

REGULAR MEETING  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 25, 2019

Chairperson Terrigno 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 9:00 a.m.

Chairperson Terrigno led the flag salute.

The Clerk took roll call and members present included Mrs. O'Brien, Mr. Brago and Mr. Terrigno. Mr. Danna and Mr. Stanzione were not available for the meeting.

Departmental Reports

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

Ordinances

The Clerk presented Ordinance #2019-1 – Second Reading And Public Hearing Of An Ordinance Appropriating The Sum Of \$23,000 From Capital Improvement Fund Of Deerfield Township For Various Improvements To The Deerfield Township Municipal Building and Grounds. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brago to open the public hearing on Ordinance #2019-1. The Committee approved.

There being no comment from the public, Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brago to close the public hearing on Ordinance #2019-1. The Committee approved

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brago to adopt Ordinance #2019-1. Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #19-32 Granting Final Approval Of The LaSala Farm Application To Sell Development Easement (Block 84, Lots 24, 25, 29 and 30) Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brago to adopt Resolution #19-32. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. O'Brien	Yes	Mr. Terrigno	Yes
Mr. Brago	Yes		

The Clerk presented Resolution #19-33 Authorizing A Change Fund For The Zoning-Housing Officer's Office. Mr. Brago made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to adopt Resolution #19-33. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. O'Brien	Yes	Mr. Terrigno	Yes
Mr. Brago	Yes		

The Clerk presented Resolution #19-34 for the Payment Of Bills. Mr. Brago made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to adopt Resolution #19-34. Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Brago inquired what would happen if there was no meeting and the bills needed to be paid. The Clerk stated she was not sure and would have to look into the matter. Mr. Terrigno noted that there are bills every month (electric, phone, cable, gas, etc.) that need to get paid and Mr. Brago added there should be some procedure to pay the bills until a meeting. Discussion was held among the members that should there only be one meeting in the Summer or a meeting is cancelled something can be done to pay the bills. It was also noted that Committee members do review and sign off on the bills and purchase orders.

There was no Old or New Business for the meeting.

#### Public Comment

As there was no public in attendance there was no public portion of the meeting.

Mrs. O'Brien wanted to put on the record a meeting that was held on Friday, February 22, 2019 with the Chair of Recreation, Roy Spoltore and Anthony Stanzione and that she and Mr. Brago attended that meeting. Mrs. O'Brien stated that during the meeting there was discussion about the future of the Festival and both parties were interested in what the other wanted. She further stated that there appears to be an understanding to scaling back the Festival. Mrs. O'Brien indicated that discussion was held regarding less days (going back to a Friday, Saturday and Sunday for the Festival) and scaling back on the entertainment (no big name entertainment and using more tribute bands).

Mrs. O'Brien noted that Mr. Spoltore indicated that the trust fund has purchased items for the Township (lights in the back of the park, electric service expansion at the fire department and resealing of the tennis courts), but the trust fund was mostly a "rainy day fund" in case there is a Festival that is a complete wash out and the Festival would be covered by the trust fund. Mrs. O'Brien stated if the Festival is going to use Township resources than there should be some other benefit to the Township other than the Festival being here on those 3 days. Mr. Brago noted that Mr. Spoltore and Mr. Stanzione feel that is the benefit to the Township. Mrs. O'Brien stated that there should be some other benefit such as some money going into the recreation fund that pays for an extra movie night or some benches.

Mr. Terrigno stated that he has spoken to some vendors who use the Festival as a fundraiser, but a vendor noted that it is not free to them and they pay to go to the Festival. He further stated that the vendor noted that the Festival is giving them the platform to make money but it's not "a service to the community". Mrs. O'Brien indicated that the school makes money, the fire department makes money, but there are a lot of other groups that come in and make money.

Mr. Brago asked the Clerk to check on his question that after 4 p.m. on Friday of the Festival and through the entire weekend, public works gets paid by the Harvest Festival fund. The Clerk said she believed that to be true, but would confirm the payments. Mr. Brago provided a spread sheet of the last Festival and noted that some of the expenses were more (in anticipation of it being the last Festival). Mr. Brago noted that there was a profit of approximately \$3,200 made for the whole event. Mrs. O'Brien

reiterated what Mr. Spoltore said in that the Harvest Festival was never to be a money maker, but to come even.

Mr. Terrigno stated that his argument is what is the gain to the Township to have a 4-day Festival over a 2-day Festival. Mr. Brago indicated that if the Township decided to go to just a Saturday and Sunday the Festival would lose Skelly's rides because Skelly's anticipates the Festival to be at least a 3-day event. He further indicated that the reason the Recreation Committee went to a 4-day event is to offset any rain. Mr. Terrigno agreed with that but felt that the Festival has gotten away from what he grew up with and where it originally started. Mrs. O'Brien noted that was discussed and asked if there would be a parade again this year. She further noted that was agreed upon.

Mrs. O'Brien stated that Mr. Spoltore and Mr. Stanzione were open and willing to listen to what the Committee felt was in the best interest of the Township. Mr. Brago noted that Mr. Spoltore and Mr. Stanzione noted that if the Township wants to scale down the Festival there are going to be less people that come to the event and less opportunity for the vendors to make money. He further noted that they felt that if the Township wanted to scale it down that they be able to let the vendors know that there could be less possibility to make as much money for their organization than the year before.

