

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

March 7, 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.

The Clerk took roll call and members present included, Mr. Laueremann, Mr. Spatola, Mr. Stanzione, Mr. Montgomery and Mr. Stanzione.

Minutes

The Clerk presented the minutes from February 1st, February 9th, and February 15th, 2012.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Ms. Spatola, to accept the minutes as written. The Committee Approved.

Ordinances

The Clerk presented Ordinance #2012-1 First Reading Of An Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A CAP Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

The Clerk stated this was done every year, it enables the Township to raise the CAP from 2.5 to 3.5 and that money will be banked for two years to help alleviate the budget.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laueremann to adopt Ordinance #2012-1 on First Reading and to set Wednesday March 21st, 2012 for 2nd Reading, Public Hearing and Final Adoption. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Ordinance #2012-2 First Reading Of An Ordinance Providing For Salaries And Compensation Of The Officers And Employees Of The Township Of Deerfield, Cumberland County, New Jersey.

Mr. Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to adopt Ordinance #2012-2 on First Reading and to set Wednesday March 21st, 2012 for 2nd Reading, Public Hearing and Final Adoption. Roll Call Vote:

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

Introduction Of The 2012 Municipal Budget

The Clerk stated that in the Committee's packets was the budget statement and it reads that the 2012 Municipal Budget of the Township of Deerfield is one million, eight hundred and seventy nine thousand, eight hundred and sixty two dollars and forty three cents, (\$1,879,862.43) and the local purpose tax will be seven cents (.07) for one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for 2012.

The Clerk stated that a summary of the 2012 Budget will be published in the Bridgeton Evening News on Friday March 23rd, 2012. Public Hearing and Final Adoption of the 2012 Budget will be held April 4th, 2012.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to adopt the 2012 Municipal Budget on 1st Reading and to set Wednesday, April 4th, 2012 for Second Reading, Public Hearing and Final Adoption. Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #12-93 Resolution Authorizing Payment Of Accumulated Absences.

The Clerk stated the auditors needed this Resolution for the accumulated sick time that was paid in for this year.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann to adopt Resolution #12-93. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #12-94 Resolution Refunding Overpayment Of Taxes.

The Clerk stated this was for a bank that overpaid taxes on three particular properties.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann to adopt Resolution #12-94. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #12-95 Resolution To Affirm The Township Of Deerfield's Civil Rights Policy With Respect To All Officials, Appointees, Employees, Prospective Employees, Volunteers, Independent Contractors, And Members Of The Public That Come Into Contact With Municipal Employees, Officials And Volunteers.

The Clerk stated this resolution is with regard to our employment practices policy with the JIF and it is part of the program for this year.

Mr. Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola to adopt Resolution #12-95. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #12-96 Authorizing the Exclusion Of The Public From A Meeting Of The Township Committee Of The Township Of Deerfield To Be Held On March 7, 2012.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to adopt Resolution #12-96. Roll Call Vote:

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

Old Business

Mr. Laurella stated there being nothing under Old Business they move on with the meeting.

New Business

The Clerk presented Update on the 2012 Safety Kick Off Breakfast And The 2012 Safety Incentive Program.

The Clerk stated that part of the requirement for the year is that the Township place the Safety Improvement Program on the agenda, and indicated in the Committee's packet was a small summary the Clerk prepared. The Clerk indicated the breakfast was held on February 9, 2012, Deerfield received it's excellence in safety medallion for the plaque in her office, and eight hundred dollars (\$800.00) is available for the Township for safety related items, that can be reimbursed to the Township. The JIF reinstated the safety contract, which has been signed by Mayor Laurella, the Clerk, and the Department heads in the Municipal Building. The Clerk stated that hopefully Deerfield Township can continue with its good standing with the JIF.

Mr. Laurella thanked the Clerk and the staff for keeping everything in order with the JIF.

Communications

The Clerk stated there were no Communications this evening.

