

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

September 18, 2013

Chairperson Spatola 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 7:05 p.m.

Chairperson Spatola led the flag salute.

The Clerk was at a Joint Insurance Fund Meeting in Avalon, 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. Laurella, Mr. Laueremann and Mr. Spatola.

Departmental Reports

The Deputy Clerk presented reports from the Construction Office, Zoning/Housing Officer, Treasurer, Tax Collector, Fire Marshal and Emergency Management.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to accept and file the Departmental Reports. The Committee approved.

Ordinances

The Deputy Clerk presented Ordinance #2013-6 On Second Reading And Public Hearing Of An Ordinance Amending The Salary Ordinance To Reflect The Salary Range For Supervisory Firefighter/EMT.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella, to open the public hearing on Ordinance 2013-6. The Committee approved.

Mr. Laurella stated that the Agenda tonight reads that this Ordinance is being read as the second reading but he believes that it was introduced at the last meeting. The Deputy Clerk stated that at the last meeting it was introduced for first reading to set for this meeting for the second reading, public hearing and final adoption. Mr. Montgomery stated that he believed Mr. Laurella was right because he also believed that it was brought to the attention of the Committee at the last meeting and tonight would be for the first meeting. Mr. Laurella stated that he did not even know that an Ordinance was done.

The Deputy Clerk checked the agenda from the last meeting and it stated that the Committee had made motions for the first reading on the Ordinance to set Wednesday, September 18th, 2013 for second reading, public hearing and final adoption with Mr. Laurella giving the first motion and Mr. Laueremann giving the second motion with the approval by the rest of the Committee.

Mr. Laurella asked if the Solicitor had to prepare the Ordinance before it was introduced and the Solicitor stated that the Ordinance was prepared in advance.

Therefore, Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella, to open the public hearing on Ordinance #2013-6. The Committee approved.

There being no comment from the public, Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laueremann, to close the public hearing on Ordinance #2013-6. The Committee approved.

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Mr. Stanzione made a motion, but no seconded was made so the Ordinance dies and will be put on the next agenda on October 2nd, 2013.

Resolutions

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #13-130 Extending The Contract For Animal Sheltering Services Through December 31st, 2013.

Mr. Lauermann made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to adopt Resolution #13-130. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #13-131 Authorizing A Supplemental Host Community Benefit For 2013 To Deerfield Township.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to adopt Resolution #13-131. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #13-132 Amending The 2013 Municipal Budget OF The Township Of Deerfield To Insert A Special Item Of Revenue And Appropriation In The Amount Of \$71,489.70 From The New Jersey Clean Energy Program.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to adopt Resolution #13-132. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #13-132 Amending The 2013 Salary Resolution.

Mr. Laurella stated that this needed to be tabled until the next meeting on October 2nd, 2013, due to the fact this Resolution references back to the Ordinance that was not adopted this evening

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #13-133 Authorizing Temporary Help To Serve As Drivers For The Deerfield Township Harvest Festival.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to adopt Resolution #13-133. Roll Call Vote:

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

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Mr. Montgomery stated that he had a conversation with Western Railroad again regarding the drainage ditch on Shiloh Avenue, west of Greenman Avenue. He stated that he asked them what the process would be as far as cleaning it out. Mr. Montgomery stated that they sprayed weed killer in that area and within two (2) weeks they would be out there trying to grade it and dig it out so the Township can hopefully have the water go west away from the intersection and can use the existing drainage pipes that are under the railroad. He also stated that the Railroad Company was not One Hundred percent (100%) certain that it was going to be successful because the grade slopes from West to East but they would see what could be done.