Mr. Brago indicated that the reason they have all the schools and other organizations run the games is because Skelly's does not have a license in New Jersey for that aspect and has another organization run the games. He further noted some of the organization that make money from the games.

Mrs. O'Brien noted that there was an issue with the Sheriff's department not showing up on Thursday night for some reason and that going forward that there is not a problem. She also noted that there was a problem with getting help on a local level and getting inmates to help with the cleanup over the weekend.

Mr. Terrigno stated that it was his opinion that the Festival has gotten out of hand and too big for our little Township and the area where it is held. He thought that if the Festival could be moved to another location where parking is off the streets and residents living near the event don't have to worry. Mr. Terrigno noted that some residents don't leave their homes for the weekend because they're afraid something will happen. Discussion was held as to the number of residents that live in the immediate area that don't attend the Festival and the minimum number of complaints that have ever been received as to the Festival.

Mrs. O'Brien noted that she felt that the Chicken BBQ is successful is because it's an opportunity for Deerfield Township to come out and have a community event the Township lacks. It was also noted that the church spaghetti dinner and the movie night are good examples of community events. Mrs. O'Brien felt that the Festival used to do that, but the locals may steer clear because the Festival doesn't have that same feel as when it originally started. Mrs. O'Brien stated that they left the meeting with Mr. Spoltore and Mr. Stanzione going back to the Recreation Committee and see how they would feel about a 3-day Festival, would they still have the volunteer capacity, scale back the entertainment and try to get a profit line that would benefit the Township.

Mr. Brago noted that there may not be any push back about the fourth day if the volunteers only need to report later in the day on Friday and not all day and night Thursday. Mrs. O'Brien noted that Thursday night is only for the rides.

Mrs. O'Brien would like to see the Township support the recreation events for the Township. Mrs. O'Brien also noted that the Chair does not see his recreation budget and they have no idea what they have available to spend.

Mr. Terrigno stated that the Township doesn't see a profit from the Harvest Festival. Mrs. O'Brien noted that the Township does use resources to get the Festival up and running. Mr. Brago also noted that the City of Bridgeton does not have a 4-day event like this as they are not going to dedicate all their public works (for 1 ½ months). He further noted that Upper Deerfield has a one day event with far more public works than Deerfield and they are not doing a 4-day event. Mr. Brago reiterated that the office staff is also doing their part in preparing paperwork and taking phone calls. Mr. Terrigno noted that it hinders the Township Committee from having the resources with the office staff to perform the duties Committee needs because they are too busy preparing for the Festival.

Mr. Terrigno stated that he and Recreation Committee member were under the assumption that the Breakfast with Santa and Easter Egg Hunt were paid for with profits from the Harvest Festival but they are not. Mrs. O'Brien noted that Mr. Spoltore does a fantastic job and the accounting on the Festival is spot on so if we gave him the numbers from the Township he could probably fix whatever the Township wanted. She further noted that there are enough opportunity for profits that the Township could fund the recreation committee from that event.

Mr. Brago noted that Mr. Spoltore noted that when the Township makes purchases like the swing sets that is a Capital expenditure and the Township should plan for that in Capital expenses and not something that should be bought from the regular operating budget.

Discussion was held among the members regarding the interpretation of how the trust fund is used and has been used over the years. Additional discussion was also held regarding the lack of volunteerism.

Mr. Brago reiterated how there is a benefit to the Township of holding the Festival and there is give and take to put on such an event.

Mr. Brago also reiterated the affect the Festival may have on the surrounding residents and the fact that even though the Township Committee may hear disgruntled comments no one ever shows up to a Township meeting and address the entire Committee, in an open forum, in order for the Committee to make a conscientious decision as to what can or should be done with regard to the Festival.

Mrs. O'Brien noted that a music festival was held in the Township and residents that live close by to that event came in days later and complained to the Committee at which point the Committee was aware and was able to address the issue.

Mr. Terrigno suggested getting the recommendations from the Recreation Committee as to scaling back and going to a 3-day event. Mr. Brago noted that the Township Committee and Recreation Committee need to better communicate and maybe down the line Recreation will be willing to purchase some benches for the park and that's where the Township gets its "give back". Discussion was held regarding the need to communicate and work as partners with the Recreation Committee.

As to the newly received grant, Mrs. O'Brien noted that she spoke with Mr. Spoltore and he does not see a problem of staying with the footprint of the park with the new walking path.

Mr. Terrigno stated that Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. Brago are doing a great job in trying to find a happy medium. Mr. Brago indicated that he enjoys the Festival and his kids enjoy it and everyone has a great time with the music and seeing friends and would not want to see it go away. He further indicated that he is fully aware of the time and effort it takes to put on the event and the amount of time is used by public works and the office staff. Mr. Terrigno agreed and noted that even with the volunteers who work the weekend, public works and the office do all the paperwork to put on the Festival and its takes time away from things to get the Township up to date.

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

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Michael Terrigno, Chairperson  
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

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Karen Seifrit, Clerk  
Township of Deerfield