

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Township of Liberty was held in the Municipal Building, 349 Mountain Lake Road, Great Meadows on 3 February 2011. The meeting was opened by Mayor John Inscho with Adequate Notice of Meeting and the Pledge of Allegiance led by members of the Liberty Township Webelos, Pack 138 at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Mayor John Inscho; Deputy Mayor Mark Tibak; Dan Grover, Ronald Petersen; and John Fisher

Also, Present: Wassim Nader, Municipal Engineer; and, Roger Skoog, Municipal Attorney

NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE

Trooper Hussein of the Washington Township Barracks reported the following activity within Liberty Township for the month of January 2011;

- ✓ six 911 hangups
- ✓ 9 alarm responses
- ✓ 11 community policing
- ✓ 2 critical infrastructure checks
- ✓ 7 motor vehicle accidents
- ✓ 48 motor vehicle stops
- ✓ 1 fire call
- ✓ 14 medical assists
- ✓ 29 property checks
- ✓ 2 missing persons
- ✓ 2 property damage disputes
- ✓ 1 harassment
- ✓ 3 wellbeing checks
- ✓ 2 thefts

WEBELOS, PACK 138

Several members of Liberty Township Webelos, Pack 138 were in attendance to observe the township meeting as a requirement to the citizenship pin. The Mayor and Township Committee members gave a brief explanation of township committee duties and responsibilities and encouraged the Scouts to consider local government services in their later years.

REPORTS

MUNICIPAL ENGINEER

Block 21.02, Lot 20.05, 44 Hillcrest Drive – Mr. Nader reported that there are concerns regarding the drainage installed at 44 Hillcrest Drive but he is unable to investigate the situation due to current weather conditions. A stop-work order has been placed on this site until the drainage is investigated. He also reported that there is a lack of available escrow funds for continued engineer inspection at this parcel.

Grants – Mr. Nader reported that he was composing a letter of available grants and local aid that would be applicable to Liberty Township.

COMMITTEEPERSON FISHER

Committeeperson Fisher reported that he and Dan Grover had attended a preliminary projected budget meeting of the Great Meadows Regional School on 31 January 2011. The Board of Education is awaiting the State Aid numbers due out on 22 February 2011.

COMMITTEEPERSON PETERSEN

Committeeperson Petersen reported that the new 2011 GMC dump truck had been delivered. He also proceeded to present options to address the limited salt delivery situation by directly securing trucking services or spreading a mix of salt and grits on the road surfaces. Mr. Petersen would continue to investigate the optimal option for the municipality.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Steve Romanowitch, CPWM, presented the following verbal report:

- ✓ The new truck has radio installations scheduled for next week
- ✓ The new truck has lettering scheduled for next week
- ✓ Warren County Co-op has a salt contract at \$59.35 per ton. Liberty Township has a pre-established account secured at this price with International Salt LLC. We may use that account to schedule independent trucking to obtain and deliver salt.
- ✓ One damaged mailbox was reported in the latest storm

COMITTEEPERSON GROVER

Committeeperson Grover reported that he is awaiting official confirmation for the \$46,000.00 grant to upgrade the energy efficient items within the municipal building. He also reported that he had attended a meeting on solar and wind power. He stated that at this time there are currently many laws changing and it is best to await the stability of these rules before composing a municipal ordinance.

COMITTEEPERSON TIBAK

Committeeperson Tibak reported that he was working on the municipal web site updates.

MAYOR INSCHO

Mayor Inscho reported that there had been a breakdown in the OEM Communication procedure. The Liberty Township School is the municipal Emergency Management Shelter. Within the past 48 hours the power was out at the school and the municipality had not been aware of the situation. In conclusion it was agreed that the municipality would forward a letter to the Board of Education stressing the importance of communication for the facility functionality in emergency services.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Eileen Greason, Environmental Commission Secretary, reported that Allied Biological had to comply with State Regulations as per the Clean Water Act and prepare a pesticide plan at an additional cost of \$525.00 to the municipality. This increased cost placed the Environmental Commission over budget. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Environmental Commission forward their amended budget line item requests to the CFO and the township committee agreed with the contractual terms with Allied Biological.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by John Fisher to adopt the public session minutes of 6 January 2011 carried with 4/5 majority. Ron Petersen abstained.

A motion by John Fisher to adopt the public and executive session workshop minutes of 27 January 2011 carried.

OPEN MUNICIPAL POSITIONS

Mayor Inscho presented open municipal positions for 2011. No action taken.

