

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 2, 2019

Chairperson Terrigno 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 Terrigno led the flag salute.

The Clerk took roll call and members present included Mrs. O'Brien, Mr. Stanzione, Mr. Brago and Mr. Terrigno. Mr. Danna was unavailable this evening and Todd Heck appeared on behalf of Solicitor Testa.

Minutes

The Clerk presented the minutes of September 4 and September 18, 2019. Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to approve the minutes as written. The Committee approved.

Closed Session Minutes

The Clerk presented the Closed Session minutes of September 18, 2019. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brago to approve the Closed Session minutes as written. The Committee approved.

The Clerk noted that the Closed Session minutes will not be released to the public until the reason for them remaining closed is no longer applicable and the Solicitor has had an opportunity to review them.

PUBLIC FORUM – Discussion Regarding Biosolids And Organics Recycling Class “C” Recycling Facility

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brago to open the meeting to the public as to the discussion.

Chairperson Terrigno indicated that the public will have an opportunity to speak but will be limited to 5 minutes each. Chairperson Terrigno noted that the Committee was fortunate to have representatives from Synagro and the CCIA.

Gloria Jost, 397 Stillman Avenue came before the Committee. Mrs. Jost stated that she did not see any benefit of this facility to the neighborhood and felt that the project should be built somewhere else. She also stated that traffic and odor are issues. Mrs. Jost noted that Synagro has had many legal battles because they are not doing the right thing in some of their facilities. She further noted that she has done research from the internet and there are health hazards. Mrs. Jost indicated that she has contacted the EPA and they stated to her that they are understaffed and underfunded and don't have the resources to check on these facilities as often as they should be. She further indicated that she wants to make sure that the air is safe and clean and the neighbors have the right to enjoy their properties.

Alex Becker of 1023 Bridgeton Avenue addressed the Committee. Mrs. Becker noted that she had similar concerns about the quality of the environment. Mrs. Becker stated that she and her neighbors are connected to potable wells that come from ground water sources and wanted to make sure that Synagro is doing everything as to PFOAs and PFOSs and how they are going to manage the biosolids that are coming into their facilities. She further stated that treatment plants do not regulate PFOAs and PFOSs and do not treat for them and asked how Synagro is going to protect their ground water sources as community members.

Katherine Collinge came before the Committee. Ms. Collinge indicated that in the amendment it was mentioned the bio-filter that was going to be used. She indicated that the bio-filter is not going to get rid of the ammonia smell and what is needed is a more aggressive treatment with wet scrubber system that include a peroxide scrubber or hyper chloride bleach unit. Ms. Collinge noted the noise during the hours of the day and the allowable decibels are 65 decibels. She further noted that 65 decibels are as loud as a hair dryer and anything above that is louder than what is allowed. She further noted that the company has been involved with bribery, fines, spreading sludge over frozen grounds, breach of contract and bankruptcy. Ms. Collinge stated she purchased her property as somewhere to live and retire. She further stated that the noise and smell would be too much and the neighborhood needs its peace and quiet. She also noted the winery and how property values will suffer.

Donna Sooy of Stillman Avenue approached. Mrs. Sooy stated that she has many of the same concerns as the previous individual. Mrs. Sooy asked exactly what route would be used through the landfill. She also noted that there was to be a savings of \$130,000 a year by trucking the waste here. Mrs. Sooy inquired as to a host fee, who is getting the host fee and what the tonnage fee would be for all the new product coming in. Mrs. Sooy stated that she understands that the Deerfield Township Committee has the power to regulate what can or cannot or what is or is not acceptable in the community. She further stated that the community depends on the Committee to stand up for everyone and give the residents a voice. Mrs. Sooy also stated that she did not feel that the letters to property owners within 200 feet sent out years ago was enough. Mrs. Sooy felt that perhaps a vote of the residents is necessary. She also reiterated that the residents want to live and retire here, to raise their families here and don't want undesirable things in their neighborhood.

Jim Travis of Maxon Avenue came before the Committee. Mr. Travis asked if the Committee thought this facility is a "good deal". Mr. Travis stated that after research he feels that this company wants to pollute the Township. He further stated that pollution will contaminate the ground and the metals will leach into the ground and water. Mr. Travis indicated the DEP stopped sludge dumping in the ocean because it killed marine life and now it's been moved to the ground to kill humans. Mr. Travis stated that he felt it was unfair to the residents and asked the Committee to say no.

Linda Cook of 391 Stillman addressed the Committee. Mrs. Cook stated that she was at the previous meetings and there are articles about Synagro and the product that is produced is made from toxic waste. She further stated that she does not want this stuff in her ground. Mrs. Cook indicated that the articles talk about the noise and odor. She further indicated that this company will ruin the Township and property values. Mrs. Cook said she would rather pay a little more in taxes than have that facility in her back yard running all night long.

Leonard DeMarco of Stillman Avenue came before the Committee. Mr. DeMarco stated that the Committee are all citizens of the community and they need to back the citizens of the community and not outsiders.

Mrs. Jost stated that the Committee is not powerless. She further stated that in Plainfield Township people put up a fight and Synagro withdrew their application. Mrs. Jost quoted from an article. She also noted that she is worried about the air quality.

Steven Becker, 1023 Bridgeton Avenue approached the Committee. Mr. Becker stated that he grew up in Deerfield and as lived near the dump his whole life. He further stated that he went away to college and came back to Deerfield to start a winery and now it is being jeopardized and he is afraid for the air and water quality.

Ms. Collinge asked who will be making the final decision and will the public be able to ask questions of Synagro. Chairperson Terrigno indicated that the public would be able to ask questions of Synagro this evening. Ms. Collinge asked how long the materials will be sitting outside and what is the marketing plan to move the product off site. She also questioned "screening" of the product that can still produce large amounts of odor. She stated that "screening" must be done inside with odor control. Ms. Collinge quoted that storage screening must be done inside a building with odor control so how big or how many months of storage will be under cover and should be indoors. Ms. Collinge quoted an article regarding the Camden County MUA and the City of Philadelphia Water Department and the use of wood chip bio-filters. She also noted some other articles concerning bribery scandals involving Synagro.