The Clerk presented Resolution #12-97 for The Payment Of Bills.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola, to adopt Resolution #12-97. Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Joe Pace, 839 Vineland Avenue approached the Committee and stated that he is in the process of going through the Zoning Board to get an approval to place a park model mobile home on his property, where the dwelling has burned down. Mr. Pace stated it does not exceed the already approved area the Township approved twenty years ago.

Mr. Pace indicated he is having a problem with the process, he had to hire an engineer, and he was backed up, so he had to wait for the engineer to be available. Mr. Pace stated in the mean time he gets a phone call from the Zoning Officer, Anthony Lamanteer, and tries to explain to Mr. Lamanteer that he has the process started and is waiting for the engineer, when Mr. Lamanteer asks him when he is taking his trash out of the yard. Mr. Pace stated he was at work when he received the phone call, and indicated there are several places in this Township where there is trash. Mr. Pace stated he received another phone call from Mr. Lamanteer asking him what he was doing with the engineer, and Mr. Pace stated to him he was waiting to get in to see the engineer as soon as he was available. Mr. Pace indicated that he received another ticket from the Zoning Officer, Mr. Lamanteer, and asked the Committee if they had any control of the Township.

Mr. Laurella stated it is a Zoning issue, so the Zoning Officer calls the shots. Mr. Laurella indicated to Mr. Pace that he could go to the Land Use Board and appeal his decision. Solicitor Testa stated to Mr. Pace that he had to take it up with the Municipal Court System. Mr. Pace stated he was going to take it up with the court, but now had to go to Upper Deerfield because the Township abolished the court here in Deerfield Township. Mr. Pace stated he feels like he is being targeted, and if no one on the Committee wants to step forward to speak to the hired officials, he is going to have to make a decision on what to do. Mr. Pace stated that Mr. Laurella told him he had every right to go to the County for the other tickets. Mr. Pace indicated he didn't go to the County because he didn't want to cause the Township any undue problems, and he worked it out. Mr. Pace asked if every time he turned around he would have a problem, and get a ticket.

Mr. Laurella stated that Mr. Pace should go to court to get the matter settled with the Land Use Board.

Mr. Lauermann asked Mr. Pace if he was trying to apply for an after disaster permit. Mr. Pace says he is trying to apply, which he doesn't feel he needs to reapply because he applied twenty years ago, for an added structure permit. Mr. Pace indicated he converted the garage into an apartment, for his mother in law, which was put together with screws and such so it could be removed if she ever passed away, in April the structure burned down, and he put up a park model mobile home and tried to promptly clean up the area so the Township wouldn't have a problem, came to the Municipal building and asked what he needed to do, went to get his permits and they won't issue him permits. Mr. Pace stated that the Board wanted him to reapply for the entire thing that he already applied for.

Mr. Pace stated that something that was only supposed to cost him around three to five hundred dollars (\$300-\$500) is costing him twenty three hundred dollars (\$2,300), plus eleven hundred dollars (\$1,100) to the Township, and he already paid for all of his permits once. Mr. Pace stated he wants to stopped being harassed and it's getting to the point, if the Township Committee doesn't resolve the problem, he will take it a step further, and get an attorney and he does not want to do that.

Mr. Spatola asked Solicitor Testa if it was out of the Committee's capability to question the court. Solicitor Testa stated that once there is probable cause to issue the complaint, it is now within the jurisdiction of the Municipal Court Judge. Mr. Pace indicated that he is going to court, and is not asking the Committee to do anything about the ticket, but if Mr. Lamanteer does not come to an agreement with the judge to throw the ticket out, he will do what he has to do.

Mr. Laurella stated that the judge will probably send the ticket in front of the Land Use Board. Mr. Laurella indicated he knows Mr. Pace has gone to the board years ago, but then it was a garage that was converted into a home, now the home burned down, Mr. Pace cleaned up and brought in a park model mobile home. Mr. Laurella stated that is where he believes there is a problem, but it is not up to him to call it, it is up to Mr. Lamanteer and the judge.

