

**TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON  
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**PUBLIC PORTION/PUBLIC MEETING**

**April 11, 2011**

The Township Council held a Public Portion/Public Meeting in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Councilman Vice President Steven Cascio with the Clerk leading the salute to the flag. Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Steven Cascio, Joseph D'Urso, Richard Hrbek. Absent: None. Mr. Goetz arrived at 8:30 p.m. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Lilly Chin, Acting Administrator; Kenneth Poller, Attorney.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, this meeting was noticed with the Ridgewood News, posted on Municipal Bulletin Board and filed with the Municipal Clerk.

The Clerk read the total of various bill paid, a copy of which is attached and made part of these minutes.

**REPORT OF MAYOR**

AMBULANCE CORPS/ORITANI BANK - In my December 5, 2010 report, I asked our residents to be as generous as possible to the Ambulance Corps fundraising drive as those volunteers are there for us any time we need them plus Oritani Savings Bank pledged to match each contribution dollar for dollar. I thank the residents for their response as Oritani presented the Corps with a check for \$50,000. It was done at the 100th Anniversary celebration of the Oritani Bank on Tuesday, March 22, 2011. What a great way to celebrate! I also thank Oritani for all the support they have given to our town and its organizations.

E-NEWSLETTER - If you have not signed up for the E-Alerts/Newsletter, I urge you to sign up for this service on our website at [twpofwashington.us](http://twpofwashington.us).

ONE STOP "GET RID OF" DAY - On Saturday, March 26, we had our Paper Shredding, e-Recycling, and Green Awareness Education Day from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. I thank Greenstar and the Green Team for their volunteerism. Greenstar provided the large (4 ton) shredding truck, e-recycling truck, and trained employees to operate the equipment. The Green Team braved the cold weather to educate residents on conservation. It was a very successful day as residents shredded 3 tons of paper and completely filled the e-recycling truck. In addition, the Baseball Association had its annual cleanup of the fields for opening day.

Residents have already asked about the next "Get Rid of" day; hopefully, it will be sometime in June, the date to be announced. Also, the administrator is working with Bergen County to get a free e-recycling event for the Township.

RECYCLING - For January and February 2010, residents recycled 187.06 tons for a rebate of \$7,801.96; for January and February 2011, residents recycled 215.95 tons for a rebate of \$11, 334.96. Congratulations Community--keep up the good work.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - On March 20, I attended a fundraiser at the K of C to help a local charity. This Saturday, April 16, they are holding their annual honoree dinner where they recognize the hard work and dedication of 5 individuals in our community.

SAFETY FIRST - As you are aware, last month I announced a new initiative, Safety First. The goals are to improve safety, document the safety measures we already have in place, and then qualify for a Municipal Joint Insurance Fund recognition award. Vic Fadini, our insurance agent and Lilly Chin, administrator, are developing this initiative and had their first meeting two weeks ago with the stakeholders

(DMF, police, fire, recreation, and administration) involved in promoting and implementing safety procedures. Examples of safety objectives include: accident prevention, improved lost time rate; job site observation by senior personnel; safety videos and/or classes through the MEL; and municipal fleet safety policy checking driving records of all who operate township vehicles.

SCOUTING AWARDS - Speaking of awards, I was honored to present 11 Bronze awards (the highest award in Cadette Scouting) to 11 young ladies from Troop 364. In order to qualify, the troop completed an Environmental Awareness project in which they spent countless hours working to help our community and the environment, e.g. built wooden birdhouses, planted flowers, did clean up for the last 4 years, and created this book to document their work and serve as a model for other children and adults to learn about how they can save the Earth.

Troop 364 generously donated this book to the Township of Washington and will eventually be housed in the library.

On March 27, I was also honored to speak at the Anniversary, Court of Awards, and Installation program for Troop 321. I congratulate the scout leadership, parents, and scouts for their hard work in rebuilding this troop from only 4 scouts several years ago to 19 members now. Excellent job!