Mr. Travis asked what the residents are going to get out of this. Chairperson Terrigno stated that the Committee is learning about this just like the residents. He further stated that he is not that familiar with it. Mr. Travis asked how Synagro got here if the Township didn't know anything about it.

Jerry Velazquez, Executive Director of the CCIA came before the Committee. Mr. Velazquez stated that the Improvement Authority went out for an RFQ (Request For Qualifications) in 2014. He further stated that the County needed some assistance as the CCUA (Cumberland County Utilities Authority) needed some assistance as they were spending a lot of money to get rid of their sludge and asked if the Improvement Authority could put something together. Mr. Velazquez stated they put together the RFQ and 3 or 4 people submitted and then put together a RFP (Request For Proposal) where 2 people submitted. He further stated they went through the process of reviewing those companies by the engineers and decided on Synagro. Mr. Velazquez indicated that once they decided on Synagro they came to the Township in 2016 for a redevelopment designation and made a modification to the redevelopment designation, there was a public meeting with a presentation, there was a second reading where the Land Use Board approved the redevelopment plan and then came back to the Township Committee who adopted the redevelopment plan. He further stated that there was a public meeting for the RFQ, the RFP, the redevelopment plan, for the second reading of the redevelopment plan and the approval of the plan by the Township. Mr. Velazquez noted that all those were publicly posted in the newspaper. He further noted that the law requires that legal advertisement is in the newspaper and provide the information publicly and the letters that went out were sent as required by law exactly the way they were supposed be.

Mr. Travis noted that the CCUA is having problems with sludge than they should expand their facilities. He further noted that the CCIA has the ability to help them. Mr. Velazquez noted that the Improvement Authority makes a contribution back to the Township.

Mr. Velazquez stated that was the public process and why the public did not know he could not answer the question. He further stated that he was not familiar with the number of times residents attend the meetings. Mr. Travis asked what is the benefit to the Township and Mr. Velazquez stated that he would let the Synagro representatives answer. Mr. Velazquez indicated that the CCIA gives a benefit back to the Township of \$600,000 a year. He further indicated that is how we got here, they went through the process, had the engineers look it and believe it is safe. Mr. Velazquez noted there is a lot of discussion of what will be in the ground and the ground water, but Synagro can talk about that. He further noted that residents can read as much good as you can bad on the internet and Synagro is here this evening and the residents should ask them questions directly.

Linda Cook stated that she did not feel that the way it was advertised was not broken down sufficiently for people to understand the terms they are using. She further stated that if they had said a “sewer sludge plant” everyone would have been here. Mrs. Cook felt that advertising in the newspaper is archaic. She further referenced some articles where the ground was ruined to avoid the expense of disposing elsewhere. Mrs. O’Brien addressed Mrs. Cook and noted the way the Township disperse information in the Township and has asked the Clerk to do some research and it appears that the most interaction is through the Facebook page. She further noted that she has asked whether that can be publicly posted on our Facebook page as well as our website so people can see the agenda ahead of the meeting so they can check and see if there is something relevant.

Mrs. Cook said she was not aware of this 3 years ago and the people on Kenyon have no idea what’s going to be in their backyard.

Mrs. Sooy indicated that at a previous meeting Mr. Brago showed a board of a previous presentation and the presentation showed a lot of solar and a small building in the back that was supposed to be some type of recycling plant. She further indicated that was back in July of 2017. Mrs. Sooy asked when the solar took a back seat this new company came into play. Mrs. O’Brien noted that the recycling plant was part of the original schematic and the solar has since be relocated to a new redevelopment zone on Bridgeton Avenue at the old Votech building which suited the solar needs better than a new building. Mrs. Sooy inquired if there was amendment to the zone. Mrs. O’Brien stated that the redevelopment zone was identified to allow for certain types of development. She further stated that Synagro was presented as a possible company and the solar panel company as a part of the schematic and these are all companies that are defined within as suitable and allowable uses under the redevelopment plan. Mrs. O’Brien noted that developer is not required to build the things that are listed but it permits them to and no amendment is required. She further noted that the solar was a large portion but the biosolids was on the original plan just a smaller portion in the back corner.

Mr. Heck indicated that there is a State law (local redevelopment law) which basically authorizes municipalities to designate areas within the municipality that are in need for redevelopment. He further indicated that these are areas that have not historically grown as per expectation and need to meet certain criteria. Mr. Heck noted that the Township went through the whole process, accordingly to the law, held hearings to first designate the redevelopment zone and property owners who were proximate to the zone were noticed and the redevelopment zone was then created of a certain size and it has twice been amended. Mr. Heck clarified that the area discussed this evening was not amended but that another area on Bridgeton Avenue as the old Votech was given the designation. Mr. Heck stated that the designated redeveloper for this zone is the Improvement Authority. He further stated that the Improvement Authority brought the conceptual project to the Township, noticed this and did have hearings. Mrs. Sooy suggested that it might be better to relocate to a more open area and not a place with houses all around. Mrs. Jost agreed with Mrs. Sooy and that it could be relocated.

Chairperson Terrigno asked that Synagro make their presentation. Andrew Bosinger, Project Director for Synagro and is responsible for delivery of the project. addressed the Committee and the residents. Mr. Bosinger stated that he sees a lot of familiar faces from past meetings and would like to give some background on who Synagro is and what they are planning. Mr. Bosinger also asked the representatives to introduce themselves: Bala Vairava, engineer for the project for Synagro, Matt Peters of T&M Associates, consulting engineers who did the plans and Matt Robertson, Chief Commercial Officer of Synagro (his team are the main customer service for the 600 municipalities who service biosolids management).

