

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 1, 2017

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.

The Clerk took roll call and members present included Mr. Murphy, Mr. Danna, Mr. Stanzone, Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. Spatola.

Minutes

The Clerk presented the minutes of October 4 and October 18, 2017. Mr. Stanzone made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to approve the minutes as written. The Committee approved.

The Clerk stated that the first item this evening was a presentation from Melanie Garrison from the Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention. Melanie Garrison approached the Committee and introduced herself. Ms. Garrison stated that she came today to give the Committee a brief overview of the programs that they provide and that Deerfield is one of the Townships that they serve. She further stated that the program is supported from drug fines and each County has its own Alliance. Ms. Garrison indicated that the program provides Life Skills Training and that training is available for grades 3 through 8. She further indicated that the training is to help reduce risky behavior and help kids with better coping skills and mechanisms.

Ms. Garrison stated that the Alliance hosts Dialogue Nights where they encourage parents and teens to come out and have open discussion on a topic. She further stated that the Alliance works with the Sheriff's Department and provides safe disposal boxes and allow individuals to safely dispose of their prescription drugs. Ms. Garrison noted that they do Senior Citizen Education where they talk about prescription use and misuse. Lastly, Ms. Garrison indicated that the Alliance does a poster contest where kids can create a poster that has an anti-drug message.

Ms. Garrison noted that the Alliance is always looking for volunteers and individuals who are willing to help out with different activities and be part of the Alliance and help inform the public.

Chairperson Spatola noted that he had been given painkillers about a year ago and when he was no longer taking them and wanted to get rid of them he was advised not to flush them down the toilet as they would get into the water system. Mrs. O'Brien felt that it was important to have a prescription day whereby people could get rid of their unused prescription medications. Ms. Garrison agreed and said that was something that they could do and it's something that is usually about 2 hours and there is a locked box for the medications and it constantly observed by the officer and they take it with them at the end of the period. Mrs. O'Brien suggested that perhaps such an event could be combined with our rabies clinic when people would already be coming here. The Committee thanked Ms. Garrison for her service and attendance this evening.

The Clerk presented Opening Of Bids For The Sale Of Properties On Harvest Lane. The Clerk stated that unfortunately the gentleman who was interested in the properties did not return a bid today. She further stated that she had forwarded the individual a bid form and published in the newspaper, but did not have any bids to open this evening. Discussion was held among the members and Solicitor Testa stated that the matter would need an Executive Session for the next meeting.

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #17-142- Resolution Authorizing Execution Of Mutual Aid And Assistance Agreement Between The Township Of Deerfield And Cumberland County Office Of Emergency Management. The Clerk stated that everyone had been forwarded the email with a copy of the Agreement. She further stated that it was the County's intent to make sure everyone was under the same Agreement as there had been issues in the past with FEMA where FEMA paid for a service to one municipality but not another because the Agreements were different. Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy to adopt Resolution #17-142. Roll Call Vote:

Murphy	Yes		
Mr. Danna	Yes	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Mr. Spatola	Yes

Old Business

The Clerk presented Reports from Department Chairs. Mr. Stanzione stated that Morton Avenue has had new drains put in and has been milled and it should be completed by Friday with blacktop. He further stated that they are working on Big Oak Road putting in drains and milling that road. Mr. Stanzione noted that it is the intent to have that done by the winter, depending upon the weather.

Mr. Stanzione indicated that the Township filled some holes on Garrison Road and the Township keeps applying to the State to have that road done, but keeps getting denied. He noted that at some point the Township will have to do something about that road.

Chairperson Spatola stated that he came by the municipal building the other day when there was a significant rain and about 30 yards north of the drain across from the municipal building that amount of the water went all the way up the street and was very deep. Mr. Stanzione indicated that the State came in this past Friday and blew that drain out. He further indicated that it rained Sunday and the drain didn't work. Mr. Stanzione stated that he spoke with Kim Nance from the State and she is going to send somebody down to look at the drain and if necessary they may have to open the road and put a new pipe in.

Mr. Stanzione stated that Recreation is meeting in the Senior Center this evening and there should be numbers from the Festival after the next meeting.

