

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

**PUBLIC PORTION/PUBLIC MEETING
August 1, 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 Council President Fred Goetz with the Clerk leading the salute to the flag. Members present: Steven Cascio, Joseph D'Urso, Richard Hrbek, Fred Goetz. Glenn Beckmeyer arrived at 9:30. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Kenneth Poller, Attorney. Absent: Lilly Chin, Acting Administrator.

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

The Mayor announced that as of July 29, 2011 Ceil Ritter has retired after working for the Township for 37 years as health/recreation secretary. She has always been very dedicated and has done her job well and will be hard to replace. The Township has received a grant for the seniors and new computers have been purchased with the money. Classes are being formed with Jack Kenney as instructor. More details to follow. Township of Washington Town Day is October 1 with a rain date of October 8. There has been one planning meeting so far and anyone wanting information can go to the Township website. Street sweeping will be week of August 8, 2011. Recycling tonnage is greater this year from January to July than it was last year. The Farmers Market will continue each Sunday except September 11, 2011 until September 25, 2011 at the Knights of Columbus on Pascack Road. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that she and Township police representative attended a shared service meeting regarding police resource consolidation. She said that she used the term consolidation in a generic sense. At the meeting questions were asked about studies and grants. Township insurance agent, Vic Fadini, is working on a Safety First Program to make the Township compliant with JIF requirements. Richard Freeman, the President of the new HMC North, spoke at the Pascack Valley Mayor's meeting about the hospital's target reopening of December 31, 2112. The fence on the school path at Washington School has been replaced and at a cost that saved the Township 2,000 dollars. George School sidewalk and curb project will be completed before school starts. Unfortunately some trees needed to be cut down in the process of building the sidewalks. The Mayor thanked Tom Sears who headed a committee that is looking into replacing the generator at town hall. The specifications of the bid for the new generator are now being reviewed by Township Attorney, Ken Poller. Mayor Sobkowicz spoke about the police program "Over the Limit Under Arrest". She thanked Lt. Hackbarth for doing the paperwork that enabled the Township to receive the grant for the program. The Mayor also thanked Acting Tax Collector, Elaine Erlewein, for her efforts and hard work in getting the tax bills calculated, printed and sent out to the residents. Two young volunteers helped to stuff envelopes. Taxes are due by August 26, 2011 but the Mayor urged everyone to pay their bills earlier. Mayor Sobkowicz wrote four letters since the last Council meeting in regard to various topics that had been addressed at the previous council meeting. She wrote to (1) United Water in reference to finishing their work on Jackson Avenue and repaving the

road as promised, (2) Woodcliff Mayor and Council in regards to opening GSP exit 171, (3) Executive Director of the Turnpike Authority regarding their reconstruction plan for GSP exit 168 and (4) Governor Christy, requesting he stop the Turnpike Authority from carrying out the reconstruction plan.

REPORT OF COUNCIL

Mr. Hrbek - Mr. Hrbek thanked Ceil Ritter for her passion and devotion to the Township over the last 37 years.

Mr. D'Urso - Mr. D'Urso said that he and Mrs. Ritter worked closely on the Township basketball program. He thanked her for all the things she has done for the Township and stated that she will be missed. He said that he wrote a letter to the Mayor and Council of Woodcliff Lake regarding the opening of exit 171 to right turns. He said that he will join Park Ridge Councilman Steve Hopper who is going to lobby for opening the exit at the WCL Take Back the Night. He said that he hopes that Mayor Sobkowicz hears back from the Turnpike Authority and that they will hold off on their plans to reconstruct GSP exit 168. Mr. D'Urso said that he wrote a letter to United Water asking them to expedite their work on Jackson Avenue and repaving of that street. He spoke about a speeding problem occurring in the area of George School. He stated that the maintenance issue on the VFW property needs to be addressed. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that a walk through was done last week and a punch list of items that need to be fixed are being worked on.

Dr. Cascio - Dr. Cascio said that Mrs. Ritter will be much missed. Mrs. Ritter and her husband were instrumental in starting many programs in the Township. He said that the ongoing shared police services meeting he attended with the Mayor and Captain Hooper is in talking stages only. A study must be performed and our police department will be involved as more information is gathered.