Mr. Bosinger stated that Synagro is a biosolids company and they are the leading biosolids management firm. He further stated that this activity is necessary and is protective of the health of the environment. Mr. Bosinger indicated that the United States has clean water systems and those clean water systems by their very nature take dirty water and make it clean water for return to the environment and by doing that remove biosolids and organics. He further indicated that currently what is produced in the County is land applied directly on agricultural fields and what is happening throughout New Jersey and is the predominate management strategy across the United States and has been for generations. Mr. Bosinger stated that Synagro does some of that in many locations around the United States with about 600 customers and working in 30-35 States and managing residuals from waste water treatment plants. He further stated that Synagro has been operating in New Jersey for many years and have about a dozen customers in New Jersey. Mr. Bosinger noted the plant they operate in Burlington County where they designed, constructed and operate and have operated that facility for almost 20 years without creating a nuisance or biohazards and improving the environment. He further noted that biosolids management is something that has to happen and figure how. Mr. Bosinger stated that the biosolids facility is a good template of the facility they are planning. He further stated that there is nothing innovated about the facility or technology it's taking a natural process (organic decomposition), optimizing it and controlling it. He noted that it's controlling it for odors and nuisances. Mr. Bosinger indicated that they cannot be successful, anywhere ever, if they come into communities and cause nuisances. He further indicated that Synagro has been a successful, stable company for 40 years and they are the best in the country for what they do. Mr. Bosinger stated that the intent of the project is to take organics (biosolids, source separated food wastes and wood waste), compost it indoors under controlled condition, produce a high quality, finished compost and sell that product.

Mr. Bosinger indicated that this project has been ongoing since 2016 and apologized if this is the first the residents are hearing about this, but hope they heard the long list of public notices and public meetings and presentations that have been done. He further indicated that he is not sure what else could have been done and is a valid dialogue for more contemporary form of information distribution, but felt they did everything within their reasonable control to advertise and talk about the project. Mr. Bosinger reiterated that it did come before the Township, the Solid Waste Advisory Commission and the Freeholders. Mr. Bosinger stated that over the 3 years they did pass those key milestones, completed 30% of design facility and are currently in the process of securing the State permits to construct and operate. He further stated that the key things to understand about the project is that all the composting takes place indoors and no biosolids or organics are ever outside on the ground. He reiterated that the biosolids are indoors under negative pressure and the air does not rush out, but instead air is pulled inside the facility where it is treated. Mr. Bosinger stated that the only thing that is outside is finished compost and green waste and the finished compost is the same as can be bought at any gardening center. He further stated that waste waters are contained within the facility, processed waters are contained within the facility in a tank and taken out to a waste water facility where they are treated and there is no discharge from this site. Mr. Bosinger indicated that the initial access point to the facility would be from Lebanon Road and during some of the initial meetings feedback was received that the residents did not want truck traffic on Lebanon Road. He further indicated that if that aspect was cured (no truck traffic from Lebanon Road) that there would be no further objection to the project. Mr. Bosinger stated that based on that information they went back to the drawing board and looked at the site to see how to get trucks off that road and at very substantial additional cost to Synagro found another route so that trucks would not come in off Lebanon Road but instead come in off Jesse Bridge Road and go through the landfill following the same route trucks use now with a very small increase in trucks as compared to the current truck traffic. Mr. Bosinger reiterated that they will not be successful if they create nuisances and not listening or hearing the questions and directly

change the plans for the project to address those questions and concerns and continue to do that as they hear additional feedback.

Mr. Bosinger noted that odor is a question and reiterated the air quality process. He further noted that DEP has very clearly defined nuisance standards and if they violate those nuisance standards DEP will shut them down. He further noted that their lease with the Improvement Authority has anti-nuisance standards and the Improvement Authority too has the power to shut them down. Discussion was held regarding the enforcement of nuisance ordinances. Matt Peters indicated that the DEP has a hotline for nuisance calls (1800WarnDEP) and within a few days someone from air enforcement and solid waste will go to the site and follow up with residents and the site owner.

Mrs. Cook asked if they could find a bigger area. Mr. Peters noted that the facility would be constructed approximately 600 feet from the road (almost to the back of the property). Mrs. Jost noted that 600 feet is not a lot and felt they need a bigger property. Mr. Brago inquired the overall area of the zone and was informed that it is 120 acres, but the area for the project would consist of 22 acres.

Mr. DeMarco asked how the trucks would move in and out. Mr. Velazquez stated that the trucks would come in through the landfill entrance and leave through the landfill. Mr. Bosinger noted that trucks would come in down Sherman Avenue to Jesse Bridge Road to the landfill (the trucks would be following a route as noted on the power point presentation). Mr. DeMarco questioned the “no odor” to the property line. Mr. Bosinger indicated that the odor is controlled and that would be controlled through biofiltration.

Mr. Travis asked how this facility will benefit the residents of the Township. Chairperson Terrigno stated that this facility will give the Township a rateable and help keep the taxes the lowest in the State. Mr. Brago noted that the taxes were addressed at a previous meeting and the taxes include county, school and local taxes. He reiterated that the local tax for the Township is only 9 cents. Mr. Travis asked what the residents are going to get out of this facility. Mr. Bosinger noted that there would be jobs and taxes. Mrs. Sooy noted that only 8 jobs would be generated. Discussion was held regarding the construction process. Mrs. O’Brien and Mr. Brago inquired if they use local construction companies. Mr. Bosinger indicated that they don’t construct they operate and the project would hire for construction. Mr. Brago stated he had a couple of questions. He noted that 37 trucks a day will be coming in and asked how many are coming from the CCUA and how many are coming from out of County. Mr. Velazquez noted that the CCUA currently has 10 trucks but will be reduced to 5 trucks by taking the water out. He further noted that approximately 1/3 to 1/2 will be local. Mr. Brago clarified that approximately 15 trucks will be from Cumberland County but there may be other trucks from other counties because it may be closer than where they currently go.

