

**MINUTES
WOOLWICH TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 17, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alan Schwager at 7:01 p.m. with the following statement:

The April 17, 2017 regular meeting of the Woolwich Township committee is being called to order. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Roll Call: Battisti: PRESENT Carleton: PRESENT Schlump: PRESENT
Rizzi: PRESENT Schwager: PRESENT

Also present on the dais were Solicitor Mark Shoemaker, Director of Community development Matt Blake and Administrator/Clerk Jane DiBella.

Those present saluted the American Flag.

Motion was made by Committeeman Carleton and seconded by Committeeman Schlump to open the meeting to public comment. All were in favor.

Hearing no comment, motion was made by Deputy Mayor Rizzi and seconded by Committeeman Carleton to close the public portion. All were in favor.

Upon a motion by Committeeman Schlump, seconded by Committeeman Carleton and unanimously passed, the following reports were approved as submitted for the month of March.

Tax Collector:	\$392,400.82 remitted
Municipal Court:	\$13,527.28/Woolwich \$10.00/Swedesboro
Police:	Monthly Activity
Woolwich Fire Company	Monthly Report
DOCD Report:	Monthly Report

Deputy Mayor Rizzi moved to approve a consent agenda for resolutions R-2017-110 through R-2017-120. Committeeman Carleton seconded.

Committeeman Schlump requested that resolutions R-2017-116 and R-2017-120 be pulled from the consent agenda.

Deputy Mayor Rizzi then amended his prior motion to approve a consent agenda for resolutions R-2017-110 through R-2017-120 with the exception of R-2017-116 and R-2017-120. Committeeman Schlump seconded. All were in favor.

Motion was then made by Committeeman Carleton and seconded by Committeeman Schlump to adopt resolutions R-2017-110 through R-2017-120 with the exception of R-2017-116 and R-2017-120. All were in favor.

R-2017-110 Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Road Opening Permits-134 Jockey Hollow and Licciardello Drive

R-2017-111 Resolution Authorizing Cancellation of Municipal Certificate of Sale

R-2017-112 Resolution Endorsing the Findings and Determination Statement and Authorizing the Clerk to Submit Application for Raffle License on Behalf of F2D Elite Dance Company

R-2017-113 Resolution for Public Fireworks Display

R-2017-114 Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Part Time Seasonal Janitorial Staff-Locke Ave. Park

R-2017-115 Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of Summer Help-DPW

R-2017-117 Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to Transfer or Refund Overpayment of Taxes

R-2017-118 Resolution Authorizing Lease Agreement for Farming Purposes, Block 3, Lot 6 and Block 28.01, Lot 1

R-2017-119 Emergency Temporary Budget NJSA 40A:4-20

Deputy Mayor Rizzi moved to approve resolution **R-2017-116 Resolution Appointing Interim Park Director**. Committeeman Carleton seconded.

Committeeman Schlump voiced concerns as to the appointment as he feels that it would be in the best interest to advertise and hire to fill the vacant position.

Deputy Mayor Rizzi advised that this is an acting position, and that the Committee will advertise and interview when seeking to fill the post permanently prior to the beginning of 2018.

Committeeman Schlump asked why the current P & R President nor the field scheduler were provided the opportunity. Mayor Schwager replied that both were told they would have to step down from the volunteer board positions and neither wanted to do so.

All were in favor Committeeman Schlump opposed.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Rizzi and seconded by Committeeman Battisti to approve resolution **R-2017-120 Resolution of the Township of Woolwich, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey Adopting a Redevelopment Area Preliminary Investigation Report**.

Solicitor Shoemaker advised that wording within the resolution was amended to be consistent with the JLUB resolution which excluded any power of eminent domain, and wished to make it clear that the Committee has no intention to take any property under the power of eminent domain.

Committeeman Schlump asked if that is binding or if the county or state push forward on eminent domain. Solicitor Shoemaker replied that the municipality cannot control whether the state or county could take property. He added that this Committee has made every effort to make the public feel secure that no one is taking anything.

Committeeman Schlump said that residents that he spoke with are concerned with a change in landscape if development comes. He added that there is concern that blight will occur when retail leaves and the township is faced with empty stores.

Mayor Schwager replied that the designation of a redevelopment area does not change zoning laws. He said that the 322 landscape will change regardless, and has been in the planning stages for a very long time. He stated that this is a tool to assist the township in developing vibrantly, and to add incentives for builders to create a viable community.

Committeeman Schlump expressed concern for the residents that adjoin the redevelopment area.

All were in favor Schlump opposed

The Administrator/Clerk presented her report as self explanatory. There were no questions from the Committee.

Motion was made by Committeeman Carleton and seconded by Committeeman Schlump to accept the Engineer's Report as submitted. All were in favor.

