

REGULAR MEETING  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

AUGUST 19, 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, Emergency Management and Animal Control.

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

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #15-122 – Resolution Appointing Leatha Weatherby Backup Senior Center Coordinator.

Mr. Sparacio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Danna to adopt Resolution #15-122. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #15-123 – Resolution Approving Corrective Action Plan For The 2014 Audit.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to adopt Resolution #15-123. Roll Call Vote:

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

Old Business

The Clerk presented Reports from Department Chairpersons.

Mr. Danna stated that he put a call in to the manager of control and then sent an email to him so that he could notify the contractor who has the job to make sure that the intersection of Landis and Morton Avenues gets repaired when the repaving of Landis Avenue takes place. He further stated that he wanted to make sure it gets done.

He also noted that he spoke with an Assemblyman regarding Greenman and Vineland Avenues where the County is just messing around with it. Mr. Danna indicated that the Assemblyman is not from our district, but has a little influence with the County. He further indicated that something has to be done as it is not fair to the people that live there and noted that he showed the pictures to the Assemblyman.

Mr. Spatola started with a short report regarding Recreation. He indicated that he spoke with the public works supervisor who stated that besides the repairs to be done to the stage that there are some bad/faulty outlets. Mr. Spatola stated that the public works supervisor is going to get the materials necessary to replace them and is well within his capabilities.

He further stated that the Township received a letter from Senator Sweeney's office who indicated that he will be helping us obtain the inmates who assist us during the week of and week after the Harvest Festival.

As to buildings and grounds, Mr. Spatola indicated that the County came and inspected the Senior Center and during their inspection they found that the refrigerator was incapable of getting cold enough to meet the County standard. He indicated that the refrigerator has had trouble keeping milk cold for a long period of time. Mr. Spatola also stated that the public works supervisor noted that the refrigerator was 17 year old and was told that we should put money into something that old. He also stated that the Senior Center Coordinator got 3 or 4 quotes on refrigerators to get that replaced. Mayor Laurella stated that it was finalized and the new refrigerator would be coming in from Mainero's on Thursday.

Mr. Spatola noted that the Engineer should have specs for the driveway by the end of the week. Mayor Laurella asked if more handicapped parking spots could be established as there are only 2 and there are a lot of handicapped seniors who attend the center. Mr. Spatola said he would speak with the Engineer about adding a couple of extra spots.

Mr. Sparacio noted from the last meeting the Clerk contacted Atlantic City Electric regarding street lights and we're still waiting to hear from them as to what streets we actually pay for from the Township and also which ones are privately paid for.

The Clerk presented Follow Up Discussion Regarding Snow Removal At The Deerfield Township Elementary School.

Mr. Spatola stated that the Committee needs to decide on whether or not to continue plowing the snow at the school. He further stated that he is in favor of it and it's not that much of a burden and if there is a tremendous storm we have gotten help in the past.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola to send a letter to the Deerfield Township Elementary School to continue plowing and salting the school grounds during snow events. Roll Call Vote:

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

#### New Business

The Clerk presented Discussion Regarding Application For The 2016 State Municipal Aid Program-Proposed Streets For Submission. The Clerk noted that this is something that is done every year and last year we submitted for Garrison Road and Cedar Street.

The matter was tabled until the next meeting at which time Liaisons for Streets and Road will have recommendations for submission.

The Clerk presented Discussion Regarding Fire Department Relations. Mr. Spatola noted that there have been some things go by in the last several weeks that become quite the issue. He further noted that he is looking to hear anyone's opinion or feelings about those matters. Mr. Spatola stated that he does appreciate the fire company inviting both himself and Mr. Stanzione to their meetings.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Danna to open the meeting to the public regarding the discussion on Fire Department Relations (only). The Committee approved.

Pete Jilinski, Chief of Rosenhayn Fire and Rescue, 815 Vineland Avenue, came before the Committee. Mr. Jilinski agreed with Mr. Spatola that he and Mr. Stanzione have been coming to the fire meetings and it is nice to have them there. He noted that as Fire Chief it is his responsibility to keep the fences mended between the Township Committee and the general membership at large. Mr. Jilinski noted that is difficult sometimes, but for the most part there is good communication, mostly through the Clerk. He stated that there are some issues that are points of contention and indicated that he would like to get those out for everyone's information this evening.

