

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
JUNE 15, 2016

Chairperson Spatola 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 Spatola led the flag salute.

Chairperson Spatola asked for a moment of silence for Ken Levine a long time member of the recreation committee. Mr. Laurella also asked to include all the people who have lost their lives in Orlando over the last three days.

The Clerk took roll call and members present included Mr. Spatola, Mr. Laurella, Mr. Sparacio. Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. Danna were unable this evening.

Proclamations

The Clerk presented Proclamation 2016-1 – Honoring Stephen Colten Colican for his Eagle Scout Achievement. Mr. Sparacio asked that Stephen Colten Colican come up and accept his Proclamation. Mr. Sparacio indicated that Colten achieved his Eagle Scout badge a little over a month ago. He further indicated that his project was landscaping the front of municipal building as well as other projects throughout the Township. Mr. Sparacio stated that it's a significant achievement and stands out.

Departmental Reports

The Clerk presented the departmental reports of the Zoning/Housing Officer, Tax Collector and Treasurer. Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to accept and file the departmental reports. The Committee approved.

Ordinances

The Clerk presented Ordinance #2016-6-Second Reading And Public Hearing Of An Ordinance Amending The Capital Budget Of The Township Of Deerfield And Providing For The Acquisition Of A Rescue Truck And Appropriating The Sum Of \$83,000.00 to Fund Same. Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to open the public hearing on Ordinance #20166. The Committee approved.

There being no questions from the public, Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to close the public hearing on Ordinance #2016-6. The Committee approved.

Mr. Sparacio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella to adopt Ordinance #2016-6. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Sparacio	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #16-101 – Resolution Authorizing The Renewal Of Liquor Licenses In The Township Of Deerfield For The 2016-2017 Term. Mr. Sparacio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella to adopt Resolution #16-94. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Sparacio	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

The Clerk presented Resolution #16-102 Resolution Authorizing The Exclusion Of The Public From A Meeting Of The Township Committee To Be Held On June 15, 2016 – Relating To Personnel. Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to adopt Resolution #16-102. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Sparacio	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Old Business

The Clerk presented reports from Department Chairpersons. Mr. Laurella stated that it has been an issue with the County for some time and noted the intersection of Lebanon Road and Kenyon Avenue. He further stated that the Township has asked for a 4-way stop or blinker light and each have been turned down. Mr. Laurella indicated that there was another accident there on Friday afternoon. Mr. Laurella asked that a letter be sent to the County requesting for a review of the intersection and some kind of traffic device. Chairperson Spatola agreed and noted that we have asked for this a couple of times in the past. Mr. Laurella asked that the letter go to the Freeholders. Mr. Laurella noted that nothing ever gets done at these kind of intersections until someone gets killed.

Mr. Laurella reiterated that he and Mr. Sparacio met with the County and they are supposed to look at the speed limit on Big Oak Road and will be put out an electronic machine showing a travelers speed in that area.

Mr. Sparacio indicated that Youth Night was held and there was a good attendance. He further indicated that awards were given out for essays and posters.

Chairperson Spatola stated that he received a telephone call from Maintenance Supervisor Ron Shinn and again there was damage done at LoBiondo Park. He further stated that damage has again been done to the hockey rink where the plywood has been kicked in, trash cans knocked over and trash spread across the park. Chairperson Spatola indicated that something has to be done and suggested that Committee entertain prices for video surveillance cameras. He further indicated that in order for the Township to maintain surveillance at the park a signal would have to be intercepted and repeated to the Township Building. Chairperson Spatola stated that this signal and video would not be received by the fire hall only the Township. He also suggested that perhaps some signs could be installed. Chairperson Spatola indicated his frustration over how the Township tries to keep the parks nice and find money to do that every year and then there is constant damage. He further indicated that it's something to think about and due to the minimum amount of members present it's something that can be thought about and discussed at the next meeting and we can move forward with surveillance.

Mr. Laurella stated that he and our maintenance supervisor met with Upper Deerfield Maintenance and they have surveillance in their parks and landfill. He further stated that he didn't understand why the Township would have to bounce off the fire hall. Chairperson Spatola stated that due to the distance the Township building can't pick up the signal without a repeater signal. Discussion was held as to obtaining a surveillance signal from the parks.

Chairperson Spatola noted the procurement of the \$83,000 for the rescue truck. He further noted that the stage money was paid back to the CCIA and the Township should be receiving the money for the truck shortly.

The Clerk presented Update Discussion-Request From Engineer's Office As To Whether The Township Is Interested In Installing Solar Panels To Garage Roof In Connection With Project For Lean To And New Garage Roof. The Clerk stated the Bob Mulford called on Friday and wanted to know if the Township would be interested in

solar in connection with the project. She noted that the Committee was short this evening and it was something that could wait. Mr. Laurella stated that he did not feel that it was something that needed to be done now and could wait to a later time. The Committee agreed and that matter was tabled until a later time. Mr. Laurella made a motion seconded by Mr. Sparacio to table the discussion to a later time. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Sparacio	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Mr. Sparacio asked if quotes regarding security cameras could be obtained prior to the next meeting. Chairperson Spatola stated that it could be arranged and Mr. Laurella indicated that he could do that. Mr. Sparacio also asked that the Clerk reach out to the State Police and let them know what's been going on over at the park. Mr. Laurella also asked to let the State Police know that there have been 4-wheelers riding through the park again.