Mr. Goetz - Mr. Goetz thanked Ceil Ritter for her many years of service to the Township.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. D'Urso to approve the minutes for the public and conference sessions of June 27, 2011.

Ayes: Councilpersons Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek, Goetz
Nays: None

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Ayes: Councilpersons Cascio, D'Urso, Hrbek, Goetz
Nays: None

Lt. Hackbarth, Twp. of Washington Police Department - Lt. Hackbarth stated that the department is concerned over the continued employment of the three new police officers. Mr. Goetz stated that the situation will be discussed in closed session. Council agreed to allow Lt. Hackbarth and additional members of the police department to attend the closed session meeting regarding the issue.

Rosa D'Ambra 423 Colonial Boulevard - Mrs. D'Ambra asked if the Council and Mayor were going to begin discussions about the administrator's position. She said that she would like them to begin discussing the issue in advance of the acting administrator's agreement

that is soon to expire. She said that she would like a resolution to the issue without negative press in the newspapers. She stated that a house divided will fall.

Les Eslinger, 18 Viola Terrace - Mr. Eslinger said that he moved into town recently. He will be looking at the cell tower from his property if it is built at the location next to town hall. He said the construction of the tower and its maintenance is going to be a large undertaking. Mr. Goetz stated that all tests have been done for the site where the police tower is now located. He explained the history of the public meetings, the planning process and bidding that the town went through. Other locations have been considered and are still being considered. Mr. Eslinger stated that he thinks that many people will suffer the negative repercussions of heavy construction when the tower is erected.

Roselyn Rauch, 284 Wilson Avenue - Dr. Rauch said that she lives at the end of Wilson Avenue near Hudson Avenue and has lived in the Township for almost 40 years. She does not want the cell tower at the end of Hudson Avenue. She is concerned about safety as well as for negative aesthetic reasons.

Norman Rauch, 284 Wilson Avenue - Mr. Rauch stated that he thinks the cell tower should be erected at the shopping center since that is where there is poor reception. He stated that if the tower is not acceptable in the municipal location than it should not be acceptable at the end of Hudson Avenue.

Raymond Benroth, 838 Crest Place - Mr. Benroth stated that the handicapped parking spaces at town hall are very poorly marked. Mr. Goetz said that he agrees and without better signage the police can not issue tickets. Mr. Benroth asked if the cell tower will be put up in his lifetime and that the meetings have gone on too long.

John Tekirian, 273 Colonial Boulevard - Mr. Tekirian said that Colonial Boulevard has only one speed limit sign between Washington Avenue and Hillsdale Avenue. There are many cars that speed. He stated that he is against the proposed commercial development on the corner of Pascack Road and Washington Avenue. He said that traffic will be increased and that residents should be able to vote on the issue. Mr. Goetz stated that the property is private and can not be put on a referendum.

Mitchell Rosenthal, 270 Hoover Avenue - Mr. Rosenthal thanked the Mayor for meeting with him recently and allowing him to present his suggestions and plans. He said that he left copies of the plans for his suggestions with the Mayor. He said that, if the cell tower has to go up in the Township, he suggests that it could be best hidden by trees on the north side of the municipal building. He stated that building a CVS is ridiculous while the shopping center is half empty. He spoke about his plan for the intersection of Washington Avenue and Pascack Road which included making two parking lots, a bus stop and townhouses on the site. He suggested that the Ambulance Corp. be moved to the firehouse property which would increase space for the DPW. He asked why the town ordinance states a cell tower can not be over 100 feet and a 120 foot tower is being erected. Mr. Poller stated that the ordinance can be changed. Mr. D'Urso said that he is against the cell tower but understands that it is going to be erected. He stated that he had offered alternate ideas. He spoke about other sites and stated his frustration over the issue. Mr. Rosenthal reviewed his plan for putting the tower on the north side of the municipal building.

