

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MARCH 6, 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 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson Terrigno led the flag salute.

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

Minutes

The Clerk presented the minutes of February 4 and February 25, 2019. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to approve the minutes as written. The Committee approved.

Closed Session Minutes

The Clerk presented the Closed Session minutes of February 4, 2019. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to approve the minutes as written. The Clerk noted that the Closed Session minutes would not be released to the public until the reason for them remain closed is no longer applicable and the Solicitor has had an opportunity to review them.

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #19-35 – For Tonnage Grant Application. Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to adopt Resolution #19-35. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #19-36- Authorizing Shared Service Between The Borough Of Shiloh And The Township Of Deerfield For Certified Recycling Coordinator Services. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to adopt Resolution #19-36. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #19-37 – Awarding A Contract To Sweetwater Environmental, LLC As A Licensed Operator For Water Treatment Systems. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to adopt Resolution #19-37. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #19-38 – Refunding Overpayment Of Taxes For Totally Disabled Veteran. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to adopt Resolution #19-38. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #19-39 – Providing For The Cancellation Of The Reserve Balance For the Revaluation Program. Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O’Brien to adopt Resolution #19-39. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #19-40 – Authorizing The Municipal Clerk To Initiate Publication Of Notice For Request For Proposals For Engineering Services (DCA Grant For Parks). Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O’Brien to adopt Resolution #19-40. Roll Call Vote:

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

Old Business

The Clerk presented Reports From Department Chairpersons.

As to streets and roads, Mr. Terrigno stated that everything was good. Mr. Stanzione noted that the County opened the water way on Kenyon Avenue. Mr. Terrigno noted that OEM Coordinator, Andy Tartaglia, looked into the matter also.

Mr. Stanzione reported as to fire and rescue and noted that he and Mr. Danna are still trying to set up a meeting with rescue. He also reported on recreation and that he attend the meeting with Mr. Brago and indicated that recreation may attend our next meeting in case there are any questions.

Mrs. O’Brien indicated that the Township received an email from the Improvement Authority relating to non-residents hauling trash for residents. She further indicated that the individual was advised that if it happened again they would be fined as they did not have a haulers permit. Mrs. O’Brien noted that it sounded like an older resident who needed assistance and didn’t have a pickup truck and gave their permit pass to someone out of town to help them. She further noted that the Township needs to figure out a way to work with the residents and that she and Mr. Terrigno will be sitting down with Mr. Velazquez to go over that problem.

Mrs. O’Brien reported that she contacted the Governor’s office directly about the issue the Township is having with access to solar for our residents. She further reported that she was connected with the BPU and the BPU is inquiring to Atlantic City Electric as to why they have not been able to help us. Mrs. O’Brien stated that the BPU requested a list of the people that have been denied (the Township does not have a copy of the list), and was advised by Mr. Lopez of Atlantic City Electric that he is not able to release the list but only give Mrs. O’Brien numbers. She further stated that she forwarded that email to the BPU and advised the BPU that Atlantic City Electric was not cooperating in a manner where they were allowing the Township to get that information. Mrs. O’Brien indicated that it is her intention to continue to push and get the list from Atlantic City Electric and if not go through the Township’s Facebook page and ask who has been denied solar access in Deerfield Township. She further indicated that Atlantic City Electric advised that there is nothing more they can do for the Township and it is up to the Township to escalate the matter.

New Business

The Clerk presented Discussion And Motion To Send Letter Of Support With Regard To Cumberland Regional High Agricultural Sciences CTE Program For

Cumberland County. The Clerk stated that Mrs. O'Brien had received an email from Connie Landwher, Secretary to the Superintendent of Cumberland Regional School District. Mrs. O'Brien noted that the only information she had was from the email indicating that Cumberland Regional High School would like to implement an Agricultural Sciences CTE Program for Cumberland County. She further noted that there have been discussions about the local high schools creating a curriculum and enrollment process similar to that at the CCTech and it's a school in which you need to apply and be accepted. Mrs. O'Brien felt that the CCTech seems to have a different purpose than the original VoTech and are trying to offer more opportunities to our County through the local school level. She noted that there is funding tied to that as well and does not believe there is an Agricultural Sciences Program at the CCTech and would be fully in support of Cumberland Regional having one as agriculture stills plays an incredible part in the economic development of our area.

