
AGENDA

Zoom
Webinar ID:
890 0520
0206
Participant
ID: 438076

BOROUGH OF WASHINGTON, WARREN COUNTY, NJ

**May 18, 2021
7:00 PM**

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE

The requirements of the Open Public Meetings Law, P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 have been satisfied in that adequate notice of this meeting has been published in the Express-Times (Warren County Edition) and posted on the Boroughs website stating the time, place and purpose of the meeting as required by law.

ROLL CALL Conry, Cox, Duchemin, Heinrich, Noone, Norris, Higgins.

AUDIENCE/COUNCIL APPEARANCE

Remarks, petitions, statements and testimony from guests

NEW BUSINESS

MINUTES

Regular Minutes : May 4, 2021
Executive Session: May 4, 2021

Agenda-Continued

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

RESOLUTIONS

- **RESOLUTION 2021-60** Budget Resolution Public Hearing/Adoption
- **RESOLUTION 2021-72**-Municipal Alliance
- **RESOLUTION 2021-73**-RESOLUTION FOR REDEMPTION OF TAX CERTIFICATE
- **RESOLUTION 2021-74**-RESOLUTION OPPOSING NEW JERSEY STATE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE FOREST MANAGEMENT BILLS A-4843/S-3549, A-4844/S-3550 AND A-4845/S-3548

VOUCHERS

REPORTS

Police

RECAP

COUNCIL REMARKS

Remarks, Reports, Discussions

EXECUTIVE SESSION-if needed

ADJOURNMENT _____ P.M.

DRAFT SUBJECT TO CHANGE

RESOLUTION 2021-60

2021 Municipal Budget

of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren for the fiscal year 2021

Revenues and Appropriations Summaries

Summary of Revenues	Anticipated	
	2021	2020
1. Surplus	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 602,560.19
2. Total Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 1,882,042.68	\$ 2,640,561.34
3. Receipts from Delinquent Taxes	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 408,000.00
4. a) Local Tax for Municipal Purposes	\$ 5,049,709.06	\$ 5,413,680.88
b) Addition to Local District School Tax		
c) Minimum Library Tax	\$ 149,734.12	\$ 148,383.92
Total Amount to be Raised for Support of Municipal Budget	\$ 5,199,443.18	\$ 5,562,064.80
Total General Revenues	\$ 8,081,485.86	\$ 9,213,186.33

Summary of Appropriations	2021 Budget	Final 2020 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries and Wages	\$ 1,230,501.68	\$ 1,273,132.57
Other Expenses	\$ 4,588,360.18	\$ 5,750,584.58
2. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	\$ 266,510.00	\$ 268,049.18
3. Capital Improvements	\$ 144,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
4. Debt Service (Included for School)	\$ 1,103,562.00	\$ 1,141,462.00
5. Reserve for Uncollected Taxes	\$ 748,552.00	\$ 719,958.00
Total General Appropriations	\$ 8,081,485.86	\$ 9,213,186.33
Total Number of Employees	F/T 20 & P/T 14	F/T 16 & P/T 14

2021 Dedicated Sewer Utility Budget'

Summary of Revenues	2021	2020
1. Surplus	\$ 596,196.00	\$ 709,129.00
2. Rents	\$ 2,100,000.00	\$ 2,250,000.00
3. Miscellaneous Rents		
4. Miscellaneous		\$ 25,000.00
Total Revenue	\$ 2,696,196.00	\$ 2,984,129.00

Summary of Appropriations	2021	Final 2020 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries and Wages	\$ 185,000.00	\$ 185,000.00
Other Expenses	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 1,791,215.00
2. Capital Improvements	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
3. Debt Service	\$ 100,196.00	\$ 96,914.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00
Total General Revenues	\$ 2,696,196.00	\$ 2,984,129.00

2021 Dedicated Solid Waste Budget'

Summary of Revenues	2021	2020
1. Surplus		
2. Rents	\$ 650,168.00	
3. Miscellaneous Rents		
4. Miscellaneous		
Total Revenue	\$ 650,168.00	

Summary of Appropriations	2021	Final 2020 Budget
1. Operating Expenses: Salaries and Wages	\$ 181,000.00	\$ 185,000.00
Other Expenses	\$ 335,323.00	\$ 1,791,215.00
2. Capital Improvements		\$ 100,000.00
3. Debt Service	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 96,914.00
4. Deferred Charges & Other Appropriations	\$ 13,845.00	\$ 11,000.00
5. Surplus (General Budget)		\$ 800,000.00
Total General Revenues	\$ 650,168.00	\$ 2,984,129.00

Balance of Outstanding Debt

	General	Sewer Utility	Solid Waste Utility
Interest	\$ 207,618.27	\$ 8,700.00	
Principal	3,224,268.07	160,832.87	
Bond Anticipation Notes	2,987,500.00		
Bonds Authorized but not Issued	648,200.00	400,000.00	
Outstanding	\$ 7,067,586.34	\$ 569,532.87	\$ -

Notice is hereby given that the budget and tax resolution was approved by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, on,

A hearing on the budget and tax resolution will be held at the Borough Hall on at May 18, 2021 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. at which time and place objections to the Budget and Tax Resolutions for the year 2021 may be presented by taxpayers or other interested persons.