Mrs. O'Brien indicated that she attended a Cumberland Development meeting whereby there was an overview of the Cumberland Grows Program which was formed by Cumberland Development Corporation and the Bridgeton Area Chamber of Commerce. She indicated that the group is working on bringing industry from overseas and outside of the State to Cumberland County to help create revenue and ratables. Mrs. O'Brien stated that one of the items specifically discussed was finding a use for the old VoTech building to make sure that we are getting the highest and best use out of that. She further stated that they are asking for properties that people feel would be attractive to outside developers. Mrs. O'Brien noted that they are launching the Cumberland Grows website on December 1st and in the meantime anyone can check out the Cumberland Development website.

Mrs. O'Brien also noted that it was discussed that Cumberland County is very good at educating their young people and exporting them to other areas. She further noted that our young people go to school here and go out into the world and don't come back. She stated that one of the things they are focused on is creating industry and

commerce so that the children we're investing in and sending out into the world can come back to the Township and the area.

Mrs. O'Brien indicated that on Monday, October 30th, she and Mayor Spatola attended a meeting held by the Freeholders related to the closing of the SPCA. She further indicated that we as a Township do not use their services and there is currently no impact to us. Mrs. O'Brien stated that we are attending the meetings and carefully monitoring what the group's solution will be. She further stated that there are currently 3 other municipalities that do not use the SPCA and we are monitoring what our contribution would be in comparison to our budget.

With regard to Buildings and Grounds, Mrs. O'Brien indicated that she spoke with our maintenance supervisor regarding the Christmas lights and she is currently looking for companies that install Christmas lights as an alternative to renting equipment and putting our public works on the roof to install the lights.

Mrs. O'Brien stated that the CCIA (Jerry Velasquez) will be attending our December 6th meeting to discuss the Township's access to solar. She further stated that there have been some continuing questions about whether people have gotten all the information. Mrs. O'Brien noted that anyone can access our website and read the minutes of that meeting and any other meeting as all our minutes are posted to our website.

Chairperson Spatola noted that the new rescue truck has been put into service. He noted that he hasn't received any feedback yet and the Township did solidify and place the order for the Chief truck that was passed by Ordinance a couple of weeks ago. He further noted that he was not aware of a lead time for the truck and will keep everyone informed.

New Business

The Clerk presented Discussion Regarding Additional Hours For The Zoning/Housing Officer. The Clerk noted that Mr. Danna had asked that this be put on the Agenda for the last meeting but the matter was tabled due to Mr. Danna's unavailability that evening. Mr. Danna stated that he spoke with the Zoning Officer and that he needs more hours. He further stated that the Zoning Officer is looking for 4 more hours on Tuesdays. Mr. Danna indicated that the Zoning Officer has a lot on his plate and the amount of hours are not letting him get everything done. Mr. Stanzione noted that the request for additional hours would need to be discussed during budget time. He further noted that with regard to the letters that went out for the 911 posts, the Zoning Officer will be responsible for policing that and may need a little more time.

Chairperson Spatola suggested that Zoning Officer attend our next meeting to bring us up to speed and put it on the records what his need is.

Communications

The Clerk stated that there are no communications this evening

The Clerk presented Resolution #17-143 For The Payment Of Bills. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Danna to adopt Resolution 17-143. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Murphy	Yes		
Mr. Danna	Yes	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Mr. Spatola	Yes

Public Comment

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to open the meeting to the public. The Committee approved.

Gary Whyte of 289 Old Tote Road, Mountainside, New Jersey came before the Committee to ask if the Committee would consider adopting a Resolution or Proclamation for a rare disease he advocates for. Mr. Whyte stated that the disease is Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva (FOP) and the disease is if a child gets a trauma to ligament, tendon or muscle it doesn't heal like everybody else and it turns to bone and the bone grows in the body and fuses with existing bone and it becomes a second skeleton in the body. He further stated that he learned of the disease when a friend of his their child was diagnosed with the disease. Mr. Whyte outlined for the Committee how he became involved and he has advanced the awareness of FOP. Mr. Whyte stated that to date he has received 531 Resolutions and was here this evening to ask Deerfield for a Resolution or Proclamation of support.

Chairperson Spatola stated that he was aware of the disease. He further stated that the Committee is compassionate and asked for some information for consideration. Mr. Whyte indicated that he could forward some information in the form of an email as well as a sample Resolution. The Committee thanked Mr. Whyte for his attendance.

