

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

PUBLIC MEETING/PUBLIC SESSION

November 1, 2011

The Township Council held a Public Portion/Public Meeting in the Municipal Building, Pascack Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Council President Fred Goetz with the Clerk leading the salute to the flag. Members present: Glenn Beckmeyer, Steven Cascio, Joseph D'Urso, Richard Hrbek, Fred Goetz. Absent: None. 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

Mayor Sobkowicz spoke about the deaths of three residents who made contributions to our community. Joanne Grasso sat on the Library Board and was a member of the holiday celebrations committee, Mike Hess was a Grand Knight in the Knights of Columbus, and Dorothy Stapleton, wife of former Mayor Stapleton and Township Ambulance Corp. member. Paper shredding event was a success. Next shredding event will be in the spring of 2012. The figures of tonnage and money made in paper and recyclables were announced. Westwood Regional High School was the location on October 19 for a public meeting of the State Health Board and Hackensack North Medical Center. Over 1,100 people were in attendance. She thanked Dr. Zoeller for hosting the event on short notice. She thanked Mayor Birkner and Keith Rosado. She thanked HMCN for reimbursing the Township for the police overtime. The Mayor commended our police department for orchestrating the traffic and safety during the event. She announced that our Police Department received the AAA Outstanding Achievement Award for Traffic Safety program activities. A special Crystal Award was given to the department. The Mayor commended Lt. Hackbarth for his hard work in traffic safety which enabled the Township to receive the award. On Saturday, October 29, 2011 the Police department held Operation Take-Back which is a prescription drug drop off program. She and Council President Fred Goetz attended the school district's update meeting. Several items were reported on at the meeting including classroom changes, retirement benefits, and renovations within various schools, and national recognition for improved test scores. She thanked the emergency services for all their hard work during and in the aftermath of Hurricane Irene. She gave out FEMA information. Township funds are frozen and nothing can be ordered or encumbered from any department without permission from the Mayor due to the storms and the effects they had on the municipal budget. She spoke about the expense of clean up from the snowstorm. The Mayor said that the Ragamuffin parade was a success. She spoke about Gordon Sabol's and Matthew Roger's recent Eagle Scout projects and awards as well as the Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony and Gold awards. Public Safety Committee is being formed. She spoke about the snowstorm that occurred on October 29. There was plenty of salt and sand for the roads. She thanked the Acting Administrator, Fire and Road Department and Ambulance Corp for opening and manning the emergency center. More than one half of the town was without power. She will know more about the damages over the next few days. Storm debris pick up will begin tomorrow. She spoke about an informational ADP program attended by Mrs. Chin and Rosemary Cunningham. Mayor

Sobkowicz announced that the Township of Washington was rated Number 65 in New Jersey Monthly magazine.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATOR

No Report

REPORT OF COUNCIL

Mr. Hrbek - Mr. Hrbek thanked all emergency personnel and DMF workers for their hard work and cooperation during the storm and the aftermath. He said that he appreciates the way our community comes together to help one another during times like this.

Mr. D'Urso - Mr. D'Urso thanked Police, DMF and all emergency personnel for their efforts in times of emergencies. John Horn from the DMF helped Viola Terrace residents move a 1,000 lb. tree that was blocking the road. He stated that the Township should look into buying a chipper for future use.

Mr. Beckmeyer - Mr. Beckmeyer thanked and commended all departments involved as a result of the storm. He reminded everyone to vote on November 8 and show your support.

Dr. Cascio - Dr. Cascio thanked all departments involved in the emergency efforts in town and our residents for reaching out and helping each other. He hoped everyone has power back. He asked people to get out and vote.

Mr. Goetz - Mr. Goetz thanked all emergency personnel for their hard work during and after the snowstorm. He said that he attended a workshop on Labor Negotiations on October 25 and will share the information with Council. He attended the Eagle Scout ceremony and asked that special resolutions honoring the recipients be placed on this evening's agenda. Mr. Goetz said that he joined other guests at the Man of the Year dinner in honor of John Rooney on October 30. He attended a dinner and seminar on Lime Energy held by Ridgefield Manufacturer's Association. He also met with the Fort Lee Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to share ideas on our interdependent communities.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. D'Urso to approve the October 3, 2011 Conference and October 17, 2011 Public Minutes of the Township of Washington.

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

Nays: None

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

A motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Dr. Cascio to open the Public Discussion.