Copies of the budget are available in the Office of the Clerk at Borough Hall 100 Belvidere Avenue, Washington, New Jersey, (908) 689-3600 during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

RESOLUTION 2021-72

FORM 1B

WHEREAS, the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, The Borough Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through the County of Warren;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Washington, County of Warren, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Franklin/Mansfield/Washington Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2022 in the amount of:

DEDR	\$2476.00
Cash Match	\$619.00
In-Kind	\$1857.00

2. The Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

RESOLUTION 2021-73

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 22, 2020 to US Bank Cust Pro Cap 8, 50 S 16th Street, Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102, in the amount of \$327.13 for taxes or other municipal liens assessed for the year 2019 in the name of Grasso, Debra J as supposed owner, and in said assessment and sale were described as 11 E. Stewart St. Block 29 Lot 1, which sale was evidenced by Certificate #20-00023; and

WHEREAS, the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of the Borough of Washington, do certify that on 5-11-21 and before the right to redeem was cut off, as provided by law, USDA, claiming to have an interest in said lands, did redeem said lands claimed by US Bank Cust Pro Cap 8 by paying the Collector of Taxes of said taxing district of Washington Borough the amount of \$1,026.15 which is the amount necessary to redeem Tax Sale Certificate #20-00023.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 18th day of May 2021 by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Washington, County of Warren to authorize the Treasurer to issue a check payable to US Bank Cust Pro Cap 8, 50 S 16th Street, Suite 2050, Philadelphia, PA 19102 in the amount of **\$2,126.15** (This amount consists of \$1,026.15 Certificate Amount redeemed + \$1,100.00 Premium).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Tax Collector is authorized to cancel this lien on Block 29 Lot 1 from the tax office records.

RESOLUTION 2021-74

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING NEW JERSEY STATE ASSEMBLY AND
SENATE FOREST MANAGEMENT BILLS A-4843/S-3549, A-4844/S-3550
AND A-4845/S-3548**

WHEREAS, Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs) approved pursuant to Section 3 of P.L. 2009, c. 256 (C.13:1L-31), are exempt from all regulations of the Highlands Regional Master Plan including logging and water body rules; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Senate and Assembly have introduced bill A-4843/S-3549, which would require local governments to develop FSPs for all public forest land of 25 acres or more owned by Washington Borough that had been acquired for conservation and recreation under the Green Acres Program; and

WHEREAS, Washington Borough has recently secured the purchase of a tract of undeveloped land whose acreage exceeds 25 acres, located in the proximity of Nunn Avenue, Lenape Trail, Mechanic Street and Cemetery Hill Road, and intends to use this land for recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, Washington Borough has secured the Railroad Avenue Recreational property, a tract of undeveloped land bounded by Railroad Avenue, Washburn Avenue and the Norfolk Southern Railroad, whose acreage exceeds 25 acres, and intends to use this land for recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, bill A-4843/S-3549 will require Washington Borough to implement FSPs on these two (2) parcels of land; and

WHEREAS, the FSPs would need to be researched, developed and submitted by a trained Forester and Washington Borough, at Washington Borough's cost; and

WHEREAS, bill A-4843/S-3549 does not provide any funds for compliance and, therefore, amounts to an unfunded mandate; and

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WHEREAS, the financial pressure caused by this unfunded mandate would force Washington Borough to consider and institute one or more actions, each of which would have one or more negative impacts on the fiscal, environmental and social health of the community. Among those potential actions are, increasing taxes, reducing services, reducing Borough employees and engaging heavily in the logging of our public land which would also expose our forest ecosystems to invasive plant and insect species, while risking degradation of our soil and water quality, which would force Washington Borough to incur additional costs to remediate resulting environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, non-profit land trusts that also manage land in the County of Warren for public enjoyment, that struggle to secure adequate funding for land stewardship would be at a loss to pay for the preparation and implementation of required FSPs which could result in bankruptcy and/or loss of their land; and

WHEREAS, the FSPs required under A-4843/S-3549 are not the appropriate approach for protecting public forests and lands, nor enhancing the ecosystem services; clean water, clean air, flood mitigation, carbon sequestration they afford us. When written and reviewed by foresters these stewardship plans typically emphasize logging and the extraction of wood products, which is a drastic measure and is not appropriate management for most if not all public forests; and

WHEREAS, logging will reduce New Jersey's ability to sequester carbon and make it more difficult to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions reductions target in the NJ Global Warming Response Act; and

WHEREAS, logging will result in more stormwater runoff and more silt and pollution in our waterways while also causing environmental damage to wetlands, waterways, and forest habitats. Logging will limit access to public forested land; and

WHEREAS, logging would diminish the recreational experiences of Washington Borough residents; and