JENNY JUMP ROAD

Following discussion, the Municipal Clerk was directed to forward a letter to Stan Borak, 36 Jenny Jump Avenue, informing him that in response to his letter of 14 December 2010 the Township of Liberty shall consider the vacation of a portion of Jenny Jump Avenue. The vacation expenses shall be the liability of the owner, Stan Borak, and he would be responsible in establishing an initial escrow in the amount of \$1,500.00 prior to any municipal professionals being authorized to pursue the vacation matter.

ORDINANCE #2011.002.- Following discussion, a motion by John Inscho to introduce Ordinance #2011.002 on First Reading carried. Public Hearing and Adoption are scheduled for 3 March 2011.

ORD #2011.002

Ordinance of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren, State of New Jersey
Designating a Portion of Buzzards Glory Road Which Contains a Bridge
Crossing Mountain Lake Brook a Limited Use Roadway Pursuant to NJSA 39:4-197 et. seq.

WHEREAS, Buzzards Glory Road is for most of its length an unimproved road, and

WHEREAS, a bridge located on the aforesaid road, which traverses Mountain Lake Brook, was purchased by the Township of Liberty from the County of Warren on or about October 2006, and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid bridge is not in the proper condition to allow for general motor vehicle traffic, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Liberty desires to limit the use of that portion of Buzzards Glory Road containing the aforesaid bridge to pedestrian traffic only except that it may be utilized by authorized emergency motor vehicles of local, county or state governmental entities, and

WHEREAS, the Township of Liberty has submitted an application to the State of New Jersey pursuant to NJSA 39:4-197 et. seq. to limit the use of the aforementioned section of Buzzards Glory Road containing a bridge crossing Mountain Lake Brook, and

WHEREAS, the State of New Jersey by letter dated September 2, 2008 conditionally approved the application of Liberty Township to limit the use of the aforesaid roadway upon the Township actually adopting an Ordinance containing the limited use restriction, and

NOT, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township of Liberty, County of Warren and State of New Jersey that the portion of Buzzards Glory Road containing a bridge that traverses Mountain Lake Brook shall be designated as a limited use roadway and its use in that location shall be limited to pedestrian traffic. All motorized vehicles shall be prohibited from using the aforesaid bridge except for emergency motor vehicles of local, county or state governmental agencies.

If any part or parts of this Ordinance are held to be invalid such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance

All Ordinance or parts of Ordinance that may be inconsistent herewith are repealed, but only to the extent of any such inconsistencies. All other parts of the Liberty Township Code not inconsistent herewith are ratified and confirmed.

This Ordinance shall become effective on the date of its final passage and publication as required by law.

ORD. #2011.001 - PUBLIC HEARING - A motion by John Fisher to open public hearing carried. A motion by John Fisher to close public hearing carried. Following discussion, a motion by John Fisher to amend and reintroduce Ordinance #2011.001 as amended on First Reading carried. Public Hearing and Adoption are scheduled for 3 March 2011.

An Ordinance to Amend an Ordinance Entitled an Ordinance to Provide for and Determine the Salaries and Compensation for the Officers and Employees of the Township of Liberty, County of Warren, State of New Jersey

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, Warren County, New Jersey, that Section 1, 2 and 3 of the above Ordinance be amended as follows:

Section 1 – Here is the following schedule of minimum and maximum salaries (yearly and hourly) for the position hereby listed:

POSITION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Township Committee	1,000	4,000
Municipal Clerk	20,000	60,000
Deputy Municipal Clerk	8.00/hour	20.00/hour
Administrator	500	5,000
Treasurer/CFO	10,000	30,000
Tax Collector	10,000	38,000
Tax Assessor	10,000	38,000
Assistant to Tax Assessor	9.00/hour	15.00/hour
LandUse Administrator	5,000	20,000
Zoning Code Official	4,000	10,500
Animal Control Officer	2,500	10,000
Environmental Commission Secretary	150	3,500
Emergency Management Coordinator	500	2,500
Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator	500	2,500
Construction Official	8,500	20,000
Electrical Inspector	3,000	9,000
Plumbing Inspector	3,000	9,000
Fire Sub Code Official	500	6,000
Fire Official	2,000	5,000
Technical Assistant to Construction Official	8.00/hour	14.00/hour
Recreation Commission Secretary	150	3,500
Recreation Commission Assistant	2,500	7,500
Lifeguards	8.00/hour	14.00/hour
Summer Recreation Counselors	9.00/hour	14.00/hour
Summer Recreation Head Counselor	12.00/hour	25.00/hour

Section 2: Public Works

Public Works Supervisor	20.00/hour	30.00/hour
Laborer	12.00/hour	19.00/hour
Part-Time DPW Help	7.00/hour	15.00/hour

Regular work week for road department is forty hours. Overtime will be compensated at time and one half for work performed in excess for forty hours in any work week.

