

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 17, 2018

Chairperson O'Brien 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 O'Brien led the flag salute.

The Clerk took roll call and members present included Mr. Brago, Mr. Stanzione, Mr. Danna, Mr. Terrigno and Mrs. O'Brien. Robert Casella appeared on behalf of Solicitor Testa this evening.

Departmental Reports

The Clerk presented the departmental reports of the Zoning/Housing Officer, Tax Collector, Treasurer, Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Brago made a motion, seconded by Mr. Danna to accept and file the departmental reports. The Committee approved.

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #18-156 Authorizing The Exclusion Of The Public From A Meeting Of The Township Committee To Be Held On October 17, 2018 – Said Meeting Pertaining to Contract Negotiations. Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brago to adopt Resolution #18-156. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Brago	Yes	Mr. Terrigno	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes
Mr. Danna	Yes		

Old Business

As to Recreation, Mr. Brago stated that the Festival was held and the weather held off for Saturday and Sunday. He further stated that there were no major problems.

Mr. Brago noted that things have slowed down as to animal control.

As to an additional item for Recreation, Mr. Brago noted that the Deerfield Township School PTO will hold their Trunk or Treat event on Friday, October 26, 2018 at LoBiondo Park.

Mr. Stanzione indicated that he had nothing to report as to fire and rescue.

Mr. Terrigno reported on streets and roads. Mr. Terrigno stated that Ron Shinn approached him about Mulberry Street (a paper road) where trees are falling. He further stated that the gentleman who lives next to it was offered the property back in 1969 but there is a lot of trash and debris and possibly an old trailer/camper. Mr. Terrigno noted that he would go out with Mr. Shinn and look at the property and see exactly what is on the property. Discussion was held as to the location of the paper street portion of Mulberry Street.

Mr. Danna indicated that he spoke with the gentlemen working on Landis Avenue in front of the municipal building. He further indicated that he asked them if there was anything in the works as to the intersection of Morton and Landis. Mr. Danna was advised to call Kimberly Nance at DOT. Mr. Danna noted that the work completed so far is very nice and he had an opportunity to speak with Mr. Pizzo of Major Petroleum and he is happy with what has been done.

With regard to trees near roadways, Mr. Danna stated that he and Mr. Shinn took a ride to Maple Street near Poplar that is ready to come down. He also noted that there are a couple of others and the Township should see which ones are the worst and need attention to be cut down.

New Business

The Clerk presented Discussion Regarding A Policy For Leftover Food Purchased By The Recreation Committee. The Clerk noted that she had sent an email out to everyone indicating that she had spoken with the Finance Officer about a policy for leftover prepared food and unprepared food. She noted that there was some leftover cooked food from the festival that was unable to be returned and being the weekend was unable to be donated to the senior center. The Clerk stated that anyone who was available on Sunday night or Monday were able to purchase some of the food. She further stated that the Finance Officer indicated that all unopened food must be returned to the vendor, if properly maintained, and any prepared food could be donated or sold at 50% of the retail value.

Chairperson O'Brien recommended that the food be donated to the local Salvation Army so that there are no questions as to who takes it, if it's being used properly and avoid any impropriety. The Clerk indicated that the Finance Officer noted that it would be acceptable to try and sell some of it off in order to recoup some of the money. Chairperson O'Brien felt that it would prudent to have a policy in place. Discussion was held regarding the selling of leftover food. Mr. Brago stated that he felt the matter is something to be looked into and is not opposed to selling some of the food to get some money back. Additional discussion was held as to what was done in the past and what occurred this year as to selling some of the food and donating some of the leftover food. Mr. Terrigno noted that selling of food needs to be held in accordance with health department regulations. Mr. Brago felt the answer was not going to be decided this evening and that there was time to come up with a policy. Mr. Brago stated that he would reach out to the Salvation Army and see how things are done with regard to food donations.

The Clerk presented Approval Of Raffle Application From The Bridgeton Area Chamber Of Commerce Foundation, Inc. For An On Premises 50/50 Raffle On November 7, 2018. Mr. Brago made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to approve the Raffle Application. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Brago	Yes	Mr. Terrigno	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes
Mr. Danna	Yes		

Mr. Terrigno asked for a Resolution to have anyone sitting on a Township Committee be a Township resident. Mr. Terrigno stated that if someone wants to volunteer that is acceptable, but in order to make a decision based upon Township business it is only right that individuals be Township residents.