Mr. Montgomery stated that Mr. Laurella and himself took the Public Works out and found a drainage ditch underneath Vineland Avenue just east of Greenman Avenue and Spruce Street and after digging, they found the end of the pipe that has been buried under the dirt many, many years. He stated that they contacted the County to let them know where it is so when they finish paving Vineland Avenue it is not to be missed because it will help the water coming out from that corner and get it out towards Morton Avenue bridge which is already cleaned out. Mr. Montgomery stated that the water issue is coming along but it is still going to be a process because he still feels it is in the best interest of the Township to get the property owners who are involved to meet and discuss this so everyone is on the same goal plan.

Mr. Lauermann asked Mr. Montgomery what the situation was behind the QIC Plant and Mr. Montgomery stated that it was investigated again and the trench that was mysteriously added is gone. He stated that water is going to flow east as it did before but with an excess amount of water the Township will still have to look into it, but it is being worked on.

Mr. Stanzione stated that Recreation is gearing up for the Harvest Festival and in the next couple of weeks they will start bringing everything in to the park and start arranging the area. He stated that the Maintenance Men are going to be pretty busy over the next couple weeks starting the last week of September. Mr. Stanzione stated that there was a meeting with the State Police and Sheriff's Department and they will do the best they can.

Mr. Stanzione stated that the Rosenhayn Fire and Rescue is running like clockwork and there have been no complaints. He stated that everyone is happy and things are being done.

Mr. Laurella stated that the last week and a half everyone knows that the Deerfield Township Municipal Building had a septic system problem. He stated that as far as he knows it has never been cleaned out since the building has been built except for the septic tank once or twice. Mr. Laurella stated that they had it pumped out and rings were put around to raise everything in case any work needs to be done so they do not have to dig down two and half to three feet deep. He stated the Maintenance Department was out there with him and a new lid was put on the septic tank that will make it a lot easier to work on when needed. Mr. Laurella stated that he wanted to commend all the men in the Maintenance Department for all the work they did especially in the heat.

Chairperson Spatola asked if our Maintenance Man was instructed to contact South Jersey Gas because there was a hole that wasn't filled properly and it was dangerous at an intersection. Mr. Laurella stated that it was at Alexander Place near Willow and at the Stop sign where the Township spent about Seven Thousand Dollars (7,000.00) to replace that blacktop, they came in after the fact and cut a nice two by four and took care of the gas pipe.

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He stated that he believes that the dirt was not compacted enough, they blacktopped it and water has gotten under there because after the Maintenance Man put his hand under the blacktop, it broke apart. Mr. Laurella stated that our Maintenance Man contacted South Jersey Gas and they stated that they would take care of it.

Mr. Montgomery stated that it is his understanding that our Engineering Group is supposed to monitor this because if this is true they should be helping us when there is a hole in the road.

Chairperson Spatola stated that even though the Maintenance Man has made contact with South Jersey Gas, he would still like to see a correspondence by phone to the Engineer to let know what the problem is and where to stop by, look at it and sign off on it so the Township knows it was looked at properly.

Sergeant Nick Ponte, from the Bridgeton State Police Barracks, came before the Committee to let them know that he has been given the responsibility to update Township Meetings with different calls and responses throughout the Cumberland County area. He stated that in the month of August the State Police answered One Hundred Ten (110) calls for service in Deerfield with ten (10) burglaries, one which resulted in an arrest, nine are still under investigation, one fatal accident earlier in the month, ten (10) accidents and five (5) DWI arrests were made. Sergeant Ponte stated that the Troopers are pretty active in this Township and he will be continuing to attend the Township meetings in the future. He stated that the Harvest Festival will be having another meeting on October 1st, 2013, and there are a lot of issues still pending but he can assure the Committee that a lot of them will be answered at the next meeting. Sergeant Ponte stated that he did not know if the Tactical Units were going to be at the festival to run through the streets but a formal request was put in and that, too, will be answered at the next meeting. He stated that if there were any questions now or anytime to please contact him at the Trooper Barracks and he would be more than glad to get the answer for them.

Mr. Stanzione stated that if Sergeant Ponte could ask if the barracks could beef up the patrols on Lebanon Road where the cut offs are from Bridgeton to Vineland because there a lot of cars flying down them.