Donna Ollett of 818 Vineland Avenue came before the Committee. Mrs. Ollett stated that there is still a drainage problem. Chairperson Spatola stated that the Committee watched as Vineland Avenue was being done. Chairperson Spatola noted that his home is at the highest point on Vineland Avenue and still has water ponding at the end of his driveway. He further noted that he's spoken with the individuals doing the road and even taken them down the road to show them that water is still ponding at various places. Chairperson Spatola indicated that Greenman Avenue was done but it's still not right. He further indicated that the Township has made it known that the Township is very dissatisfied with the way the project has gone and the Township is just waiting to let them finish and then bring to them our list of items that need attention. Mrs. O'Brien agreed and noted that the Township is actively pursuing the matter.

Discussion was held regarding where the water is lying on Vineland Avenue and not reaching the drains. It was also discussed that photographs are important as they show exactly where and when the water has ponded.

Mrs. Ollett asked if there was a way to get a speed restriction on Vineland Avenue. It was noted that the Township has sent a letter in the past, but the Township would send another letter.

Mrs. O'Brien reminded everyone that the Freeholders meetings are also open meetings and if residents are interested they can communicate directly with the people who are fixing the road and they can get the information directly from concerned residents. Chairperson Spatola agreed and then the Freeholders will hear from the Township and the residents. The Committee thanked Mrs. Ollett for her attendance.

Nancy Massey and Gloria Corson came before the Committee. Mrs. Corson stated that her mother lives at 409 Stillman Avenue and she is having a problem with the water. She further stated that the water stinks and smells like peppers and onions. Mrs. Corson indicated that it is undrinkable and they have to buy every drop of water. She further indicated that they have had water tests that show the water is high in mercury.

Mrs. Massey stated that over the summer they had a problem with odor coming from F&S. She further stated that she had called Mr. Pipitone and he has come to her home but she has never heard back from him. Mrs. Massey noted that she can't plan any outside activities because she does not know how it is going to smell.

Chairperson Spatola reiterated the number of complaints the Township has received over the years regarding the smell from the F&S fields. He also noted that F&S has all the necessary DEP and EPA permits. Chairperson Spatola indicated that any ruling by DEP supersedes any objection by the Township and the only thing the Township can do is police it which the Township done. He further indicated that Mr. Pipitone has been very cooperative.

Following up on Mrs. Corson's comments regarding the smell coming from her water, Chairperson Spatola said he was concerned about that and wanted to have the opportunity to get the information on how or why it would smell. Mrs. Corson stated that the water treatment company indicated that she should let the water run for an hour. Mrs. Massey told how the treatment company came in and tried to get rid of the smell and it worked for a while but it came back. Chairperson Spatola stated that the Township could reach out to the Health Department and let them handle the situation and make sure it is handled properly. Discussion was held regarding water testing.

Mrs. Massey stated that she was upset when she found out that she had mercury in her water and even more upset that she did not hear about it from the Township. Chairperson Spatola indicated that the quality of drinking water bears on the owner of the property and that person is responsible for the potability of the water. He further indicated that it is not within the Township's realm to test all the wells. Chairperson Spatola noted that he has his well tested every 5 years. He reiterated how the State came in over 15 years ago and put water treatment systems in after it was revealed that there was an area with bad water.

Mrs. Corson noted that the Township used to send out a directory and did not know who to call about the water problem. Chairperson Spatola noted that he is aware of a directory that is issued from the County. He further noted that a lot of information is on the Township website. Mrs. Corson says she doesn't have a computer but receives a newsletter from the municipality she lives in. Chairperson Spatola stated it is something to be considered and perhaps do something once a year.

Anthony Brago 685 Morton Avenue wanted to let the Committee know that the rescue truck is a magnificent piece of equipment. He stated that as a member of the volunteer fire company he has had the opportunity to ride in the vehicle on several calls and it is appreciated by the firefighters and will be by the residents of the Township. Mr. Brago welcomes anyone to come and see the new truck.

There being no further comment from the public, Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to close the public portion. The Committee approved.

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

Frank R. Spatola, Jr., Chairperson

ATTEST:

Karen Seifrit, Clerk