

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

AUGUST 5, 2015

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. Sparacio, Mr. Stanzione, Mr. Spatola, Mr. Danna and Mr. Laurella.

Minutes

The Clerk presented the minutes of July 1 and June 15, 2015. Mr. Danna made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola to approve the minutes as written. The Committee approved.

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #15-118 –Resolution Extending The Grace Period For Third Quarter Taxes For The year 2015. The Clerk noted that the extension was to August 19, 2015 for taxes to be paid without interest.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Danna to adopt Resolution #15-118.
Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Sparacio	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Laurella	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes		

The Clerk presented Resolution #15-119 – Resolution Approving The Annual Audit For The Year 2014.

Mayor Laurella thanked the employees for a job well done and noted only one deficiency in the audit. Mayor Laurella asked the Clerk to pass the appreciation on to the staff.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Danna to adopt Resolution #15-119.
Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Sparacio	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Laurella	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes		

The Clerk presented Resolution #15-120- Resolution To Close A Portion Of County Road 634, Morton Avenue, (Northbound) From Shiloh Avenue To Landis Avenue And To Close A Portion Of County Road 735, North Shiloh Avenue (Westbound) From Morton Avenue To Greenman Avenue On Thursday Evening, October 8th, Friday Evening October 9th, Saturday, October 10th And Sunday, October 11, 2015 For The Deerfield Township Harvest Festival.

Mr. Sparacio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola to adopt Resolution #15-120. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Sparacio	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Laurella	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes		

Old Business

The Clerk presented Reports From Department Chairpersons.

Mr. Spatola noted that the Tax Assessor had asked for a change in hours to accommodate a family issue. He indicated that the hours would be changed from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to the new time of 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and she would continue to come here on Fridays.

With regard to the senior center, Mr. Spatola stated that a backup coordinator needs to be appointed. He further stated that the former backup coordinator would like to be reappointed to the position and the current coordinator would also like to have her. The Clerk stated that she will prepare a Resolution for adoption at the next meeting to make the appointment of the backup coordinator.

Mr. Spatola indicated that settlement for the Carmel Fire Hall will take place on Thursday, August 13th. He further indicated that there are some issues to be worked out with the security doors. Mr. Spatola stated that there were some discrepancies in supplying the correct voltage capability on the door strikes. He further stated that the door manufacture will give us a credit on the strikes.

With regard to fire and rescue, Mr. Spatola noted there has been a lot of money spent on maintenance and repairs. He further noted that there still has not been a formal approval from the CCIA for financing on a rescue truck.

Mayor Laurella noted that there has been talk about purchasing a drone for the fire company. He stated that he, and everyone, had received a copy of the request in their bins. Mr. Spatola stated that he thought that it would be a good topic to talk about in open discussion, but upon doing more research and financially seeing where we are for the last month or 2 on the budget and in speaking with the Co-Chair for the department, it was determined that the request was not a warranted purchase at this time. He further stated that in light of the fact that the Township is trying to purchase a \$500,000 rescue truck and money is being spent on maintenance it did not appear to be a good expenditure at this time.

Mayor Laurella did not understand how it could be purchased when it was not budgeted. Mr. Spatola felt that this was a factor in his determination and that a lot of money is going out the door right now and there is still four months left to the end of the year.

With regard to recreation, Mr. Spatola indicated that he and Mr. Stanzione met with Chuck Fralinger and came up with a plan to outline the “wants” for the grant application. He further indicated that this is an ongoing grant application and it can be applied for every year. Mr. Spatola stated that everything was detailed very nicely and hopefully all of the goals for the Rosenhayn Park and LoBiondo Park can be achieved.

Mr. Sparacio questioned Mr. Spatola with regard to tires for the John Deere tractor. Mr. Sparacio noted that it was budgeted. Mr. Spatola agreed that the money was budgeted for tires and are in need to be replaced. He further noted that it was brought up

to him that the Township may want to consider a new tractor instead of replacing the tires as there has been money being thrown into the tractor every year for maintenance issues. Mr. Spatola noted that it might be worthwhile to get some numbers to see if maintenance is the way to go or try and get a trade in and get some value on trade towards a new purchase.

Mr. Sparacio noted that with regard to street lights he questioned if the matter was voted on by the Committee. Mayor Laurella stated that the matter to turn off street lights was voted on by the Committee. He further stated that in Carmel a lot of lights were turned off, but now the lights are back on. Mayor Laurella noted that he was not sure if that was due to the change of poles.