Mrs. Cook noted the truck route through the landfill and questioned how they are going to control out of county or out of State trucks from using other roads like Lebanon Road. Mrs. O’Brien confirmed that there will be no truck access to the facility from Lebanon Road. Mrs. O’Brien inquired whether the other facilities of Synagro are located in neighborhoods that have an equal residential population. Mr. Bosinger confirmed that they do. Mr. Bosinger stated that he has a composting facility in his neighborhood that is uncovered unenclosed and a sludge incinerator in his community.

Mr. Bosinger stated that there is a biosolids facility within sight of Waikiki Beach and if odor is created there you can’t survive. He further stated that almost all of their facilities are in urban areas. Mr. Bosinger noted that it is expensive to transport these materials and they are treated where they are generated.

A gentleman questioned whether there would be some trees planted and or landscaping to help alleviate any downwind issues. Mrs. O’Brien appreciated the

question and noted that before Synagro can start to build they will need to receive their approvals from DEP. She noted that DEP will put them through a rigorous process to ensure that it is not a health and safety hazard. After that Synagro will come before the Land Use Board in which they will have to follow certain requirements of the redevelopment zone and there can be conditions of the approval. Mrs. O'Brien noted that when the first concerns were brought to the Committee the biggest concern was about the traffic. She further noted that Mr. Velazquez went to Synagro and indicated that the residents were concerned about the traffic and that is what was hold up of the approval. Mrs. O'Brien stated that after the Freeholders chose to amend the plan (after she asked them to wait and the Freeholders did not) she spoke with Synagro and they are willing to be a good neighbor. Mrs. O'Brien indicated that if a condition of approval is plant material and if a condition is moving the traffic they have said they are open to doing that to minimalize the impact on the Township.

Mrs. O'Brien also noted the health and safety concerns. She indicated that she read the articles on the internet and it's difficult to disseminate fact from fiction when reading articles on the internet. Mrs. O'Brien stated that in speaking with Deputy Mayor Terrigno that she did not want to be the person who approves what was initially intended to be a development opportunity for Township because the landfill is there and has a recycling component and the way it was presented made it sound it less concerning than it did. She further stated that she is not a scientist and have to believe that the DEP is doing its job, but if the Township feels that the DEP is not doing its job that's a different discussion, but it is not the Township's job to tell DEP that they are wrong. Mrs. O'Brien noted that it will take 8 months to get their initial approvals.

The gentleman stated that he was concerned about the traffic that comes down Lebanon Road. He further stated that he's a truck driver and noted that the trucks are going to the roads that are convenient for them. The gentleman also noted that there are municipalities with ordinances that do not allow waste trucks to drive down certain roads. Chairperson Terrigno stated that there is truck traffic on Lebanon Road, but most of it is from F&S carrying food waste to their fields. He further stated that there is an ordinance in place as to trash hauler traffic and at one time there was a trash enforcement person, but the County Health Department now enforces that. The gentleman stated that he's seen signs specific to trash trucks not being permitted. Mrs. O'Brien indicated that Lebanon Road is a County road and the Township could make that request since trucks would not know not to use Lebanon Road if it is not marked.

Mr. DeMarco asked if Synagro has looked at any other sites and if so where. Mr. Bosinger stated that they work on other sites in New Jersey but currently this is the only site. Mr. DeMarco asked why they are coming here if the residents don't want them. Mr. Bosinger acknowledged Mr. DeMarco and noted that he did not expect Synagro to welcomed with open arms but hoped that down the road will be seen as a good neighbor and participant in the community.

Alex Becker stated that she had not heard any responses to her environmental concerns. Mrs. Becker asked if samples are going to be taken of their potable wells for PFOAs and PFOSs so that there is a baseline in case there are issues in the future. Mrs. Becker asked what Synagro is going to do to protect their ground water and soil. Matt Peters of T&M Associates addressed Mrs. Becker. Mr. Peters stated that there are 2 ways to address that the first is to eliminate contact. He further stated that the biosolids are never dumped outside but directly into the building. Mr. Bosinger said that PFOA and PFOS are not tested. Mrs. Becker indicated that NJDEP has standards in place for ground water. She further indicated that ground water is natural receptor and how are Synagro going to prevent contamination. Mr. Peters stated that the finished compost goes outside and screened. Mrs. Becker indicated she wanted to know what was coming into the site and how they are going to protect the soil and ground water. Mr. Peters stated that the materials are dumped inside to a concrete floor. Mrs. O'Brien noted that

concrete is porous. Mr. Peters reiterated that the materials are brought in and put on a concrete floor until the composting process is completed. He reiterated that the finished product is moved outside and covered to prevent rain from washing anything into the soil or ground water. He further noted a ground water collection system which will collect any runoff from around the site and from there to a lined pond and the lined pond will flow into an infiltration system. Mr. Peters noted that Synagro will need a DEP Ground Water Discharge Permit and it will get an individual permit and it will have to do ground water testing of that water. Mrs. Becker asked if it was going to be surface water testing or ground water testing and if there was going to be a monitoring well or test the surface water and sediment and assume that the water is safe. Mr. Peters stated that he could not answer that question. She asked if any of these fall out points been considered. Mr. Peters indicated that he is an engineer and not a scientist but there is someone in his office who specializes in surface water and ground water permits and that individual has prepared the application to DEP.

Mrs. Becker questioned the PFOA and PFOS in raw material being brought in. Mr. Peters stated that those do not get tested when they are brought in. Mrs. Cook noted that she had read about the PFOA and PFOS and noted that there are a lot of hazardous materials. Mrs. Jost stated that she spoke with 3 people at DEP about what to do if there is a problem. She further stated she was informed that DEP is overworked and understaff and underfunded and don't have the people to send out to do what they want to do. Mrs. O'Brien asked for the name of that individual and so that she could share that with the Governor

Mr. Becker asked if there is a problem do the residents only rely on DEP and is there any mechanism for their safety. He reiterated questions posed by Mrs. Becker as to ground water testing. Mr. Bosinger stated that there will be testing. Mrs. O'Brien asked Mr. Velazquez to speak about landfill wells that they have regularly tested. Mr. Velazquez stated that testing is done and the results are sent to the Township and the resident.

