

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 21, 2016

Chairperson Danna 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 7:02 p.m.

Robert Casella, Esquire appeared for Solicitor Testa.

Chairperson Danna led the flag salute.

The Clerk stated that the first item would be a Resolution appointing Bruce Murphy, II: A Resolution Appointing Bruce Murphy, II to Fill the Unexpired Term Of Joseph V. Sparacio. Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes	(it was noted that Mrs. O'Brien was on her way)	

The Clerk asked Mr. Murphy to come forward and be sworn in. Mr. Murphy was sworn in by Robert Casella, Esquire.

The Clerk took roll call and members present included Mr. Spatola, Mr. Laurella, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Danna.

Departmental Reports

The Clerk presented the departmental reports of the Zoning/Housing Officer, Tax Collector and Treasurer and Fire Marshall. Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella to accept and file the departmental reports. The Committee approved.

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #16-144- Resolution Establishing Fees For The Services And Equipment Of The Township Of Deerfield Department Of Public Works Pursuant To Chapter 148 Of The Code Of The Township Of Deerfield (Property Maintenance).

Mr. Laurella stated that this Resolution is being placed on the books to start charging some of the homes that are empty or a vacant property and our men have to go out sometimes and clean them up and make them look better. He further stated that this kind of maintenance costs the Township money and with the Resolution we can charge any clean up back to the property.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola to adopt Resolution 16-144. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Murphy	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes

Old Business

The Clerk presented reports from Department Chairpersons. Mr. Laurella stated that with regard to street lights the requests to the electric company have not yet been taken care of and hopes that the ones that are out will be relit. He further stated that the Township is supposed to be receiving a price on LED lights and lighting for certain curves.

As to streets and roads, Mr. Laurella indicated that he met with the State a few weeks ago regarding Morton and Landis Avenues. He further indicated that during that meeting the woman he met with was supposed to have a crew come down and take care of the issue. Mr. Laurella also noted that there is an issue with standing water at Willow and Landis and that too is supposed to be addressed. He further noted that the State is also supposed to look at the drain across from the municipal building.

Mr. Laurella stated that he will call again next week and then turn the matter over to the next Chairperson for streets and roads. Chairperson Danna agreed and noted that the Township needs to stay on top of that matter.

Mr. Spatola indicated that with regard to fire safety he and Mr. Danna met with the Chiefs of EMT and Fire about a week ago. He further indicated that it was brought to their attention that the Chief's vehicle is in bad shape with rusting in the brake lines, undercarriage and frame. Mr. Spatola stated that based on the opinion of a local repairman and the Chiefs the Township will be looking into options to replace the vehicle.

Further with regard to fire safety, Mr. Spatola noted that in discussions with the fire chief there are currently 6 EMTs on the books at this time and there seems to be a problem covering one of the shifts whereby the Fire Chief is covering the shift. Mr. Spatola stated that the Chief has asked to add a couple more guys to the roster in order to help fill the gaps in the schedule. He further stated that the addition of more EMTs does not add an extra expense to the payroll as the paid EMTs cover a specific period of time and there are no more than 2 EMTs working to cover the daytime shift.

Mr. Laurella questioned whether calls out of the Township are causing a problem with guys making calls. Mr. Laurella felt that this is a wear and tear on Township equipment and further questioned whether the Township is getting reimbursed for these out of town calls.

Mr. Spatola noted Mr. Laurella's concerns and stated that the goal for billing for calls was to pay for itself and have coverage in the Township during the daytime. He further noted that the billing for calls does cover its costs. Mr. Spatola indicated that mutual aid is a strong factor in the Township's responses outside of Deerfield. He further indicated that the Chief has noted that it is because of mutual aid that the Township is covered for any gaps in the schedule and Deerfield responds accordingly to other municipalities.

Discussion was held regarding the Township's inability to collect any outstanding monies for calls billed. Mr. Spatola also spoke about the importance of a strong mutual aid system.

