

**MINUTES OF THE WARREN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
AUGUST 15, 2013**

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Township Committee of the Township of Warren, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in Public Session on Thursday, August 15, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Susie B. Boyce Meeting Room, 44 Mountain Boulevard, Warren, New Jersey.

Mayor Sordillo read the following notice:

“In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 7, 2013 by sending written notices to the Echoes Sentinel and Courier News, posting on the Bulletin Board in the Municipal Building and filing with the Township Clerk”.

“This meeting is to be taped for broadcast on the Access Channel and everyone is required to comply with the policies and procedures governing access programming for the Access Channel. No mention of political affiliation or political advertising shall take place at this meeting or it will be deleted from any rebroadcast of the meeting.”

On call of the roll, the following Committee members were present:

Mr. Lazo  
Mr. Marion  
Mr. DiNardo  
Mrs. Garafola  
Mayor Sordillo

Also Present:       Mark M. Krane, Township Administrator  
                          Patricia A. DiRocco, Township Clerk  
                          William Willard, Acting Township Attorney

Mr. DiNardo introduced and read resolution No. 2013-174, seconded by Mr. Marion and carried by unanimous voice vote.

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, P.L.1975 Chapter 231 permits the exclusion of the public from meeting in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, this public body is of the opinion that such circumstances presently exist;  
and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body wishes to discuss:

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Contract Negotiations: Somerset County Park Plan;  
Personnel: Captain Glen Retirement

WHEREAS, when and if the matters discussed become public record, this will be made known to the public at that time;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Warren, that the public is excluded from this Meeting;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that formal action may be taken upon reconvening to Public Session.

The meeting convened in Executive Session at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened to Public Session at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Sordillo led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Liz Jewett, new Superintendent of Watchung Hills Regional High School, spoke of the upcoming Referendum for \$12,553,028. Mr. Stys, Business Administrator, gave an overview of the proposed projects associated with the Referendum, such as steam pipes, roof and window/wall replacements, redesign of kitchens and re-pavement of parking lots. Mrs. Garafola expressed concern over the tax impact on residents and commented that when residents complain, they will be directed to the Board of Education. The municipal taxes are the smallest piece of the total pie and the School taxes is the largest. She also commented that Green Brook essentially gets a free ride. Mr. Marion commented that at a cost of \$53 per the average \$600K home, the homeowners will be paying for many years. This would be in addition to the school tax. Mr. DiNardo stated that the school does need repairs.

On motion of Mr. Lazo, second of Mrs. Garafola, the Regular and Executive Session minutes of July 18, 2013 were approved. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mr. Marion stated that school safety is paramount. He spoke of a meeting that he attended. Chief Leffert spoke about safety in schools and new plans to insure the safety of the children.

Mrs. Garafola brought up the issue of threats to elected officials and requested a training session. The Chief of Police agreed and will look into this. The Mayor suggested a drill.

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Mr. Lazo commended the Utility Advisory Committee for the great work and accomplishments that have resulted in better communications with residents. Mr. Morrison, co-chair of the Committee spoke of a new mobile app that was created through Rutgers. This app will inform residents during storms as to trouble spots and downed power poles, etc. Mrs. Garafola spoke of Florida Power and Light and their success in notifying their residents.

Mayor Sordillo spoke of Senate bill S2340 concerning frivolous lawsuits. The legislation will permit towns to collect fees from these lawsuits.

Mayor Sordillo opened the Comments on Agenda Items portion of the meeting. No one wished to speak and this portion was closed.

As no one else wished to speak, the Comments portion was closed.

Mrs. Garafola introduced and read Resolution No. 2013-175 for the payment of bills, seconded by Mr. DiNardo. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Resolution No. 2013-175 is appended to the official minutes.

Mr. Marion introduced Ordinance No. 13-18 by title for first reading and read the following:

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XVI ENTITLED "ZONING" OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WARREN, BY RECOGNIZING AND PROTECTING PRE-EXISTING NON-CONFORMING DEVELOPMENT IN THE R-65 AND CR-130/65 ZONE DISTRICTS**

On motion of Mr. Marion, second of Mr. DiNardo, Ordinance No. 13-18 was passed on first reading. The roll call vote was unanimous.

