

REGULAR MEETING  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 3, 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 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson Danna led the flag salute.

The Clerk took roll call and members present included Mr. Sparacio, Mr. Laurella, Mr. Spatola, Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. Danna.

Minutes

The Clerk presented the minutes of January 4 and January 20, 2016. Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to approve the minutes as written. The Committee approved.

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #16-68 - Resolution Authorizing The Execution Of A Contract With Cumberland Development Corporation For the Year 2016 In The Sum Of \$5,500.00 Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola to adopt Resolution #16-68. Roll Call Vote:

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

Old Business

The Clerk presented Reports From Department Chairpersons.

Mr. Spatola stated that the Township just hired 2 new EMT/Firefighters that was done procedurally with past hires. He further stated that this hiring process/policy be amended. Mr. Spatola indicated that we asked the Solicitor to look into some priorities and recommendations in order that future hires will be done in a way that is less room for loop holes and no matter what department you work for in Deerfield Township everyone will go through the same hiring criteria. He further indicated that aside from the advertising for a new hire, there will be background checks and random drug and alcohol tests and whatever policies we currently have will be tweaked to make them more specific and from this day forward are hiring is more precise.

As to finance, Mr. Spatola stated that the Township had its first budget workshop and he was very impressed with the newcomers to the Committee. He further stated that the CFO and the Clerk did a marvelous job preparing the information.

Mr. Spatola indicated that as to fire and safety that everyone knows that there has been research into the purchase of a new rescue truck to replace the 30 year old rescue truck. He further indicated that the Township is insuring that the Township purchase the truck in the proper manner so that it is done correctly, legitimately and lawfully and there are no questions asked and no one has to worry about anything coming back. Mr. Spatola stated that we have the truck we like and the specs we like and now it's just securing the proper avenues to finance it. He further stated that there was a meeting today with the Chief, Assistant Chief, Finance Officer, Clerk, Solicitor and Mr. Sparacio and it went very well and made a lot of headway.

As to Recreation, Mr. Spatola admitted that he missed the meeting and deferred to Mr. Sparacio. Mr. Sparacio stated that as to the Recreation Committee the first meeting

was last week and they had their Reorganization. He further stated they indicated who their officers would be and the dates of their meetings. Mr. Sparacio indicated that they encouraged the Committee to attend any events they hold and he advised the Recreation Committee that if they have any questions the Committee is open to them. He further indicated that they did have a projection of their profit/loss from last year's Harvest Festival and would provide anyone with a copy who did not receive it. Mr. Sparacio noted their next meeting is February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Laurella questioned whether Recreation could reimburse the Township, only for the overtime the employees put in, because they put a lot of time in and personal and vacation days couldn't be used until late. He reiterated that at least the overtime should be paid. Mr. Laurella noted that if Recreation doesn't make a lot due to rain during the Festival, then of course, the Committee would not expect reimbursement. Mr. Laurella questioned the Clerk whether she knew how much overtime was accumulated by public works. The Clerk stated that 96 hours was accumulated and noted that it was time and half. Mr. Spatola indicated that it was something that could be brought up at the next Recreation meeting.

Mr. Spatola also wanted to mention the \$1,000 to North Cumberland Little League. Mr. Spatola stated that he checked with John D'Addario from North Cumberland Little League and he explained to Mr. Spatola why the \$1,000 is being asked for from the sending districts to help offset the cost that Upper Deerfield puts toward the caring of the fields. He further stated that Upper Deerfield has about \$100,000 in their maintenance budget and that \$7,500 gets distributed to each sport. Mr. Spatola noted that since the charter members are only Deerfield and Upper Deerfield and are the only ones that play there, the Little League is asking if Deerfield is willing to pay the \$1,000 to defer the costs to the parents whose children play there and offset the \$7,500. He further noted that the request would come in the form of a bill to the Township.

Mr. Laurella noted that he checked with office staff and the Township did contribute \$1,000 not \$500 as someone had said. He further noted that the Township is not at fault as we have not received a bill for quite some time. Mr. Spatola agreed and stated that the Township would be more than willing to help as long as we receive an invoice. The Clerk noted that the Township did put money in the 2016 Recreation budget to pay that contribution when the bill comes in.

Solicitor Testa requested clarification on the hiring policy and procedure and if there will be a pre-employment drug test and random drug test. The Committee agreed to the pre-employment and random drug test. Discussion was held among the Committee regarding the amendments to be made to the hiring policy and drug testing. Solicitor Testa noted that municipalities who do random drug tests hire an outside company who runs the test from the picking of the individuals, to the taking of the specimen, all the way through laboratory testing and testifying. Chairperson Danna questioned whether this would relate to volunteers. Solicitor Testa stated he felt it would as it pertained to safety, but would look into. Further discussion was held relating to volunteers and drug policy. Solicitor Testa stated that he would review the current policy, check with the JIF and if there is anything in State law.

Mr. Laurella brought up street lights. Mr. Laurella stated that a street light was supposed to be installed near the training center, but has never been installed. He further stated there were comments regarding the fact that some street lights are still on that should have been turned off. Chairperson Danna noted that the light on Morton near the top of the hill is out. Mr. Laurella indicated that curves, hills and intersections should have street lights. He further indicated that with the Committee's approval he will reach out and have lights turned off that are supposed be off. Chairperson Danna questioned if the County pays for street lights. Mr. Laurella stated that the Township pays for lights on Landis Avenue and every County road.