Mr. Jilinski stated that the first item has to do with LOSAP and that the Township has had a LOSAP program since 2002. He noted that the maximum amount someone can obtain from LOSAP, if they meet all the qualifications is \$500. Mr. Jilinski stated that the amount is appreciated, but the Township has not increased the program at all and it has been requested every year with their submission. He further stated that he would like to see some serious discussion on this matter and noted that the State maximum is almost \$1500 a year. Mr. Jilinski noted that the amount for LOSAP in 2014 was \$5,600 and he is very strict with the rules and he is not a believer in LOSAP for everybody. He further noted that there have been some departments recently who have made the news and gotten in trouble for misappropriating LOSAP.

Secondly, Mr. Jilinski asked for regular updates on the rescue truck. He stated that there has been very little in the way of updates or discussion. Mr. Jilinski indicated that a lot of time has gone into meeting with vendors and specking out trucks. He further indicated that he receives regular calls from those vendors as to where we are with regard to a truck.

The next item was with regard to the paid staff. Mr. Jilinski noted that since the department started billing in 2011 actual cash received by the Township is now up to \$323,000.00. He also noted that the paid staff is paid from those funds and there is a \$100,000 balance over what is paid to the paid staff. Mr. Jilinski stated that approximately \$3,500-\$4,000 a month for payroll each month. He further stated that the paid staff has come to him on several occasions and asked for a pay increase. Mr. Jilinski indicated that the paid staff has never received any type of increase since they started and there is a range in the Ordinance for an increase. He further indicated that we should evaluate them and give them something.

Lastly, Mr. Jilinski noted that there was a lot of miscommunication with regard to his request for a drone. He further noted that he does not have a problem with the Committee making a decision, but he felt that the Committee owes it to the department to make an educated decision and did not believe that was done in this instance. Mr. Jilinski stated that he spoke with Mr. Spatola at the July meeting and it became a "wait and see thing". He further stated that he spoke with the OEM Coordinator, who also works at Crop Production Services (CPS) and he agreed it was a good idea. Mr. Jilinski also stated that he spoke with Committeeman Sparacio, who has a lot of experience with fire and rescue, and who seemed to agree that it was a good idea, but then the idea got shot down. Mr. Jilinski indicated that he was not at the last meeting because he was on a fire call. He further indicated that to hear that the idea was declined because he asked about

it and not because someone gave him a call and discussing it with him, Mr. Jilinski felt “kicked”.

Mr. Jilinski stated that he asked to listen to the tape from the last meeting, since he was not here, and was aggravated by what was said on the tape. He further stated the request was discussed between the Chair and Co-Chair and it was not a good expenditure at that time. Mr. Jilinski noted that there was “phone tag” and finally spoke with Mr. Stanzione and he indicated that he didn’t have anything to do with it. He further noted that there was miscommunication somewhere. Mr. Jilinski noted that Crop Production has a lot of nasty stuff that could hurt or kill someone. He further noted that a drill is taking place at CPS on Monday. Mr. Jilinski detailed what it would take for someone to go and review the situation should something bad occur at that location. He also noted that National Refrigerant is another company with the potential for a hazardous exposure. Mr. Jilinski indicated that a drone would be a better way, and not an expensive way, to promote the safety of the people of the department. He also indicated that the cost (approximately \$3000) was not to be money outside the budget. Mr. Jilinski felt disheartened that he was not given the opportunity to come before the Committee.

Mr. Jilinski did note that the Insurance Services Organization (ISO) came in and re-evaluated the department and incorporate the former Carmel Fire Department district into to Station 29’s district to make one district on the ISO map and extend our rating to the people in Carmel. He further noted that this re-evaluation was a lot work and received a lot of assistance from surrounding departments. Mr. Jilinski stated that as of November 1, 2015 the entire Township of Deerfield is now rated as a Class “7” and if insurance companies recognize the ISO rating people’s insurance rates will come down. The higher the rating the higher the premium, but now rates should come down.

Mr. Danna made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola to close the meeting to the public regarding the discussion on Fire Department Relations (only). The Committee approved.

The Clerk presented Raffle Application, Parish Of The Holy Cross, 50/50 On Premises Raffle- October 9 – October 11, 2015.