David Snyder, 91 Windsor Circle - Mr. Snyder said that there are many people in the area who do not have cell phone service. There is a

need for the cell tower and wants the Township to go forward with the project. Mr. Snyder said that residents should attend the Woodcliff Lake Council meeting on August 19, 2011 and the Night Out event on August 2, 2011 to speak out against the no right turn issue at exit 171. Mr. Snyder stated that the decorum of the elected officials is negative. He asked that everyone work together. He said that he would like to have all three newly hired policemen remain on the Township police force. He said that townhouses will not be work on the corner property of Washington Avenue and Pascack Roads due to the high price of the property versus market value of townhouses. He spoke about painting pedestrian lines on certain roads in the Township for the sake of safety.

Elizabeth Leahy, 275 Wilson Avenue - Mrs. Leahy said that she lives behind the alternate cell tower site on Hudson Avenue. She stated that she will lose a great amount of value on her house if the cell tower is built and asked Council to please not build the tower behind her home.

Robert Bruno, 697 Hillcrest Road - Mr. Bruno said that the new fencing along the school path looks fantastic. He spoke about the grading that was done without permits or soil testing on the property behind the houses on the corner of Pascack Road and Washington Avenue. Mayor Sobkowicz said that it is not clear if the stream is under the DEP's control. Although soil testing has now been done and the Township is waiting for results, soil testing is not in any town ordinances. Several summonses were issued for the grading and the trees. Mr. Bruno said that the intersection is dangerous for pedestrians due to cars speeding.

Kay McGrath, 778 Clinton Avenue - Mrs. McGrath stated that the traffic is heavy every day in her neighborhood and if the Zoning Board of Adjustment allows commercial buildings at the intersection of Pascack Road and Washington Avenue it will get worse.

Gerald Brown, 529 Jackson Avenue - Mr. Brown said that Jackson Avenue is getting worse every year and a letter to United Water is not enough. He asked if there is money in the budget to repave the road. Mayor Sobkowicz said that there are options for repaving Jackson Avenue. It is on a list she is compiling for the possible road paving consortium. She stated that she is asking United Water to finish their work and repave the road. Mr. Brown said something must be done. Cars go down the road on the wrong side to avoid potholes. Mr. Brown asked about the soil moving at Season's. Mr. Poller stated that there were permits issued but it is being looked into whether more fill was brought in than allowed. Fines have been issued for this matter as well as others. Mr. Brown said that it was his photos and complaints that got the Zoning Officer to investigate. He said that the Township officials should not use Season's for their functions until everything is resolved.

Alfred Gillio, 746 Wayne Place - Mr. Gillio asked if there is a plan for drop off and pick up at Washington School. Mr. Goetz said that he is meeting with Dr. Zoeller this week.

Debra Quinn, 816 Manhattan Avenue - Mrs. Quinn stated that the Township needs to keep the three new police officers. She said that people speed down Manhattan Avenue. She said that the shopping center is losing businesses and it is embarrassing. She stated that she gets cell service from her home and at the shopping center. She is opposed to the location and suggested alternate places. Mr. Goetz agreed that the shopping center needs tenants and wishes the town had any control over it. Mr. D'Urso spoke about the shopping center and the lack of tenants. Mr. Snyder stated that he spoke to the owner of the shopping center recently and tried to talk to her about adjusting the rent rates.

Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue - Mr. Ullman asked about the salary increases that were recently approved and discussed two meetings ago. He had filed an OPRA request for all recent personnel action forms and received only two of them. Mr. Ullman asked what policy is on personnel action forms regarding salary ordinances. Mrs. Do said that a person gets a personnel action form when they are hired. A personnel action form is issued when a person takes a new position. Mrs. Do said that a personnel action form stays with a person until they retire. Mayor Sobkowicz explained how the salary is increased when the salary ordinances go into effect. The Mayor stated that the salary adjustments are still being worked on. A discussion ensued between the Mayor and Mrs. Do about the protocol of the salary increase process. Mr. Ullman said that it seems like this government does not follow strict procedure. He asked when the salaries are going to change for the employees and was told as soon as calculations can be completed. Mr. D'Urso stated that the salary ordinance went into effect in March 2011. He stated that it is his understanding that the salary ordinance takes effect when it is voted on and approved by Council. Mrs. Do said that a change in an annual salary ordinance can not take effect until a new written directive is given to the Finance Officer by the Mayor. The Acting Administrator's salary was used as an example. The salary did not change until July 31, 2011. Mr. D'Urso questioned the procedure policies. Mr. Ullman asked a permanent bonding question about ordinance 06-7 which was the purchase of a SUV. He stated that he does not think that a purchase of this nature should be part of the permanent bond. Mayor Sobkowicz said that the administration is paying for things at this time without bonding as much as possible. Mr. Ullman spoke about the township financial surplus and questioned not using surplus for certain things. The auditor will be coming in September and the topic will be