Mr. Stanzione noted that nothing would get done. Chairperson O'Brien stated that too was also her concern. Chairperson O'Brien asked if there are Deerfield Township residents not able to serve on the Recreation Committee because they are held by other individuals. It was noted that the Recreation Committee is created with a certain number of spots as well as alternate members. Chairperson O'Brien indicated that if there are Township residents who feel they cannot participate because those seats are currently filled by non-Township residents then the concern is understandable and to allow our residents to have the opportunity. However, if there are Township residents that have expressed interest that is a concern if we continue to have the Harvest Festival

and are unable to have the Festival without the help of non-Township residents. Mr. Terrigno noted that non-Township residents can volunteer, but in the best interest of the Township should be handled by people of the Township. Mr. Brago questioned whether there are people of the Township who want to be on the Committee. The Clerk noted that she does not get constant requests from Township residents to be on the Recreation Committee. Discussion was held as to the time commitment to be on the Recreation Committee. It was noted that there are six or seven non-residents on the Recreation Committee and 3 residents. Mr. Stanzione noted that the “non-residents” were once Township residents that have moved outside the Township. He further noted that they have a vested interest in the Township because they still have family that lives here. Mr. Terrigno noted that the Recreation Committee is one of a few Committees where the members don’t have to live in the Township. Mr. Brago inquired the term appointment for Recreation. It was noted that it is a 3 year appointment. Mr. Brago also clarified that if a Township resident wants to be on the Committee than they should be, but if no one is beating down the door than it’s something to be considered. Chairperson O’Brien appreciated Mr. Terrigno’s concern about a Recreation Committee seat being held by a Township resident and participating on the Recreation Committee. She noted her concern lies with the people on the Committee who are very dedicated and working towards putting in time and effort for our Township even though they don’t reside here. Chairperson O’Brien stated that the benefit we get from their participation is reason not to remove them. She further noted that the Township Committee has oversight of the finances and everything Recreation does and are the stewards of the taxpayer dollars. Mr. Terrigno agreed that he did not realize that there is no one currently looking to get on the Committee and did not think of it outside that box.

Chairperson O’Brien noted that under “Old Business” and from the last meeting and the Payment of Bills, she stated that there was discussion as to whether or not an item should come from the budget or the trust fund and at that time she felt it should come from the trust fund. She further noted that after speaking with Mr. Spoltore the lights are in fact used by the Township for other events including the Trunk or Treat that is coming up and the RV hook up is specifically for the Harvest Festival and felt the bill should be split in those 2 ways. Mr. Brago stated that he also spoke with Mr. Spoltore prior to the Harvest Festival and felt the same way. He further stated that the RV plug should come out of the trust and the lights from the Recreation budget. Mr. Terrigno stated that Mr. Brago enlightened him about the discussion and agrees that the lights are the Township’s and should not be billed to the Harvest Festival.

Communications

The Clerk stated that there were no communications this evening.

The Clerk presented Resolution #18-157 for the Payment Of Bills. Mr. Terrigno made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to adopt Resolution #18-157. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Brago	Yes	Mr. Terrigno	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Mrs. O’Brien	Yes
Mr. Danna	Yes		

Public Comment

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

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

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brago to go into Executive Session per the Resolution this evening. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Brago	Yes	Mr. Terrigno	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Mrs. O'Brien	Yes
Mr. Danna	Yes		

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Danna to reconvene the Regular Meeting. The Committee approved

Anthony Stanzione, Executive Director of Cumberland Development Corporation gave an update on Cumberland Grows which is the CDC/Chamber's marketing program. Mr. Stanzione noted that one of things they are doing with the \$25,000 grant from the US Rural Development is to try and get out there and make sure the 9 nine towns part of Cumberland Development Corporation get more recognition from developers and Choose New Jersey which is the main source of leads. He further noted that CDC went to a Latino food conference (not open to the public, but people in the food industry). Mr. Stanzione stated that Stephen Paul, his associate for marketing purposes for the grant, got 11 leads from that conference. Mr. Stanzione outlined for the Committee the conference and the contacts made at that time. He noted that if CDC's not out there at those events they don't stand a chance of getting the leads. Mr. Stanzione stated that a company is now interested in this area and companies want to come to the United States.

Mr. Stanzione wanted to bring this up to Deerfield in the hopes that someday Deerfield will benefit when there is company that doesn't need public water or sewer.

Mr. Stanzione also wanted to bring up that there is a sewer line that may be able to be upgraded.

Mr. Stanzione also wanted to comment about the Harvest Festival as it was brought up earlier. Mr. Stanzione stated that he felt this year was a really good year. He further stated that he appreciated Mayor O'Brien and Committeeman Brago being able to be attendance and Recreation took the time to thank the many families that have helped over all these years.

Mr. Stanzione noted that the meatball purchase was new to Recreation this year as they never walk out with free food from the Township, but there was more leftover than usual that was not returnable. He noted it never was an issue before, but receipts were given and the money will come back to the Township. Mr. Stanzione agreed that the Township needs to develop a policy. Chairperson O'Brien stated she felt badly about charging the volunteers and if there is a policy it can be donated and there isn't a question. Mr. Stanzione stated that it only happened because this year felt like there was questioning going on about why and how things are done and what is spent and not spent. He further stated that every year stuff is donated to the Salvation Army.