A resident asked if there has ever been a fire a facility and what would that look like in our community. The resident referenced the recent fire of F&S and what would happen to the air quality in the neighborhood. Mr. Bosinger indicated that there are no hazardous materials. He further indicated that with a compost facility a fire could happen but there are management and design practices in place. Mr. Brago asked if there is a suppression system or if it's a "let it burn". Discussion was held regarding fire suppression and/or what is required versus putting water on it and letting run everywhere. Mr. Brago noted that a fertilizer facility would not want water put on the fire and they are a "let it burn" facility. Mr. Bosinger stated that none of it is a "let it burn". Mr. Brago confirmed that the "raw" product is completely indoors and after it is composted it is then put outside. Mr. Bosinger indicated that the raw materials are fed into the front of the facility (biosolids, organics and green waste) and that happens in doors. He further indicated that all aeration and composting happens inside the fully enclosed structure. Mr. Bosinger stated that when it is completely composted and stable then it is moved outside for screening and storage and sale. He further stated it's the same thing you can buy at any garden center.

A gentleman asked what brought Synagro to Deerfield Township. Mr. Bosinger indicated that the biosolids facility is a compatible use and there is a need for biosolids management in this area. *(Unable to hear rest of answer as too much noise.)* The gentleman stated that compost stinks. Mr. Bosinger indicated that the composting will take place inside the building and it will not stink. The gentleman complained that the Committee should have investigated. Chairperson Terrigno noted that he and Mr. Brago have only been on the Committee for 2 years and this matter was brought up a year before they got on the Committee. He further noted that everyone has full time jobs and he asked for this meeting this evening so that everyone can get brought up to speed.

Chairperson Terrigno stated this is the first time Mr. Bosinger has made a presentation before him and the Committee is learning just like everyone else.

Mrs. Sooy brought up an incident in an article she read. Mr. Bosinger indicated that he was not familiar with that particular incident and Synagro runs hundreds of land application programs around the country. He further indicated that there are protocols in place, permits in place, but people can make mistakes. Mr. Bosinger stated that they take those matter seriously and there are correction action plans. Mrs. Sooy inquired as to the number of lawsuits paid out. Mr. Bosinger noted that they have hundreds of pieces of equipment rolling on streets and accidents happen and the company gets sued. He further noted that this is a sensitive issue for a lot of people and there is also a lot of misinformation out there. Mrs. Sooy asked if the facility needs to be within a landfill atmosphere or could it be away from a landfill to operate sufficiently. Mr. Bosinger stated it could be in a number of different kinds of places, but there are facilities that are located at landfills. Mr. Bosinger noted that it is not a requirement to be within a landfill. Mrs. Sooy asked about a host fee and how it works and who gets it. Mr. Bosinger indicated that they would pay taxes like any other business. He further indicated that they would pay to the Improvement Authority a lease and a royalty for each ton of inbound biosolids. Mr. Bosinger noted the fee of \$3.00 per ton for inbound biosolids. Chairperson Terrigno clarified that the Improvement Authority is very generous to the Township and it was also noted that the money received from the Improvement Authority covers half of the annual municipal budget. Chairperson Terrigno indicated that there would be a lease fee and a royalty fee paid to the Improvement Authority. Mr. Brago also clarified that Synagro will sell the finished product. Mr. Brago asked Mr. Velazquez if the proposed facility will employ any CCIA employees. Mr. Velazquez confirmed no CCIA employees will be employed or working at Synagro. Mr. Velazquez noted that the CCIA is leasing the land to Synagro and it's their operation.

As to the terms of the lease, Mrs. O'Brien noted that the current area would be considered a green field. Mrs. O'Brien inquired what would happen to the property if Synagro ceased or was forced to cease doing to business in Deerfield Township what the remediation steps that are in affect and are there any conditions of the lease that require a bond be held to make sure there is money in order to clean up that site in the event that they disappear. Mr. Velazquez stated that an irrevocable letter of credit would be submitted to the CCIA and its money set aside.

A gentleman asked if the system to be put in has been tested in other areas. It was confirmed "yes". The gentleman also asked if there are any that can be visited and was told "yes, in Burlington County". Mr. Bosinger indicated that Synagro does not own the facility but could provide a name if someone wanted to go see the facility.

Mrs. Jost noted that someone else runs the Burlington County facility and asked if it was the Carlisle Group. Mr. Bosinger stated "no" and that Carlisle does not own Synagro any longer.

Mrs. O'Brien reiterated the concerns of odor and questioned if the filters minimize or eliminate the odor and Mr. Bosinger said eliminate the odor. As to the noise, Mrs. O'Brien noted a resident was concerned about the back up noise on equipment. Mr. Bosinger stated that they have done an analysis and will meet all the noise requirements and comply with the ordinance.

Mrs. O'Brien questioned that there will be no toxins or poisons left in our soil, water or air. Mr. Bosinger indicated that this is a controversial subject but there are very few things out there that are tested and analyzed and have been demonstrated. He further indicated that this product has been demonstrated to be safe for years and years and there is tons of quasi-science on the internet that shows all kinds of things, but there

are decades of research paper after research paper on the this agricultural use. Mrs. O'Brien asked if the product when finished goes directly onto fields. Mr. Bosinger stated that it's used for many purposes (soil mixes, mulch mixes, spread directly on fields to improve the soil and improve the water holding capacity of the soil, macro and micro nutrients for plant growth, suppresses disease and it provides a natural enhancement to the soil that provides long term benefits). The farmers using this are not putting in chemical fertilizers and because when it rains the chemicals go into the ground water. Mr. Bosinger said the use of this material the nutrients are bound in the organic structure of the biosolids and they are slowly released over time and there is not rush of nitrates and phosphorus that are polluting lakes and rivers around the country. He further stated that when farmers are purchasing this material they are not purchasing the chemicals that are immediately running off into the ground.

