

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 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. Stanzione, Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. Spatola. The Clerk noted that Mr. Danna was unavailable this evening.

Minutes

The Clerk presented the minutes of January 3 and January 18 and January 19, 2017. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the minutes as written. The Committee approved.

Ordinances

The Clerk presented Ordinance #2017-1 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2016-6 Appropriating The Sum Of \$604,556.00 From The Capital Improvement Fund Of Deerfield Township For The Acquisition Of A Rescue Truck. The Clerk noted that Ordinance is to correctly appropriate the money for the Rescue Truck. She further noted that the original figure did not contain the correct figure which only reflected the money the Township was contributing.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy to adopt Ordinance #2017-1 on first reading and to set Wednesday, February 15, 2017 for second reading, public hearing and final adoption. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Ordinance #2017-2- An Ordinance Appointing The Township Committee Of The Township Of Deerfield As The Redevelopment Entity For Redevelopment Projects Implemented Pursuant to the Township's 2005 Redevelopment Plan.

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy to adopt Ordinance #2017-2 on first reading and to set Wednesday, February 15, 2017 for second reading, public hearing and final adoption. Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #17-66- Resolution Authorizing Agreement Between The County Of Cumberland And The Township Of Deerfield Regarding The Alliance For Substance Abuse Prevention. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to adopt Resolution #17-66. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #17-67 - Resolution Amending Contracts Awarded To Val Associates Laboratory, Inc. for Well Monitoring And Methane Gas Testing At The Old Deerfield Township Landfill. The Clerk stated the Val Association Laboratory had been awarded the contract for both methane gas and well monitoring at the old landfill, but have just notified that they are closing their doors. She further stated that Resolution is to award the contract to the next lowest bidder for methane gas and well monitoring. Mr. Murphy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to adopt Resolution #17-67. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #17-68- Approving New Firefighters/EMTs. Chairperson Spatola stated that about a week ago he and Mr. Danna met with the EMT and Fire Chiefs and interviewed 3 prospective candidates for new hire EMTs. He further stated that the 2 individuals mentioned in the Resolution are highly recommended. Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to adopt Resolution #17-68. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #17-69 Authorizing Interlocal Service Agreement Between the Township Of Deerfield And The Township Of Lawrence With Respect To Zoning Services. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy to adopt Resolution #17-69. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #17-70 Commemorating The 30th Anniversary Of The Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund. Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to adopt Resolution #17-70. Roll Call Vote:

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

Old Business

The Clerk presented Reports From Department Chairpersons.

Mr. Stanzione noted that with regard to the Recreation Committee they met last week and an idea was presented to construct a monument to first responders, past and present, in one of the parks near the railroad.

As to streets and roads, Mr. Stanzione indicated that he and Mr. Murphy have not been out yet, but he was able to obtain information from the County as to the 4-way stop at Big Oak and Parvins Mill Roads. He noted that the County is just waiting on the State approval.

Mr. Murphy stated that he met with the public works manager today and they discovered that the water lying at the end of entrance way to the building is due to the culverts being blocked. He further stated that someone has put some concrete blocks in the culverts. Mr. Murphy also noted that the drain on the south side of Landis Avenue

across from the municipal building is also three-quarters of the way blocked. Mr. Stanzione indicated that the Township will reach out to the State and have come out and look at it.

As to buildings and grounds, Mrs. O'Brien noted that the money appropriated from the sale of Carmel Fire Hall has been used to construct additional storage behind the existing public works garage in the form of a pole barn and the new roof has been installed on the existing garage.

Mrs. O'Brien also noted that the Final Judgment on the tax foreclosures has been issued and the Township can now move forward.

Chairperson Spatola noted that upon reading that the Final Judgment for the foreclosures has been received and that the average tax lien for these foreclosed upon properties is \$20,000, he noted these are nice properties and the street is in a rough stage. Chairperson Spatola asked that the Committee give some thoughts as to numbers and what these properties are worth. He also stated that it would be nice to collect the back taxes as well as make some profit on the sale of the properties based on the value of each of the six lots.

Solicitor Testa noted that an appraisal can be done and then the Township can have an idea on the market value. Mrs. O'Brien inquired if that was done through the Solicitor's office. Solicitor Testa indicated that he could have Mr. Heck from his office make those arrangements for an appraisal.

Mr. Stanzione noted that only a small amount was used in the appropriation in this line item and the Township should move on with foreclosing on other parcels in the Township. Discussion was held regarding the appropriation of money and it was agreed that money will need to be included in the 2017 budget.

New Business

Chairperson Spatola indicated that the Clerk would be reaching out to the Committee to attend the annual JIF seminar. The Clerk stated that there was a flyer in the packets this evening for the seminar to be held on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at the Savoy Inn. It was noted that Mr. Danna was the only Committeeman who attended at the seminar while at the League in November. The Committee agreed to attend the JIF seminar on February 16th.

Chairperson Spatola stated that there was some interest regarding the difficulties by Deerfield Township residents to obtain solar. He further stated the Mr. Stanzione is the Chairperson for the CCIA Committee and has now set up a meeting on Monday, February 6, 2017. Chairperson Spatola indicated that he and Mr. Stanzione will be meeting with representatives from the Freeholders, BPU, State, CCIA and Atlantic City Electric.

