

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

PUBLIC PORTION/CONFERENCE MEETING

March 28, 2011

The meeting of the Township Council was held this date 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: Glenn Beckmeyer, Steven Cascio, Fred Goetz, Richard Hrbek Absent: None. Joseph D'Urso arrived 7:33p.m. Also present: Janet Sobkowicz, Mayor; Lilly Chin, 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.

PUBLIC DISSCUSSION:

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

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

Nays: None

Arthur Knox, 353 Jackson Avenue – Mr. Knox asked if the communication companies have sent information to the town guaranteeing that the tower will eliminate the service gap. He stated that he does not have a reception problem near Washington Commons. Mr. Goetz stated no one has made any guarantees that the gaps will be fixed for all residents. Mr. Knox asked if the town has looked at alternative technology. The Mayor stated it is not available to us at this time. Mr. Knox asked if the carriers are responsible for removing the tower when they become obsolete.

Joanne Anastasi, 330 Pascack Road – Mrs. Anastasi said that she has read cell carriers reports since the last town council meeting. She spoke about the heights the carriers stated they needed in their reports. She said that the tower may not alleviate all dead zones. If the carrier is not given the requested height needed then they can come back and put in a second tower.

Jerry Brown, 559 Jackson Avenue – Mr. Brown stated that other towns are sharing all types of services. He spoke about the town's age demographics and said that the 55 and older generation is paying the majority of taxes. He asked where the council stands on shared services. Mr. Goetz spoke about the council's proactive approach to interfacing with other towns to see what each town has to offer. Mr. Brown said that the township is not in the articles. He spoke about a pothole in front of his house. He wants his tax money to be better used. Mayor Sobkowicz spoke about the ways the township shares its equipment and services. There will be a report on shared service later in the meeting.

Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue – Mr. Ullman thanked the town for hosting the shredding and e-waste recycling day. He asked about the two expenditures from last year's budget, the pick up truck and the fire department's washer and dryer. He asked if retiring debt was going to be discussed by the mayor and council, as it was a goal they discussed previously. Mr. Ullman asked about the 200 Club grant awarded to the fire department. The Mayor stated the grant was for \$2,310 and could only be used for a specific piece of equipment. The washer and dryer were paid for with cash. Mrs. Do said that as soon as budget is finalized then the retiring of debt can be discussed.

Sam Arisetty, 14 Viola Terrace – Mr. Arisetty spoke about evergreen trees that have died along the property line of Oratani Bank. He wanted to know if the bank is going to replant and clean up the

property owned by the bank. Mr. D'Urso stated that Oritani is willing to work with the town and residents to maintain the property. He explained that it is difficult to distinguish where the bank's property and the town's property lines are. Residents living in the immediate neighborhood have helped to maintain the area. Definitive boundaries need to be checked. Mayor Sobkowicz said that she is meeting soon with representatives of Oritani Bank on several issues and she will add this property maintenance to her list.

Robert Bruno, 697 Hillcrest Drive – Mr. Bruno asked if reports have been found for the soil testing done on Seasons property on the corner of Washington and Pascack Road. Mrs. Chin said that the town engineering firm is working to get the results. Mr. Bruno said that he read that the property owner had recently been in court due to town imposed violations. He asked about an article he read concerning the need to have an additional 10,000 square feet more or less for the county road expansion project. A discussion ensued concerning the proposed intersection project including the expenses to the town. Mr. Goetz spoke about the application for CVS on the Washington and Pascack corner that will soon be up in front of the Zoning Board. Mayor Sobkowicz stated that the project will be very expensive for the town. Mr. Bruno stated that the exit 168 of the GSP needs to be addressed. He stated that the sidewalks at Memorial field are in very bad shape. He said that the employees of Season's park their cars behind the YMHA. There is a sewer issue in that area.

There being no further comments or questions, a motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to close the public portion.

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

Nays: None.

