

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY  
WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES – May 17, 2011**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall at 7:30 P.M.

Roll Call: Gleba, Torres, Valentine, McDonald, Higgins, Boyle, Jewell

Also Present: Richard Cushing, Municipal Attorney  
Richard Phelan, Borough Manager  
Kristine Blanchard, Borough Clerk

Mayor McDonald led everyone in the flag salute.

Mayor McDonald read the following Statement into the Record:

“The requirements of the ‘Open Public Meetings Law, 1975, Chapter 231 have been satisfied in that adequate notice of this meeting has been published in the Star Gazette and posted on the Bulletin Board of Borough Hall stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.

**Resolution 88-2011 Certification of Local Tax Levy for the Warren Hills Regional School District**

Resolution 88-2011 was made on a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Boyle and adopted.

Councilman Torres noted he was surprised to see it was only a \$250,000 reduction. He would have liked to see a larger reduction. Councilman Boyle stated there are four municipalities involved and there was a lot of discussion during the meeting. The consensus was that a \$250,000 reduction was doable. The participants at the meeting worked hard to reach a consensus to avoid having to send the budget to the State of NJ.

Roll Call: Higgins, Boyle, Jewell, McDonald, Valentine – Yes  
Torres – No  
Gleba – Abstain

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON  
COUNTY OF WARREN  
RESOLUTION NO. 88-2011**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF  
WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY IN REGARD TO**

## **CERTIFICATION OF THE LOCAL TAX LEVY FOR THE WARREN HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the Warren Hills Regional School District presented to the voters, at the annual School Election held on April 27, 2011, a question concerning the tax levy requirements for the said Board of Education for current expenses and capital outlay, designated as the General Fund, in the amount of \$18,908,452; and

**WHEREAS**, the voters of Washington Borough passed the current expense and capital outlay budget designated as the General Fund, by a vote of 175 Yes votes and 168 No votes; and

**WHEREAS**, the total votes cast of the four municipalities comprising the Warren Hills Regional School District rejected the current expense and capital outlay budget, designated as the General Fund by a total vote of 792 Yes votes and 895 No votes; and

**WHEREAS**, the same Warren Hills Regional School Board of Education transmitted an official copy of the rejected current expense and capital outlay budget designated as the General Fund and documentation to the Borough Council of the Borough by April 29, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Washington have reviewed information on the current expense and capital outlay budget, designated as the General Fund as submitted by the said Board of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, a joint meeting of the mayors (or designated representatives) of the four municipalities was held on May 9, 2011, to discuss the current expense and capital outlay budget, designated in the General Fund; and

**WHEREAS**, careful consideration has been given to the information received from the Board of Education, with a view toward providing a thorough and efficient system of education in the school system of the Warren Hills Regional School District.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The tax levy amount of \$18,908,452 on the ballot was rejected by the voters for the General Fund (base budget);

The Mayor and Borough Council has determined that the rejected General Fund is above the maximum T & E budget and that a reduction of \$250,000 will not adversely affect the Board of Education's ability to meet the thoroughness and efficiency standard as set forth in N.J.A.C. 6:19-5.5(a)(3). Therefore, the Mayor and Borough Council hereby reduce the General Fund tax levy by \$250,000. It is recommended that such reductions come from the following line-item accounts:

Account No.	Account	Reduction
11-000-222-177	Technology Coordinator Salary	\$100,000
11-140-100-101	High School Teacher Salaries	40,000
11-190-100-640	High School Textbooks	24,000
11-130-100-101	Middle School Teacher Salaries	26,000
11-000-266-100	Resource/Security Salaries	14,800
11-000-218-104	Guidance Salaries	30,000
11-000-219-105	Part-time Secretary	<u>15,200</u>
		\$250,000

In consideration of these reductions, the tax levy will be adjusted as follows:

\$18,908,452	presented to the voters
\$ 250,000	above reductions
\$18,658,452	certified tax levy amount

