hoping the count will be over 10 thousand residents which will give us some economic advantages. There are two types of grants available.

Mr. Robbins – thinks it is important for people to know how important this census is; we are probably going to lose a congressional seat due to population shifts. We should not take this lying down; we need a complete count, and should urge all other municipalities to do the same.

Mr. Daniels – thanked the Police Chief for his work setting up the Nixle program.

Mr. Maybury – had a request from a resident that the recreation center be converted to a senior citizen’s center. He took a tour today of Willingboro’s new senior center in the old JFK high school. It is open to all Townships. They have a very comprehensive program. He thinks it would benefit Westampton seniors to visit it. There is no cost with the exception of certain programs. This was done through a block grant. He would get more information and pass it on to our residents.

Mr. Adams – Happy New Year.

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

Janet Curran – was upset at the reorganization meeting since she read the BCT and it was in the paper listed to start at 6:30 PM. It was upsetting for her to see residents here from other Townships who knew the meeting started at 6 PM. She spoke about the application that had come before the LDB for the antennas to be constructed on the Human Services building. She asked about the revaluation and if we are due; she was told that the process was over due. It was dictated by the County, we have to do it.

There were no further comments from the public and the meeting was closed.

Mayor Camp – attended a portion of the school board meeting; he had to leave to attend Eastampton’s meeting. Eastampton Township made it clear to him that they were over joyed by our Fire Departments’ response to the fire in Eastampton on New Year’s Eve. They wanted to extend their gratitude. Ours was the first truck on the scene that night.

He would like to move the meetings out of this room and into the court room. Mr. Adams is comfortable holding the meetings in this room. Mr. Robbins would be in favor of moving into the courtroom; acoustics are a problem however. Thinks this room is ok but sometimes is too casual. Mr. Maybury thinks we should be in the court room; it is more welcoming to the public than the meeting room. He thinks some people may be put off coming into a room like this. Mr. Daniels thinks we should move the meetings into the court room as well since the room better suits a governing body. Donna Ryan commented that we did have a plan to address the acoustics problem in the court room; we just never had the money to do it. We could try to hold some meetings in there and see how it goes. We would try it on January 26th, at the next meeting.

Mr. Daniels asked if we could use the Nixle system to advertize and promote the Township meetings.

The Mayor was on a conference call with PSE & G today; there is a plan to install 200,000 solar panels on light poles through out the State. They only own that many, most of other poles are co owned with other utilities. They will be doing some testing which is a three year process.

At the LDB meeting we received an update from the County regarding additions and renovations to the County library. The Mayor had insisted that the trees that are slated to be removed will be saved and added elsewhere on the site. It will be a state of the art library when it is done.

Donna Ryan handed out a survey about the CDBG – they like resident’s input into the process.

There were no further comments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion Karp, Deputy Clerk