Chairperson Spatola stated that near Woodruff Road to Bridgeton Avenue, the paving on Vineland Avenue is creating a detour and it seems to be increasing traffic quite a bit especially during the early morning and late afternoon.

Mr. Lauermann stated that there are still issues with the Vo-Tech drivers coming out of the schools and flying out onto Morton Avenue.

Sergeant Ponte asked the Committee at what time do they come out of the school and the Committee stated that they would have our Deputy Clerk contact the Vo-Tech and get back to Sergeant Ponte with the times they are going and leaving the Vo-Tech School.

Mr. Lauermann stated that there had been an issue with tagging and graffiti in the Township along Kenyon Avenue, between Landis Avenue and Lebanon Road and some other areas where they were tagging were the Post Office, Street Signs, and other objects. He stated that he wanted to know if there was any ongoing thing in this area where they are looking into gang activity. Sergeant Ponte stated that he read everything from August 1st, 2013, to this date and this is the first he has heard of the tagging so he would have to look into it for Mr. Lauermann but as far as gang activity, everybody knows what is down in the City, but how far they are coming up or how or where they are traveling through he will find it out for the Township.

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Mr. Montgomery stated that the Administrator reached out to other Townships and now we have a pretty good idea what other Townships were looking to do as far as putting together a proposal packet about what criteria the Townships would be looking for with the Township Solicitor, Township Auditor, Planning Board Solicitor, Planning Board Engineer, Township and Planning Board Planner and Animal Shelter. He stated that the only one left in the Professional Services is our Township Engineer and the entire Committee knows this was a three (3) year appointment and will be looked at when the term expires. Mr. Montgomery stated that this will be in the paper and it will be available either on line or they could come into the Municipal Building to get copies as well. He stated that what he would like to have an approval from the Committee tonight so that it could get published in the paper and move forward with the process. Mr. Montgomery stated that November 15th, 2013 would be the opening of the sealed bids.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to approve the sending of the proposals regarding Professional Services. Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Lauermann asked if the Township could do the same thing with the vendors we deal with and Mr. Montgomery stated that this could be addressed going forward but right now due to the volume and what is required of our people applying for these positions, the Township needs to get this done first.

New Business

Mr. Stanzione stated that at the Cumberland Development Corporation Meeting, they would like to have Trick Or Treat on Tuesday, October 31st, 2013, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. which is right on Halloween. He stated that this coincides with everyone else in the area.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann, to have Trick Or Treat on October 31st, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.. Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Laurella stated that he would like to have the Committee consider purchasing the property next door to the Municipal Building. He stated that the Township could apply to Green Acres or another department from the State for a grant. He stated that it is a wooded area with wetlands and he does not know if any homes could be built there. Mr. Laurella stated that this ground would be nice for a park where people could walk through or the area could have a Maintenance Garage to store our equipment here next to the building instead of traveling to where we need to get it.

Chairperson Spatola stated that it is Forty-Six (46) acres and being that it is behind us and landlocked it would work well for the Township. He also stated that we need to realize if the Township is in agreement to do this whether it works or not, to pursue this and look into our advantages of having it and procure it, then real estate is indeed a very time sensitive issue.

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Chairperson Spatola stated if the Committee has at least a minimal interest in this property it would be for our Attorney to reach out to the owner and say that there is an issue with the Township because we could proceed with a grant and then find out in a few weeks that it was sold.

Solicitor Testa stated that to tie the property up for any period of time, if he were representing the seller he would say you would have to pay me for that option and would give the Township a thirty (30) to sixty (60) day option but that they were going to pay him for it.

Communications

The Deputy Clerk stated that there were no communications this evening.

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #13-134 for The Payment of Bills.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann, to adopt Resolution #13-134. Roll Call Vote:

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

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

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

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

Frank Spatola, Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Cheryl Tramontana, Deputy Clerk
Township of Deerfield