2. The Mayor and Borough Council hereby certifies that the amount of the tax levy herein above certified by this Municipal Government for the General fund (base budget) is sufficient to provide a thorough and efficient system of education for the Warren Hills Regional School District.
3. The aforementioned tax levy herein certified by the Borough of Washington for the base budget exceeds the local share required by the Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996.
4. The Borough Clerk of the Borough of Washington is directed to certify no later than Thursday, May 19, 2011, to the Warren County Board of Taxation, the Warren County Superintendent of Schools, the Warren Hills Regional School District Board of Education, the Washington Borough Tax Assessor, the Division of Local Finance of the Department of the Treasury of the State of New Jersey, and to any other parties required by law to receive such certification, that the amount of \$18,658,452 is necessary to be raised by taxation for General Fund revenues (District tax levy); a proportionate amount of which shall be included in the taxes to be raised, levied and collected in this Borough for current expense and capital outlay, designated as General Fund set forth herein, for the Warren Hills Regional School District; and copies of this Resolution, to be executed by the Mayor and Borough Clerk, shall be forwarded by the Borough Clerk of the persons and/or departments named herein, for certification purposes.

## **COUNCIL APPEARANCE**

### Washington Community Solar LLC

Mr. Eric Altman and Mr. Anthony Maula gave a brief background of their company to Council. The company has acquired a 26 acre parcel in Washington Township adjacent to the southwest border of the sewer plant and the DPW garage. Washington Community Solar is in the process of completing a site plan. Mr. Maula stated that Washington Community Solar has a unique opportunity to offer Washington Borough clean, renewable energy for the sewer plant and the DPW garage. The Borough will reap significant savings in energy at these sites. He stated we can offer this to the Borough with no capital investment or costs to the Borough. Mr. Maula explained that an analysis was done using the Borough's current payments for energy show a savings of 2 million dollars over the life of the agreement. Washington Community Solar will have a fixed energy rate for the Borough the first five years of the agreement. After the first five years the rate will increase 3% annually.

Councilman Boyle asked if the sewer plant and garage will still need backup power with JCP&L. Mr. Maura stated yes, the solar plant does not operate at night, therefore backup with JCP&L would be necessary. Councilman Boyle asked if the Borough Engineer would need to review this. Attorney Cushing stated yes, there are many technical aspects that would require the Borough's Engineer to review.

Councilwoman Gleba asked who else would benefit from the solar farm. Mr. Maula stated if the Borough is not interested, they would be able to sell the energy back to the electric companies. Councilwoman Gleba asked if all of the approvals have been given by Washington Township. Mr. Maula stated they have begun the preliminary process.

Attorney Cushing noted that the Borough will need to go out for bid for this type of service.

Councilwoman Gleba asked who will be responsible for repairs or replacement of panels. Mr. Maura stated Washington Community Solar will be responsible for all repairs. Mayor McDonald asked once approvals were obtained; how long will construction take. Mr. Maula stated approximately four months. Councilwoman Gleba asked who will be responsible for the Boroughs engineering and legal fees. Mr. Maura stated that Washington Community Solar is willing to incur reasonable fees.

Mayor McDonald asked if there was interest from Council in pursuing this. All of Council agreed they were interested in exploring this further. It was agreed that the representatives of Washington Community Solar, the Borough Manager, and Borough Attorney would meet to work out the process.

## **MINUTES**

Motion made by Higgins, seconded by Jewell to approve the minutes from the Regular meeting of May 3, 2011.

Councilman Jewell noted a correction. Councilwoman Gleba stated she had spoken with the Borough Clerk earlier in the day.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**

Motion made by Higgins, seconded by Torres to approve the Executive minutes from May 3, 2011.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

## **AUDIENCE**

Mayor McDonald opened the audience portion of the meeting.

Vic Cioni 29 Alvin Sloan

Mr. Cioni read a prepared statement for Council.

I come before you today not as a former Councilman, but as a volunteer on the Recreation Committee. I ask that you reconsider your vote on the reporting structure proposed for the Recreation Commission Ordinance that was discussed at the last meeting on May 3rd. I was on Council when the former Commission had been disbanded and reformed as a Committee. Then, we had asked the Commission members to participate in the forming of a Committee with the Recreation Director reporting directly to the Manager, as all Borough employees do in the current structure. Unfortunately we had never received any feedback from the members (2/19/08 minutes).