SUPERINTENDENT/MAYORS' MEETING - On Tuesday, March 22, I attended Superintendent Zoeller's meeting for the mayors and/or their representatives. He gave us a preview of the 2011-2012 school budget as well as updates on the field project, the preschool program moving from Good Counsel into the high school once the renovation of some classrooms is complete, and the summer programs.

SCHOOL BUDGET - Much has been reported about a \$3.92 per month reduction for the school part of the taxes for a Township house assessed at \$542,800. Yes, we are paying 47.21% of the school budget and Westwood is paying 51.13%. However, you will not see a reduction this year because the fiscal year for the town is Jan 1 to Dec 31 and the fiscal year for the school is July 1 to June 30. Since you have to use part of one year and then part of the next year and divide by 2, you will not see the actual reduction until next year.

DRAGONS SOCCER - The same evening, March 22, I attended the annual Dragons Dinner where the leaders highlight the accomplishments of the athletes and coaches who participate in the soccer program. Mike Gallo does an excellent job as the president of this organization; however, since this is his last year in this position, he was given a citation for his hard work and volunteerism. He deserves the recognition.

RAMIN SAVES HIS MOTHER'S LIFE - At the soccer dinner, as luck would have it, I happened to sit next to Gina Vintalore, the health instructor who taught the Heimlich maneuver to her middle school class the day before (March 21) not knowing that one of her students Ramin Eshagi would need to use this life skill later that day to save his mother who was choking on an almond and unable to breathe. It obviously is an important skill to have.

WESTWOOD/TWP OF WASHINGTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION - On March 16, the WWTEF sponsored its annual dinner to raise funds for a specific goal for the school system, this year being the Arts Program. More than 430 people attended this event to support the cause including Councilmen D'Urso and Hrbek and myself. Brenda Cirillo is the chairwoman and works hard all year to make it so successful. The honoree was John Birkner, Mayor of Westwood.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - The next meeting of the Memorial Day Parade committee is Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at 7 p.m. in the third floor conference room at the Town Hall. I hope that you saw the press release outlining some of the activities planned, and that you can help us with wartime pictures, convertible cars, and floats. Our goal is to show veterans how much we appreciate how they protect our freedom and lives and to educate the children on the importance of our veterans.

BUDGET - The Township budget is being introduced tonight; everyone worked very hard getting it in place. It is well below the 2% cap for the tax levy and for the appropriations. However, I am concerned about next year (2012) and here's why. The surplus on December 31, 2009 was \$1,700,000; the surplus on December 31, 2010 was \$1,900,000, which seems surprising due to the low interest rates. It was fortuitous that we had \$260,000 left from the arbitration settlement; some \$200,000 from outside billing administrative charges, and \$138,000 cancelled from the 2010 budget to be used this year. The question is: what will help surplus for next year?

I cannot leave budget alone until I mention what I consider an unfair labor practice aimed at the administrator--it was great that the Council agreed to appoint her until the end of the year but it was not so great to then turn around a few weeks later and cut the salary especially with the quality and quantity of work that has been accomplished in the last 15 months. How do you expect this person to have the same positive spirit, work ethic, initiative, and enthusiasm she has exhibited in every aspect of her job? Is this the way we should treat an employee who does her work, takes initiative, helps out wherever needed, and is an excellent problem solver? It upsets me that a councilperson could interview someone else for the position for some 30+ minutes and say, "Let's hire him and pay him \$150,000--it's worth it."

GENERATOR COMMITTEE - For many years before 2010, the township council had discussed the need for a generator for the municipal complex to improve preparedness for emergencies. The current generator in the police building is 40 years old, in bad shape, and has a poor design.

A committee consisting of Tom Sears, Randy Ciocco, Chris Riedel, Lilly Chin, and Glen Hooper was appointed to address this important issue. They have made a lot of progress and Tom Sears, the chairman, is developing plans for review by the committee. Once complete, they will be presented to the Council.

NJ CLEAN ENERGY GRANT WORK AT THE FIREHOUSE - Lime Energy replaced all the lights in the bays and repaired all the fixtures in the bays. They installed reflector shields with new energy saving bulbs.

