

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 21, 2015

Chairperson Laurella 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 Laurella led the flag salute.

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

Departmental Reports

The Clerk presented the departmental reports of the Housing/Zoning Officer, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Fire Marshal and Animal Control.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio, to accept and file the departmental reports. The Committee approved.

Ordinances

The Clerk presented Ordinance #2015-6- Second Reading And Public Hearing Of An Ordinance Appropriating The Sum Of \$60,000 From The Capital Improvement Fund Of Deerfield Township For The Purchase And Installation Of A New Well In Carmel.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to open the public hearing on Ordinance #2015-6. The Committee approved.

There being no questions from the public, Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola to close the public hearing on Ordinance #2015-6. The Committee approved.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to adopt Ordinance #2015-6. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Danna	Yes	Mr. Sparacio	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Laurella	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes		

Resolutions

The Clerk indicated that there were no Resolutions this evening.

Old Business

The Clerk presented Reports From Department Chairpersons.

Mr. Danna noted the roads were a mess after the Harvest Festival, but public works did a good job cleaning them up. He also wanted to note that at the intersection of Morton Avenue and Cedar Street that on the back of the stop sign there is some nasty writing.

With regard to Recreation, Mr. Spatola noted that there is a projected profit for the Festival this year. He further noted that Recreation did reduce the amount of expenses by about \$30,000.00. Mr. Spatola stated that the turnout was very good and except for Friday night the weather was excellent. He further stated that there were no

major issues to speak of and that he and Mr. Stanzone attended every security briefing with the State Police and Mr. Hoffman, our liaison to them, and they did a wonderful job and are a big part of why there never any incidents.

Mr. Spatola stated that he didn't want to state what the figures are for the Festival this year as the expenses have not all been paid, but wanted everyone to know that despite the Festival losing money or just breaking even the last 2 years, this year's Festival was very successful and there will be enough money to pay back the loan for the roof plus refund the trust.

As to fire and rescue, Mr. Spatola indicated because of the sale of the fire hall in Carmel the Township is putting a new well on that side of town which will also help to maintain the new insurance rating that was received by the Township. He further indicated that the fire department did very well with their food booth.

Mr. Spatola stated that on Tuesday, October 27, 2015 between 11 and 1 pm the offices of the third district will be represented with their mobile office here at the municipal building. He further stated that each year a mobile office is set up in areas of the district and people can come and meet with the representative and state any concerns they may have or get assistance.

As to Building & Grounds, Mr. Spatola reiterated what Mr. Danna said and that the public works employees worked very hard on the Harvest Festival. He also stated that maybe next year public works may want to meet with Recreation and come forth with their needs. Mr. Spatola indicated that he would like to see Ron Shinn, Public Works Manager, attend the next Recreation Meeting and give his pros and cons of what happens over that weekend and give them what his needs are.

Mr. Stanzone added to what Mr. Spatola said and wanted to thank all the members of Recreation, the Township Committee that were there and helped and all the volunteers. Mr. Stanzone also wanted to note that there is a "For Sale Sign" by the municipal building and when people next door are trying to come out of their driveway they cannot see down the road. He stated that he reached out to the realty company to come and move the sign. Chairperson Laurella noted that there was someone out there today and looked like they were moving the sign.

Mr. Sparacio agreed with Mr. Stanzone and thanked everyone who volunteered at the Festival. He did note that the fire company did very well with the burgers and French fries and they might be doing more French fries at other events. Mr. Sparacio also wanted to thank the girls in the office and public works for the great job they do.

Chairperson Laurella asked Solicitor Testa if he the opportunity to review the LSA Agreement. Solicitor Testa stated that he had reviewed the Agreement and had sent an email to the Clerk as to sections of the Agreement addressing the Township's right to the hook ups. He further stated that the only question is what the rate is going to be and that information is not in the file. Solicitor Testa noted that the LSA should have that rate information. Solicitor Testa clarified that the Township would pay the rate that the LSA has set for other users for the pipe.

As to foreclosures, Chairperson Laurella again stated that he would like to see the Township start foreclosing on some of the properties that have liens from the Township. He further stated that the auditors have noted the outstanding properties and the need to get some of these properties back on the tax rolls. Solicitor Testa noted that there was a list of properties to be foreclosed on, but no one authorized the Solicitor to start them as there is an expense attached. He further noted that a price was given as to the cost of each foreclosure. Mr. Stanzone indicated that money needs to be set aside and for 2016 money needs to set aside. The Clerk stated that money can be dedicated to a specific line

item specifically for foreclosures and Solicitor Testa agreed and noted that the Township would have to decide which properties they want to move on first.

Chairperson Laurella also questioned whether someone was going to get the grass cut out at the properties and retention area on Bridgeton Avenue. Mr. Stanzione indicated that the Township was going to send public works over to cut the grass, which should take it through the Winter, and then it can be discussed on how the Township will take care of that and the money that's going to fund it. Discussion was held regarding the Township Ordinance regarding vacant and abandoned properties. Solicitor Testa noted that violations need to be sent and fines are assessed by a judge, however, whatever the cost of mowing that needs to be determined. He also noted that the Township had discussed this and the Committee had agreed to have public works mow the grass and then work on implementing an Ordinance that's going to address the exact costs. Additional discussion was held regarding letters beginning sent out and notifying of the violations.

New Business

Mr. Danna just inquired as to when the work would begin on Landis Avenue. The Clerk noted that the project is to be completed by December. Mr. Spatola stated that once they start it won't take them long.

Communications

The Clerk stated that there were no communications this evening

The Clerk presented Resolution #15-140 For The Payment Of Bills.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Danna, to adopt Resolution #15-140. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Danna	Yes	Mr. Sparacio	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Laurella	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes		

Public Comment

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

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

There being no further business, Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Danna, to adjourn the meeting. The Committee approved.

Cosmo J. Laurella, Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Karen Seifrit, Clerk
Township of Deerfield