A resident asked about what would happen if the company was sold could another company come in and do whatever they want. It was responded that the control of the company does not change any of the regulations under which Synagro operates and is one of the most heavily operated systems out there (EPA, State, Counties, etc.). It was noted that a change does not diminish any of the responsibilities to State or Federal regulations.

Mr. Stanzione asked how long the lease was and Mr. Velazquez stated 20 years. Mr. Brago questioned the length of time the trucks could come in and Mr. Bosinger stated that it's the same hours as the landfill. Mr. Velazquez stated that they are using the scales and the landfill is not staying open later for them.

Mr. Velazquez indicated that he visited the Burlington County facility personally with Board members and North Carolina with 2 engineers and would not have recommended to move with the project unless he could tell everyone he was there and touched and smelled it. It was questioned whether or not other individuals with other viewpoints should have attended these trips. Mr. Velazquez felt there needs to be a certain amount of trust and the engineers were there to give the professional opinions. Mr. Velazquez indicated that they went over the information for 8 months and the CCIA's engineer was not easy on Synagro. Chairperson Terrigno noted that there were to be 2 visits because the odor is affected by the weather. Mr. Velazquez stated that they wanted to go in 2 different seasons to make sure there was no difference in any odor.

Mrs. Sooy asked if they are going to look another site. Mr. Bosinger stated that Synagro has several hundred thousand dollars invested in design and a multi-year process and that "no" they are not looking at another site. Mr. Brago noted that the CCUA asked the Improvement Authority for assistance in trying to find a place in order to not have to truck their solids somewhere else. He further noted that the CCIA looked for an answer for a questions that they were asked and the CCIA did their homework on biosolids and found Synagro and invited Synagro through RFQs and RFPs while other companies applied for this same thing but ended up with Synagro. Mr. Brago indicated that it appears that Synagro is not looking for somewhere else because they were invited to the CCIA property and are going to say "no" because they were invited and not looking for a place here.

Mrs. Sooy also asked if Synagro was turned down by the Committee would they look somewhere else. *Unaudible answer.* Mr. Velazquez indicated he has heard everyone's concerns and until they went to the Freeholder Board they had not heard anything from anyone with regard to this issue so they were not looking anywhere else as it was approved as part of the redevelopment plan and thought everything was fine. He further indicated that it wasn't until the ladies showed up that they became aware. Mr. Velazquez said they are listening, dealt with the traffic issue and will take a look at all the other issues and have additional answers.

Mr. Becker asked if they could have access to the original power point as it seems the original had solar and now it's something else. Mrs. O'Brien clarified that they came

to discuss the redevelopment plan and brought a board with a layout in May, 2017. She noted that the top of the board is Lebanon Road, the center part is the building that was just built, and down in the bottom is a dark green section with is the biosolids facility. She noted that the 4 beige buildings were data centers. Mr. Velazquez noted that the proposed biosolids facility is in the same location as noted on the board, as presented for the redevelopment plan, as approved by the Township and approved by the Land Use Board and there was no misinformation or miscommunication. Mrs. O'Brien clarified that the biosolids facility has always been there and the only thing different about the site plan now is that solar facility has been moved with the data center because there was another redevelopment zone where it was a better fit. Mr. Becker questioned that the solar project was 70% and the biosolids 30% of the area. Mrs. O'Brien stated that the night the redevelopment zone was reviewed was not to approve projects but to approve uses and within that redevelopment zone uses were approved. She further stated that the Land Use Board was not approving Synagro that's what the Land Use Board will do after they get their DEP approvals. She also noted that what Deerfield Township did say that night was "yes" to biosolids and whether the Committee fully understood the concerns brought before the Committee now there is clearly more information that is being brought to the table. Mrs. O'Brien noted that the CCIA has done nothing out of line and followed all the process and proper channels. She further noted that she has been making countless notes and making many phones (spoken with the CCIA, Synagro, EPA, DEP, etc.). Mrs. O'Brien indicated that it is not something that was intended to be "railroaded" through the community and is something that was brought as a conceptual plan as companies that could go there and it was not approval of those companies/projects. Mr. Brago noted that this was an idea of somethings that could be put there. Mr. Velazquez stated a presentation was made by Synagro (the same one that was shown this evening). Mrs. O'Brien outlined how something would be approved and how if no one brought a single concern, the Land Use Board would approve the application. Discussion was held regarding the rules for land use applications.

Multiple comments were made concerning notification and how the project would not be good for the community. Mrs. O'Brien reiterated how she went to the Freeholder meeting and asked the Freeholders not to vote on the amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan until after this meeting was held.

Mrs. O'Brien acknowledged resident concerns, but also noted that there are 2 ways this could go (1) the residents give their reasons why they don't want it here and Synagro tries to mitigate those reasons and be good neighbors or (2) we don't try at all. Mrs. O'Brien asked the residents to attend the meetings and, if they are interested, apply for the open seat on the Land Use Board. Someone commented that they can't lie to their fellow residents. Mr. Brago took offense to the insinuation that he was a liar. He noted that it wasn't until Mrs. Sooy brought the matter to the Committee's attention he stated that he knew nothing about this matter. Chairperson Terrigno confirmed the comments of Mr. Brago and also noted that the members of the Committee have full time jobs and have taken time away from those jobs to attend meetings with the CCIA and the Freeholders to figure out what is going on.

Mr. Brago asked if this was a Class "B" facility. Mr. Velazquez stated "no" and at the presentation there were several different uses and one of the projects was their Class "B" facility which they received approval from the DEP to do wood waste on site. He further stated that the other approval was solar, the biosolids facility and the (in audible). Mr. Velazquez stated that the Class "B" facility was the CCIA's facility and they received approval and they are holding onto in the event that they can't have a relationship with Green Nature (who takes the wood waste for free) the CCIA would have their own facility to take wood waste for the municipality so they don't have to pay.