Two controller lights by the power panel outside were repaired and new bulbs installed. The lights in the officer's room, chief's room, and radio and boiler rooms were repaired and energy saving lights installed. This week they will be changing lights in the hallway, upstairs meeting room, and kitchen area. Lime is also repairing and replacing the lights above the fire escape at the west side parking lot and the 2 lights on the east side parking lot.

The Fire Department will supplement with other energy saving lights along the walls of the bays so that the truck drivers can see better when backing in the trucks. These will have motion detectors.

The washer and dryer were delivered today; plumbing and electrical work is in progress.

FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU - Last month I told you about the new Fire Prevention Bureau and its duties to inspect buildings for fire

hazards, review building plans for compliance with fire prevention ordinances and codes, and educate the public about Fire Prevention. Since then, 2 new fire inspectors took the oath of office, Joe Caporale and Paul Langone. They join James Stewart for a total of three inspectors. The fire prevention ordinance is being revised to update the fee structure to meet the requirements of the NJ State Fire Code and BOCA Code. An example is taking actual square footage into account. Once the ordinance is passed, the bureau can start the inspections as it is funded by the revenue.

GSP 168 - This morning we had a meeting with officials from the State Highway Authority, Stantec Engineering, Bergen County Planning and Economic Development, and the Township of Washington to address the construction plans that the Highway Authority has for Exit 168 to reduce to queuing at the exit.

#### **REPORT OF ADMINISTRATOR:**

Mrs. Chin announced that on-line registration for the summer recreation program is going to begin the second week of May. Lime Energy has installed four high efficiency air conditioners in the firehouse with grant money. The units have been checked and are waiting for the permits to be closed. The ambulance corp. is getting a new furnace installed next with grant money. Mrs. Chin spoke about a recent meeting she attended where Senator Cardinale spoke about stream beds and how towns can join together by adopting a resolution that would make it easier for towns to get permission from the DEP to de-silt and de-snag.

#### **REPORT OF COUNCIL**

**Mr. Hrbek:** Mr. Hrbek said that the Green Team will be doing a special event for Earth Day on Saturday April 23<sup>rd</sup> and information will be posted on the town website. April 30 is opening day for baseball and softball. It is a long standing tradition and he encouraged everyone available to join in the festivities.

**Mr. D'Urso:** No Report.

**Mr. Beckmeyer:** Mr. Beckmeyer congratulated the Washington Township girl's 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade traveling basketball team and their coach who are undefeated in the league.

**Dr. Cascio:** Dr. Casio reported that he, Mr. Hrbek, and Mr. Goetz toured the new county dispatching center in Mahwah. The preliminary costs are being looked into to assess it's feasibility for the town. Other shared services are also being looked into.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. D'Urso to approved the minutes for February 25 Closed; March 21 Budget; March 26 Budget; March 28 Public & Budget  
Ayes: Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek  
Nays: None

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to approved the minutes for March 14 Public, Conference, Closed.  
Ayes: Councilmen Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek,  
Nays: None.

A motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. D'Urso to approve the minutes for March 24 Budget  
Ayes: Councilmen Cascio, Hrbek, D'Urso.  
Nays: None.  
Abstain : Mr. Beckmeyer

**PUBLIC PORTION**

A motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Dr. D'Urso to open the public discussion.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek.

Nays: None.

**Rosa D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard** - Mrs. D'Ambra said that she was denied her right to speak a second time during the last council meeting. She spoke about the lack of respect she felt and said that it is a suing situation.

**Raymond Benroth, 838 Crest Place** - Mr. Benroth asked about the status of the cell tower. Mr. D'Urso said that plans are still in progress and more information will be forthcoming.

**Robert Stickle, 191 Walnut Street** - Mr. Stickle said that he has been trying to buy a town-owned piece of property for several years. Letters have gone back and forth, and he would like to know what he has to do to expedite the sale.

