

**MINUTES OF THE WARREN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 24, 2013**

**REGULAR MEETING**

The Township Committee of the Township of Warren, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in Public Session on Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 5:30 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 and October 18, 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  
                          Jeffery B. Lehrer, Township Attorney  
                          John Russo, Acting Township Attorney

Mr. DiNardo introduced and read resolution No. 2013-236, 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: Shared Programs/Recreation Director with Watchung Borough;  
Financial Agreement – 29 Dubois Road Urban Renewal, LLC

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 5:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened to Public Session at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Sordillo led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Marion introduced Ordinance No. 13-23 by title for first reading and read the following:

**ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WARREN, COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY, APPROVING THE EXEMPTION APPLICATION AND THE FINANCIAL AGREEMENT FOR TAX EXEMPTION OF 29 DUBOIS ROAD URBAN RENEWAL, LLC FOR THE FORMER KNITTING MILL REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT.**

On motion of Mr. Marion, second of Mr. DiNardo, Ordinance No. 13-23 was passed on first reading. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mr. Lehrer left the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

A Certificate of Recognition was presented to resident Mia Kottler in honor of her receipt of the 2013 Municipal Alliance Volunteer of the Year.

A Proclamation Pancreatic Cancer Month was presented to Todd Cohen.

On motion of Mr. Lazo, second of Mrs. Garafola, the Regular and Executive Session minutes of October 3, 2013 were approved. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mayor Sordillo stated that JCP& L requested the placement of a sub-station in one of two areas off Route 78. This would be a benefit to Warren. The governing body agreed.

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On motion of Mrs. Garafola, second of Mr. DiNardo, authorization to sign a right-of-entry to JCP& L was approved. The roll call vote was unanimous. Mr. Krane noted that he will inform the governing body which area is selected.

Mayor Sordillo opened the Comments on Agenda Items portion of the meeting.

Mr. Lakatos, Horseshoe Road, questioned Ordinance No. 13-22, stating that he did not read anything in the minutes. Ms. DiRocco explained that the Ordinance was introduced verbally and then memorialized in writing following the meeting. It was an add on Ordinance that was not originally on the agenda.

Mr. Morrison, Utility Advisory Committee, gave an overview of how this Committee developed and the numerous accomplishments that have benefited the Township greatly such as the "hazard tracker". This App can be accessed on a Smart Phone. He exhibited a visual presentation and explained that this tracker works in identifying hazards such as utility poles, wires, and trees. When these potential trouble areas are identified, then hopefully Utility companies will be proactive with repairs. This will help prevent further damage during storms and outages. Presently there are 349 hazards and the map shows the entire Township and exactly where these hazards are. The Committee has provided the Utility Companies with all the hazard areas in an effort to keep the Companies to task in correcting all hazards. The governing body commended the Committee and Mr. Krane for the amazing work and accomplishments.

A Certificate of Recognition was presented to resident Laura Mandell for receiving the 2013 ANJEC Environmental Achievement Award. The governing body recognized Laura and members of the Green Team for their outstanding work.

Chief Leffert presented the Police Awards. Police Officers were presented Letters of Commendation, Appreciation, Saving Lives, perfect attendance and the Police Department Accreditation Award.

Mrs. Garafola introduced and read Resolution No. 2013-237 for the payment of bills, seconded by Mr. DiNardo. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Resolution No. 2013-237 is appended to the official minutes.

Mr. DiNardo requested that Resolution No. 2013-242 and 2013-243 be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion and to be voted upon separately.

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

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- 2013-238 APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE WARREN TOWNSHIP VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
- 2013-239 CANCELING TAXES FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN IN THE SUM OF \$2,392.87
- 2013-240 AUTHORIZING CONSENT AGREEMENT WITH CROSS RIVER FIBER TO OCCUPY PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY REGARDING A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM
- 2013-241 AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF A TREE REMOVAL POLICY STATEMENT
- 2013-244 AWARD OF CONTRACT TO SHI FOR FINANCE & PURCHASING COMPUTER SOFTWARE
- 2013-245 RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTION 16 OF PERSONNEL POLICY, SECTION 16 "FAMILY & MEDICAL LEAVE"

Resolutions No. 2013-238 through 2013-245 are appended to the official minutes.

Mr. DiNardo stated that the interview process related to the promotion of Police Sergeant and Lieutenant should be reviewed regarding the process of eliminating the high and low score. This essentially throws out two votes. Additionally, the governing body should have a discussion with the Chief before casting a vote. However, the Chief will not have a vote. The resolution will be amended to reflect these changes. On motion of Mrs. Garafola, second of Mr. Lazo, Resolution No. 2013-242 and 2013-243, as amended, were introduced and adopted. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Resolutions 2013-242 and 2013-243 are appended to the official minutes.

Mr. Marion introduced Ordinance No. 13-19 by title for second reading/adoption and read the following:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER II ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION" OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WARREN BY DELETING THE POSITION OF CAPTAIN FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Mayor Sordillo opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 13-19. No one wished to speak and the hearing was closed.

On motion of Mr. Marion, second of Mr. DiNardo, Ordinance No. 13-19 was adopted. The roll call vote was unanimous.

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Mr. Lazo introduced Ordinance No. 13-22 by title for second reading/adoption and read the following:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDS CHAPTER II ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION" OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WARREN BY INCREASING THE NUMBER OF LIEUTENANTS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Mayor Sordillo opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 13-22. No one wished to speak and the hearing was closed.

On motion of Mr. Marion, second of Mr. DiNardo, Ordinance No. 13-22 was adopted. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Chief Leffert stated that there is a need to hire an Officer to replace the loss of Captain Glen. Mr. Krane noted that it will be a wash out in terms of cost.

Mr. Krane spoke of the Compensatory time policy and planned changes to keep better control and tracking.

The governing body discussed and agreed with a joint agreement with Bernards and Long Hill Township to clean the Passaic River.

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

Mr. Lakatos questioned the two parking lot stop signs that are in close proximity to one another. The Chief informed him that the signs were placed in the parking lot to slow the flow of traffic and for safety reasons.

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: 20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. DiRocco, RMC  
Township Clerk