Mr. Terrigno indicated that there haven't been allegations about things that have been done in the past. Chairperson O'Brien noted that the Township legally has new responsibilities that we didn't have in the past because we were questioned and once the Township is questioned, the Township needs to respond in an appropriate manner and that means that we can no longer conduct business as usual in a small town. She asked Mr. Stanzione to please not take Township action as an insult or a question of anyone's ethics.

Mr. Stanzione did not want to leave the impression of thousands of dollars worth of stuff walking away. He noted that the people he has worked with over the last 40 years do it because they like the Township, or lived here or their family still lives here.

Mr. Stanzione noted that he told the Recreation Committee that he's probably not doing the Festival any more, but it was a good year and everyone got along. He noted that the people on the Committee who don't live here, and that's a decision the Township Committee would have to make, should be addressed in a very respectful way. He noted that Mr. Spoltore doesn't live in the Township, but has family here and owns property here and for the Township to say he can volunteer but not have a say after running the Harvest Festival for the last 40 years. Mr. Stanzione also noted that the Recreation Committee is strictly an advisory committee and are not a commission and everything comes back to the Township Committee.

Mr. Stanzione agreed that the Harvest Festival for a small town, or a large town, is a very unusual event with over \$100,000 flowing and the Township has been lucky that there have been honest, good people working the event. He further agreed that if our auditors sat and saw what was going on they wouldn't let the Township put on the event. Mr. Stanzione noted that there is a lot going with such an event.

Mr. Stanzione felt that the Township has to respect people's feelings and has felt better about that in the last month or two and if Mr. Spoltore comes back, than Mr. Stanzione will come back, but the discussion held earlier about residents versus non-residents will be offensive to those who have run this event for the last 40 years.

Mr. Terrigno stated that the Committee asked Mr. Spoltore to come and speak with the Committee and Mr. Spoltore didn't want to get into an argument with the public, but for the Township Committee to have a liaison sit and discuss things with the Recreation Committee, things get misconstrued where all five Committee members have to make decisions. Chairperson O'Brien stated that she and Mr. Brago spoke with Mr. Spoltore and hopefully she, Mr. Brago, Mr. Spoltore and Mr. Stanzione will be sitting down to discuss their intentions for next year and bring back to the Committee what their thoughts are. She further stated that the Township Committee is not fully aware of the finances and intentions of the Festival and a lot of the issues between the Recreation Committee and Township Committee is due to lack of communication.

Mr. Stanzione noted that the Recreation Committee can only give a year to year plan and not a 5-year plan. Chairperson O'Brien stated that there is a financial implication for the Township and the Township needs to understand if the Festival is a revenue builder, does it support the Recreation Committee and are there benefits to the Township versus an impact on the Township. Mr. Stanzione questioned if the Township wants a 5-year plan or just not have the event any more.

Mr. Terrigno indicated that he never said he wanted to get rid of the Harvest Festival, but would like to see it go back to a 2-day event. He further indicated that he was advised that the event would lose money.

Committeeman Stanzione reminded everyone that the people who benefit from the Harvest Festival is not the Recreation Committee, it's the fire company, the PBA, the school and all the non-profits that are there and getting paid for doing jobs during the Festival.

Discussion was held about the future of the Festival and having a sub-committee meet with Mr. Spoltore and Mr. Stanzione to discuss the future of the Festival.

Mr. Brago stated that he met with Mr. Stanzione, Mr. Spoltore and his son just prior to the Festival and to please not think that the Festival should be shut down. He further stated that it was being spread around that he and Mr. Terrigno wanted to shut down the Festival and it's not his intention or Mr. Terrigno's intention. Mr. Brago

indicated that he believes this year went very well and told Mr. Spoltore that they have done a lot to protect the immediate properties near the Festival.

Chairperson O'Brien reiterated that she would like to get with Mr. Brago, Mr. Spoltore and Mr. Stanzione in the next two months and have this discussion.

Mr. Stanzione strongly urged the Committee that if their decision is that the Festival isn't right for the Township, and as long as it's done in a respectful way, he would not have a problem with that. He noted that if he tried to sell the Committee on this Festival today, the Committee would think long and hard about such an event. Mr. Stanzione acknowledged that the Festival is something that has happened over the years as it grew.

Chairperson O'Brien thanked Mr. Stanzione and Mr. Spoltore for all the years they have put into the Festival, as well as the other Recreation members.

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

Abigail P. O'Brien, Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Karen Seifrit, Clerk
Township of Deerfield