**Al Gillio, Wayne Place** - Mr. Gillio asked what the status was with the traffic study for Washington School and was told that they are looking for traffic engineers at this point to evaluate the situation.

**David Snyder, 91 Windsor Circle** - Mr. Snyder said that he has never been to another town's council meeting where the council chose to wait until the end of the public session to comment. He stated that he went to a zoning board meeting and was told that the board did not have a traffic study done for the intersection of Washington and Pascack Road. He said that it would be chaos if the gas station is allowed to rebuild.

**Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue** - Mr. Ullman asked about specific purchases in the budget's capital plan.

**Sandra Philips, 321 Hudson Avenue** - Mrs. Philips asked about changing the timing on the traffic light at the corner of Manhattan and Pascack Roads.

**Bea Napier, 325 Hudson Avenue** - Mrs. Napier stated that there are several potentially harmful health issues that may occur around a cell tower including problems with pacemakers.

**James Jordon 428 Colonial Boulevard** - Mr. Jordon asked if the Parkway Authority would be willing to help finance a traffic study. He said that he finds it hard to believe that the generator needs to be replaced in the municipal building.

**John Hammel 564 Jackson Avenue** - Mr. Hammel asked if the health officer or administration have looked into the possible environmental issues at the shopping center that caused the loss of the sale of the center. He asked about the future installation of sidewalks at George School through a grant the town received.

**Rosa D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard** - Mrs. D'Ambra restated her question about the lack of respect she had felt she was shown when she wanted to make a second comment at the last meeting. Mr. D'Urso stated that he remembered that Mrs. D'Ambra was given her 5 minutes but apologized for any wrongs.

**David Snyder, 191 Windsor Circle** - Restated that there has been no traffic study done at the intersection of Pascack and Washington Avenue. He asked that the council get involved with the zoning board. There is gridlock at the intersection a lot of the time now. He said that the Dunkin Donuts is not renewing their contract at the shopping center. Mr. Goetz said that a traffic study was done by the county and the improvements to the intersection will greatly improve the traffic. Mayor Sobkowitz stated that an additional traffic study should be done.

**Robert Stickle, 191 Walnut Street** - Mr. Stickle said that he has been working with the town since 2008 to buy a piece a property adjacent to his property. Mayor Sobkowicz stated the reasons why the transaction has been ongoing for this length of time. Mr. D'Urso spoke about several issues of concern that are being addressed including town owned properties and the council's dedication to follow through on business that began before this council's term.

**Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Drive** - Mr. Ullman asked about capital projects that are being considered for the future. He stated that he does not have a sense of long term planning. Dr. Cascio said that he has been told that the administration is working with each department head to develop a five year plan for every department. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that the generator the town is looking to replace was first discussed in 2008 and there is money under the old ordinance to replace the generator at this time. She explained the need to have a generator ready for various reasons.

**Sandra Philips, 321 Hudson Avenue** - Mrs. Phillips asked who sets the timer on the traffic light at Manhattan and Pascack Road, it stays red too long while waiting on Manhattan. She was told the county sets the timing and that someone will call the county.

**Bea Napier, 325 Hudson Avenue** - Mrs. Napier asked if she could meet with one or more councilmen in an informal setting to discuss her concerns over the cell tower. Mr. Goetz stated that he would make a date to speak with her one to one.

**James Jordon, 428 Colonial Boulevard** - Mr. Jordon asked who was paying for the traffic study being done at the GSP exit. Mayor Sobkowicz said that the state is paying for the traffic study. He then asked why the town would need a new generator for a building that is not very old. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that it was the fault of the old administration.

**John Hammel, 564 Jackson Avenue** - Mr. Hammel asked about an environmental issue that may be affecting the sale of the shopping center. He wanted to know if the health officer was doing something about it. He spoke about Wayne Place and the traffic situation that has been going on for many years. He said that sidewalks should be put in and parking stopped. Mr. Hammel asked if the sidewalks are going in at George School. Dr. Cascio said that the project will start as soon as school is out.