The current appointed Committee does not want to miss the same opportunity, which is why we had submitted to you, our recommendations. We acknowledge that the current committee structure has its weaknesses which we addressed in our recommendations.

You are asking 7 volunteers to manage the Recreation Director and the Recreation Secretary. Given our current meeting schedule, every two weeks during peak season, this would really impede our ability to continue to make progress and allow for swift

decisions to be made. If we fail to have a quorum at a given meeting then any direction, which could be critical, could languish for a month. The committee recommends that the current structure, have both the recreation director and the secretary report directly to the manager. This allows for us to continue making real time decisions that will lead to the betterment of the recreation department in the Borough.

The responsibility on the commissioners or the recreation director to manage employees comes with hiring, firing and any other disciplinary actions. There is no guarantee that any of the seven volunteers will have any background in employment law or other Human Resources knowledge. The lack of knowledge and one minor mistake or decision could put the borough at serious legal risk that could ultimately lead to costs that become the taxpayers' burden.

The Borough Manager and the Recreation Director, working as a team will ensure that the knowledge in all areas of expertise, recreation, finance, purchasing and legal compliance are covered through the reporting relationship.

In conclusion, I mention the upcoming forensic audit. The purpose of which is to identify past poor practices and correct them. Why would the governing body want to go back to a failed business model where employees report to volunteers rather than the manager, other than "that was the way we did it in the past"? Isn't that in part why we are in the financial mess we are in today?

Mike Nachbaur 9 Alvin Sloan

Mr. Nachbaur stated he is also on the Recreation Committee. He became involved with Recreation for his children. He stated it is hard for him to supervise an employee when he works far from Washington. Mr. Nachbaur stated it would be hard for the committee to know what goes on daily in the office. Councilman Torres stated it would be up to the Recreation Commission to hire a qualified person to run the Recreation Department. Mr. Nachbaur stated that his concern is the reporting hierarchy.

Rick Feldman 19 Prosper Way

Mr. Feldman stated that the Recreation Commission has always supervised the Recreation Director and to think they can not do it is ridiculous. The person does not need to be micromanaged. He noted that the failed business model was disbanding the Recreation Commission and making it a Recreation Committee.

Hearing no further comments motion made by Higgins, seconded by Boyle to close the audience portion of the meeting.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

At this time Mayor McDonald deviated from the agenda and entertained a motion to enter Executive Session for personnel and contract negotiations.

Motion made by Boyle, seconded by Torres to enter Executive Session.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion Carried

**87-2011**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act; *N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq.*, declares it to be the public policy of the State to insure the right of citizens to have adequate advance notice of and the right to attend meetings of public bodies at which business affecting the public is discussed or acted upon; and

**WHEREAS**, the Open Public Meetings Act also recognizes exceptions to the right of the public to attend portions of such meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council find it necessary to conduct an executive session closed to the public as permitted by the *N.J.S.A. 40:4-12*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in public session at the conclusion of the executive session;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey that they will conduct an executive session to discuss the following topic(s) as permitted by *N.J.S.A. 40:4-12*:

\_\_\_\_\_A matter which Federal Law, State Statute or Rule of Court requires be kept confidential or excluded from discussion in public (Provision relied upon: \_\_\_\_\_);

\_\_\_\_\_A matter where the release of information would impair a right to receive funds from the federal government;

\_\_\_\_\_A matter whose disclosure would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy;

\_\_\_\_\_A collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions thereof (Specify contract: \_\_\_\_\_);

\_\_\_\_\_A matter involving the purpose, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of bank rates or investment of public funds where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed; Real Estate Acquisitions

\_\_\_\_\_Tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public provided that their disclosure could impair such protection;

\_\_\_\_\_Investigations of violations or possible violations of the law;

\_\_\_\_\_Pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation in which the public body is or may become a party; (The general nature of the litigation or contract negotiations is: Contract Negotiations – Forensic Audit\_\_\_\_\_ the public disclosure of such information at this time would have a potentially negative impact on the municipality’s position in the litigation or negotiation; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the potential for negative impact no longer exists.)

