

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

January 15, 2014

Chairperson Stanzione called to order a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Deerfield, County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey, at the Municipal Building, 736 Landis Avenue, Rosenhayn, at 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson Stanzione led the flag salute.

The Clerk was at a Joint Insurance Fund Meeting in Mays Landing, and the Deputy Clerk, Cheryl Tramontana, filled in for her.

The Deputy Clerk took roll call and members present included Mr. Danna, Mr. Spatola, Mr. Laurella, Mr. Lauer mann and Mr. Stanzione.

Minutes

The Deputy Clerk presented Minutes from December 4th, 18th and 30th, 2013.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola, to approve the Minutes as written. The Committee approved.

Departmental Reports

The Deputy Clerk presented Reports from the Construction Official, Zoning/Housing Officer, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Coordinator.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauer mann, to accept and file the Departmental Reports. The Committee approved.

Resolutions

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #14-63 For The Transfer Of Funds.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola, to adopt Resolution #14-63. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Danna	Yes	Mr. Lauer mann	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Chairperson Stanzione	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #14-64 Certifying The List Of Volunteer Firefighters Who have Qualified For The Length Of Service Award Program (LOSAP) Benefits For The Year 2013.

Mr. Lauer mann made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola, to adopt Resolution #14-64. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Danna	Yes	Mr. Lauer mann	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Chairperson Stanzione	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

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The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #14-65 Authorizing The Execution Of An Agreement Between Cumberland Development Corporation And The Township Of Deerfield For The Year 2014.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella, to adopt Resolution #14-65. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Danna	Yes	Mr. Lauermann	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Chairperson Stanzione	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Old Business

Mr. Laurella stated that the snow removal went very well. He stated that our streets were in very good shape but there was a problem with the salt and sand spreader. Mr. Laurella stated that the new one that was purchased was not big enough so the Township will be trading it in and the difference will be coming out of the Snow Trust Account.

Mr. Laurella stated that after the big rainfall last week, he was pleased to report that there were no leaks from the cupola.

Mr. Spatola stated that a property owner about a month ago contacted him and we also had notified Solicitor Testa in regards to the County Right-A-Way that goes west from Kenyon Avenue back to the woods of the Pipitone property bordering the Orcsi property. He stated that there was placed in the middle of the drainage ditch several loads of gravel and about a month ago this was addressed and it was chased around a bit. Mr. Spatola stated that the County was approached about this and Don Olbrich had spoke to him after the Township realized that the County Solicitor, Ted Baker, had spoke to our Solicitor and he was going to be resolving this with his County Employees. He stated that this has not been taken care of and he went to look at this area on Saturday night during the torrential downpours we had and the dirt piles are still there and the drainage Right-Of-Way coming from Morton Avenue at the bridge going west was moving really slow and the water was coming up pretty high and on the other side of Kenyon Avenue the water was over the pipes. Mr. Spatola stated that there is no reason for this because there is excellent drainage because it was just maintained and with this being our main artery for storm water run off, he was quite concerned after seeing the dirt piles still there. He stated that Mr. Olbrich from the County related to him that the dirt piles were not on the County Right-A-Way so he asked Mr. Olbrich if it stopped prior to that or does it go past it, south or north of that because it is right in the middle of the ditch and he does not believe it is their Right-Of-Way so they can not move the dirt.

Chairperson Stanzione stated that Mr. Spatola and himself met with the Rosenhayn Fire and Rescue on Tuesday, January 14th, 2014. He stated that a few things were discussed and noted that the Fire Department has a grant out for the new Rescue Truck and hopefully they will be accepted for it. Chairperson Stanzione stated that the Committee needed to come with a secondary plan, in case they do not because the truck alone will be around Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000.00) to replace it.

Mr. Laurella stated that there was over Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000.00) owed to this Township on the Fire and Rescue. He asked what the Township was going to do to recoup the money.

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Chairperson Stanzione stated that a few months ago he brought this up and he stated that it should be turned over to a Collection Agency and if the Township gets just a little bit back, it is better than nothing.

Mr. Laurella stated that if this is going to continue he feels that this type of operation needs to cease because taxpayers in Deerfield Township cannot be responsible supplying emergency services all over. He stated that he respects them for what they do but something needs to be done.