**Richard Skinner 303 Mountain Avenue** - Lt. Skinner stated he is a 39 year resident of the town and a town police officer. He asked if the ordinance concerning police reorganization could be tabled until the council can have a meeting with Chief Ciocco. He spoke about ideas he has for restructuring that he would like to share with the council. He said that if the ordinance goes through as is stands then the PBA will sue the town. He spoke specifically about the captain and lieutenant, detective and corporal ranks. He asked again to speak to Chief Ciocco before making any decisions. Mr. Goetz said that the council had not been approached by the police administration to meet before now and had wanted to have dialog. Lt. Skinner said that the previous administration made up ranks and positions and the system does need to change.

Mr. Hrbek made a statement to the public apologizing for being misinterpreted early in the meeting for the way. He spoke about his recollection of how the town attempted to offer small parcels of land to residents. He said that he would like to see communication between the

police and council before moving forward with the reorganization ordinance. He spoke about the sidewalk project at George School.

Mr. D'Urso stated that he would like to table the police ordinance until the council can sit down with the police chief if the administration will allow it.

Mr. Goetz agreed with Mr. D'Urso about wanting to speak to the police chief. He stated that the council asked several times to speak to the police chief and delegates to get input. At one point did speak to the PBA.

Mr. Beckmeyer agreed that the ordinance should be tabled until the council can speak to the police.

Dr. Cascio said that he is willing to wait.

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Hrbek to table the police ordinance.

Ayes: Councilmen Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek, Goetz.

Nays: None.

Mayor Sobkowicz gave her reasons why she is not in favor of the police ordinance and said that when the budget is adopted she will set up a meeting between council and the police.

A discussion ensued about various issues during the meeting.

Mr. Hrbek stated that the Council cannot be involved in zoning board issues.

There being no further comments or questions, a motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Dr. Cascio to end the public discussion.

Ayes: Councilmen Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek, Goetz

Nays: None.

#### ORDINANCE:

The Clerk read Ordinance 11-07 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 97 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON.

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Hrbek to introduce and pass Ordinance 11-07 at first reading by title.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek, Goetz

Nays: None

The following resolution was presented and adopted on a motion by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek, Goetz

Nays: None

WHEREAS, Ordinance No.11-07 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 97 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON was introduced and passed at first reading by title at a meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Washington on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that further consideration for final passage and public hearing of said ordinance shall be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2011 at 7:30 o'clock in the evening, prevailing time, or as soon thereafter as said matter can be reached in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road, Township of Washington, NJ at which time and place all persons who may be interested will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning said ordinance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Clerk is authorized to advertise in the Ridgewood News a newspaper circulated in this Township, the introduction and notice of further consideration for final passage and public hearing of this ordinance as required by law.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek, Goetz

Nays: None

BUDGET INTRODUCTION:

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Hrbek to approve the following resolution:

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, Hrbek, D'Urso, Goetz

Nays: None

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the following items of budget submitted by the Mayor for the year 2011 and are hereby increased by the amounts set forth in schedule of increases annexed hereto.

Increases are hereby read as follows:

	FROM	TO
REVENUES:		
Energy Receipts Tax	693,141	707,123
Reserve for Recycling Tonnage Grant	0	21,758
FEMA Reimbursement	0	49,133
Amount To Be Raised by Taxation:		
Municipal Library Tax	0	610,091
APPROPRIATIONS		
Township Clerk		
Salaries & Wages	68,072	73,801
Other Expense	10,300	11,800
Dept of Engineering		
Other Expense	25,000	35,000
Insurance		
Unemployment Insurance	35,000	50,000
Dept of Public Safety – Police		
Salaries & Wages	3,044,110	3,051,344
Other Expense	34,750	81,300
Police Dispatching	10,000	70,000
Dept of Fire Protection		
Other Expense	24,850	27,610
Death Benefits	9,000	9,700
Other Public Works Functions		
Shade Trees – Holiday Decorations	3,000	7,500
Building and Grounds		
Building Maintenance	11,500	29,750
Vehicle Maintenance		
Other Expense	93,400	99,000
Board of Health		
Safety & Blood Pathogen	2,600	3,000
Dept of Recreation		
Other Expense	144,675	152,772
Telephone	36,975	40,000
Water	7,500	9,000
Public Employees Retirement System	171,000	171,002
Maint. Of Free Public Library	610,031	610,091
Reserve for Recycling Tonnage Grant		21,758
EDA – Loan Tank Remediation		35,085
Interest On Notes	11,000	25,200
Payment Of Note Principal	50,000	110,000