Mr. Terrigno recommended that the matter be tabled until the next meeting so the Township can find out if there is a conflict with the CCTech and it can be revisited at that time. Mrs. O'Brien asked when letters of support were to be returned. The Clerk noted that the email did not note a date as to when a letter should be returned. Mrs. O'Brien asked the Clerk to reach out to the Regional and get some additional information. Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to table to the Discussion And Motion regarding Letter of Support in connection with Cumberland Regional High School's proposed Agricultural Sciences CTE Program. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Approval Of Bingo Application – Deerfield Township PTO To Be Held May 3, 2019 from 7pm to 11pm. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to approve the bingo application. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Approval of Raffle Applications (2) Deerfield Township PTO – On Premises Raffle and On Premises 50/50 – May 3, 2019 from 7 pm to 11pm. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to approve the raffle applications. Roll Call Vote:

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

Communications

The Clerk stated that there are two (2) communications this evening. The Clerk read into the record a letter of resignation from Angelo Manera, Jr. addressed to the Deerfield Township Recreation Committee Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to accept and file the communication, with regret. The Committee approved.

The Clerk also read into the record a letter from Anthony Barnes asking to be considered for a position on the Recreation Committee. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to accept and file the communication. The Committee approved. Mr. Stanzione noted that the letter needs to be forwarded to the Recreation Committee.

The Clerk presented Resolution #19-41 - For The Payment Of Bills. Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to adopt Resolution #19-41. Roll Call Vote:

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

Public Comment

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien, to open the meeting to the public. The Committee approved. Sandy Callahan of 437 Morton Avenue came before the Committee. Mrs. Callahan indicated that she wanted to thank Tony Lamanteer and Mayor Danna for their compassionate ear to a situation that is ongoing with the water in her basement. She further indicated that she spoke with both gentlemen and they were quick to respond to her concern and put her in touch with some other individuals who have been helpful. Mrs. Callahan stated that in speaking with John Knoop, the County Engineer, he reminded her of a similar situation that happened about 10 years ago with water. She further stated that water came in her basement for about 6 months back then. Mrs. Callahan indicated that the basement was restored and is now again under water. She also noted that the trench out at Kenyon Avenue has been opened and should relieve some of the water.

Mrs. Callahan stated there are 2 residents that live near her and they are steadily pumping water. She further stated the one resident pumps water 24/7 many months throughout the year and is wondering now if the water situation has overcome the ground. Mrs. Callahan indicated that as she came by the neighbor's home tonight there is a 3 inch pipe that empties 5 gallons of water in a litter over a minute. Mrs. Callahan asked if there is anything that can be done by the Township or County in order to divert the water or collect the water in some way for fire tankers that will keep homes in better order. She noted that she has spent \$5,000 with Service Master coming in and evacuating the water. Mrs. Callahan relayed how just recently got her basement dry to remove the carpet and other items in her basement when the rain started on Sunday and the water came into her basement again. She noted that she is running out of cash reserves and will need to go to the bank for a loan to help with the situation.

Mrs. O'Brien inquired what information Mrs. Callahan received from John Knoop. Mrs. Callahan stated that Mr. Knoop told her what she already knew from 10 years ago with the water coming in for months at a time. She further stated that there were people who specialized in where the aquifers were, FEMA had come in and the area had been declared a disaster ten years ago. She noted that even though damage to her property was assessed at over \$15,000 she was only able to get \$2,000.