Suat Abasi, 772 Pine Lake Drive - Mr. Abasi stated that he does not want a cell tower next to his home. He said that his T-Mobile service is working well.

There being no other questions or comments, a motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Dr. Cascio to close the public portion of the meeting.

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

Nays: None.

ORDINANCE 11-14

Mr. Hrbek asked Mayor Sobkowicz for her decision on giving the Deputy Clerk extra time in the Clerk's office without making the position full time. Mayor and Council discussed several options including hiring a new zoning and planning board secretary and health benefit program eligibility. Mr. D'Urso suggested a compromise of 23 and one half hours for the Deputy Clerk's position. Mr. Goetz stated that he wanted to introduce the ordinance. Blue vouchers were explained. A compromise was reached for the Deputy Clerk to work 23 hours per week in the Clerk's office. The administration will advertise for a new planning and zoning board secretary. A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to table ordinance 11-14.

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

Nays: Councilman Cascio

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 Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. D'Urso.

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

Nays: None

WHEREAS, Richard and Laura Merkle posted engineering and soil movement escrow on premises known as Block 4501.01, Lot 6, 96 Honeysuckle Drive; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated March 5, 2007, C.O. No. 06-171; and

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his litter dated July 20, 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 \$69.00 to the above.

WHEREAS, Kurt and Claire Van Sadlers posted engineering and soil movement escrow on premises known as Block 2312, Lot 33, 442 Coolidge Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated July 25, 2011, C.A. No. 10-194; and

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his litter dated July 20, 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 \$70.00 to the above.

WHEREAS, the federal government in 1996 signed into law the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 requiring submission of a corrective action plan for findings and recommendations in the annual audit report; and

WHEREAS, the corrective action plan for 2010 has been submitted to the Mayor and Township Council; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Township Council have received and accepted the plans and they are on file in the Township Clerk's office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE Township Council of the Township of Washington that the plans along with a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Division of Local Government Services of the Department of Community Affairs.

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington Police Department has applied for the Driving While Intoxicated enforcement "Over The Limit Under Arrest 2011 Statewide Crackdown" Highway Safety Grant from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety; and

WHEREAS, the State has awarded a grant to the Township of Washington in the amount of \$4,400.00; and

WHEREAS, the grant (\$4,400.00) will pay for Police Officers to work overtime to enforce laws effecting the safety and welfare of the residents and streets of the Township of Washington and to educate and encourage the public to refrain from driving while intoxicated;

WHEREAS, impaired drivers on our nation's roads kill someone every 30 minutes, 50 people every day and almost 18,000 people each year; and

WHEREAS, 25% of motor vehicle fatalities in New Jersey are alcohol related; and

WHEREAS, an enforcement crackdown is planned to combat impaired driving; and

WHEREAS, the summer season and Labor Day holiday in particular are traditionally times of social gatherings which often include alcohol; and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey, Division of Highway Traffic Safety, has asked law enforcement agencies throughout the state to participate in the Over The Limit Under Arrest 2011 Statewide Crackdown; and

WHEREAS, the project will involve increased impaired driving enforcement from August 19 through September 5, 2011; and

WHEREAS, an increase in impaired driving enforcement and a reduction in impaired driving will save lives on our roadways;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE Mayor and Council of the Township of Washington accept the grant from the State of New Jersey and declare its support for the Over The Limit Under Arrest 2011 Statewide Crackdown from August 19 through September 5, 2011 and pledges to increase awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving.

Mary Ann Ozment, Township Clerk

Fred Goetz, Council President