

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

December 19th, 2012

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.

Chairperson Laurella stated that he would like everyone to remain standing for the lives that were lost in Newtown, Connecticut last Friday. He also thanked Mr. Shinn, Maintenance Supervisor, for lowering the flag out of respect for the victims.

The Clerk was at a Joint Insurance Fund Meeting in Smithville, and the Deputy Clerk, Cheryl Tramontana, filled in for her.

The Deputy Clerk took roll call and members present included Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Stanzione, Mr. Spatola and Mr. Laurella. Mr. Lauermann was absent this evening due to his work schedule.

Departmental Reports

The Deputy Clerk presented Reports from the Construction Office, Zoning/Housing Officer, Tax Collector and Fire Marshal.

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

Resolutions

The Deputy Clerk stated there were no Resolutions this evening.

Old Business

Mr. Spatola stated that it is time to look at some appointments with the Cumberland/Salem Municipal Courts for the second year of commitment. He stated that in 2013 there will be a new Solicitor, her name will be Nancy Brent, the Defense Attorney will be the same, the staff of the Court will remain the same with Patty in charge, but as of February 3rd, 2013, a letter was received stating that Judge Kienzle is formally retiring and in the interim of his retirement they will be get things going and then interview for a new Judge. Mr. Spatola stated that until they do the interviewing under a State Statute of the Administrative Office of the Courts it is standard procedure when a Judge leaves a court they will appoint one for each session at a cost of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per session so this will happen until they get the interviewing lined up.

Mr. Stanzione stated that the Rosenhayn Fire and Rescue is doing fine but wanted to let the Committee know ahead of time, the Fire Company will need to replace a lot of hose in the coming years because the State has passed a law that states after so many years they have to be replaced. He also stated that at Budget Time there would be extra money in their account to replace the hoses on the fire trucks.

Mr. Montgomery stated that with Streets and Roads there was a problem with a road crossing that was found by Mr. Shinn, Maintenance Department and himself, and it was taken care of by Mr. Shinn.

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Mr. Spatola stated that the Cumberland County Improvement Authority had Mr. Heck who represented our Solicitor, Michael Testa, contact the Attorney for the Improvement Authority and there will be a meeting on Thursday, January 3rd, 2013, where they will be presenting the fact that our Township will stay protected from any loss of any assets that we are gaining for having the landfill in our Township by going over the existing contracts we have had for years and make sure everything is intact. He stated that one addition that they are trying to propose to them is to change to a 5% flat rate based on the average of the different tonnage fees.

Mr. Montgomery stated that in everyone's bin there was information regarding getting new cell phones for the Township. He stated that he spoke to Verizon who is the vendor for the government and by going with them the Township has a couple different options that need to be looked over. He stated that the pricing that was on the email was based on two different plans and the Committee needs to decide starting the first of the year what we would want to do because that is when they will be taking over the Municipal and Government Nationwide plans.

Chairperson Laurella stated along with Mr. Montgomery that they would like to have a decision from the Township Committee by the second meeting in January, 2013, on what cell phone plan they would like to use along with what phones should be purchased.

Mr. Spatola stated that he knows that the computer for Public Works has been talked about for a long time and he agrees with Mr. Stanzione that he wants a desktop in his office instead of a laptop but he did not know how much money is in their account. He stated that he was told that there is enough money in his account to purchase the computer so he would like to know if they could move forward with this purchase or if they wanted to wait until next year.

Chairperson Laurella asked if the Township Committee put a desktop computer out there would we need a special type of line.

Mr. Montgomery stated that he has been in contact with a whole new department again pertaining to the internet along with the Public Affairs Director for the State and explained to her our situation about not getting anyone to contact us for the information the Township is looking for. He stated that they came back with the answer that the Township did not qualify for a new phone line and this was incorrect based on the fact that it was being fed across the street to another facility. Mr. Montgomery stated that the Township Clerk, Karen Seifrit, reached out to another person involved with this in North Jersey who handles Public Affairs in many Municipalities for the State and they are having an Engineer come in and analyze the situation and they will get back to us and let the Township know what they can do. He also stated that they would be reaching out to Comcast to give them a fair opportunity to try and see what their pricing is to try and get the better deal. Mr. Montgomery stated that pertaining to Ron's computer out in the garage, the Township would have to get a wireless system once the new system is in place because we would not be able to put a wire out but this could be something the Township could look into doing after.

Mr. Stanzione stated that he would like to explain something again to the Committee Members. He stated that if there is money in your Department and your Department Head justifies that they need what they are asking for then go buy it. Mr. Stanzione stated that we sit up here meeting after meeting discussing stuff that does not need to be discussed.

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Mr. Stanzione stated that he does not know why we are even discussing this tonight because if the money is in budget and he needs one out in the garage go and get it.

Chairperson Laurella stated that Mr. Spatola is not a part of that department and Mr. Spatola stated he understands that but months have gone by and then the year is gone and he still has no answer.

