

**MINUTES OF THE WARREN TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MARCH 13, 2014**

REGULAR MEETING

The Township Committee of the Township of Warren, County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, convened in Public Session on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in the Susie B. Boyce Meeting Room, 44 Mountain Boulevard, Warren, New Jersey.

Mayor DiNardo read the following notice:

“In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of New Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 9, 2014 and March 10, 2014 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. Sordillo
Mrs. Garafola
Mayor DiNardo

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

Mayor DiNardo led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The governing body commenced discussion on the 2014 budget.

Mayor DiNardo stated that the goal is to keep taxes down; however, services cannot be cut to the point that infrastructure would suffer.

March 13, 2014

Mr. Krane explained the Levy Cap Law stating that Warren has always been conservative and has utilized the Cap Bank in the past. Towns can bank for a period of three years. Warren did bank in 2012. Mrs. Garafola reiterated the fact that the Township's share of the tax bill is 14% and that 86% is divided among the Local School Board, the High School Board and Somerset County. Mr. Sordillo commented that the Township has low debt compared to other towns.

Mr. Krane had prepared several options for the budget for the governing body to review. After careful consideration, they agreed to choose the option that resulted in an increase of .04 over 2013. This would be an increase of \$95 on an average home assessed at \$661,000. Surplus would be utilized, as well a 2011 levy cap bank and a portion of the 2012 levy cap bank. There will be a reduction in road overlay costs, Rescue Squad equipment and Fire extrication equipment. The total budget will amount to \$17,911,351. Mrs. Garafola expressed concern over the reduction in costs for road overlay. The Budget will be introduced at the April 3, 2014 meeting. The governing body commended Mr. Krane for presenting a lean budget.

The governing body agreed to renew the contract with the County for the Senior Bus. There must be increased participation though. This will be monitored.

The governing body commended Mr. Britt and the Historic Sites Committee for the great work accomplished with historic properties in town.

Mr. Krane noted that the sheds at Wagner Farm were destroyed. Once the pole barn is approved, the sheds will be relocated to give the Arboretum more space.

On motion of Mr. Marion, second of Mrs. Garafola, the Regular and Executive Session meeting minutes of February 20, 2014 were approved. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Garafola reported on the Mayor's Legislative Day that she attended. Discussions there included making the arbitration cap of 2% permanent, a report by the President of BPU regarding thousands of complaints over alternative purchasing of electric by third party suppliers and a report that New Jersey is 32nd in the U.S. in business.

March 13, 2014

Mr. Marion spoke of the Somerset County Park plan that was approved for the East County Reserve Park. This a joint agreement initiated by Warren. The groundbreaking is scheduled for May 3rd. Mr. Lazo spoke of passive recreation planned at this site. Mr. Marion and Mr. Lazo were instrumental in the process.

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

Mary De Stefano, Skyline Drive, asked if the Watchung Bicycle Club will still be able to have their annual event once the Park plan come to fruition. The governing body replied that it would not affect the event.

Mark Hayward, President of Watchung Hills Wrestling Association thanked the governing body for their support regarding the Lease Agreement that will allow for a new Wrestling facility.

The Comments portion was closed.

Mrs. Garafola introduced and read Resolution No. 2014-69 for the payment of bills, seconded by Mr. DiNardo. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Resolution No. 2014-69 is appended to the official minutes.

Mr. Lazo introduced Ordinance No. 14-08 by title for first reading and read the following:

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE TOWNSHIP OF WARREN AND WATCHUNG HILLS
WRESTLING ASSOCIATION**

On motion of Mr. Lazo, second of Mrs. Garafola, Ordinance No. 14-08 was passed on first reading. The roll call vote was unanimous.

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

March 13, 2014

- 2014-70 AUTHORIZING BUDGET TRANSFERS IN THE
 AMOUNT OF \$47,000
- 2014-71 AUTHORIZING DONATION OF 10' MONROE PLOW TO
 WASHINGTON VALLEY FIRE COMPANY
- 2014-72 PROMOTION OF POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL
 P. BENNETT &
 J. SOHLER
- 2014-73 AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN T.
 CHADWICK IV, P.P. AS THE PUBLIC ENFORCEMENT
 OFFICER AND MARK KRANE AS THE PUBLIC
 HEARING OFFICER PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO.
 14-07 ENTITLED "UNFIT BUILDINGS"

Resolutions No. 2014-70 through No. 2014-73 are appended to the official minutes.

A Certificate of Recognition was presented to Mary De Stefano for 25 years of service on the Rescue Squad.

Mayor DiNardo opened the Privilege of the Floor portion of the meeting.

Mr. Lakatos, Horseshoe Road commented that the Township should join the Federal Government. Too much money is being expended.

No one wished to be heard and the Privilege portion was closed.

Mrs. Garafola introduced Ordinance No. 14-05 by title for second reading/adoption and read the following:

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$4,750,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A MUNICIPAL BUILDING FOR AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF WARREN IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET, NEW JERSEY AND, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,500,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP FOR FINANCING PART OF THE APPROPRIATION

Mayor DiNardo opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 14-05. No one wished to speak and the hearing was closed.

March 13, 2014

Ms. DiRocco stated that all statutory requirements regarding the Supplemental Debt Statement have been fulfilled. Confirmation was received from Local Government Services.

On motion of Mrs. Garafola, second of Mr. Sordillo, Ordinance No. 14-05 was adopted. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mr. Marion introduced Ordinance No. 14-06 by title for second reading/adoption and read the following:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER XVII ENTITLED "TREE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT" BY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING SECTION 17-4 ENTITLED "EXCEPTIONS AND EXEMPTIONS FROM THE FILING OF A TREE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT PLAN

Mayor DiNardo opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 14-06. No one wished to speak and the hearing was closed.

On motion of Mr. Marion, second of Mr. Lazo, Ordinance No. 14-06 was adopted. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mr. Sordillo introduced Ordinance No. 14-07 by title for second reading/adoption and read the following:

AN ORDINANCE SUPPLEMENTING AND AMENDING CHAPTER III ENTITLED "GENERAL POLICE REGULATIONS" OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF WARREN AS HERETOFORE SUPPLEMENTED AND AMENDED BY ADDING NEW SECTION 3-28 ENTITLED "UNFIT BUILDINGS".

Mayor DiNardo opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 14-07. No one wished to speak and the hearing was closed.

On motion of Mr. Sordillo, second of Mrs. Garafola, Ordinance No. 14-07 was adopted. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Mr. Lazo introduced and read resolution No. 2014-68.1, 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

March 13, 2014

WHEREAS, the Governing Body wishes to discuss:

Contract Negotiations: Cell Tower, 198 Mountain Avenue

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 7:25 p.m.

The meeting reconvened to Public Session at 8:44 p.m.

On motion of Mr. Sordillo, second of Mr. Marion, and unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. DiRocco, RMC
Township Clerk