Mr. Peters stated that if you're grinding up yard waste is a method of recycling. He further stated that the grinding of wood chips is a Class "B" by DEP and anything

composted is a Class "C" and this is basically an indoor composting facility. Mr. Peters indicated that they had a pre-application meeting with DEP as to the design and the materials to be composted are the biosolids mixed with the wood chips and yard waste. He further indicated that DEP told them that the woods chips are technically a Class "B" material even though it is part of a Class "C" composting activity and should apply for a Class "B/C" permit. Mrs. Becker inquired as to minutes of the Land Use Board of May 10, 2017. Mrs. Becker was advised that she could get a copy of those minutes at any time. Mr. Brago inquired of Mrs. Sooy what was in those minutes and Mrs. Sooy read off some of the minutes of May 10, 2017. Mrs. Sooy also noted the minutes of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee where it was advised to go to a Class "B/C" organics recycling with an inclusion of biosolids.

Mrs. O'Brien read a portion of the minutes of the May 10, 2017 Land Use Board Meeting noting " a 2 story office building, 20,000 sq. ft will be constructed, four 20,000 sq. ft pods for technical IT, 24/7 day a week security. Solar will be behind the pods for the data center. Class "B" wood chipping facility will be constructed. A biosolids facility which will be the next step will be combined with the wood chips and made into compost." Mr. Velazquez stated those are the minutes but the presentation clearly indicated what was going to the facility. Mrs. O'Brien also noted that the vote was abstained by herself and another committee person as the application would be a use variance.

Mr. Velazquez wanted to make something very clear and that they did not misrepresent the facts and made the presentation and the presentation clearly indicated that it was biosolids and Synagro made the presentation (not the Improvement Authority). He reiterated that they did everything they were supposed to do and did nothing sneaky or secretive about the process. Mrs. O'Brien noted that everything indicated by Mr. Velazquez is not false. Mr. Velazquez noted that if the residents don't like the project that's fine or the Improvement Authority made a mistake he can live with that, but the talk about this being secretive is not true.

Mrs. Jost asked where the water goes once it is treated. Mr. Bosinger stated that it goes to a waste water treatment plant for further treatment. He further stated that it is pulled from a facility and taken to a waste water treatment plant and treated and cleaned and returned to the environment.

Mrs. Cook asked what happens from this point. Mrs. O'Brien indicated that Synagro needs to get their DEP approvals. Mr. Bosinger stated he was uncertain as to the time frame for approval as DEP has their own process and have been lead to believe around sometime near the end of the year.

Mrs. Becker stated that DEP has a finite amount of time to approve permits and asked what the last date to approve the permit. Mr. Peters indicated that DEP does not have a statutory deadline for solid waste permits.

Mrs. Sooy asked when the Committee is going to make a decision. Mrs. O'Brien noted that even if the Committee said they don't want the plant here, Synagro still has the right to go through their DEP approval process and go before the Land Use Board. She also noted that if Synagro comes before the Land Use Board and they are conforming and have their DEP approvals and all the conditions before the Land Use Board are met (and the Land Use Board approves it) then the approval is on the Land Use Board. Mrs. Sooy stated that the Freeholders said that the Township has full authority.

Mrs. O'Brien inquired of Mr. Heck if the Land Use Board approves the application does the Township Committee have any recourse. Mr. Heck indicated that it would require an amendment to the redevelopment plan. He further indicated that the redevelopment plan permits this use, that was approved and the process was followed.

Mr. Heck stated that the process the applicant has to go through is to get the DEP permit and then get their local approvals from the Land Use Board applying the standards in the redevelopment plan. He further stated that the Land Use Board would require a public hearing. Mr. Heck was confident that the Land Use Board would conduct a site plan review, but a lot of the concerns will be addressed before the Land Use Board. Mr. Heck noted that the process by which the redevelopment plan came about is that the Township had a professional planner who looked at proposed expansion of the redevelopment zone and the Township Committee at the time was required to go to the Land Use Board and seek a recommendation from the Land Use Board as to whether the plan should be amended. Mr. Heck indicated that the Township Committee, by law, did not have the ability, by itself, to change its zoning ordinance and first had to seek the recommendations of the Land Use Board which is charged with that responsibility. He further indicated that the Land Use Board made recommendations that were brought back to the Township at which point the Township Committee approved the recommendations of the Land Use Board and that's how the redevelopment plan was changed. Mr. Heck noted that the issue now is should the Township Committee, after they deliberate, think that maybe this wasn't the best idea, the question is whether they can, lawfully, change the redevelopment plan and that's an issue that is going to require more research because there are consequences when someone has, in reliance on the redevelopment plan, invested some money. He further noted that is a policy decision that the Township Committee will have to decide is whether they want to revisit that issue. Mr. Heck stated that ultimately the process goes before the Land Use Board – assuming the DEP is to approve it.

Mrs. O'Brien questioned whether the residents' concerns are the biosolids. Mrs. Becker stated that it is an environmental and health issue. Mrs. O'Brien clarified if the biosolids facility would negatively impact the environmental health and well being. Mrs. Becker indicated that based upon the data gaps that were addressed tonight and that they did not have substantial answers to. Mr. Bosinger stated that if there specific questions they will do their best to get answers. Mrs. O'Brien stated that there were concerns about PFOA and PFOS. Mrs. Becker asked how those PFOA and PFOS would be treated and tested. Mr. Bosinger indicated that it is not a required test in New Jersey for biosolids now. Mrs. Becker asked if Synagro is willing to go above and beyond. Mr. Bosinger indicated that if the law dictates they will test it, but if it's a test the residents want than they will probably do that. Mrs. Becker felt that it was imperative to have baseline testing for PFOA and PFOS and what Synagro is willing to do to prevent PFOA and PFOS potential contamination. Mr. Velazquez asked that the questions be written down and submitted so there is a question and an answer. Mrs. O'Brien asked that Mrs. Becker submit to the Township Clerk her specific questions so that those questions can be answered by Synagro. It was agreed that the Township Committee does not have the knowledge to submit questions based on PFOA or PFOS and noted that it would be appreciated if Mrs. Becker could submit her questions in writing. Mrs. Becker stated that she would be willing to do that as it is an important topic to be addressed. Mr. Velazquez felt that these are complicated issues and if they are put in writing there will be no misunderstanding of what was asked and how it is answered.

