

**BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
WASHINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL MINUTES – February 04, 2014**

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of Washington, Warren County, New Jersey was held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall at 7:00 P.M.

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.”

Mayor McDonald stated that Council has a number of Boy Scouts in the audience. Representing Pack 145, Den 6 is Conner McDaniel who led everyone in the flag salute.

Roll Call: Jones, Thompson, McDonald, Conry, Higgins, Torres,
Gleba

Also Present: Kristine Blanchard, Borough Manager/Clerk

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mayor McDonald notes that there is correspondence from the State of New Jersey regarding the Borough’s Wastewater Management Plan.

A motion was made by Higgins, seconded by Gleba to receive and file the correspondence.

Council Discussion:

Councilman Higgins stated that he had the opportunity of meeting Mr. Dean Durling, the President and CEO of Quick Check. According to Mr. Chris Jepson, the Borough’s Sewer Engineer, Washington Township has taken Quick Check out of their Wastewater Management Plan. Councilman Higgins added that Quick Check wants to hook up to the Borough’s Wastewater Management Plan as soon as possible which in turn means revenue for the Borough. Councilman Higgins also stated that all Quick Check has to do is obtain the proper permits to open the street and connect into the Borough’s sewer system.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

AUDIENCE:

Mayor McDonald opened up the audience portion for remarks, petitions, statements, and testimony from guests.

Hearing no comments from the audience a motion was made by Higgins, seconded by Thompson, to close the audience portion of the meeting.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

REPORTS:

A motion was made by Gleba, seconded by Torres to receive and file the following reports:

1. CFO – Revenue Report December 2013
2. CFO – Expenditure vs. Appropriation December 2013

Roll Call: Thompson, Torres, Jones, Conry, McDonald, Higgins,
Gleba

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilwoman Gleba performed some research for Council’s knowledge and to help make an educated decision moving forward in regards to Recreation and the overall budget. Councilwoman Gleba reached out to the Mayors of Lopatcong and Belvidere since they both have pools in their municipalities. Councilwoman Gleba asked the respective towns what their annual contributions to their Recreation Commissions are and if their annual contributions cover salaries. Councilwoman Gleba also asked if they have a Recreation Director and if that individual is full time or part time and their salary. Councilwoman Gleba stated that in Lopatcong, the Recreation Commission has no involvement with the operation of the parks and pool which could change in the future. There is a budget appropriation under parks and playgrounds covering salaries and operating expenses. The appropriation for salaries is \$60,000 and \$75,250 for operating expenses. Councilwoman Gleba added that in Lopatcong there are four employees who are Certified Pool Operators paid \$10 per hour who manages the daily operations. The township clerk and her staff handle the overall operations and that individual reports directly to the Council and Mayor. The budget appropriations cover the maintenance of the park and the pool expenses. Lopatcong’s DPW is responsible for the overall

maintenance, set up and breakdown of the pool. There is also a small seasonal crew that performs the daily maintenance.

Councilwoman Gleba stated that Belvidere has no Recreation Commission or Committee therefore any need for a Director. All the recreation activities in Belvidere are run by private organizations. The town runs a one month long summer recreation program that is paid for out of a recreation trust account. The account is supported by the fees charged for program so it pays for itself. Councilwoman Gleba added that many years ago Belvidere created a pool utility, which means that the pool supports itself and has it's own budget outside of the town's municipal budget. The town does pay for the electricity, liability insurance and the DPW does provide some maintenance. There are two DPW employees who hold their CPO license. The main recreation field is owned by the town, so Belvidere does provide the mowing and the liability insurance but the maintenance such as marking the fields is done by the private organizations. The town maintains the insurance for all sports programs, but charges a per player fee for each sport that is paid for by the organization to the town at the end of the respective season. The pool utility is managed by the pool commission which is all volunteers with oversight and final approval coming from the governing body. Councilwoman Gleba added that Belvidere has a pool manager that works May through August at \$16 per hour and two assistant managers at \$11.50 per hour. The pool is open 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. every day. The manager conducts all job interviews and also attends all pool commission meetings.