WHEREAS, should the State of New Jersey or any other public or private entity provide funds for FSPs and eliminate the unfunded mandate issue, Washington Borough still opposes A-4843/S-3549 for all the other reasons stated herein; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Senate and Assembly have introduced bill A-4844/S-3550, which provides that county approval is not required for FSPs. The bill would also prohibit a local government unit, such as Washington Borough, from enacting any ordinance, rule, or resolution that requires local government approval of an FSP or that conflicts with, prevents, or impedes the implementation of an FSP approved by the DEP. The bill would also provide that the DEP's rules would supersede any county ordinance adopted prior to the effective date of this bill; and

WHEREAS, Current law (Section 6 of P.L.2009, c.256 (C13:1L-34) states: No local government unit may enact, on or after the date of enactment of P.L.2009, c.256 (C. 13:1L-29 et al.), any ordinance, rule, or resolution, as appropriate, that conflicts with, prevents, or impedes the implementation of a forest stewardship plan approved pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2009, c.256 (C13:1L-31). A-4844/S-3550 extends these restrictions to any ordinance, rule, or resolution that requires local government approval of a forest stewardship plan.

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Therefore, this bill ensures that all forest stewardship plans required under companion bill A-4843/S-3549 are included in this set of already highly restrictive limits on municipalities and prevents them from having any control over NJDEP FSPs; and

WHEREAS, current law already restricts municipal oversight of NJDEP approved FSPs but has not impacted many municipalities as FSPs are not required and municipalities manage open space land through local ordinances. The enactment of A-4843/S-3549 will replace many ordinances with FSPs and many municipalities will lose total control over their forested lands and be unable to stop them from being logged; and

WHEREAS, there are no penalties associated with damages caused by FSPs. Replacing ordinances with FSPs would take away the authority of local governments to ensure private companies or individuals are not impacting environmentally sensitive areas or threatened or endangered species or creating disturbances close to stream corridors; and

WHEREAS, bill A-4844/S-3550 is a violation of home rule principles and the principles behind municipal land use laws throughout New Jersey's legislative and judicial history; and

WHEREAS, bill A-4845/S-3548 sets a Statewide goal of conducting prescribed burns on a minimum of 50,000 acres in the Pinelands area, and an additional 10,000 acres elsewhere in the State, every year; and

WHEREAS, bill A-4845/S-3548- requires burning about 6% of New Jersey's entire public forested land every year (In 17 years an area equivalent to all of New Jersey's public forests will have been burned); and

WHEREAS, there is no supporting scientific justification offered for burns of the magnitude required by bill A-4845/S-3548. Requiring a burn of 10,000 acres anywhere in the state outside the Pinelands is irresponsible, dangerous, costly, and wholly without merit; and

WHEREAS, decisions to conduct controlled forest burns of specific sizes should be based on scientific analysis of specific situations in specific areas each year and not predetermined for all time by law; and

WHEREAS, burning forests increases greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, both of which are already significant problems throughout New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the Prescribed Burns Act does not properly address air pollution and it limits liability if these fires get out of control; and

WHEREAS, controlled burns are expensive to execute and bill A-4845/S-3548 also causes additional expenditures by requiring all relevant State agencies involved in environmental planning and land use management to incorporate the yearly minimum burns into all plans, programs, and surveys.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington Borough Council,

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in the interest of protecting its residents and businesses, and controlling its public open spaces to optimize its value as a source of recreation and public enjoyment, as of XXX XX, 2021, strongly opposes New Jersey State Assembly and Senate Forest Management Bills A-4843/S-3549, A-4844/S-3550 and A-4845/S-3548.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor of the State of New Jersey Phil Murphy, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, State Senator Bob Smith, State Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin, State Senator Steven V. Oroho, Senator Michael J. Doherty, State Assemblyman Parker Space, Harold J. Wirths and John DiMaio, Warren County Commissioners Lori Ciesla, Jason Sarnoski, James Kern III, New Jersey Forest Watch (newjerseyforestwatch@gmail.com), Warren County Municipalities, League of New Jersey Municipalities, and NJ Advance Media.

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP **POLICE DEPARTMENT** **MONTHLY REPORT** **2021**

ACTIVITY	APRIL
POLICE DISPATCHED INCIDENTS	1,325
TOTAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS	TOWNSHIP = 34
	BOROUGH = 40
	OXFORD = 7
TOTAL CRIMINAL ARRESTS	TOWNSHIP = 8
	BOROUGH = 8
	OXFORD = 0
TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES	TOWNSHIP = 17
	BOROUGH = 5

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	OXFORD = 3
MOTOR VEHICLE STOPS/COMPLAINTS	395
MOTOR VEHICLE SUMMONS	TOWNSHIP = 47
	BOROUGH = 17
	OXFORD = 3
CRIMES TO ANOTHER'S PROPERTY	57
CDS /ALCOHOL INCIDENTS	76
DOMESTIC/FAMILY ISSUES	81
ALARMS	71
EMS/FIRE CALL	153
OTHER TYPES	467

ALSO SEE OUR INTERACTIVE CRIME MAP LOCATED ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE OR ON OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT'S WEBSITE