After public portion ended Mayor and Council made comments as follows:

Mr. Hrbek – Mr. Hrbek agreed with residents that the township has not been in the newspaper regarding taking part in shared services. The town had not been prepared to enter into agreements. He stated that he and Dr. Cascio have formed a committee with several other towns and are discussing sharing and combining services and departments. Grants are available for shared service studies but the town is on the hook to go into a shared service or pay money back. Central dispatching is being explored. Ambulance and Fire departments are positive examples of how organizations from different towns can work together when situations arise that require mutual aid. As for the washer and dryer, the 200 Club grant was turned down after deliberation and was bought by the administration with funding from the budget. He spoke about alternate cell technology. At some point the proposed tower may come down when suitable new technology is available.

Mr. D'Urso – Mr. D'Urso agreed with Mr. Hrbek's assessment of the town's lack of preparedness for going into shared services with nearby towns when services have been offered. He spoke about the poor condition of many of the town roads. He spoke about the talks he has been involved with dealing with a variety of shared services. He agrees that the sidewalks are in poor condition on Pascack Road and that the town needs to be responsible for replacing them if they are on town property. Mr. D'Urso agreed with Mr. Hrbek's opinion that the responsibility of whatever redevelopment plans are determined for the intersection of Washington and Pascack Road, it is the decision of the zoning board and the public should attend the zoning board meetings where they can hear what is being presented and voice their concerns.

Mr. Beckmeyer - Mr. Beckmeyer stated that the town is responsible for the maintenance of the sidewalks on town-owned property. Some streets could potentially be a good fit for a shared service type of paving co-op but others would not. He gave Jackson Avenue as an example of a street that needs corrective work under the road, not just repaving. Before the Township enters into a paving co-op he stated it is important to make sure a qualified person is running the program. The person who had been running a successful co-op in our area is no longer in charge.

Dr. Cascio - Dr. Cascio spoke about the cell tower issue and cube alternative technology as not being a good fit for our town's situation. A tower is still needed for the cubes. He told residents to call town hall if they see things that need to be fixed such as broken pavement on sidewalks. A committee made up of municipal officials from the Township, Westwood and Hillsdale has been meeting since May to discuss shared services. At this time the Township has an agreement with Westwood for e-waste recycling. He spoke about the police dispatching research that the council has been doing. Through the years, the health department has been a money making department for the Township but has recently lost the majority of towns who used our services due to financial reasons. The hope is to bring new towns on board and make the department profitable again. Dr. Cascio invited residents to share their thoughts and ideas about shared services with the Mayor and Council by calling and emailing.

Mr. Goetz - Mr. Goetz stated that the town will continue to repair potholes. The town missed the deadline to get involved in the paving co-op for this year. Plans for the development at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Pascack Road are in front of the zoning board and residents are encouraged to attend those meetings to stay informed as well as voice their opinions. The Council will continue to aggressively look into shared services and make decisions only after they feel that it is in the best interest of the taxpayers to sign any agreements.

Mayor Sobkowicz - Mayor Sobkowicz spoke about past shared services that the town was involved in that did not work out well. She said that it is important to be careful before becoming involved in any shared service agreement and gave several examples of negative experiences. She said that United Water has promised to repave Jackson Avenue curb to curb and the town is also working with PSE&G on improving a section of the same street. She said that the town did not have to take money out of surplus for the fire department's washer and dryer and that it came from another place in the budget. She said that a cell tower is necessary at this time. She stated the town is undertaking two large projects this year, one being sidewalks at George School and the second is the West Place ravine. Both projects will require a lot of work. She stated that the town is in good financial shape.

ORDINANCE:

The Clerk read Ordinance 11-03 entitled: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FEES FOR RECREATION DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

A motion was made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Hrbek to introduce and pass Ordinance 11-03 at second reading by title.

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

Nays: None.

The following resolution was presented and adopted on a motion by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Mr. Cascio.

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 Ordinance No. 11-03 entitled AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FEES FOR RECREATION DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES be read on second reading and the public hearing be held thereon pursuant to law.

A motion was made by Mr. Goetz, seconded by Mr. Dr. Cascio to open the public hearing.

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

Nays: None.

Robert Bruno, 697 Hillcrest Drive - Mr. Bruno spoke about the high fees and that when he was involved in recreation sports there was funding for families that were going through hardships. Members of the Council said that the funding is still available for those who need financial help. Fees have gone up because the cost of everything involved has increased.