Mr. Spatola reiterated the fact that the billing for calls is covering itself and the need to have extra EMTs available to cover the daytime shift because the our local volunteers are not available to due to their own regular full time jobs.

New Business

(Mrs. O'Brien arrived at 7:18 pm)

The Clerk presented Discussion Regarding Township Redevelopment Plan (Amendments-Cumberland County Improvement Authority). The Clerk noted that the discussion was asked to be held at the request of the Land Use Board.

Mrs. O'Brien stated that the Land Use Board would be more than happy to rewrite the Redevelopment Plan, but it would only be at the onus of the Township

Committee. She further stated that there is some interest in redevelopment over by the landfill. Mrs. O'Brien indicated that the Redevelopment Plan was developed in 2005 and some of the uses that the CCIA are proposing do not fall in line with what is in the Redevelopment Plan and asked that Township to take a look at it. She further indicated that we need to give CCIA permission to rewrite the plan or do it ourselves. Mr. Casella stated that either way the changes would need to be done by Ordinance. He further stated that they can be done by partnership or delegated and reviewed by the Township Committee. Mr. Laurella believed that the Land Use Board worked with the Township Committee in the initial development of the Plan. Mr. Laurella felt that it would be good to have the Land Use Board review and make amendments to the Plan for Township approval.

Mr. Spatola indicated that there is another business in our Township who is looking to expand greatly and they needed to be assured before they moved forward with their plans that our Redevelopment Plan was accepting and conducive to our Plan. He further indicated that Township asked our planner to review what they had in mind and it came back to us with an opinion. Mr. Spatola stated that it might be viable for the CCIA to do the same thing. Mrs. O'Brien indicated that the presentation by the CCIA does not fit within the Township's Redevelopment Plan as it is written. She further indicated that the proposed uses: a Class B recycling facility which would be used for wood, a data center and a compost facility and as it is current written it does not meet the review by the planner. Discussion was held regarding the CCIA's proposal and the proper steps to have it fit within the Redevelopment Plan.

Mrs. O'Brien clarified that the Land Use Board should be allowed to rewrite the Redevelopment Plan with Township Committee final approval.

Discussion was held regarding the cost and expense of rewriting the Redevelopment Plan. Mrs. O'Brien indicated that the CCIA would participate and has offered the use of their professionals to rewrite the plan. She further indicated that this is good as long as the Township is kept up to date. Mrs. O'Brien stated that she is of the opinion that the Township have the opportunity to review the CCIA proposal and why they were asked to come before the Land Use Board to discuss it and go through the proper steps.

Mrs. O'Brien noted that F&S came to the Land Use Board Meeting and F&S is looking to add solar and add capacity to the grid. She further noted that the CCIA is also looking to use a lot of solar and that has been a source of concern for Township residents because there has not been capacity for any private individuals to access solar energy and therefore appreciate the benefits of solar. Mrs. O'Brien stated that part of the proposal by the CCIA is that they would be expanding the capacity and it would be privately funded and for them to work with Atlantic City Electric and expand the capacity for the entire Township. She further stated that this is something the Township needs to look at carefully and that Mr. Velasquez of the CCIA is open to discussing whatever would work best with the Township.

Discussion was held regarding the ability to have the solar capacity included in any proposal for amendments to the redevelopment plan. Mrs. O'Brien noted that any expansions of solar capacity would have to a condition of the Land Use Board. Solicitor Casella stated that the matter is 2 different things and noted that he was not aware of the timing of proposal versus the revision of the redevelopment plan and whether they would coincide. He further stated that as the idea develops and it becomes more concrete then the redevelopment plan and those people formulating that can look to incorporate that in or take that into account as they look to consider the changes they need to make. Mrs. O'Brien noted that there was a sense of urgency and that's why there was the offer to use their professionals to help complete the redevelopment plan.

Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella to have the Land Use Board review the Redevelopment Plan and make amendments with final approval by the Township Committee. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mrs. Murphy	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

The Clerk presented Discussion to Set Date For Budget Workshop. The Clerk indicated that she has spoken with the CFO and the third week in January would be fine, however the only date that week would be January 19th. Discussion was held and it was agreed that January 19th would be acceptable. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella to set Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. for budget workshop. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mrs. Murphy	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Abstain		

The Clerk presented Renewal Of Bowling Alley License for the Year 2017 – Campani's Legacy Lanes. The Clerk noted that the Zoning/Housing Officer has inspected and meets the Township Code. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola to approve the renewal of the bowling alley license. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mrs. Murphy	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

The Clerk presented Renewal Of Junk Yard Licenses For 2017 For Deerfield Truck and Vern's Place 4 Parts. The Clerk confirmed that the Zoning Officer also inspected these locations and found them compliant. Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella to approve the junk yard licenses. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mrs. Murphy	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Communications

The Clerk stated that there are three (3) communications this evening.

The Clerk stated that the first communication is a request for a leave of absence from Bruce Murphy, III. The Clerk read the letter from Mr. Murphy for the record. Mr. Laurella indicated that Mr. Murphy does a good job, but wondered if the leave of absence puts the Township in a tough spot and set a precedent down the road. Solicitor Casella stated he does not believe it puts the Township in a "spot" and it is within the Township's discretionary powers to grant it or not and the important thing is that it was discussed and the Township is not depriving itself of anything and each request needs to stand on its own merits and the discretion of the Committee.

Mr. Spatola noted that if the Township agrees on the a six month leave of absence that the position is still a one year appointed position, but in December the position may not be reappointed.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella to accept the communication with regret and to approve the request for a six month leave of absence. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mrs. Murphy	Abstain
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Mrs. O'Brien wanted to thank Mr. Murphy for his service to the Township and for his desire to serve the State and the people of the Township.

Everyone thanked Mr. Murphy for his service and wished him the best of luck.

The Clerk presented letter of resignation from Leatha Weatherby. The Clerk read the communication into record and noted that Mrs. Weather would be resigning her position as back up senior coordinator effective January 1, 2017. Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola to accept the communication with regret. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mrs. Murphy	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

The Clerk presented Letter of Recommendation from Teresa Golembki, Senior Center Coordinator. The Clerk read the communication into record and noted that Mrs. Golembki is recommending Doris Martorana to fill the position being left by Leatha Weatherby. Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola to accept the letter of recommendation and approve the appointment of Doris Martorana. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mrs. Murphy	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

The Clerk presented Resolution #16-145 For The Payment Of Bills. Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella, to adopt Resolution #16-145. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mr. Murphy	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Public Comment

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

Mark Schenberger, 18 Pindale Drive came before the Committee. Mr. Schenberger asked the Committee to consider adoption of an extreme weather ordinance to protect animals that are living outside. Mr. Schenberger relayed to the Committee the difficulties he's having with his neighbor and the neglect being suffered by their dog. He further provided the Committee with some other municipal ordinances regarding extreme weather conditions and animals for consideration.

Mrs. O'Brien inquired if the samples were from local municipalities. Mr. Schenberger was not sure but provided what he had located. Discussion was held regarding the issues Mr. Schenberger is having with his neighbor. Mr. Laurella noted that the Zoning Officer is the enforcement officer and has the power. He further noted Section 45 of the Township Code regarding disturbing the peace. Mr. Laurella indicated that he speak with Zoning Officer on this matter.

Mr. Laurella asked the Animal Control Officer, Ron Shinn, to come forward. Mr. Shinn stated that there is no law for extreme weather. He further stated that as long

as the animal has food, shelter and something to keep the water from freezing the animal is fine. Mr. Shinn noted that any law the Township could enact it is subject to State law. Mrs. O'Brien suggested that the Animal Control Committee review the documentation and make a recommendation to the Committee.

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

Chairperson Danna asked Mr. Laurella to come forward. Chairperson Danna presented a plaque to Mr. Laurella for his 26 years of service to the Township.

Mr. Laurella thanked the Committee and his wife.

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

Rudy Danna, Jr., Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Karen Seifrit, Clerk
Township of Deerfield