Mrs. O'Brien asked the Clerk to look into on how the Township could request disaster aid for the Township from the State. Mrs. O'Brien noted that she too is experiencing problems as a result of saturation of the water and standing water where there never has been before. Mrs. O'Brien thanked Mrs. Callahan for coming in and sharing her story and the Township will look into whether or not there is disaster aid for residents that are dealing with issues due to the flooding. Mrs. Callahan stated that there is no insurance coverage as the damage is due to ground water. She noted that since 2010 she has had no issues with water (and reiterated that 2010 was an extremely "wet" year with 2 major snow storms and 2 ten inch rain storms) until now. Mrs. Callahan also noted that the trench on her side of has never been "excavated???".

Mrs. Callahan relayed 2 incidents where she needed to remove water from her property and the County told her not to run the water into the ditch as it would harm her neighbors. In retrospect Mrs. Callahan feels that due to all the pumping her neighbor is

doing into that trench that is why she is having such a problem now at her home. Mr. Terrigno is aware of the neighbors near Mrs. Callahan and was not aware of the law and the water the neighbors are pumping out of their houses onto the street. Mrs. Callahan indicated that Mr. Knoop told her that was not true and she could have run the water into the trench.

Mrs. Callahan stated that she is grateful for the efforts of the Township Committee and staff. She further stated that every time she calls someone always gets back to her.

Mrs. Callahan asked if there is some sequence of events that she needs to follow in order to avoid future water issues. She admitted that she will need to go to the bank and get a loan to do what she needs to do to alleviate the situation at her home. Mrs. O'Brien noted that we are above 64 inches of precipitation for the year and that is more than in 2010. She further noted that when the ground is so saturated and nowhere for the water to go water will find any way to get in. Mrs. O'Brien stated that the Township does not have the capacity or ability to alleviate the ground water, but can use its resources to contact the government to possibly provide funding for a re-engineering. She further stated that the reality is weather is changing drastically every year and we are aware it. Mr. Stanzione indicated that the County has a plan to clean the ditch out. He noted that the biggest problem at that location is the neighbor is pumping out all the water which washes out the silt and under the bridge instead of water flowing through the silt builds up and holds the water back. Mrs. Callahan noted that the other side of the ditch near the Puesi property has been cleaned many times, but never on her side.

Mrs. O'Brien gave Mrs. Callahan her professional opinion as an architect and advised Mrs. Callahan not to do anything until the area dries out and do not excavate around the exterior of her home as she will lose all support.

Mr. Stanzione noted that the zoning laws have changed and the boards back then used to allow construction. He further noted that laws have changed and surveys need to be done as to whether the land is high or low ground, but where those 2 homes are it has always flooded out there and does not know why those homes were allowed to be built there.

The Committee thanked Mrs. Callahan for her attendance and she thanked the Committee for their time.

Paul Hoffman of the Recreation Committee came before the Committee. Mr. Hoffman indicated that it was the Recreation Committee's thought that someone attend the Township meeting to answer questions the Committee may have or questions about the Festival this year. Mrs. O'Brien stated that she spoke for the record at the last meeting that she and Mr. Brago met with Mr. Spoltore and Mr. Stanzione about the possibility of having a 3 day festival instead of a 4 day festival and that he was going to take that back to the Recreation Committee. Mr. Hoffman stated that it was brought up but the Committee did not feel that was possible this year as to the planning that has taken place and the vendors. He further stated that the following year would be possible. He also noted that the biggest vendor, Skelly's, contracts in advance and also has the option to pull out completely and the Festival would be at a loss. Mr. Hoffman stated that the recommendation was to continue with the 4 days for this year, have an opportunity to talk with the vendors and talk with Skelly's about going to a 3 day event. He further stated that Skelly's is a friend to Recreation and contributes back to the Festival.

Mrs. O'Brien noted that no one has come to the Township meetings to complain about the Festival. She noted that the Township has heard complaints about water, a

different festival at South Winds so we don't know if it's just a sampling that we happen to be hearing those things but we try our best to respond to our community's needs. Mr. Hoffman agreed and noted that people use social media to point out their complaints. Mrs. O'Brien felt that it's important that there be an open forum and everyone is communicating directly with one another.