Chairperson Laurella stated that everyone has a form showing additional streetlights that will be turned off but stated that no action will be taken tonight on this. He stated that he would like an answer on the list by each Committee Member on their decision by the second meeting in January of 2013. Chairperson Laurella stated however that Mr. Montgomery and himself found eleven (11) or twelve (12) lights out that the Township has been paying for. He stated that he had one of our secretaries call the Atlantic Electric Company and was given the run around and then finally she found out that they wanted not one but two sets of numbers on the pole along with what kind of light is on each pole. Chairperson Laurella stated that Mr. Montgomery will be contacting them to clear this up.

New Business

Mr. Spatola stated that the schedule of Township Meetings reflects a change of having two (2) meetings again in July and August then just one a month. He stated that he would go along with one (1) meeting a month if everyone else agrees to it but he feels it would make it easier to have both meetings advertised and if need be just advertise to cancel the meeting out. The Committee agreed to have both meetings scheduled for the year 2013 and if the second meeting of July or August is not needed then it could be canceled.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to add the 3rd Wednesday in July and August starting in the year 2013. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Montgomery	Yes	Mr. Spatola	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Laurella	Yes

Mr. Montgomery stated that he had a discussion with Mr. Shinn, our Maintenance Supervisor, about the existing dump truck and after it went for repairs it came back with a bad report with the fact that the truck will not be worth fixing along with the fact that we might not even get a whole season out of it this year. Mr. Montgomery stated that Mr. Shinn and himself decided that maybe the Township could look into a Heavy Duty Pickup Truck with the capability to plow, a four-wheel drive work truck with an eight (8) foot bed instead of a dump truck where two (2) guys are not driving around together. He stated that he sent Mr. Shinn to the Chevrolet Dealer in Bridgeton and they have a program for Municipalities that Mr. Shinn had signed up for along with Dodge and they offer a Special Incentive Program that will give us roughly a Ten Thousand Dollar (\$10,000.00) discount off the Sticker Price for a vehicle for the Municipality. Mr. Montgomery stated however that some people think that we still need a big pickup truck so the Committee needs to decide what we are going to do because we cannot continue with one vehicle for the Township because it is totally impractical and a bad safety issue.

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He stated that the Township should purchase a pickup truck because it is more practical for our Maintenance Department. Mr. Montgomery stated that they would not have to drive around in a big dump truck and they would not be adding more mileage on our existing dump truck along with not purchasing a big dump truck at all because the pickup truck we have now and the pickup truck we would purchase would be able to handle what we do in this Township. He also stated that the approximate amount for the Heavy Duty Pickup Truck with the plow would be around Twenty Nine thousand Dollars (\$29,000.00) with everything included.

Mr. Spatola stated that he agrees that the Township needs to have at least a quarter ton Truck in the Township because for Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00) this truck can be used all the time, whereas for Fifty or Sixty Thousand Dollars we are going to match the size of the big dump truck and at the same time he does not want to be caught short of not having the big dump truck. He stated that he does not believe that the Township uses that big truck a lot.

Mr. Stanzione stated that he would think about it but if the Township chooses to replace the big dump truck forget getting a new one because that is out of the question. He stated that we need something that the Maintenance Department can run a couple days a year and he reached out to the County and they will be letting us know if they have anything that they will be getting rid of because basically that is all the Township needs. Mr. Stanzione stated however he agrees with Mr. Spatola and Mr. Montgomery that they do need a pickup because they are using the dump truck all the time so in that case if the Township can pick up a cheap truck to replace the big dump truck we can always get a little pickup just to ride around in.

Chairperson Laurella stated that he agreed with Mr. Stanzione to buy a truck but not a new truck for what little it will be used. He stated that there will be trees to move and big branches at times but a small truck will help.

Mr. Stanzione asked Mr. Spatola how much money is in his budget and Mr. Spatola stated there was Ninety Five Thousand (\$95,000.00) for the year but what is remaining is Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00).

The Committee decided that they would be discussing this further and it will be brought up again at the Budget Workshop.

Mr. Montgomery also stated that the salt spreader would need to be replaced because it is shot. He stated that the Township may get a half a season out of it, a full season or just a week but we need to look at replacing the salt spreader next year.

The Deputy Clerk presented a Renewal Of Bowling Alley License For The Year 2013 – Campani’s Legacy Lanes.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola, to approve the Renewal of Bowling Alley License For The Year 2013 – Campani’s Legacy Lanes. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Montgomery	Yes	Mr. Spatola	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Laurella	Yes

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The Deputy Clerk presented a Renewal Of Junk Yard Licenses For The Year 2013.

Mr. Stanzione asked whom the licenses were for and the only one the Committee could think of was the one in Carmel.

Chairperson Laurella stated that he did not see a list showing the Junk Yards in the Township so they decided to table the Resolution until the Special Meeting on Thursday, December 27th, 2012.

Mr. Montgomery stated that the locksmith was supposed to have come to the Township Hall to change the keys. He asked the Mayor where they stood on this. Mr. Montgomery wanted to know if the Committee wanted one master key for every office or does the Committee want to limit the availability.