\_\_\_\_\_Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required in order for the attorney to exercise his or her ethical duties as a lawyer; (The general nature of the matter is: \_\_\_\_\_ OR \_\_\_\_\_ the public disclosure of such information at this time would have a potentially negative impact on the municipality’s position with respect to the matter being discussed; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the potential for negative impact no longer exists.);

  X   Matters involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective or current public officer or employee of the public body, where all individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected have not requested in writing that the matter(s) be discussed at a public meeting; (The employee(s) and/or general nature of discussion is: Personnel \_\_\_\_; the public disclosure of such information at this time would violate the employee(s) privacy rights; therefore this information will be withheld until such time as the matter is concluded or the threat to privacy rights no longer exists.;

\_\_\_\_\_Deliberation occurring after a public hearing that may result in the imposition of a specific civil penalty or loss of a license or permit;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council hereby declare that their discussion of the subject(s) identified above may be made public at a time when the Borough Attorney advises them that the disclosure of the discussion will not detrimentally affect any right, interest or duty of the Borough or any other entity with respect to said discussion.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council, for the reasons set forth above, hereby declare that the public is excluded from the portion of the meeting during which the above discussion shall take place.

Council entered Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.



Council reconvened in public Session at 10:15 p.m. with all members present.

## **ORDINANCES**

None

## **REPORTS:**

Motion was made by Valentine, seconded by Higgins to receive and file the following reports:

1. Managers Reports (redacted version)
2. DPW Report
3. CFO Report
4. Tax Collectors Report
5. Tax Collectors Sewer Report
6. Municipal Court Report
7. Issues and Details

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Recreation Commission Ordinance Discussion**

Mayor McDonald stated Council was provided with a draft Ordinance. He asked if this is the direction that Council would like to move in. Councilwoman Gleba noted she would like additional wording added concerning grants. She would like to add that grants can be done in consultation with the recreation commissioners and the borough grant application process. She also stated the powers and duties are still vague. Who is paying for what? Are they paying for everything? Councilman Valentine asked if Council would take into consideration the comments heard this evening from the Recreation Committee.

Attorney Cushing stated that he believes the language in dispute is in section 3-55-7. He stated he does not like the way the language is written in this section of the

Ordinance. Attorney Cushing clarified that Council would like to see the Recreation Commission supervise the Recreation Director with fiscal and statutory supervision be with the Manager. The majority of Council agreed.

Attorney Cushing will change the wording of the draft Ordinance to reflect Councils wishes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Resolution 90-2011 Authorizing 2011 Professional Service Contract with Schneider and Company for Forensic Audit Services.**

Resolution 90-2011 was moved on a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Boyle and adopted.

Roll Call: Higgins, Boyle, Torres, Jewell, McDonald, Gleba, Valentine

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion Carried

### **RESOLUTION 90-2011** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING 2011 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT** **WITH** **SCHNEIDER AND COMPANY FOR FORENSIC AUDIT SERVICES.**

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington has a need to contract the services of a Forensic Accountant; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington is awarding this contract under a "fair and open process" that has included public solicitation of qualifications; and

WHEREAS, publicly advertised requests for qualifications were posted on the Borough's website, Star-Ledger and the New Jersey League of Municipalities; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2011, proposals for this professional service were publicly opened; and

WHEREAS, Schneider and Company has submitted a proposal dated February 23, 2011 indicating they will provide the above-referenced services at the rates listed in their fee schedule for an amount not to exceed \$87,500-; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the Borough Clerk that funds are available in the following budget account:

1-01-20-135-000-029

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington to enter into a contract with Schneider and Company as described herein; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this appointment will be published as required by law within ten days of the passage of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and Schneider and Company.

**Resolutions 84-2011 and 85-2011 Redemption of Tax Certificates**

Resolutions 84-2011 and 85-2011 were moved on a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Boyle and adopted.

