

## WESTWOOD PARKING AUTHORITY

Minutes of Meeting  
Held on July 23, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. pursuant to the open public meeting laws of the State of New Jersey. The roll was taken. In attendance were the following members:

- Francis Costello
- John Oberg
- Matt Foley
- Sue Bahng
- Joseph Green

The following individuals, serving in various official capacities, were also present:

- Thomas Garrity, Assistant Administrator
- Michael Pellegrino, Esq., Attorney for Parking Authority
- Peter Grefrath, Council Liaison
- Steve Naginsky, Chamber of Commerce President (arrived at 7:25)

The following members were absent:

- Jack Sauer, Administrator

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### **Administrator's Report:**

Tom Garrity gives report in Jack Sauer's absence and indicated the following:

- Master Meter in Center Avenue South has to be replaced
- WPA van that is used for repairs required a new transmission which cost \$1,800
- WPA received two telephone calls with regard to either purchasing or renting parking spaces for employee parking
  - Chairman Costello indicated that this could not be done, however, if we move ahead with an employee-parking program, perhaps this would be helpful.
- Mario Ciocca fractured his wrist and the WPA sent a get well basket
- Mario Ciocca did file for Worker's Compensation Benefits

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Thomas Garrity reviewed the Profit and Loss Statement and advised as followings:

- Finances for the year are on target
- A new computer is needed for the WPA office which the budget incorporates
- Approximately \$10,000 is required for a new master meter for the Center Avenue South lot

Chairman Costello reports that revenues are up 4/10<sup>ths</sup> of a percent as of now. Maintenance hours are down in 2013 which reflect less maintenance for the new meters.

**LEGAL REPORT:**

Reports that designated employee parking would require an Ordinance change.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A Motion was made by Sue Bahng seconded by Joseph Green and unanimously approved to approve the Minutes of March 22, 2013.

Chairman Costello opened a discussion with regard to increasing commuter parking rates. He feels that it is time to strategically begin to increase parking rates. There was much discussion with regard to the pros and cons of such an endeavor.

The rates are currently .25 for two hours and we have a total of 104 spaces. These lots are patrolled primarily during the daytime hours.

Chamber President, Steven Naginsky will speak to the Chamber and get their feelings with regard to long-term parking and employee parking.

John Oberg believes that it would be prudent to table the meter increase discussion until next year.

A Motion was made by John Oberg and seconded by Sue Bahng and unanimously approved to table the balance of all meter increases to the fall meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A Motion was made by Matt Foley and seconded by Joseph Green to approve check numbers 12213 through 2234 as set forth on journal report annexed to and made a part of these minutes. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Francis Costello	Aye
John Oberg	Aye
Matt Foley	Aye
Joseph Green	Aye
Sue Bahng	Aye

A Motion was made by Joseph Green and seconded by Sue Bahng to approve the replacement of the master meter at the Center Avenue South Lot (which had been budgeted for), which is a disbursement of \$9,995.00 plus installation costs. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Francis Costello	Aye
John Oberg	Aye
Matt Foley	Aye
Joseph Green	Aye
Sue Bahng	Aye

Chairman Costello discussed information that he received from Iris Orsini who publishes the Hand Guide.

- Consumer surveys are very positive
- Some new businesses in town have signed up and she will forward an email with regard to same those businesses

**PUBLIC:**

Bruce Meisel of First Westwood Realty and former counsel to the WPA spoke with regard to increase of meter rates as follows:

- Mr. Meisel believes that increasing commuter rates creates no collateral damage. At the present time the rate is \$2.00 per day, which is not a significant yearly cost.
- Does not believe we will lose commuters as a result of this increase and it seemingly would be a low risk/high reward
- Believes that perhaps there should be a gradual increase
- Indicated that he feels if the rates are raised on Westwood Avenue that there would be collateral damage
- We should assess what the local tolerance is for an increase
- Train schedule has doubled since last year, do we object to commuters parking into the evening
- Landscaping in the Center Avenue South lot should be addressed

With regard to the overall function of the WPA, Mr. Meisel believes that there is not enough management given to the PEO's and that doing so would create more consistency of ticketing and revenue.

There being no further new business, a Motion was made by Matt Foley, seconded by John Oberg and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

At 7:55 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Date:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Bahng