New Business

The Clerk indicated that there was no "New Business" this evening.

Communications

The Clerk stated that there are no communications this evening.

The Clerk presented Resolution #16-103 For The Payment Of Bills. Mr. Sparacio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella, to adopt Resolution #16-103. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Sparacio	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Public Comment

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

Mr. Ernest Miller, 243 Kenyon Avenue, came before the Committee. Mr. Miller stated that a neighbor for the last 6 months has been using his back yard as a firing range. He further stated that the neighbor, Shindle, lives at 246 Kenyon Avenue. Mr. Miller indicated that he's had discussion with the State Police and has been told that what the neighbor is doing is legal and only has to call the State Police before he starts firing.

Mr. Miller stated that what is happening is probably annoying for the neighbors, but for him it goes beyond that. He further stated that he has PTSD and is on medication. Mr. Miller indicated that he is a combat Marine veteran of the Vietnam War. He further indicated that with the medication he's able to maintain an evenness and tranquility that lets him live his life. Mr. Miller stated that the firing that goes on puts him in state of fearfulness, anxiety, anger and rage. He further stated that there is no Ordinance in the Township that prevents the neighbor from doing what he's doing, but he feels that his rights are being infringed. Mr. Miller noted that he does not want to take away anyone's guns, but what the neighbor is doing is causing Mr. Miller a great deal of anxiety and Mr. Miller doesn't understand how he can do this. He further noted that last Saturday he had to leave his house for about 3 hours for that's how long the firing was going on. Mr. Miller stated that it's affecting his way of life.

Chairperson Spatola thanked Mr. Miller for his service and attendance at the meeting. He noted that he was not aware of the situation, but also noted that Mr. Laurella

obtained the Township's Code Book for reference. Chairperson Spatola stated that Mr. Miller should be able to live without nuisance and live in peace and quiet.

Solicitor Testa confirmed that there is nothing in the Township Code to cover this type of situation. Solicitor Testa cited the Township's Ordinance (139-7) stating that an individual cannot carry or discharge a firearm within or into a Township park or recreation area. Solicitor Testa stated that he is not aware of such a law that allows an individual to fire firearms in their back yard, but if there is such a law it would pre-empt the Township from passing an Ordinance that was more restrictive than what the State law allows.

Mr. Laurella asked what type of weapon is being fired. Mr. Miller stated that he was not aware of the specific weapons, but believes it was various firearms. Mr. Laurella indicated that he believes that assault weapons are a violation. Solicitor Testa stated that totally automatic assault rifles are illegal. He further stated that New Jersey allows for semi-automatic assault rifle.

Mr. Miller stated that the neighbor's property backs up to landfill. He further stated that the State Police told him that as long as there is a berm that is acceptable. Mr. Miller was not aware if the neighbor had his own berm or was shooting in the landfill property.

Mr. Miller expressed his frustration and noted that there are plenty of firing ranges in the area (Glassboro, Winslow). Discussion was held regarding other firing ranges in the area.

Solicitor Testa asked that the Clerk reach out to the State Police and ask them what statute they are citing to allow this firing. Mr. Miller questioned why the neighbor couldn't go to a firing range. Solicitor Testa stated that if the neighbor is doing it legally behind his house then the Township can't force him to go to a firing range as there is a fee to do so. Mr. Miller asked if there was a way for the Township to amend the local Ordinance. Solicitor Testa indicated that the Township could do that as long as the Township was not interfering with State law. Solicitor Testa suggested some other means to help Mr. Miller block the noise coming from the neighbor's property so Mr. Miller doesn't have to leave his property.

Mr. Laurella asked if it was solely the individual firing or if he was bringing other people to the property. Mr. Miller stated that he is bringing other people and he saw some unfamiliar vehicles on the property the day the shooting went on for several hours.

Mr. Miller thanked the Committee and Chairperson Spatola stated that Township will be back in touch with Mr. Miller.

John Stanzone asked Mr. Miller if he has gone over to the neighbor and spoken to the neighbor. Mr. Miller stated that he's been advised to speak with the neighbor, but admitted that he was concerned because of the number of weapons owned by the neighbor and also due to his condition he didn't feel he could do that. Mr. Stanzone suggested that maybe one of the Committee people could go see the neighbor and explain the situation.

John Barbagello of 405 Morton Avenue came before the Committee. Mr. Barbagello just wanted the Committee to know that he was confident that the fire company would not have an issue putting a repeater on the fire house to get a signal to the municipal building. He also noted that he was aware of the previous request to put a camera on the fire hall. Discussion was had and reiterated the issues of distance and strength of signal.

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

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to go into Executive Session per the resolution this evening. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Sparacio	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Mr. Sparacio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella to reconvene the regular meeting. The Committee approved

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to accept the Personnel Committee's recommendation to table the \$3.00 an hour increase for the senior center coordinator until the 2017 budget. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Sparacio	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to adjourn the meeting. The Committee approved.

Frank R. Spatola, Jr., Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Karen Seifrit, Clerk
Township of Deerfield