Roll Call: Higgins, Boyle, Jewell, McDonald, Valentine, Torres, Gleba

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION # 84-2011**

**A RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION OF TAX CERTIFICATE  
As per N.J.S.A.54:5**

**KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS THAT, WHEREAS,** lands in the taxing district of Washington Borough, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, were sold on September 16, 2010 to Arthur Frustaci, 1178 Fifth Avenue, Alpha, NJ 08865, in the amount of \$110.72 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2009 in the name of Marchese, James S Jr & Lori A (now Federal National Mortgage Assoc) as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 6 Lambert Street, Block 3 Lot 13.04, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #10-00004; and

**WHEREAS,** I, Kay F. Stasyshan, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 5-02-11 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Attorney MC Johnston claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by Arthur Frustaci by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$826.11, which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #10-00004.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the

Treasurer to issue a check payable to Arthur Frustaci, 1178 Fifth Avenue, Alpha, NJ 08865 in the **amount of \$826.11**.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 3 Lot 13.04 from the tax office records.

### **RESOLUTION # 85-2011**

#### **A RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION OF TAX CERTIFICATE As per N.J.S.A.54:5**

**KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS THAT, WHEREAS**, lands in the taxing district of Washington Borough, County of Warren, State of New Jersey, were sold on October 25, 2007 to Crusader Liens Services, 115 West Avenue, Suite 300, Jenkintown, PA 19046, in the amount of \$6,126.96 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2006 in the name of Schmitzer, William & Sharon as supposed owners, and in said assessment and sale were described as 21 Sunrise Terrace, Block 43 Lot 12, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #07-00432; and

**WHEREAS**, I, Kay F. Stasyshan, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 5-02-11 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, Attorney Ryan-Meyer claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by Crusader Liens Services by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$39,366.68, which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #07-00432.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to Crusader Liens Services, 115 West Avenue, Suite 300, Jenkintown, PA 19046 in the **amount of \$49,366.68 (\$39,366.68 principal and \$10,000.00 premium)**.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 43 Lot 12 from the tax office records.

#### **Resolution 86-2011 Amending the 2011 Professional Service Contract with Suburban Engineers for Waste Water Consulting Services**

Resolution 86-2011 was moved on a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Jewell and adopted.

Councilman Boyle noted this will cover the costs of the Gardner's Court project and attendance at Sewer Committee Meetings.

Roll Call: Higgins, Jewell, Boyle, Gleba, McDonald, Torres, Valentine

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion Carried

**Resolution 86-2011**

**RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2011 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT  
WITH SUBURBAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS  
FOR WASTEWATER CONSULTING SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington has a need to contract the services of a Wastewater Consultant for 2011; and

WHEREAS, on January 18 2011, via Resolution 10-2011, the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington awarded this contract under a "fair and open process" that had included public solicitation of qualifications; and

WHEREAS, publicly advertised requests for qualifications were posted on the Borough's website; and

WHEREAS, on September 30, 2010, proposals for this professional service were publicly opened; and

WHEREAS, Suburban Consulting Engineers has submitted a proposal dated September 30, 2010 indicating they will provide the above-referenced services at the rates listed in their fee schedule for Wastewater Consulting Services; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has a need to increase the amount of the contract with Suburban Consulting Engineers by an additional \$10,000 to account for supplementary Waste Water Engineering projects unknown to the governing body at the time of contract award; and

WHEREAS, the amended amount of the contract will not exceed \$30,000; and

WHEREAS; any additional work above and beyond the base Wastewater Consulting Services charged in accordance with the hourly fee schedule stated above only if authorized by the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified to the Borough Clerk that additional funds are available in the following budget account:

1-05-55-502-000-028

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Borough Council of the Borough of Washington hereby amends the contract Suburban Consulting Engineers as described herein; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of this appointment will be published as required by law within ten days of the passage of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Financial Officer and Suburban Consulting Engineers.

**Resolution 89-2011 Void and Replace Check**

Resolution 89-2011 was moved on a motion made by Boyle, seconded by Torres and adopted.

Roll Call: Boyle, Torres, Gleba, Valentine, McDonald, Higgins, Jewell

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion Carried

**RESOLUTION #89-2011**

**A RESOLUTION TO VOID AND REPLACE A CHECK**

**WHEREAS**, check #3898 was written 1/05/11 on Washington Borough's Operating Fund # 8102360230 in the amount of \$4,166.67 and made payable to Gebhardt & Kiefer, P.C., PO Box 4001, Clinton, NJ 08809; and

**WHEREAS**, the Treasurer's office was made aware that this check was misplaced by the vendor. A written request has been received for a replacement check and a stop payment was placed on check #3898; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey that the Borough Treasurer is authorized to void and replace check #3898. A replacement check should be made payable to Gebhardt & Kiefer, P.C., PO Box 4001, Clinton, NJ 08809 in the amount of \$4,166.67.