Section 3:

The aforesaid Sections 1, and 2 are to be effective as of and retroactive to 1 January 2011.

Section 4:

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 5:

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon final adoption according to law.

All ordinances or parts of ordinance inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed

ORDINANCE #2011.003.- Following discussion, a motion by John Inscho to introduce Ordinance #2011.003 on First Reading carried. Public Hearing and Adoption are scheduled for 3 March 2011.

Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits
and to Establish a CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.0% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty in the County of Warren finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2011 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Township Committee hereby determines that a 3.5 % increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$ 17,891.23 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Township Committee hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty , in the County of Warren , a majority of the full authorized membership of this township committee affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2011 budget year, the final appropriations of the Township of Liberty shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5 %, amounting to \$ 17,891.23, and that the CY 2011 municipal budget for the Township of Liberty be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

RESOLUTIONS

A motion by Mark Tibak to adopt the following Resolutions carried.

Resolution #2011.024
Resolution Supporting the Adoption
of the Warren Heritage Byway Corridor Management Plan

WHEREAS, The Townships of Franklin, Greenwich, Mansfield and Washington, and the Borough of Washington, and the Town of Hackettstown previously passed Resolutions supporting the concept of a scenic byway for the length of Route 57 traversing these municipalities and the submission of a Nomination Application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation's New Jersey By way Program; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Transportation designated the length of Route 57 traversing these municipalities as a New Jersey State Scenic Byway, to be called the Warren Heritage Byway, on 4 February 2009, in response to the submission of a the Nomination Application; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Scenic Byway Program requires that a Corridor Management Plan be completed within five years if the designation of any New Jersey State Scenic Byway in order to maintain this designation; and

WHEREAS, A Study Committee consisting of representatives of the Townships of Franklin, Greenwich, Mansfield and Washington and the Borough of Washington and the Town of Hackettstown, and Warren County, in addition to other stakeholders, have completed the Warren Heritage Byway Corridor Management Plan for the length of Route 57 traversing these municipalities; and

WHEREAS, The benefits of implementing the recommendations of Warren Heritage Byway Corridor Management Plan include:

- An increased public appreciation of the unique character of this roadway;
- An enhanced driving and community visitation experience that is derived from the conservation and interpretation of valuable intrinsic resources, joint marketing to increase economic development, access to recreational amenities, and other roadway improvements to support byway travelers, and
- The ability to apply for federal funds through the National Scenic Byway Program that can be used to implement the recommendations of the Corridor Management Plan

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Township Committee of the Township of Liberty, in the County of Warren, State of New Jersey adopts the Warren Heritage Byway Corridor Management Plan as a tool for voluntarily preserving the intrinsic natural, scenic, recreational, historic, cultural, and archaeological resources along this roadway.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Township of Liberty will continue to work together with the members of the Study Committee and any other stakeholders to establish and serve as part of a permanent body to carry out the recommendations of the Warren Heritage Byway Corridor Management Plan to achieve the benefits of such collaboration.

Vote: aye - Fisher
aye - Petersen
aye - Grover
aye - Tibak
aye - Inscho

John Inscho,
Mayor

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion by John Inscho to adopt the following Resolution carried.

Resolution #2011.025
Payment of Bills

RESOLVED, that the township committee of the Township of Liberty, does hereby authorize the Finance Department to pay all vouchers when properly endorsed and approved by at least 3/5 majority of the township committee in the amount of \$1,022,965.82.

Vote: aye - Fisher
aye - Petersen

John Inscho,

aye - Grover
aye - Tibak
aye - Inscho

Mayor

PUBLIC COMMENT was opened at 7:50 pm.

Lisa Thomas – Questions were presented to the Township Committee regarding the status of the “Lodge”.

Alice Bechok – It was brought to the attention of the Township Committee that there was a surplus of junk at the dumpster site since December 2010 at the Mountain Lake Apartment House. The Municipal Zoning Official will be directed to investigate the situation.

Susan Egan – She reported that there was an abandoned car at the intersection of Wood and Mountain Lake Roads which obstructs visibility. The DPW will investigate the situation.

Jackie Ceaser – She questioned if there is a municipal code prohibiting the plowing of snow onto the public roadways. The Mayor advised her there was.

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business, a motion by John Inscho to adjourn the meeting carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Diane M Pflugfelder RMC/CMC
Municipal Clerk/Administrator
Minutes Approved 3 March 2011