On motion of Mr. Lazo, second of Mrs. Garafola, the following Consent Agenda Resolutions were approved, carried by unanimous roll call vote:

- 2013-176     RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND - STREET OPENING PERMIT #2013-06
- 2013-177     EXTEND THIRD QUARTER TAXES GRACE PERIOD TO AUGUST 28, 2013
- 2013-178     AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH COUNTY OF SOMERSET TRANSPORTATION SERVICES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

- 2013-179 APPROVAL OF THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET RECEIVED FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO WARREN TOWNSHIP IN THE SUM OF \$200.00
- 2013-180 APPROVAL OF THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET RECEIVED FROM THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO WARREN TOWNSHIP IN THE SUM OF \$5,472.29
- 2013-181 AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF CERTAIN BILLS BETWEEN MEETINGS
- 2013-182 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT WITH SOMERSET COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNTY'S "WEEKEND JOURNEY THROUGH THE PAST YEAR"
- 2013-183 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF GASOLINE THROUGH MORRIS COUNTY COOPERATIVE PURCHASING AGREEMENT
- 2013-184 AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF THE "SOMERSET COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN" AS THE OFFICIAL PLAN FOR WARREN TOWNSHIP
- 2013-185 CANCELING CERTAIN OUTSTANDING ESCROW ACCOUNTS
- 2013-186 AWARD OF CONTRACT AIR & GAS TECHNOLOGIES FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN AIR COMPRESSOR
- 2013-187 AWARD OF CONTRACT – CHERRY HILL WINNER FORD FOR A POLICE VEHICLE TO BE UTILIZED FOR K-9 UNIT
- 2013-188 AWARD OF CONTRACT- EMERGENCY ACCESSORIES & INSTALLATION, INC.- OUTFITTING OF POLICE VEHICLES
- 2013-189 AWARD OF CONTRACT THROUGH STATE CONTRACT #A80902 TO RICH TREE SERVICE INC. FOR TREE TRIMMING, PRUNING & REMOVAL SERVICES
- 2013-190 SUPPORTING PSE&G'S ENERGY STRONG PROGRAM
- 2013-191 AUTHORIZING DEER MANAGEMENT HUNT ON CERTAIN TOWNSHIP AND COUNTY OWNED PROPERTIES
- 2013-192 AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2013-125 "RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND CRC COMMUNITIES, BROOKSIDE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS BLOCK 62 LOT 17 & 18.01" TO CORRECT THE CASH RELEASE AMOUNT

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Resolutions No. 2013-176 through 2013-192 are appended to the official minutes.

Mr. Krane spoke of the 2014 Budget goals and procedures. The goal is to maintain the lowest tax rate, utilize grants and staff at appropriate levels. The procedures will remain the same as in previous years.

Mr. DiNardo gave an update on the proposed Municipal Annex. Information from the Architect will be coming soon.

Mr. Krane noted that NJDOT has announced grant programs. He asked the governing body to review recommendations made by Township Engineer Kastrud.

Mr. Krane spoke of a County wide energy aggregation plan that would be offered to municipalities for participation. Mayor Sordillo stated that he is not in favor of a long term agreement. Rates change and this may not be a good deal long term. Fracking has been successful and also solar. He requested more research.

The governing body discussed and agreed to the removal of underground storage tanks at DPW.

The governing body agreed to a change fund for the Recreation Department.

The governing body agreed to the renewal of Wagner Farm House Leases at 195 and 198 Mountain Avenue.

The governing body discussed standards for tree removal. At times, a professional is needed for safety reasons. Attorney Willard stated that it is difficult to set standards. The governing body will submit ideas to Mr. Krane for the Attorney to review.

The Privilege of the Floor portion of the meeting was opened.

Mr. Lakatos, 7 Horseshoe Road, stated that there is a convergence of spending, namely the High School referendum, Sewerage Authority bonding, a municipal annex and the Wagner Farm barn.

Mr. Berry 17 Hillcrest Road, President of Hillcrest LLC, stated that the LLC was formed at the behest of the Sewerage Authority. Presently the Sewerage Authority is planning to bond for projects. Hillcrest Road has been in need of sewers for many years and the LLC has hired Engineers in an attempt to build sewers. In order to accomplish this, the homeowners must come up with cash. It has been a terrible situation with septic systems failing. He asked the Township to move forward with sewers and assessments. Mr. Berry submitted a petition signed by affected property owners. Mr. Krane spoke of the Sewerage Authority resolution that granted conditional preliminary approval for a low pressure force main sewerage system. Each property would pay

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for everything else. He asked for any information and quotes that Hillcrest LLC has obtained to assist the Township in determining a special assessment.

Mr. Breen, 116 Hillcrest Road, stated that they are at the end of a 20 year struggle. Please give this priority.

Ms. Ryan, 102 Hillcrest Road, asked the governing body for help on this matter.

Mr. Allen, 112 Hillcrest Road, stated that this is a health issue. Septic water lays on top of the ground. He cannot erect an addition to his house.

The Privilege of the Floor portion of the meeting was closed.

On motion of Mr. Lazo, second of Mr. DiNardo, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. DiRocco, RMC  
Township Clerk