**VOUCHERS**

Mayor McDonald entertained a motion to approve the claims and vouchers in the amount of \$1,365,436.84.

Motion made by Valentine, seconded by Boyle and approved.

Roll Call: Torres, McDonald, Boyle, Higgins, Valentine, Jewell, Gleba – Yes  
Jewell – abstain from EMS and Fire Department vouchers  
Gleba – abstain from Finelli Consulting Engineers vouchers  
Higgins – abstain from Fire Department vouchers

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0  
Abstain: 3 (Jewell – EMS, Fire, Gleba – Finelli, Higgins - Fire)  
Motion Carried

## **RECAP**

Manager Phelan stated he will work with Attorney Cushing and Washington Community Solar to determine the next course of action.

## **COUNCIL REMARKS**

Councilman Valentine apologized for being unable to attend the school board meeting regarding the Warren Hills Regional budget cuts.

Councilman Torres stated the Borough continues to seek volunteers. The survey is on the website and copies located in Borough Hall.

Councilwoman Gleba stated she had given Council information on the 3/50 project regarding support of local businesses. We can not put this information on our own website however; she requested an email blast be sent to residents as a reminder to go to the BID website for the information. She also requested permission to fill out the 3/50 project supporters form on behalf of the Borough to show that we are supporters of the program. Council concurred. She stated that she would also like to start a committee to review the codebook (ordinances.) There is a definite need for this. Council agreed. Council agreed Gleba, Valentine, Boyle will be on the committee. Councilwoman Gleba will chair the committee. Councilwoman Gleba also requested the Borough consider background checks for recreation, coaches, etc. She stated she will do the research on this as far as costs etc. Councilman Torres stated if this requirement is not added to the Recreation Commission Ordinance it will be up to the Commission as to whether or not they want to perform background checks. Councilwoman Gleba asked if she should pursue the research. Council agreed for her to do the research.

Councilman Higgins stated he had asked for the maintenance schedule from the water company for the fire hydrants. Manager Phelan stated he reached out to the water company and has not heard back. He will follow up. He stated that he is glad to see that after a two year process that we are finally getting started on the investigate audit. He asked if the Manager received anything in writing on the Pleasant Valley Mill Dam. Manager Phelan stated he only has verbal approval to decommission the dam. Councilman Higgins asked if there will be any follow up on the BID discussion that took place in Executive Session at the last meeting. Mayor McDonald stated that it can be placed on the agenda for Executive Session at the next meeting. Councilman Higgins stated that as a result of the Warren Hills Regional School Board meeting regarding their budget, the school board would like to form a small committee when the new administrator comes on board in July. This way there will be communication between the

four municipalities about the budget that will affect everyone's taxes. It will also be used to explore shared services.

Councilman Jewell stated all parties involved with the investigative audit did an excellent job. He also reminded everyone to put their flags out for Memorial Day.

Councilman Boyle asked if Council will receive the audit in June. Manager Phelan stated it will be on for adoption at the next meeting. Councilman Boyle stated he is working with Councilman Jewell on the roads that we are hoping the County will accept. He is hoping to have something in writing soon and the Council can adopt a Resolution to present to the Freeholder Board.

Mayor McDonald stated he hopes that Mr. Del Elba will reach out to his citizen group to let them know that Council wanted to make sure that everything was done properly concerning the investigative audit. Mr. Del Elba stated he will do that and thanked Council for making this decision. Mayor McDonald stated that the Mayor's Book Club program has concluded. The check will be presented to Taylor Street School on June 1.

Hearing no further business, a motion was made by Higgins, seconded by Torres, to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 pm.

Ayes: 7, Nays, 0

Motion Carried.

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Mayor Scott McDonald

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Kristine Blanchard, Borough Clerk