Mrs. O'Brien also noted that the Festival was never meant to be a fundraiser and the intention was for it to be self-sustaining and the trust fund was set up to fund the Festival in the event of rain. She further noted the confusion among the Committee and the community about what the trust fund served and what purpose the Harvest Festival served. Mrs. O'Brien stated that she felt that making the Harvest Festival more of a revenue generator for the Recreation Committee to therefore benefit the Township year round. She further stated that those 4 days were referenced as the benefit to the community was the Festival. Mrs. O'Brien noted that the trust has paid for the lights at the back of LoBiondo Park, electrical service expansion and the resealing of the tennis courts. She suggested that through some manipulation of some of the bands and changing those expenses thereby generate some funds that could back into the parks, another movie night or give a larger budget to breakfast with Santa and the Recreation Committee would have a larger budget to do more good in the Township. Mr. Hoffman agreed and noted the Recreation Committee is always looking to do that. He noted that Recreation would always like to see the Festival make a profit, but it is not the main goal. Mr. Hoffman indicated that his main goal is to have an enjoyable Festival that puts the Committee and the Township (as a community) on the map and creates memories. He further indicated that he felt the Committee should start recruiting more people and look at more diversity for Recreation Committee.

Mr. Terrigno stated that he was under the assumption that Breakfast with Santa and the Easter Egg Hunt were done by Recreation through the proceeds of the Harvest Festival and was quite surprised when he learned that was not the case. He further stated that he agreed with Mrs. O'Brien that if the Festival can be transformed to be self-sufficient and generates the revenue for Breakfast with Santa and the Easter Egg Hunt and the money could be spent doing those events as well. Mr. Hoffman noted that when looking at the Festival and seeing all the activity and people that come there it would have a profit margin. He further noted that the admission was added to help maintain the size and entertainment. Mr. Hoffman stated that over the years there have been profits, but there have also been years where money was lost and as of the last several years there has been losses due to a bad rainy day as no one comes to a festival on a rainy day, but vendors still need to get paid.

Mr. Terrigno admitted that he has always been open about his gripes and wanted to have a public forum with the Recreation Committee in order to ask questions and get answers. Mr. Hoffman indicated that was why he was here this evening. Mr. Terrigno noted he was very happy to see Mr. Hoffman and to be able to have a dialogue. He further noted that he would like to see the Festival downsized and have the parade brought back. Discussion was held about the parade and the donations made to the school bands that participate. Mrs. O'Brien noted that if we're going to put our Township on the map it's for the right reason and they know the kind of town we are and we are a hometown, with good people who want to come out on a Sunday and march in a parade and see their friends and see their kids happy. She felt that it was good to have the parade and good to have such an open dialogue with Mr. Spoltore and Mr. Stanzione. Mrs. O'Brien felt it was productive and the Township has no intention of handing down mandates to the Recreation Committee. Mr. Hoffman noted that was why he came this evening and what the Recreation Committee talked about. He also noted that he showed up this evening to bring any questions, concerns back to Recreation and if this is a good process he will happily show up at the Township meetings.

Mrs. O'Brien noted that Recreation was not aware of its budget and in the future she and Mr. Terrigno would be provide Recreation with their budget and making them aware of what they have and are able to spend. Mr. Hoffman said that would be a great thing to know and to what they are allowed to do with their budget and what it incorporates. He also felt it is important that the Recreation Committee works on everything and not just the Festival. Mrs. O'Brien suggested a sub-committee of the Recreation Committee who might just want to work on the Festival and then get some other individuals to fill Recreation who would like to work on the Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast with Santa.

Mr. Terrigno stated he would like to see someone from Recreation come to a Township meeting in another month and give reports. Mr. Hoffman noted that the discussions about the Festival are still in the "thinking stages" but there are some contracts that have been initiated. He further noted that they are looking at the entertainment and that has been very expensive. Mr. Hoffman stated that the Festival is looking at more cover bands and local bands as options for the entertainment. He further stated that he did not feel that it would be a problem for someone to show up at a Township meeting even if it was just himself.

The Committee thanked Mr. Hoffman for attending.

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.

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

Michael Terrigno, Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Karen Seifrit, Clerk
Township of Deerfield