A discussion was held among Mr. Laurella and Mr. Pace regarding the ticket, and the decision of the judge and or Planning Board.

Mr. Pace stated that his point was that he is back and forth, and he could use his time more productively trying to get his in-laws set up, and use his money to pay for permits instead of going to court and paying for tickets. Mr. Pace stated that there are several of properties in the Township that have trailers, not even park model mobile homes, and a couple of them are not far from the Municipal Building.

Mr. Stanzione asked Solicitor Testa, if a resident goes in front of the Land Use Board and is turned down, can they go to the Committee and appeal the ruling and the Committee can over rule the Land Use Board. Solicitor Testa stated yes they can appeal to the Committee.

Mr. Pace thanked Mr. Stanzione for that information, and reiterated that he just wants the unnecessary things to stop because it is starting to get to him.

Mr. John Barbagello, Deerfield Township Emergency Management approached the Committee and stated that this year there will be a couple of scenario drills, the first one is Saturday April 14th. Mr. Barbagello indicated that Mr. Montgomery knows about the drill but will not be able to make it, also stated that he would like the support of the rest of the Committee. Mr. Barbagello stated that it is a scenario from FEMA, to show them how they can operate their EOC. Mr. Barbagello indicated that he knows it's on a Saturday, but the more people that are there the better it will be for the Township, also he has several other scenario drills lined up in the future.

Mr. Barbagello stated he does not know what the scenario is going to be, and the drill begins at eight in the morning (8:00 a.m.) and ends when they are finished. Mr. Barbagello stated that 99% of the Townships are involved in these drills. Mr. Spatola asked Mr. Barbagello who was involved in these drills, was it just Emergency Management, or would the fire department be involved as well. Mr. Barbagello stated it is just a scenario, equipment test for Emergency Management so the fire department would not be involved.

Pastor Tashika Hayes, 1279 Landis Avenue approached the Committee and stated that she saw the sign in front of the building about the Township meeting, so they just came to see if a lot of the community would be here. Ms. Hayes indicated that she had never been to a Township meeting before and wants to be able to impact the community. Mr. Spatola thanked Ms. Hayes for coming to the meeting. Ms. Hayes asked if this is where she would come if they wanted to have events at the church, Mr. Laurella stated that her church is located in Pittsgrove Township, so she would have to go to the Municipal Building in Pittsgrove on Centerton Road, but welcomed her to stop by at any time.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery to close the meeting to the Public. The Committee Approved.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola to go into Executive Session. Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauer mann to reconvene the Regular Meeting. The Committee Approved.

Mr. Spatola stated that at this time it was the Personnel Department's recommendation to address the employee in question with a Rice notice, and advise them that they are welcome to come to the next public meeting, to address any issues.

Solicitor Testa stated that with the Rice notice it is the employee's decision if he wants a public or private meeting. Solicitor Testa indicated unless it was put on the agenda to make a vote on it. The Clerk asked Solicitor Testa if he presents it in writing the meeting can be private and he can be present. Solicitor Testa stated no if it was in private he could not be present, only if it is done in a public meeting.

The Clerk asked Mr. Spatola if the employee should get a copy of the minutes from the Executive Session. Mr. Spatola stated he wants him to get the Rice notice, and a list of the Committee's concerns before the next meeting.

Solicitor Testa stated they could make a list of the Committee's concerns, but not the minutes from the Executive Session.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauer mann to address the person on Rice Notice and enable them to refute the points noted in the Executive Session. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Lauer mann	Yes	Mr. Montgomery	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Chairperson Laurella	Ye\
Mr. Stanzione	Yes		

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to adjourn the meeting. The Committee Approved.

Cosmo Laurella, Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Karen Seifrit, Clerk
Township of Deerfield