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

Nays: None

John Tekerian, 273 Colonial Boulevard - He talked about sharing of responsibilities with the County and other associations in reference to 911 emergency calls. Has been a resident since 1958 and in all those years he has used 911 five times and in all those cases 911 saved their lives. Every emergency service was at his home within 3 or 4 minutes. Transferring the responsibility to the County would be a big mistake. He said that it should not be a question of money but of the wellbeing of our residents. If it costs more money than fine it will cost more money.

Agnes Smith, 646 Valley Court - Said she would like to reiterate that she would not want us to go to the County. She said we have

wonderful service here in town. We are not in the 1950's but in 2011 and we want the town to stay the same. We want service immediately. She said that she has called for the ambulance and police and they are at her house in a matter of minutes. Service will not be the same if we go to the County. Felt that the town should not be thinking about the almighty buck. Does not feel that the Township should go with any large group. She said that the town needs someone in the office in the evening. She said that she wanted someone there. She told her granddaughter to go to the police department if she ever has a problem at night. She said that she feels that the Township should go forward in a positive way. Said that she did not think that the Township should ruin something that is good.

Randy Ciocco, Chief of Police - I am here to say that I do not feel the need to oppose any plan. He said that he has been here in the Township for many years. Said that he was here for most of the weekend during the recent storm. Said that there were 3 officers working the desk. Said that the Township did not miss a call. People had to wait a few minutes but not too long. He asked that the Council not rush the outside police dispatching issue. He again said that he is not opposed to any option.

Rosa D'Ambra, 423 Colonial Boulevard - Mr. D'Urso had commented about the tragic accident that happened many years ago with our Township chipper and how an employee lost his leg. Does not think we need our own chipper. Also talked about toxic chemicals in the land where we live. There are 5 wells on the different properties on the corner of Pascack Road and Washington Avenue. One well is on the gas station, 2 wells on the Bridal shop, 1 well on Seasons and 1 well on the bus stop area. Feels that, if there is contamination on the corner at the gas station, the town should condemn the property

Gregg Hackbarth, Police Lt. - Talked about the recent storm and how he worked 16 hours on. There were 263 entries into the computer. Feels that if the town gets an outside dispatching system that the level of service will drop. During the 16 out of 30 hours that he worked, he said that there were 3 phone lines going. There were 3 police personnel on line. The police coordinated police, fire and ambulance out of the police desk.

David Snyder, 91 Windsor Circle - Feels that the town should rethink shared services. Feels that the town has a good thing going and should not go to outside dispatching. Need cell tower so that people can communicate better. Hoping that the cell tower will be done by February 1. Mr. Poller said that he cannot give anyone a date. Verizon is taking a long time to get back to him. He also talked about the generator. Feels that town might want to look into dual fuel for generator. Therefore, would not have to rely on just one fuel. If the town goes for a diesel generator would have to have above-ground tank. Also said he was thankful that our police force was at full strength during the last snow as we were able to have police available at all corners. Feels the force should be kept at this capacity. Also talked about bus shelter. Mayor Sobkowicz said that it is being worked on.

Ellen Dogali, 749 Wayne Place - Said that she has heard that there are a lot of robberies. Does not see a lot of street lights in this town in her area. Would like town to look into putting more street lights in.

William Cicchetti, 472 Ridgewood Road - He apologized about not being at the meeting the whole time but said that he was with the Chief. Talked about dispatching. Said that the police are not against dispatching. Said that last weekend was a mess. All the emergency services went over and above themselves. Feels the town should not jump into anything. He said that he was up at town hall all weekend.

Also the town hall is a warming shelter. Feels that it is imperative that the town has a good generator.

James Jordan, 428 Colonial - Said that at the last meeting Bob Schroeder disagreed with the Council about the grant and how the funds could be spent and wondered if the Council looked into the matter again. Mr. Goetz said that he and Dr. Cascio talked to the Prosecutor's office again and reread the grant and the funds can be used for dispatching. Complimented the Council and said that they stirred up the town with an issue that has to be addressed. Did say that this was the first time he heard that maybe part time dispatchers could be used and therefore more police could be out on the streets.