Communications

The Clerk stated that there is one communication this evening. She further stated that the communication is a letter of resignation from Caroline Havens resigning from the Recreation Committee. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy to accept and file the communication. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #17-71 For The Payment Of Bills. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy, to adopt Resolution #17-71. Roll Call Vote:

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

Public Comment

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

Jason Scythes of 724 Morton Avenue came before the Committee. Mr. Scythes indicated that he had mentioned to Chairperson Spatola as to whether or not entities like the LSA or County pay anything to the Township for all the properties owned by them in the Township. Chairperson Spatola stated that he was not aware of any monies being paid by either the LSA or the County. Mr. Stanzione noted that the LSA used to pay money to the Township but that ended approximately 15 years ago. Mr. Scythes noted that there is a lot of land in the Township that is not be taxed.

Solicitor Testa asked if the old LSA Agreement could be sent to him so that he could review the Agreement and see what it said.

A similar discussion was also held with regard to County buildings. Chairperson Spatola stated he posed a question to a Freeholder regarding the old Vo-Tech and what was going to happen with that and that the Township would like to be included in any discussions to solicit or draw in a possible rateable at that location. He further stated that he was told by that Freeholder that the school does not belong to the Freeholders, but the County budget includes the cost of the Vo-Tech and appoint the members of the school board. Chairperson Spatola indicated he didn't understand how that was possible and yet the County would have no say as to what happens to the building. He further indicated that he would like to see the Township pursue that further.

Solicitor Testa noted that a lot of County buildings are not owned by the County but are actually rented from other entities or corporations. Mr. Scythes asked if the Township could look into that, but Solicitor Testa noted that these properties are exempt and cannot be forced to pay. Chairperson Spatola stated that a formal request could be made.

Mr. Scythes noted that at the budget workshop there were questions regarding the request for clothing reimbursement. He also noted that there were a lot of discussion points and asked if clarification was sought. Mr. Scythes stated that he followed up with the Clerk. Chairperson Spatola stated that information was provided to the auditor by the Clerk and the CFO. He further stated that the auditor did respond and the information will need to be reviewed and discussion is had with the auditor. Mr. Scythes indicated that he reached out to the Clerk and she had reached out to the City of Vineland. The Clerk stated that it's not a matter opinion but a matter of IRS standard and that information was forwarded to the auditor and that discussion will need to be had as to if it can be worked into the budget.

With regard to the new hires, Mr. Scythes stated that he takes time off from work to attend interviews and have a successful fire department. He further stated that he was very frustrated that only two people were going to be hired without a conversation to either the Fire Chief or himself. Mr. Scythes noted that the Fire Chief is currently filling in scheduling gaps. He further noted that he was of the impression that after the interviews everything went well and the Township was hiring everybody. Mr. Scythes indicated that he felt there is a lack of communication by the liaisons as there was no communication as to the hires and that any concerns could have been mitigated. He

further indicated that he had text Mr. Spatola which he proceeded to read to the Committee. Chairperson Spatola stated that Mr. Scythes reiterates that he has a busy life and he takes time from his life to attend to the fire company and that is most appreciated. He further stated, he too, takes time away from his business even on days when his hands are full. Chairperson Spatola noted that the liaisons talked about it after the interviews and it was their opinion based on the interview with the one individual that they were uncomfortable with the interview in comparison to the other two. He further noted that he advised the Clerk that the hires would be the 2 people noted tonight and not the third a because they interviewed better and would take direction better and at the end of the day the buck stops with the Committee as the Township is the one hiring them and putting them on the payroll and responsible for their actions. Chairperson Spatola stated that if the liaisons feel uncomfortable with a person's demeanor, attitude, personality at an interview that is going to be passed on and as liaisons will make a recommendation. He further stated that the Fire Chief came to the Clerk shortly after the recommendations to the Clerk and she advised the Fire Chief accordingly and he was okay and said thank you.

Chairperson Spatola indicated that he felt that was good communication and nothing needed to be said in advance as it is the Committee's decision and responsibility.

Mrs. O'Brien confirmed that the Chief was okay with the information relayed to the Chief and Chairperson Spatola agreed. Mrs. O'Brien noted that it is perfectly acceptable for Mr. Scythes to come to the Committee and ask questions and also thanked him for his service to the Township. She further noted that in the future it is best to discuss matters with a certain department while both liaisons are available. Mrs. O'Brien stated that while Mr. Spatola may not have responded to the text because it is a better practice. Solicitor Testa indicated that is more appropriate for things to be done at a meeting where there is transparency and there is a record of it and every member of the public can hear the questions and answers. Mr. Scythes questioned whether communication can only take place at a meeting. Solicitor Testa noted that if there are questions about action being taken by the Committee it should be done at a meeting.

Mr. Scythes stated he wasn't sure how things were going to work out and that he was disappointed that a conversation wasn't had regarding the hires. Mrs. O'Brien indicated that she felt that conversations do need to happen but that they take place in the proper channels.

Discussion was held regarding the interviews and the "demeanor" of the interview process.

Mr. Scythes hoped he didn't make too many blemishes on his relationship with the Committee as everyone still needs to work together.

George Olivio, 718 Morton Avenue came before the Committee and stated that he takes personally his feelings for the fire company and rescue squad. Mr. Olivio admonished Chairperson Spatola for his comment regarding the amount of time the Committee members and fire members put in attending meetings. He noted that the time put in by the fire company and rescue squad is volunteer and the Committee gets paid and that's the difference. Mr. Olivio stated that the Township Committee needs to "wake up" and worry about the fire company and rescue squad because if the Township ends up without them the Township will be in a fix.

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

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

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

ATTEST:

Karen Seifrit, Clerk
Township of Deerfield