Mr. Sparacio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to approve the Raffle Application. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Raffle Application, Parish Of The Holy Cross, Games of Chance, October 8-October 11, 2015.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Danna, to approve the Raffle Application. Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Stanzione stated that about a week ago a resident called him to say that the lights were on in the park. He further stated that he found some guys playing hockey and he had to call the Township’s public work manager to shut the lights off. Mr. Stanzione indicated that he explained to the guys that it can’t be done because if the Township lets one group of people play then we have to let all the groups play with the lights on.

Mr. Stanzione suggested that the Committee may want to re-evaluate how to keep the lights on. He further suggested that there may be some type of “token” purchase and still have the lights go off at 10 p.m. He indicated that there is an ordinance to have the lights off and he also had public works take the sign down indicating that the park was open til 10 p.m. Mr. Stanzione noted that the ordinance states that the park is closed from dusk til dawn.

Mayor Laurella questioned whether tokens for the lights would violate any Green Acres restrictions even though Green Acres does not pay for the lighting. Mr. Stanzione stated he did not know, but the Township has tried several things to keep the lights on, but there was constant vandalism with breaking the boxes open. He further stated that he did not know if there was a way to keep the lights on. Mr. Stanzione noted that in the past before the ordinance went into effect, there were plenty of times the lights were left on til midnight, 1 or 2 o’clock in the morning and people were still out there playing basketball and disturbing the neighbors. Mayor Laurella asked that it be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Spatola said he spoke with the public works manager when it happened and he agreed that it would be great idea to do a token to leave the lights on for a certain amount of time. He stated that he was not sure that could be done or not, but in the meantime the ordinance was passed to have the lights off in the park from dusk til dawn. Mr. Spatola did not feel that anyone should have access to the lights and leaving the Township open to some type of hazard or liability. He noted that when the public works manager went to shut the lights off all the breakers were on and there were live wires. Mr. Spatola indicated that if someone gets electrocuted we’re liable and until the ordinance is amended, locks should be put on the panel.

Chairperson Laurella noted that in the past there was investigation on how to keep people out and vandalism stopped. He further noted that perhaps the Township may be able to come up with a way to stop the abuse and let people use the lights.

Mr. Danna also asked that further discussion regarding the drone be added to the next agenda. He stated he would like to get a little more information.

### Communications

The Clerk stated that there were no communications this evening.

The Clerk presented Resolution #15-124 For The Payment Of Bills.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to adopt Resolution #15-124. Roll Call Vote:

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

### Public Comment

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

Sandra Johnson, former reporter from the Bridgeton Evening News, addressed the Committee. She stated that she was in town from her current home in Houston and wanted to say “hello”.

Tim Jilinski, 815 Vineland Avenue came before the Committee. Mr. Jilinski stated that he wanted to bring up the lights again. He further stated that he felt the incident of 2 weeks ago was handled poorly. Mr. Jilinski indicated that it was about 9:15 p.m. and Deputy Mayor Stanzione approached the players. He further indicated that Mr. Stanzione stated that the lights were going to be shut off and Mr. Jilinski did not feel that was professional. Mr. Stanzione stated that the lights had to go off whether it was professional or not. Mr. Jilinski indicated that the lights were shut off and they had to pick their stuff up in the dark and did not feel that was necessary.

Discussion was held regarding the reason and whether or not there was “disrespect”.

Mr. Jilinski noted that Mr. Stanzione indicated that he would bring the lights up at the meeting and also noted that it was Mr. Stanzione who made the motion to adopt the ordinance regarding the lights. Mr. Jilinski also stated that he found it difficult to believe that the situation with the lights was only about money. Chairperson Laurella stated that it wasn't only about money but to prevent vandalism.

Mr. Spatola stated that he felt that there were 2 issues being miscommunicated. He further stated that the lights are off is because the privilege was misused and the lights were left on at all hours of the night. Mr. Spatola noted that the lights were turned on, and should not have been, and no one new that there was an ordinance and the lights should not have been on. Mr. Jilinski stated that he spoke with the public works manager and received permission. Discussion was held regarding the ordinance and permission for use of the lights.

Mr. Jilinski felt that the Committee is not looking at the positives that could be achieved if the park is open, especially in the winter, when it gets dark earlier. Mr. Jilinski noted for the Committee a “Summer Night Lights” program implemented in California. He further noted that this program implemented later hours for a few days a week and promoted a better ownership of the park and a better sense of community.

There being no further comment from the public, Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola 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.

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Cosmo J. Laurella, Chairperson  
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

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Karen Seifrit, Clerk  
Township of Deerfield