Mayor Schwager requested the following liaison reports:

Deputy Mayor Rizzi: JLUB: Summit Ventures appeared before the board and received two approvals. The JLUB recommended a redevelopment area for rt. 322 west, which is now with the Township Committee for action. Finance:2017 budget has been introduced with 0% increase in local purpose tax. This was not easy. While maintaining or increasing services to residents and over \$100,000 increase in pensions and insurance costs. Restructuring of bonds and notes help, helping to save over \$70,000. Open Space Ag., No meeting was held. Parks and Recreation: March Daddy Daughter Dance was well attended and raised over \$2,000. Egg Scramble was a success. Upcoming events include the Health and Wellness Fair on April 22nd and Fun Day on May 6th. Fire/EMS: 54 fire calls month of March. Average stands at 68/32% Woolwich/Swedeseboro. Dwelling fire occurred on March 24th. Fire Company did an outstanding job. No injuries were reported.

Mayor Schwager noted that the Kingsway regional Budget will increase 5%, and therefore, the Township made a concerted effort for 0% increase.

Committeeman Battisti: S/W School District; BDAC; Shade Tree Commission; Environmental Commission; Kuddo's to Committeeman Schlump for a great article on the Community Garden which is good recognition for the Township. Thank you to Joe Maueri for preparing the soils for this years garden. Commission is beginning to look at and discuss the ERI. An April 22nd Community Cleanup will be held. Trail dedication is scheduled for April 29th. Green Team: Recruitment of new members is ongoing.

Committeeman Carleton: KRHS: Lack of fair funding is front and center with the district. Forums have been held with Senate President Steve Sweeney, and all members of the Committee attended. , BDAC: Planning networking event for on Oct. 25th from 7-9 p.m. Christmas Parade: Waiting to hear back from the fire chief to begin planning.

Mayor Schwager stated that he fears there are conflicting messages regarding the issue of fair funding.

He noted that the message from the Fair Funding Action Committee is that the schools need the money and need it now. However, the Committee is putting a lot of support behind the Senate Presidents Bill that calls for staggered funding.

Committeeman Schlump: Streets and Roads; Catch basins are being repaired. One ton of asphalt has been used. Spring sports are ongoing. Playground mulching and landscaping will soon begin. Buildings and Grounds: Open space and mulching is being conducted. Public works has two new part time hires. Safety training continues in the department. Trash/Recycling: Looking at the trash and recycling tax statement.

Mayor Schwager added that based on concerned residents that were in attendance on April 3rd regarding stop intersection at Oldmans Creek and Woodstown Roads. He said that he has spoken with the Chief and Captain who in turn reached out to the County. Three years of data disclosed a total of 34 accidents, including one recent fatality. The County has committed to a study and recommendation on the intersection.

Mayor Schwager: Construction and Zoning Code Enforcement; Discussed number of permits issued in March. Property maintenance currently has 85 in non-compliance. TDR Task Force; Working on last parcel. Over a three month period, 820 acres have been preserved through TDR, as well as one 35 open space acres settled last week. Police; Bike patrols have begun. The police spent over a year in training and preparation, and it is nice to see the program implemented. Municipal Court: Tara Simpkins is full time in court. Interviews are being conducted for JLUB Secretary.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Rizzi and seconded by Committeeman Carleton to approve the following resolution: **R-2017-92 Resolution for Closed Session**

The Committee entered closed session at 7:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing:

Litigation: Daniels v Township of Woolwich

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:36 p.m.

There was no old business.

Under new business, Mayor Schwager advised that the Police Captain investigated and observed unsafe traffic conditions at the intersection of Licciardello and Nocentino Drive based on citizen complaints reported at the April 3rd meeting of the Township Committee. He recommended a four way stop.

The Committee discussed the potential need for an engineered traffic study and made the recommendation that the Committee introduce an ordinance creating a four way stop at their next meeting.

Committeeman Schlump suggested the Township look to have a traffic sign advising that a four way stop is coming, prior to signage installation.

The Solicitor agreed that the Committee may move forward with an Ordinance at their next meeting.

The following minutes were approved upon a motion by Committeeman Battisti and seconded by Committeeman Carleton:

April 3, 2017 Work Session and Closed Session
March 20, 2017 Regular Meeting

All were in favor.

Motion was made by Deputy Mayor Rizzi and seconded by Committeeman Carleton to approve the bills and purchase orders pending the Mayor's final review. Committeeman Schlump questioned a bill for fencing and bases at the park. Mrs. DiBella said that she will look into the matter and reply to Mr. Schlump. All were in favor.

With no further business, motion was made by Deputy Mayor Rizzi and seconded by Committeeman Carleton to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane DiBella
Administrator/Clerk

Minutes not verbatim
Audio recording on file