

BOROUGH OF WEST CONSHOHOCKEN
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2009
6:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the provisions of the "Open Public Meeting Agenda/Sunshine Act" public notice was provided to the Times Herald Newspaper and posted on the bulletin board in the Borough Hall as required by law.

CALL TO ORDER

Marcy Rogovin, Council President, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Marcy Rogovin, President	Present
Joseph Pignoli, Vice President	Present
John Cooper	Present, Arrived 10 minutes late
Bernie Couris	Present
Harry Griffiths	Present
Albert Kleinschmidt	Present
Joseph Costello	Present
Donna Frankenfield, Mayor	Present
Caren Andrews, Manager	Present

W.S FISHER ASSOCIATES PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE POLICE OPERATIONS AUDIT

Ms. Rogovin announced there were unforeseen issues that cropped up during the police operations audit that required more time from the consultant. There needed to be a more intense review of the police facility. The consultant needed to interview everyone on Council.

Ms. Rogovin requested a motion to increase the contract with W.S. Fisher Associates by \$ 5,000.

Motioned By: Bernie Couris
Seconded By: Harry Griffiths
All in Favor, No.

Ms. Rogovin requested Council be polled.

Joseph Costello	No
Harry Griffiths	Yes
Albert Kleinschmidt	Yes
Marcy Rogovin	Yes
Joseph Pignoli	Yes
Bernie Couris	Yes

The motion passed 5 to 1. Mr. Cooper was not in attendance at the time of the vote.

CHANGE ORDER FOR THE ST. GERT'S CONVENT DEMOLITION PROJECT

Ms. Rogovin announced that Main Line Paving, Inc is finishing up the demolition project at the St. Gert's Convent. Caren Andrews, Khal Hassan, and John Carey have defined a site to locate the tot playground equipment donated by ASTM. They are recommending an area near the corner of Bullock Avenue and Merion Avenue. The Borough will utilize the preexisting concrete steps on Merion Avenue as an entrance into the playground. While the contractor is on site he can grade the area and develop the pad for the playground at a cost of \$ 4,900 per the written quote of April 8, 2009. Mr. Hassan reviewed the quote and recommended approval.

Mr. Costello was concerned about the safety of the children. Ms. Andrews stated a fence will be installed. She said if the tot lot was moved towards the center of the convent site a fence would still be warranted.

Mr. Couris was concerned about the steep slope up hill creating a drainage issue on the proposed playground site. Ms. Andrews announced this was discussed with the Borough Engineer. Mr. Hassan is confident this can be addressed now as part of the grading.

Ms. Rogovin requested a motion to approve the change order for the St. Gert's Convent Demolition Project in the amount of \$ 4,900 to allow for the grading and development of a pad for the tot playground equipment.

Motioned By: Bernie Couris
Seconded By: Harry Griffiths

All in Favor, Yes. The motion passed 6 to 0 with one abstention. Mr. Cooper abstained because he was not present for the discussion.

POLICE OPERATIONS AUDIT

Ms. Rogovin introduced Wayne Fisher from W.S. Fisher Associates. Mr. Fisher gave a summary of his qualifications. Mr. Fisher reviewed the police operations audit report. He suggested the Mayor and Council establish a more defined role in the area of communicating with the Police Chief. He suggested using the full time Borough Manager in this role. He recommended the Police Committee of Borough Council be reestablished. He recommended a work shift change to twelve hour days for the uniformed officers. He recommended a reduction in the heavy reliance of part time uniformed officers. He recommended moving a patrol officer to the detective role and adding three full time uniformed officers. He proposed improving staff training by using a seven step process. He urged Council to keep the officers' certifications up to date.

Mr. Griffiths had questions about the recommendation to increase the full time staff and the impact it would have on the use of part timer officers. Mr. Fisher is recommending abandoning the use of part timers.

Mr. Couris asked about calls for service, how they relate to criminal activity, minimum manning requirements, and prioritizing training needs.

Mr. Costello questioned staffing, the relationship Mr. Fisher has with Ms. Rogovin, taking away the statutory authority given to the Mayor, and training. Mr. Fisher announced he had no prior work or social relationship with Ms. Rogovin.

Mr. Costello asked that there be no changes at this time. The Borough needs to wait for the permanent Police Chief. Ms. Rogovin announced that some of the recommendations must be acted upon immediately. She gave as an example the officers' certifications that are nearing expiration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Barr, 121 Moorehead Avenue stated an old ordinance exists describing the duties of a Sergeant. Mr. Fisher replied this needs to be defined in the SOP Manual.

Mike Leonard, 164 Josephine Avenue announced there was at one time an extra police officer, but Council chose not to replace the position. He stated Chief Clayborne repeatedly asked for additional full time police officers. Mr. Leonard said as Mayor he would not give up his duties to the Borough Manager.

Pat Getzfried, 608 Ford Street asked about the time span for the study. Mr. Fisher said four months. He wanted to know if Mr. Fisher's comment about the Chief's hands being tied implied that he was being micromanaged. Mr. Fisher said no. Mr. Fisher said the Chief could not make operational decisions without worrying about scheduling issues. Mr. Getzfried asked if anyone in-house was qualified for the Chief position. Mr. Fisher said that was not part of the scope of his assignment.

Pat Barr, 121 Moorehead Avenue asked about the Police Committee. Ms. Rogovin answered Council will be activating that committee.

Albert Kleinschmidt drafted an organizational flow chart and presented a copy to Council.

Charlie Rogovin, 1134 Riverview Lane questioned Mr. Fisher about patrol supervision. Mr. Fisher replied there is a need to have clear supervision on every patrol shift. His report gives options.

Mike Leonard, 164 Josephine Avenue expressed his concerns about officer fatigue and twelve hour shifts. Mr. Fisher said the volume of calls is what causes fatigue, not the hours worked.

Joseph Costello expressed his concerns about twelve hour shifts in the event of an officer calling out sick. He noted the current contract permits the officers to split the shift. Mr. Fisher announced the current contract would require several modifications to accommodate twelve hour shifts.

ADJOURN

Ms. Rogovin asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Motioned By: Albert Kleinschmidt

Seconded By: Joseph Costello

All in Favor, Yes. The motion passed 7 to 0.

Respectfully Submitted,



Caren Andrews
Borough Secretary/Manager