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Hrbek to pass the following resolution:

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek, Goetz

Nays: None

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the following items of budget submitted by the Mayor for the year 2011 be and are hereby decreased by the amounts set forth in schedule of decreases annexed hereto.

Decreases are hereby read as follows:

	FROM	TO
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief	20,045	6,402
Amount To Be Raised By Taxation:		
Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	9,199,793	8,613,251
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>		
General Administration		
Salaries & Wages	155,861	109,181
Other Expenses	29,700	28,850
Mt. & Support of Equipment	27,000	20,000
Energy & Environmental Control	12,000	9,000
Township of Council		
Other Expenses	6,850	5,700
Township Clerk		
Other Expense	10,300	9,400
Dept of Engineering		
Revenue Administration		
Other Expense	13,679	12,179
Dept of Public Affairs		
Other Expenses	32,000	19,500
Insurance		
Employee Group Insurance	884,925	824,925
Code Enforcement and Administration		
Salaries & Wages	97,973	92,567
Other Expenses	7,450	6,600
Dept of Public Safety – Police		
Maint.-Ct.-Desk System	17,000	14,000
Other Expense	32,060	30,900
Police Range	5,000	4,000
Dept of Fire Protection		
Internet	25	0
Dept of Municipal Facilities		
Salaries & Wages	684,655	661,087
Board of Health		
Other Expense	25,479	24,979
Animal Control Services		
Other Expense	15,100	13,000
Dept of Recreation		
Salaries & Wages	73,546	72,546
Golden Senior Committee	14,000	10,000
Natural Gas	21,000	20,000
Sanitary Landfill And Dump Fees	97,000	94,000
Social Security	162,000	158,000
Municipal Court		
Other Expense	8,345	6,545

Joint Health Services		
Other Expense	63,399	63,149
Debt Service		
Interest On Bonds	218,027	158,027

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Hrbek to pass the following resolution:

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek, Goetz

Nays: None

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following statements of revenues and appropriations attached hereto constitute the local Budget of the Township of Washington, Bergen County, New Jersey for the 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the said budget be published in the Ridgewood News in the issue of May 13, 2011 and that a hearing on the budget will be held at the Municipal Court Chambers on May 23, 2011 at 7:30 o'clock (P.M.) or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following resolutions were part of the Consent Agenda and were made available to the Governing Body and the Public prior to the meeting.

The Consent Agenda was presented and adopted on a motion by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Hrbek.

Ayes: Councilmen Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek, Goetz

Nays: None.

WHEREAS, an overpayment was received for Block 2101, Lot 8, Qualifier C060E, former homeowners Michael and Meryl Gross and current owner, Alice J. Stoler, for the 4th<sup>d</sup> quarter 2010. Said property was awarded a tax reduction due to a successful tax appeal. The former owners have agreed for the current homeowner to receive the total reduction of the tax appeal. Letters from Mr. & Mrs. Gross together with Alice Stoler's attorney authorizes this transaction.

WHEREAS, this resolution supersedes previous resolution dated February 28, 2011.