Mayor McDonald added for the audience's sake that the Borough's part time Recreation Director has resigned and the Borough is looking into the possibility of creating a full time position. Mayor McDonald stated that Councilwoman Gleba's research has been very helpful.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #26-2014 – Resolution to Adjust Sewer Billings in Accordance with Borough Ordinance

RESOLUTION # 26-2014

**A RESOLUTION TO ADJUST SEWER BILLINGS IN ACCORDANCE WITH
CHAPTER 70, SECTION 28B OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF
WASHINGTON.**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Washington commenced operations of a municipal sewer utility in January of 1999; and

WHEREAS, certain facts have come to the attention of the Borough to justify modification of sewer service charges which have been reviewed by the Borough Manager; and

WHEREAS, notice has been provided to the owner(s) of the property or properties listed below of the action proposed to be taken with the date, time and place where the Mayor and Council will meet to consider change(s) in the E.D.U.'s assigned to the property or properties listed below; and

WHEREAS, all parties affected by this resolution will be notified of the action taken, in writing, and notified of an opportunity to appear, in person, at a formal hearing of the governing body, if dissatisfied with the decisions made herein.

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 following changes in the sewer service charge(s) are approved:

BLOCK/LOT	NAME/ADDRESS	
REASON/ADJUSTMENT		
79/9	Papp, Louis 30 Beethoven Ave. Washington, NJ 07882	Change in Use (2) to (1) E.D.U. Effective: February
2014		

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Borough Clerk be directed to send a certified copy of this resolution to all parties affected by this resolution and advise them of their right to protest the decision and request a formal hearing before the governing body, as provided in Chapter 70, Section 13. If no protest is filed, the decisions contained herein shall be considered final.

Resolution #26-2014 was moved on a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Jones and approved.

Roll Call: Thompson, Torres, Jones, Conry, McDonald, Higgins,
Gleba
Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Resolution #27-2014 – Redemption of Tax Certificate

RESOLUTION #27-2014

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 December 15, 2011 to FWDSL & Associates LP, 5 Cold Hill Rd S Ste:11, Mendham, NJ 07945, in the amount of \$8,388.14 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2010 in the name of Rogers, Rebecca E. as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 142 Van Buren Street, Block 58 Lot 2.02, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #11-00014; and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 1-28-14 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, PNC Bank claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by FWDSL & Associates LP by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$50,335.71 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #11-00014.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 4th day of February, 2014 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to FWDSL & Associates LP, 5 Cold Hill Rd S Ste: 11, Mendham, NJ 07945 in the amount of **\$50,335.71**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 58 Lot 2.02 from the tax office records.

Resolution #27-2014 was moved on a motion made by Torres, seconded by Thompson and approved.

Roll Call: Thompson, Torres, Jones, Conry, McDonald, Higgins,
Gleba

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Motion Carried

Approval of Annual Inter-local Agreement for Solid Waste Disposal

A motion was made by Gleba, seconded by Torres to approve the Annual Inter-local Agreement for Solid Waste Disposal.

Council Discussion:

Councilwoman Gleba asked if the fees have changed and Manager Blanchard replied that they have not changed.

Roll Call: Thompson, Torres, Jones, Conry, McDonald, Higgins,
Gleba

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

VOUCHERS:

Mayor McDonald entertained a motion to approve the vouchers and claims in the amount of \$1,390,071.95

Motion made by Gleba, seconded by Conry to approve the vouchers.

Council Discussion:

Councilman Torres questioned the purchase of heaters which was listed under public works. Manager Blanchard replied that heaters were purchased for the municipal building to keep the offices warm while the boiler was not working. Manager Blanchard added that the new boiler will be installed on Friday, February 7th and take approximately two days. The building will be closed on Friday due to the lack of utilities.

Roll Call: Torres, McDonald, Conry, Jones, Higgins, Thompson,
Gleba

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0

Abstain: (1) Thompson – Fire Department & EMS

Motion Carried.

RECAP:

Manager Blanchard will reach out to Quick Check to plan a meeting in order to discuss hooking into the Borough's sewer system. Manager Blanchard will also provide Council with the recreation research performed by Councilwoman Gleba.

COUNCIL REMARKS:

Councilman Thompson stated for everyone to stay warm, stay safe and have a good weekend.