A motion was made by Mr. Hrbek, seconded by Dr. Cascio to close the public hearing.

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

Nays: None

A motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Dr. Cascio to pass Ordinance 11-03 at second and final reading, submit same to the Mayor for her approval and thereafter be published according to law.

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

Nays: None.

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. Hrbek.

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

Nays: None.

WHEREAS, a homestead benefit was given for Block 2317, Lot 15, James F. O' Hara, 969 Bridge Street, for the 2nd quarter 2011 installment in the amount of \$206.09, and

WHEREAS, the credit adjustment created an over payment in taxes since 2nd quarter taxes were prepaid on December 20, 2010. Per New Jersey Statute 54:3-27.2, overpaid taxes are to be refunded to homeowner,

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:

James F. O' Hara
969 Bridge Street

Twp. of Washington, New Jersey 07676

Refund due homeowner: \$ 206.09

WHEREAS, Danielle Aldouby-Efraim posted a road opening performance bond at 102 Walnut Street;

WHEREAS, according to the letter received from United Water that a water line was already there and there was no need to open the road again;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township Treasurer of the Township of Washington is authorized to refund the Performance Bond in the amount of \$1000.00 to the above.

WHEREAS, Alison Rossomando posted engineering escrow on premises known as Block 3205, Lot 22, 22.01 and 23, 2536 Cleveland Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated September 28, 2010, C.A. No. 4-343;

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated November 21, 2005.

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 \$546.00 to the above.

WHEREAS, B & B Pools posted soil moving escrow on premises known as Block 3205, Lot 22, 22.01 and 23, 2536 Cleveland Avenue; and

WHEREAS, the Construction Code Official has issued approval dated September 28, 2010, C.A. No. 4-343;

WHEREAS, there are no outstanding invoices due the Township Engineer as per his letter dated November 21, 2005.

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 \$125.00 to the above.

Raffle License #800 and #801 for Our Lady of Mercy was approved by the Township Council of the Township of Washington.

Raffle License #802 and #803 for Wyckoff Family YMCA was approved by the Township Council of the Township of Washington.

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Council hereby consents to the appointment of Cindy Mazanec, Trustee of the Free Public Library of the Township of Washington, as read by Mayor Sobkowicz, to serve an unexpired term ending 12/31/14.

The Council then discussed the 2 Transfers and the 2 Temporary Fund Request Resolutions that had been pulled from the Consent Agenda, and they were satisfied with the answers to their questions. A motion was then made by Dr. Cascio, seconded by Mr. Beckmeyer to pass the following resolutions:

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

Nays: None

WHEREAS, Title 40A:4-58 of the New Jersey Statutes provides if it should become necessary during the first three (3) months of the fiscal year to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the respective sums appropriated therefore and there shall be an excess in an appropriation over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose setting forth the facts, adopted by not

less than 2/3 votes of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to make the following transfers in the 2010 Budget Appropriations:

	FROM	TO
Dept. of Finance		
Salary & Wages	\$ 300.00	
Other Expense		\$ 300.00

WHEREAS, Title 40A:4-58 of the New Jersey Statutes provides if it should become necessary during the first three (3) months of the fiscal year to expend for any of the purposes specified in the budget an amount in excess of the respective sums appropriated therefore and there shall be an excess in an appropriation over and above the amount deemed to be necessary to fulfill the purpose setting forth the facts, adopted by not less than 2/3 votes of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of such excess to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Treasurer be and is hereby authorized to make the following transfers in the 2010 Budget Appropriations:

	FROM	TO
Tax Collector		
Salary & Wages	\$10,000.00	
Police Dispatching	\$ 5,770.00	
Financial Services		\$15,770.00

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:

Financial Services	\$4,500.00
Dept. of Municipal Facilities	
Other Expense	
Equipment Parts	500.00
Gas (Natural)	1,000.00
Maintenance of Buildings	
Gas (Natural)	3,000.00

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

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 \$4,387,376.00 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:

Police – Mt. Desk Record	\$1,400.00
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Mary Ann Ozment, Township Clerk

Fred Goetz, Council President