Mr. Brago questioned Mr. Velazquez as to the number of biosolid trucks traveling in the Deerfield Township and what would happen if one of the biosolid trucks is involved in a motor vehicle accident. Mr. Brago wanted to know how the materials would get cleaned up. Mr. Velazquez noted that it would be no different than with a trash or gasoline truck. He further noted there would be a responsibility with the trucking company. It was noted that there is a DEP hotline for spills. Mr. Velazquez noted that the trucks coming here are from public entities that insurance.

Mrs. Cook asked if the residents could meet with DEP or EPA specialists. Mr. Brago advised that residents are welcomed to address the Land Use Board during public

forum and express their concerns. Mr. Brago noted that Land Use Board meetings are the second Wednesday of month.

Mr. Stanzione stated that the Committee is trying to work with the residents. He further stated that this matter has been passed by the Township Committee and the Land Use Board. Mr. Stanzione indicated that there is "no we don't want it". He further indicated that Township is trying to work with residents to work it out. Mr. Stanzione stated that there may be a process where if something is wrong the Township can work with Synagro, but the residents need to understand that it has already been passed. He further stated that he has been through matters with the DEP over his 21 year tenure. Mr. Stanzione noted that he has been through the DEP concerning the oranges and other food products in the fields. He further noted that there is an ordinance in the Township that states that you can't do that, but the DEP came in and told the Township that farmers can put the food by product on the fields. Mr. Stanzione agreed that when this first was presented the Township misunderstood, but it has been passed and the best the Township can do is work with the people and work it out. He further noted that the only one who can stop it at this point is DEP.

Mrs. Jost asked DEP if they research the companies that want to come into New Jersey and was told that DEP does not have the man power. Mrs. O'Brien noted that processing a permit on the DEP level is not just filling out paperwork and pushing it through. Mr. Stanzione noted that in the 90's the Township applied for sewer and the application sat at DEP for 2 years and after 2 years and working on the design the Township was told it could not flow into the Cohansey it had to go to the Maurice River. Mr. Stanzione acknowledged that there are new members on the Committee that were not here when the matter was introduced and he was not on the Committee either. Mr. Stanzione noted that it's going to take months before anything happen.

Mr. Becker asked what is in the area where the solar fields were. He asked if the biosolids facility is going to be expanded or trees planted. Mr. Bosinger stated that there will be a landscaping plan and if screening is required that too is something that can be provided.

Mr. Brago asked if the loaders will be running 24 hours a day. Mr. Bosinger stated that inside the loaders may be running but outside only from 7am to 7pm. Mr. Brago noted that there were concerns about the backup noises from the loaders.

A gentleman inquired what the Township would get from the facility. It was noted that the Township would receive taxes. Mr. Heck stated that the tax rate is applied against the value of whatever is constructed and depending on the value of the facility the tax rate is applied to that and that the amount of taxes paid to the Township. Referring to a prior comment by Mr. Velazquez, Mr. Heck indicated that the Township could do a Payment In Lieu of Taxes with the developer which would divert more of the tax money to the Township instead of going to the County and schools. He indicated that is something that can be explored and the taxes will be based on what is constructed and at this time the Township Committee is not in a position to know what the value of what that is. Mr. Heck indicated that it will be the responsibility of the Tax Assessor to go and value that improvement once it is constructed on the property.

Mrs. Sooy asked if it was recalled what Mr. Baker said at the Freeholder meeting as to the Township Committee's obligations. Mrs. O'Brien reiterated that the Freeholders could approve or not approve the Solid Waste Management Plan and the Township Committee makes the final decision. She further reiterated what Mr. Stanzione indicated that the final decision has already been made. Mrs. O'Brien noted that the only way to have stopped it was for the Freeholders to hold their vote as she requested.

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to close the public portion as to the discussion regarding Synagro. The Committee approved.

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #19-102 – Authorizing The Exclusion Of the Public From A Meeting of the Township committee Of the Township Of Deerfield To Be Held On Wednesday, October 2, 2019 Regarding Contract negotiations And Attorney Client Privilege. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brago to adopt Resolution #19-102. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mr. Brago	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Mr. Terrigno	Yes

Old Business

The Clerk presented reports from Department Chairs. Chairperson Terrigno stated that he had nothing to report for this meeting. Mr. Brago stated that he and Tony Stanzione delivered the ad book packets to the post office. He further stated that public works is running into some hard ground issues with regard to posts for the fencing to go around the facility. Mr. Brago reminded everyone that the Festival is next weekend.

New Business

Mr. Brago noted that there is an issue with the computer in the office in the senior center. He also noted that the senior center coordinator is using her personal laptop. The Clerk indicated that there is a computer in the office as well as the main room in the senior center. He asked if the IT person could look at the computer.

Communications

The Clerk stated that there are no communications this evening.

The Clerk presented Resolution #19-103 For The Payment Of Bills. Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brago, to adopt Resolution #19-103. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mr. Brago	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Mr. Terrigno	Yes

Public Comment

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

There being no comment from the public, Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brago to close the public portion of the meeting. The Committee approved.

Mr. Brago made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to go into Executive Session per the Resolution. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mr. Brago	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Mr. Terrigno	Yes

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brago to reconvene the regular meeting. The Committee approved.

Page 16
Township Committee
October 2, 2019

There being no further business, Mr. Brago made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to adjourn the meeting. The Committee approved.

Michael Terrigno, Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Karen Seifrit, Clerk
Township of Deerfield