WHEREAS, under the N.J.S.A. 54:3-27.2, in the event a taxpayer is successful in an appeal from a reduced assessment, the taxing district shall refund any excess taxes paid, and:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington, New Jersey that the Chief Financial Officer, Jacqueline Do, be authorized to issue a refund to:

Alice J. Stoler

60 White Beeches Drive

Twp. of Washington, NJ 07676

Total Refund:           \$ 838.49

WHEREAS, Anthony & Susan Blackfeld posted engineering escrow on premises known as Block 3106.02, Lot 1, 677 Chestnut Street; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated April 6, 2011, C.O. No. 10-219,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated March 28, 2011,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington is authorized to refund the balance of the escrow money in the amount of \$353.00 to the above.

WHEREAS, Giuseppe Scalia posted engineering escrow and soil movement escrow on premises known as Block 2327, Lot 46, 813 Ridgewood Boulevard East; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated April 7, 2011, C.O. No. 09-167,

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated March 24, 2011,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington is authorized to refund the balance of the escrow money in the amount of \$321.00 to the above.

WHEREAS, William "Bill" Thomson and his wife Lauren, who was raised in Township of Washington, have been residents of Township of Washington for over twenty years and during that time he has served this community as a member of the Township of Washington Zoning Board of Adjustment, Republican Committeeman for the Sixth District; Township of Washington VFW Post 6192 Commander 4 times, as well as holder of other VFW Post 6192 positions; and

WHEREAS, William "Bill" Thomson also served his country in Viet Nam from November 1968 until November 1969 with "A" Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marines and then through an extended tour with "A" Company 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marines; and

WHEREAS, William "Bill" Thomson went on to move through the chairs in the VFW Bergen County District 2 and then as an All-State District Commander, Department Adjutant, Department Judge Advocate and Department Junior and Senior Vice-Commander; and

WHEREAS, William "Bill" Thomson became the first State Commander from Bergen County since 1994 and has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization by travelling throughout the state dealing with veterans' affairs both at the local, county, state and federal level; and

WHEREAS, William "Bill" Thomson has earned the respect and administration of the members of this community for his dedication and commitment to all our nation's VFW members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Washington does officially and publicly acknowledge the exceptional accomplishments and contributions made by Township of Washington resident William "Bill" Thomson as New Jersey State VFW Commander.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council shall present William "Bill" Thomson with a copy of this Resolution to memorialize his dedication and commitment. The Mayor and Council offer their deep appreciation on behalf of the citizenry of the Township of Washington for his substantial efforts and for his continued success in all his future endeavors.

The foregoing resolution was adopted unanimously by the Township Council.

The Temporary Fund Request resolution was removed from the Consent Agenda and after a discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Mr. D'Urso to approve the following resolution:

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek

Nays: None

WHEREAS, an emergent condition has arisen with respect to providing sufficient money for the payment as stated below and no adequate provision has been made in the 2011 Temporary Appropriations for the aforesaid purpose, and N.J.S. 40A:4-20 provides for the creation of an emergency temporary appropriation for the purpose above mentioned; and

WHEREAS, the total temporary budget resolutions adopted in the year 2011 pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 96, P.L. 1951 (N.J.S. 40 A:4-20) including this resolution total \$4,385,976.00 exclusive of debt service; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.40AS:4-20;

An emergency temporary appropriation be and the same is hereby made for the following:

Dept. of Municipalities	
Other Expense	\$3,400.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

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Mary Ann Ozment, Township Clerk

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Fred Goetz, Council President

**TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON  
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**CONFERENCE PORTION/PUBLIC MEETING**

**APRIL 11, 2011**

Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Steven Cascio, Joe D'Urso, Richard Hrbek, Fred Goetz. Absent: None. Also Present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Kenneth Poller, Attorney; Lilly Chin, Acting Administrator.