New Business

Chairperson Stanzione stated that he would like to stay on as the Voting Member to the Cumberland Development Board Of Directors for the Year 2014 and Mr. Spatola stated that he would like to be the Alternate Member.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Danna, to appoint Chairperson Stanzione as the Voting Member and Frank Spatola as the Alternate Member for the Cumberland County Development Board Of Director for the Year 2014. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Danna	Yes	Mr. Lauermann	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Chairperson Stanzione	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Mr. Spatola stated that he went over the additional premium to the JIF Assessment to reduce the Township's deductible with the Administrator/Clerk and what it involves is JIF can lower our deductibles based on our amount of frequency, which is very low, and our rate is really good with them compared to other places. He stated that what JIF offers us periodically is to reduce the deductible just like any other Insurance Agency, if the Township puts forward a Thousand Dollar (\$1,000.00) premium.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann, to approve the additional premium to JIF Assessment to reduce the Township's deductible. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Danna	Yes	Mr. Lauermann	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Chairperson Stanzione	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Mr. Laurella stated that there are properties out in the Township that are landlocked, buildable, and some that are not. He stated that the Township should sell the properties so that we can get them back on the tax records and collect money for taxes because right now the Township is not collecting a cent for taxes on these properties. Mr. Laurella stated that the Committee has to discuss this at the Budget Workshop so we can proceed on this matter.

Mr. Laurella stated that he would like to know what the Township needed to do to get a Bill Collector to collect this outstanding money.

Solicitor Testa stated that the Township needs to get the numbers ironed out so they are firmed up and at that point the Township could put a request for a proposal out to the public to see any Collection Agencies that would be willing to do it or you can turn it over to legal. He stated that if the Township started legal procedures this would start spending money and you do not want to do this because at least the Collection Agency would be working on a percentage basis.

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Communications

The Deputy Clerk stated that there were no communications this evening.

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #14-66 For The Payment Of Bills.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann, to adopt Resolution #14-66. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Danna	Yes	Mr. Lauermann	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Chairperson Stanzione	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann, to open the meeting to the public. The Committee approved.

Mary Vit, 707 Morton Avenue, came before the Committee to discuss the farmer who is now farming the land behind her. She stated that the water is collecting in her yard like a river and it is ruining their sheds along with the equipment inside. She stated that her husband videotaped the water and it is coming from the field and she thinks that some people thought it was coming down from the highway down, but it is not. Mrs. Vit stated that it collects behind their property and it floods into their yard and over to part of their neighbors yard, goes up into the street from the back of their yard like a river. She stated that if there are a lot of heavy rains their basement starts flooding so they had to put sump pumps in and it just starts to collect in the same area because it has no where else to go. Mrs. Vit asked the Township Committee if there was anything they could do to help by getting the property owner's name and number and contact him.

Chairperson Stanzione stated that her husband did stop by his house and after seeing the video, it is running straight off of the field and into her property. He stated that one thing that was mentioned to him by her husband is that every time this happens, it fills up their septic and they have to have it pumped out. He stated that he met with the County about three (3) or four (4) months ago, and he asked if Mr. Vit, the property owner, could cut out a drain along the edge of his yard and the County said no.

Mr. Laurella stated that the Township could contact the property owner, look at it, and possibly use a piece of his equipment and contour it enough so it would flow out of the way into the waterway.

Mr. Spatola stated that the Township has a meeting with Cumberland County Soil Conservation and at that time they could have the farmer and landowner come and discuss this with them.

After further discussion, the Township decided to have Mr. Spatola contact the Cumberland County Soil Conservation and set up a meeting to discuss this issue and then will contact Mrs. Vit to let her know what is going to happen with this.

Andrew Pizzo, Emergency Management Coordinator, came before the Committee to respond to the issue that Mrs. Vit had. He stated that there was another farmer there before this one took over and this particular farmer is also having the same thing happen at Parvins Mill and Big Oak Road. Mr. Pizzo stated that the USDA would be good to have present with The Cumberland County Soil Conservation so they can both explain to them the contours of the land and how to properly farm the land to alleviate any overflow and flood waters into residential areas and flood roadways.

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Mr. Pizzo also stated that he sent all the Township Committee Members an email regarding some training for Township Officials for Incident Command. He stated that there are a couple of courses that need to be taken that is an Introduction to the Command System 100 and that will all fall into place with a drill that he will be proposing to have at the end of February or beginning of March. Mr. Pizzo stated that this would involve opening up and activating the Emergency Operation Center in the event the Township ever has an emergency everyone will all be on the same board. He stated that everyone would know what their role would be in the event of an emergency and also involved would be Ron Shinn, the Public Works Manager and the Public Information Officer.

There being no other comment from the public, Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann, to close the meeting to the public. The Committee approved.

There being no other business to come before the Committee, Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann, to adjourn the meeting. The Committee approved.

John Stanzione, Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Cheryl Tramontana, Deputy Clerk
Township of Deerfield