Michael Ullman, 2 Clark Avenue - Said that at the last meeting there was a conversation about a field assessment and study of the physical use of our town fields. Said that the Council seems to think that there is overuse of our fields. Asked if the consultant is going to look at how the fields are being used and he was told yes. Feels that if we could use some of the new high school fields that it might help. Was told the consultant would check out overall use. As of this moment the town does not have the full proposal yet. Mr. Hrbek stated that they town can't fully determine what needs to be done without knowing how we use all our fields. He said that he wanted to make sure that using the new complex at the high school would alleviate some of the use. Mr. Goetz said that we should also take a look at future use of our fields. Right now he said that there is a shortage due to our lacrosse program. Also the high school use of their field is increasing as they are also adding a lacrosse program because of our program. Mr. Ullman then inquired about the washer and dryer for emergency services. He asked if it had been installed and if not, why. Mayor Sobkowicz said that she didn't have a chance to check on it and will call Mr. Ullman during the week. He also asked about how they were paid for as the subject had come up about them in permanent bonding and how the Mayor said that she was trying to pay for them from cash. Mayor Sobkowicz said that since they had already been out on BAN, they were put into the permanent bonding. He asked about the telephone audit and was told nothing was done with it. He also talked about the generator and has the bid been awarded yet and was told by the attorney that there were 5 bids and that they were being reviewed. Mr. Ullman asked what were the powers of the Mayor because there was a State of Emergency declared. Mayor Sobkowicz said that it meant that the town could be reimbursed with regard to extraordinary expenses concerning the snow storm. She told everyone that the warming center was closed on Sunday at 3:00 p.m. and everyone left and it was reopened and is opened now.

There being no more questions or comments, a motion was made by Mr. Beckmeyer, seconded by Mr. D'Urso to close the Public Portion.

Ayes: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, D'Urso, Cascio, 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 Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Dr. Cascio.

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

Nays: None.

Before the Consent Agenda was approved, Item #2, Cancellation of Outstanding Checks was removed. Mrs. Do was asked to supply the

Council with a list of the names of the people who had the outstanding checks that were being cancelled.

Also there was a discussion on the transfer and how the Council wanted to see where there could be money in another line item and that it should not be taken out of legal. It was discussed that there was probably money in the street lighting account and that the money should be taken from that account. It was also talked about fire hydrant service account and how money was available in that account. It was agreed by Mrs. Do to take the money from the street lighting account. The Clerk to revise the resolution.

BE AND IT IS RESOLVED, by the Township council of the Township of Washington that the following Plenary Retail Distribution License renewal for one year, effective July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 be and is hereby approved.

RJC&S Corporation (Inactive)
0266-33-002-007

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Township Council of the Township of Washington that the Municipal Clerk be and is hereby authorized to send a copy of this resolution to RJC&S Corporation.

Raffle License #827 and #828 was approved by the Township Council of the Township of Washington for the Westwood Educational Foundation.

Raffle License #829 was approved by the Township council of the Township of Washington for the Westwood Jr./Sr. PSO.

WHEREAS, Title 40A:4-58 of the New Jersey Statutes provides if it should become necessary during the last two (2) 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 therefor 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 2011 Budget Appropriations:

	FROM	TO
Street Light & Traffic	\$9,000.00	
Statutory Expenditures		
Social Security System (O.A.S.I.)		\$9,000.00

WHEREAS, **Matthew Nathan Rogers** has satisfied the requirements to attain the status of Eagle Scout to be conferred upon him by the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington wishes to acknowledge this extraordinary achievement by a resident of Township of Washington;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Washington does hereby officially and publicly acknowledge the achievements of **Matthew Nathan Rogers** in attaining the position of Eagle Scout to be conferred upon him by the Boy Scouts of America, with congratulations and best wishes to the honoree and his family.

WHEREAS, **Gordon Thomas Sabol** has satisfied the requirements to attain the status of Eagle Scout to be conferred upon him by the Boy Scouts of America; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington wishes to acknowledge this extraordinary achievement by a resident of Township of Washington;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Washington does hereby officially and publicly acknowledge the achievements of **Gordon Thomas Sabol** in attaining the position of Eagle Scout to be conferred upon him by the Boy Scouts of America, with congratulations and best wishes to the honoree and his family.

After a discussion in the Conference Session, a motion was made by Mr. D'Urso, seconded by Dr. Cascio to approve the following resolution:

Ayes: Councilpersons Cascio, D'Urso, Goetz

Nays: Councilpersons Beckmeyer, Hrbek

WHEREAS, the Township of Washington has determined to proceed with the request for proposal process in connection with the Bergen County Prosecutor's Law Enforcement Grant; and

WHEREAS, the Township council has formulated the request for proposal to be submitted to the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office in connection with such grant; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the township council of the Township of Washington as follows:

1. The Township Council hereby approves a request for proposal in connection with the Bergen County Prosecutor's Law Enforcement Grant.
2. The request for proposal is hereby authorized to be sent to the Bergen County prosecutor's office for approval and processing pursuant to the terms and procedures of the Bergen County Prosecutor's Law Enforcement Grant.

Mary Ann Ozment, Township Clerk

Fred Goetz, Council President