Mr. Laurella noted that one of the overhead doors on the garage has been fixed. He noted that it had been given public works some trouble, but is now working well.

With regard to speed bumps, Mr. Laurella stated that he and Mrs. O'Brien are working on it to either put speed bumps in or a sign outside the senior center. Mrs. O'Brien noted that the speed bumps are about \$150 each and the Township could probably get away with installing one. She further noted that it will slow people down and be a calming measure. Discussion was held regarding the need for a speed bump and the cost for same. Mr. Laurella indicated that he and Mrs. O'Brien will bring a recommendation back to the Committee for the next meeting. Mrs. O'Brien stated that these speed bumps are removable and can be moved to find the best location and to provide the best calming effect.

Mr. Laurella also noted that the Committee needs to decide if they are going to put a new pole barn in the back. He further noted that once that decision is made the Committee can decide what size and where to locate it. Chairperson Danna stated that it is important to have something else in order to store the equipment in the back. He further stated that before we go to Fralinger's the Township needs to decide what size building. Discussion was held among the Committee regarding pole barn specs. Mrs. O'Brien indicated that she spoke with Mr. Shinn and the type of building that would best serve the Township is a building that would come pre-fabricated and the drawings are usually provided by the manufacturer and it's not something that an architect would draw up, but there would need to be a site plan created by the engineer. She further indicated that public works is looking for a building around 2400 square feet which would match the existing size of the building out there which is about 30 x 80. Mrs. O'Brien felt that it might be worthwhile to get some quotes ahead of the next budget workshop and see if it is feasible for this budget cycle. Additional discussion was held regarding the financing for the pole barn and the options for a pole barn. Mrs. O'Brien said she would look into site plan issues. Mr. Spatola also noted that the current roof on the garage is not in good shape and might want to be tied into the proposal for a new pole barn.

#### New Business

The Clerk presented Application For An Off Premises Raffle from the Deerfield Township PTO for April 7, 2016. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to approve the raffle application from the Deerfield Township PTO. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Discussion Regarding Deerfield Township Board Members To Cumberland Development Corporation Board of Directors. The Clerk noted that in the packets was the nominating form from Tony Stanzione, Executive Director for Cumberland Development Corporation. She further noted that in years past the Mayor and Deputy Mayor have served on the Board. Mr. Spatola stated that he is fine with that and noted that the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor have attended in the past. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to appoint Mr. Danna and Mr. Spatola to the Board of Directors of Cumberland Development Corporation. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Discussion To Schedule Second Budget Workshop For The Week of February 22, 2016. The Clerk noted that there was a calendar in the packets for the month of February. She further noted that she has been in communication with the

Township Auditor, Carol McAllister and noted that the one day she was not available the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup> was the 24<sup>th</sup> of that week. The Clerk stated that Finance Officer is available that week either the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. Mrs O'Brien stated that she was not available for the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to set Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. for the second budget workshop. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Discussion Regarding Vacation Of Remaining Paper Streets In The Township Of Deerfield. Chairperson Danna stated that he feels that the Township should get some of the paper streets cleaned up and some of the properties that belong to the Township instead of just letting them lay. Chairperson Danna noted the problem with Maxon Avenue and adjacent property. He further noted that if Maxon Avenue is a Township paper street then we should put the drainage pipe in and then we can do something with Maxon Avenue.

Mr. Spatola stated that he was contacted by Mr. Pipitone's office who wanted to know what was going on with that. He further stated that he told him that he would get back to him after the last meeting and Mr. Spatola hasn't yet. Mr. Spatola indicated that if it is the Committee's pleasure to allow the installation of the drainage pipe then Mr. Pipitone is ready to run the pipe and accept all the expense and return the road to its current state. Discussion was held among the Committee regarding the installation of the drainage pipe and its location on Maxon Avenue. Additional discussion was held regarding a presentation by Mr. Pipitone before the Committee and advise as to the legal avenues Mr. Pipitone will pursue. Solicitor Testa noted that the adjacent property owner will probably come before the Committee for vacation of the road, therefore the Committee should move forward with the request from Mr. Pipitone.

Additional discussion was held as to what the situation would be if neither adjacent property wants the vacated street.

Mr. Spatola addressed beginning foreclosure proceedings on the several properties throughout the Township. Discussion was held regarding the proceeding of foreclosures and reduction of road widths. Solicitor Testa reminded the Committee that there are expenses involved with foreclosures (title searches) and everyone in the chain of title needs to be notified. The Clerk stated that at the last budget workshop \$10,000 was budgeted to foreclose on the 6 properties on Bridgeton Avenue in the abandoned development. Additional discussion was held as to what other properties might have a high value and could be foreclosed upon.

Chairperson Danna inquired as to Township owned properties. The Clerk stated that there are Township owned property and properties that have municipal liens on them. She further stated that adjoining property owners, next to Township owned properties, have made inquiries into certain Township parcels, but don't want to pay the assessed value. Discussion was held regarding a list of Township owned properties and properties with municipal liens.

Chairperson Danna mentioned a piece of property near the old Levin property on Maple street. He stated that it is a Township piece of property and there is an open well that needs to be filled in before someone gets hurt on the property. Discussion was held regarding that particular piece of property.

Communications

The Clerk stated that there are no communications this evening.

The Clerk presented Resolution #16-69 For The Payment Of Bills. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola, to adopt Resolution #16-69. Roll Call Vote:

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

Public Comment

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

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

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

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Rudy Danna, Jr., Chairperson  
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

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Karen Seifrit, Clerk  
Township of Deerfield