Chairperson Laurella stated that he brought this up when the issue of a master lock was brought to his attention and he stated that no Township Committee person in his opinion needs a key to get into the Tax Assessor's Office, the Tax Collector's Office or any other office. He stated the only key they need is one to open the Township Clerk's Office, the building out back and to get into the Township Building. He stated that master keys could all be made different if needed and if one of the Committee Members needed to get into one of the offices there is another way they could do this.

Mr. Spatola stated that in this Township, the five Committee Members are ultimately responsible for everything that happens so if someone gets a call in the middle of the night and they can not get a hold of who they are trying to locate for whatever reason it may be, they do not need to be fumbling with keys to have access for the room they need to get into. He stated that the master key would be the only key they would need to do what needs to be done.

Mr. Stanzione stated that when you are talking master key he believes that it is a key to get into the building, not into the offices, into the Township Building, the Senior Center and the garage. He stated that the other offices are not necessary to have access to because you are wasting taxpayer's money.

After further discussion, the Committee decided to have a master key for the entrance of the Township Building, the Senior Center, basement and garage.

Mr. Montgomery stated that Mr. Spatola and himself have been reviewing the Personnel Manual and they picked out key items that address employees because the whole manual had a lot of extra stuff that was not a day-to-day type of information. He stated that there is a new index page and the whole packet will be distributed for employees to look at to understand that this is the Township's policy for the year going forward and if the Township has any issues or problems along the way they will understand what the Township's Code of Conduct is.

The Committee decided to look over the Code of Conduct and decide if any changes need to be discussed at the next Township Meeting on January 16th, 2013.

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Communications

The Deputy Clerk presented a letter from Herbert A. Pierce, Jr., asking to not appoint him for Deputy Coordinator for Emergency Management. He stated that he would like to remain a staff member.

Chairperson Laurella stated that he would like a letter sent to Mr. Pierce thanking him for his years of service and have a copy put in each Committee Member's bin.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to Accept and File the Communications. The Committee approved.

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #12-176 for The Payment of Bills.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola, to adopt Resolution #12-176. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Montgomery	Yes	Mr. Spatola	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Laurella	Yes

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

Pete Jilinski, Rosenhayn Fire Rescue and Fire Chief, came before the Committee to let them know that there is an OSHA inspection coming up and they are making an effort to review everything and make sure they are in good shape for that inspection for 2013. Mr. Jilinski stated however that part of that pointed them towards the National Fire Protection Standard and after going through that one of the things that they are hitting other Fire Departments on is that there is a requirement that everything that goes on a fire fighter as part of his assemble and fire fighting must be less than ten (10) years old. He stated that there biggest problem was that they did not know what they had so they did make an effort by going through every single piece of fire equipment, categorized it and serialized it and put it all on a database. Mr. Jilinski stated that with high confidence the Department does not have anything on anyone's back that is over ten (10) years old but as part of that they did identify a lot of things that will go over ten (10) years old next year and even more in 2014. He stated that some of the Committee will remember that the Fire and Rescue Department had received a grant back in the early 2000's that replaced all of their gear but unfortunately now that gear is over ten (10) years old so there will be some issues with that and it will be identified in their budget. Mr. Jilinski stated that another thing that he needed to talk about was there was a change that recently went into effect to another Fire Protection Standard which was presented in 1961 and that has to do with the fire hose and that is what Mr. Stanzione had brought up. He stated that when the Fire Department brought their hose company in this year to do the testing on their hose which is done every year they pulled a bunch of our hose out and set it on the floor and stated that they would not even test it because it was no good and to get rid of it. Mr. Jilinski stated that he contacted several other Fire Departments in the area and they did not know about this new standard change because it had not gone into effect until this Monday, December 17th, 2012 and it says that all fire hose manufactured prior to July of 1987 must be removed from service. He stated that he is confident that the hoses are still safe even though they are too old according to this new standard but because of the new standard it has to be replaced so they are going to do the same thing with the hoses they did with their gear and keep track of what truck it is on but there is a substantial quantity of hose that they are going to have to replace in 2013.

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Chairperson Laurella asked Mr. Jilinski how they were with the radios and he stated to him that they are in good shape. He also stated to Chairperson Laurella that they ordered new monitors and made a good effort in rallying up a bunch of stuff that people had not turned in so they did get some pagers back and the ones that need a pager has one.

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

Before adjourning, Mr. Spatola stated that the Township Committee is preparing and accepting applications and resumes for OEM Director and the deadline was this past Friday. He stated that he would like our Township Clerk to contact Chairperson Laurella and himself so they can address this matter.

Chairperson Laurella stated that he wanted to thank the Township Committee for allowing him to be Mayor for 2012 and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

There being no other business to come before the Committee, Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to adjourn the meeting. The Committee approved.

Cosmo J. Laurella, Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Cheryl Tramontana, Deputy Clerk
Township of Deerfield