**PRIORITY**

**Sherry Field Project** - Mr. David Frank and Mr. Michael DeSena spoke to the Council about their new plans and location for a field house to be built at Sherry Field. Due to the field conditions and proximity to wetlands, the field house is now proposed to be built closer to the road and more centrally located on the field complex. Handicapped accessibility was discussed as well as various other details. They discussed building permits and fund raising. Safety issues and maintenance issues were discussed. Mr. Hrbek asked that members working on the project speak to the Colligon's across the street from the field. Mr. D'Urso asked if the administration is looking into grant programs. Mr. Beckmeyer asked who was doing construction. Paul Imbarrato's name was given. Mr. Imbarrato will donate certain aspects of the project although details have not been firmed up yet. Mayor Sobkowicz spoke about the fund raising efforts and the donated labor when Clark field was built. The Council asked that the project plans be broken down into steps. A general timetable of the project was discussed. The Council spoke about the need to have the project funded by donations because there are residents who are not happy that the town is committing money to the project if needed. Mr. Beckmeyer spoke about pay for play laws.

**Ordinance-Use of Municipal Vehicles** - Mr. Goetz spoke about the possible introduction of an ordinance that would require that municipal vehicles have definitive rules as to usage. Certain officials need to have full time use of their vehicles. The new DMF pick up truck was discussed. Going forward, having rules in place will stop misuse. Mr. Hrbek spoke about the county dispatch center and the positive way they electronically keep track of their emergency vehicles. Data from this system has many advantages.

**Fields, Master Plan** - Some Council members and Mr. Riedel are meeting Mr. John Williams at Memorial field on April 12. They will speak to him about doing some engineering studies and helping the town create a master plan for all town fields. Mr. Williams will give the town a formal proposal.

**COAH** - Mr. Poller will need to work with the town's planner on the town's COAH plan. The Master Plan will need to be referenced. Mrs. Do spoke about the affordable housing forms and her need to be appointed as the official representative for COAH again this year.

**24 Hour Store Openings** - All Council members and administration agreed that an ordinance is needed to be put in place to limit hours of operations for commercial operations. Mr. Poller will draft an ordinance for review.

**Code of Conduct** - Mayor Sobkowicz stated that a sample code of conduct will be coming soon from the vendor putting in the on-line pay system. It was decided that the recreation board is not responsible for coming up with an official code of conduct document. Dr. Cascio will work on finalizing a prototype of the code for the town to adopt.

**UPDATE**

**Payment of Vendors** - Vendors will be paid this month on time. Mrs. Chin stated that everything is fine.

**Pay on Line** - The system will be up and running soon.

**Washington School** - The Board of Ed will be called about their choice of engineer and quotes will be sought to hire a firm to look into a solution to the traffic and safety issues at Washington School.

**Fire Prevention Ordinance** - The Council needs to go through the ordinance before passing. The ordinance from last year is going to be replaced by the new ordinance. Mr. Sears will need to come to a meeting to be able to answer questions. Dates were discussed. The Mayor spoke about Mr. Strabone's qualifications. The job of the Code Enforcement Officer was discussed. Job responsibilities of all departments and the shifting of jobs as well as outsourcing was addressed. Mr. Hrbek spoke about the reasons the town has given certain jobs to certain offices. A question was asked about the CCO fees.

**Telephone Audit** - Mrs. Chin is going to meet with Telephone Cooperative Communication on April 13.

**Energy Update** - Mr. Hrbek and Mr. Beckmeyer spoke about the PSE&G solar panels. They are not very effective or attractive. There are other towns who also do not like the installations. There is the potential that the panels could be dangerous if they become detached from the poles. Mayor Sobkowicz asked that Mr. Hrbek meet with Mark Ficsh, PSE&G representative to see if the town can put collection panels on another location. PSE&G has the approval of Trenton.

**Shared Services (Dispatching)** - Dr. Cascio described the county police dispatching center as state of the art. They are going to have nine towns to start when they begin operations next month. Towns who are part of the central dispatch have school cameras that are connected to the facility. Rates were discussed as well as the benefits to taxpayers. Westwood is also interested. The Council discussed the need for the Chief of Police's input. The financial benefits were discussed. There is a fixed cost to the town. There is a communication benefit between towns by using a central dispatch. More information will be forthcoming.

There being no further business in Conference Session, a motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. Hrbek to move to Closed Session.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek, Goetz

Nays: None

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Mary Ann Ozment, Township Clerk

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Fred Goetz, Council President