

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MARCH 15, 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 Mrs. O'Brien, Mr. Stanzione, Mr. Danna (ON SPEAKER PHONE), Mr. Murphy and Mr. Spatola. Todd Heck, Esquire appeared for Solicitor Testa.

Departmental Reports

The Clerk presented the departmental reports of the Zoning/Housing Officer, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Fire Marshal and Animal Control. Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy to accept and file the departmental reports. The Committee approved.

Ordinances

The Clerk presented Ordinance #2017-3 – First Reading Of An Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14).

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy to adopt Ordinance #2017-3 on first reading and to set Wednesday, April 5, 2017 for second reading, public hearing and final adoption. Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #17-76 To Amend The 2017 Temporary Budget. Mr. Murphy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to adopt Resolution #17-76. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #17-77 Certifying The List Of Volunteer Firefighters Who Have Qualified For the Length Of Service Award Program (LOSAP) Benefits For The Year 2016. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to adopt Resolution 17-77. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution 17-78 – Authorizing The Exclusion Of The Public From A Meeting Of The Township Committee To Be Held On Wednesday, March 15, 2017 – pertaining to personnel matters. Mr. Murphy made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to adopt Resolution 17-78. Roll Call Vote:

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

Old Business

The Clerk presented Reports From Department Chairpersons.

Mr. Stanzione indicated there was nothing new to report and the Recreation Committee would be meeting next week.

Mr. Murphy stated that the rabies clinic is this Saturday, March 18, 2017.

Mr. Stanzione indicated that he had a report on roads and that he has acquired a list from the County. He further indicated that as soon as the weather breaks the County's going to begin Vineland Avenue. He also noted that on their 5-year list there's Morton Avenue from Landis Avenue to the Salem County line, Parvins Mill Road from Upper Deerfield to the Salem County line, Big Oak Road to the Salem County line, Bridgeton Avenue to Morton Avenue and Parvins Mill and Big Oak with the 4-way stop.

Mr. Murphy noted that the tree that need to come down on Laurel Lane has been taken care of and is no longer a hazard to the public.

New Business

The Clerk stated that there was no New Business this evening.

Communications

The Clerk stated that there were no communications this evening.

The Clerk presented Resolution #17-79 For The Payment Of Bills. Mr. Murphy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to adopt Resolution #17-79. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mr. Sparacio	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Public Comment

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

Gerta Hirl of 537 Richards Road, Bridgeton asked why there was no street light at the corner of Big Oak and Landis. Mr. Stanzione indicated that the location is actually Pittsgrove Township but the Township could ask Pittsgrove about it.

Jason Scythes of 724 Morton Avenue came before the Committee. Mr. Scythes noted that he was following up on the contract review with the LSA and the other entities in our Township that don't offer a payment in lieu of taxes. The Clerk stated that she had forwarded the Solicitor the LSA contract but has not heard anything further. Mr. Stanzione stated that he felt that no other entity pays in lieu of taxes as they are exempt.

Mr. Scythes asked if there was fire report given to the rest of the Committee. Chairperson Spatola stated that he had not given a fire report on the meeting held earlier today, but that Mr. Scythes was free to do so. Mr. Scythes noted that there was a meeting today between himself, Chief Cifaloglio, Mayor Spatola and Mr. Stanzione to discuss a couple of items. He noted that part of the discussion pertained to impact life changes have made on ambulance responses between 5am to 8am and 4pm to 5pm. Mr. Scythes stated that since the beginning of the year paid staff has been scheduled for 5am to 5pm. He further stated the scheduling has been successful, but would make an impact on the

budget. Mr. Scythes relayed the issues of volunteers with families trying to the cover calls that early in the morning while trying to get the children to school or day care. Mr. Scythes noted that he wasn't aware of the new scheduling until he received email from Brenda Closser indicating the overages in payroll. He further noted at that time he reached out to Mayor Spatola to discuss the matter and see what can be achieved.

Mr. Scythes stated that the outcome of meeting was that the Township would not expand payroll to cover more than 80 hours a week thereby having the volunteers cover. He further stated that members of the fire company who work shift work will respond to cover a shift and help reduce the payroll. Mr. Scythes wanted to be clear that significant sacrifices are being made by the volunteers to cover the Township and make sure the residents have coverage and are committing to being in the Township.

As to clothing reimbursement, Mr. Scythes indicated that members came to the budget workshops and it was decided that the clothing allowance was not going to be funded. He asked if there were any questions about the clothing allowance. The Finance Officer, Lorraine Boyer, stated that this reimbursement is not something that can be done and becomes a payroll item. She further stated it was discussed at length with the auditor and it's not something that can be paid like that. She noted that it's not statutorily correct by the State of New Jersey.

Mrs. O'Brien indicated that there were discussions about the value of our volunteers and how important they are to the operation of the Township and other ways the Township can, within the budget, recognize and appreciate the volunteers. She further indicated that it was "messy" legally and the Township was advised not to provide an allowance like that.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of a clothing allowance reimbursement and how it could be implemented, why things are not being cleaned with washer and dryer at the fire house and what steps needed to be followed to set up such an allowance. Mrs. O'Brien noted that ultimately it wasn't about the piece of clothing, but the way it was presented and how it was going to be used to attract people to be volunteers. Mr. Scythes agreed that the allowance could be used to attract people but that is not the intent of the program. Mrs. O'Brien thanked Mr. Scythes for coming to the meeting and bringing these matters to the forefront, but the Township was advised that there was not a clean financial way to handle the situation. She noted that it was her understanding by the way it was presented that the program was part of a bigger idea to try and make sure that our volunteers were appreciated and would want to volunteer. Mr. Scythes noted that the request could be perceived in that way, but he was looking for a per call allowance, but that could not be done in a legal financial way. He further noted that he will reach out to municipalities that do a pay per call and bring that back and work something out that's fair to the Township and volunteers.

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.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to go into Executive Session per the Resolution adopted this evening. Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Danna made a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the salary increase for the Senior Center Coordinator to \$15.00 per hour for the year 2017. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mr. Murphy	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	No	Mr. Spatola	Yes
Mr. Danna	Yes		

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the salary increase for the Fire Marshal to \$7,000 for the year 2017. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution 17-80 To Introduce The 2017 Municipal Budget. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy to adopt Resolution 17-80. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk read the 2017 Budget Statement indicating that the Township's budget for 2017 would be \$1,754,470.43 and local purpose tax of 9.2 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. She further noted that a Summary of the 2017 Budget would be published in the Vineland Daily Journal on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 and that the public hearing and final adoption of the budget would take place on Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

Mr. Murphy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Danna to adopt the 2017 Municipal Budget on first reading and to set Wednesday, April 19, 2017 for second reading, public hearing and final adoption. Roll Call Vote:

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

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

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

ATTEST:

Karen Seifrit, Clerk
Township of Deerfield