Councilman Higgins asked if the budget workshop is on February 11th. Manager Blanchard replied that there will be a budget meeting on Tuesday, February 11th at 7:00 p.m. Councilman Higgins also asked how the Borough is doing in terms of with the amount of salt left for the winter. Manager Blanchard replied that there is a salt shortage in the State of New Jersey. Manager Blanchard added that both of the Borough's salt distributors are just about out of salt. Manager Blanchard stated that the Borough will do

what they can to get by with what's left. Councilman Higgins also asked if it was determined if the windows used in the Paramount building being renovated downtown are the proper windows. Councilwoman Conry replied that she will inquire at the next Planning Board meeting which is Monday.

Councilman Torres thanked the D.P.W for the great job during the last snow storm. Councilman Torres also thanked Councilwoman Gleba for her research on Recreation Departments in the area. Councilman Torres noted that he observed Manager Blanchard in action and noticed the public professionalism that she displayed in regards to residents receiving parking tickets during snow removal. Councilman Torres also expressed concern about the fire at the Vicon Tile building. This was another vacant building which is an issue that needs to be addressed. Councilman Torres thanked the Washington Borough Fire Department for their prompt response in putting the fire out.

Councilwoman Gleba read the following letter from the Warren Hills High School into the record:

“On behalf of the Warren Hills Human Rights Club, thank you for your support of the proclamation to proclaim January 11th of each year Human Trafficking Awareness Day in the Borough of Washington. It was an opportunity for students to experience government in action and civic responsibility. I especially appreciate the opportunity given to students to voice their concerns and share their heartfelt comments on the impact of human trafficking at the Washington Borough Council meeting on January 27, 2014. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Debbie Rokosny
Advisor, Warren Hills Human Rights Club”

Mayor McDonald thanked Boy Scout Pack 145, Den 6 for coming out tonight. Mayor McDonald added that he would be happy to answer any of the scout's questions after the meeting.

Councilman Higgins made a motion to re-open the audience portion, seconded by Torres.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Frances Wheeler – 67 North Jackson Avenue

Mrs. Wheeler stated that for the first time in ten years, she received a parking ticket. The issue is that she owns the portion of the road in front of her home that she parks on. Mrs. Wheeler added that she received a parking ticket for being parked in front of her home during the last snow storm. Mrs. Wheeler stated that her survey shows that she owns that portion of the road. Manager Blanchard replied that since a ticket was issued, Mrs.

Wheeler will have to take her survey to the court to dispute the charge. Councilman Torres stated there are several issues of ownership on North Jackson Avenue and a title search is something he feels should be done to answer these questions. Councilwoman Gleba noted that nothing has changed in the no parking on street during snow removal ordinance which has been in effect for some time. Last year, Council repealed the overnight parking ordinance which cause confusion during the first snowfall this year. This confusion caused tremendous difficulties for the D.P.W. to plow the snow properly. Mrs. Wheeler will provide Manager Blanchard a copy of her survey along with a letter from the Tax Assessor which confirms the ownership of that portion of the road on the survey.

Janice Cummings – 101 Park Avenue

Mrs. Cummings stated that her driveway is on a blind curve and has had many close calls due to other cars speeding by. Mrs. Cummings asked if it's possible to have a sign for drivers to slow down or alerting drivers of a hidden driveway. Manager Blanchard will reach out to the engineer to see if there is anything Borough can do.

Donald Laznovsky – 14 Lenape Trail

Mr. Laznovsky had a question regarding ordinances and the fines associated with them. Mr. Laznovsky received a fine for not shoveling the sidewalk while on vacation and questioned why the range is up to \$500. Mr. Laznovsky just wanted to pay the fine instead of going to court but couldn't because nobody could tell him the amount. Manager Blanchard replied that municipalities give the fine a range when they adopt an ordinance and the amount is at the judge's discretion. Mayor McDonald added that typically a judge will start at the low end. Mr. Laznovsky did not care for the attitude of the prosecutor that spoke to him like he was a child which was very insulting. Mr. Laznovsky feels there should have been a set fine that he could have paid without going to court.

At this time, Councilman Torres apologized to Mrs. Wheeler for the difficulties that she is having with the Borough's communications and he hopes to improve that in the future.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business, a motion made by Higgins, seconded by Conry to adjourn the meeting at 8:00p.m.

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Mayor Scott McDonald

Kristine Blanchard, RMC Borough Clerk