Mr. Danna questioned whether or not it would be a good idea to put the question on the ballot to turn off the street lights. He also questioned whether it might be a good idea to see what new components could be added for street lighting.

Mayor Laurella stated that there have been discussions on the new types of lighting.

The Committee asked that the Clerk contact the electric company and get a list of the streets lights that are currently been paid for by the Township.

Mr. Stanzione noted that the fire department had their chicken barbecue and that it was a sellout and it was great day. He further thanked the Committee people that came out and helped and there was a great turn out.

Mayor Laurella noted that a resident came to the last meeting to complain about an old dilapidated house. He stated the he and the zoning/housing office went out to the property. Mayor Laurella indicated that property is in horrible shape and is covered in trees and brush and the roof is caving in. He further indicated that the zoning/housing officer sent a certified letter, but it takes time to process. Mayor Laurella stated that the Construction Code Official should also be involved and the two of them can work on it and get faster action. He further stated it's not going to happen right away and taxes are current on the property.

Mr. Danna asked if the Construction Official has the authority to condemn the building. Mayor Laurella agreed that the Construction Official has the authority to condemn the property. He also noted that the Construction Official has a lot power under the Code and they should get out there.

Mayor Laurella noted that the defibrillator is now up and in the hallway between both restrooms and available in a special cabinet. Mayor Laurella asked that there be a refresher course for the employees so they know how to use it.

The Clerk presented Update Discussion Regarding Snow Removal At The Deerfield Township Elementary School. The Clerk noted that in the packets this evening there was an email from the Business Administrator at the School inquiring as to whether or not the Township will remove the snow at no cost.

Mayor Laurella noted that the Township has been doing so for quite a few years. He also noted that this would not be the time to stop the service as the school would need a year to add it to their budget. Mayor Laurella stated that the Township did offer the school a truck with a plow for the fee of \$1.00 and it was refused. He further stated that he asked the Clerk to add it to the next agenda

Mr. Spatola stated that snow removal was mentioned as a fee that the Township would do for them along with lawn service, but the school went a different way with lawn service. He further stated that it does not hurt the Township to plow the snow and it takes a minimum amount of time by our public works. Mr. Spatola indicated that if the Township forces the school to invest in a vehicle or pay for snow plowing services it will end up in their budget and ultimately it will come back to us. He further indicated that for the 4 or 5 hours a year it takes the Township it will be end up coming back to the Township and the taxpayers if they are forced to buy a truck or pay for removal.

Mayor Laurella felt that the school should put some money in their budget to pay for a payloader to remove snow if enough snow should fall that is beyond the capabilities of the Township.

The matter was tabled and to be added to the next agenda.

New Business

The Clerk presented Discussion Regarding Participation In Formal Petition To The Board Of Public Utilities By The County Of Cumberland And Its Municipalities As To Verizon's Failure To Maintain and Service Telecommunications In The South Jersey Area.

The Clerk stated that in the packets this evening was an email from the Clerk of Hopewell Township. She further stated that the Committee had received a previous email from Committeeman Facemeyer of Hopewell Township and Tony Stanzione of CDC on a conference call that took place on Verizon's failure to maintain and to continue telecommunications in the South Jersey Area. Hopewell Township is not receiving good service from Verizon, the lines are bad, there is poor internet service and they are pushing the issue. The Clerk indicated that there are more towns the further south and west in New Jersey that do receive good service. She further indicated that in small municipalities that is the only means of communication as cellphone service is also poor. The Clerk noted that the land lines are necessary for public safety, medical and educational needs. She further noted that Cumberland County will be filing a formal petition and the email presented is asking for participation by the Cumberland County municipalities and contribute to the cost. She indicated that the cost would be somewhere between \$1,000 and \$2,000 per municipality and if everyone participates it will be around \$1,250 per municipality. The Clerk stated that Hopewell is looking for confirmation of participation.

Mr. Spatola told of the many hours he has personally spent on getting service at his residence. He further noted that he could not understand how there are so many underserved residents and municipalities. Mr. Spatola stated that Comcast and Verizon both "cut through" our Township to get from the North to the South and there are a lot of places in Deerfield that don't have cable. He further stated that it's sad to have to pay \$1200 to be heard, but Deerfield does have a warranted complaint and there are areas here in the Township that are just dead and neither Verizon, Comcast or the gas company will hit it. Mr. Spatola indicated that he hears from a lot of people that they can't get internet. He further indicated that the fire training academy gets internet remotely from the 911 Center because they couldn't get Comcast.

Mr. Stanzione felt that the Township should participate and maybe help everybody and that this is a minor cost to help.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to participate in the formal petition against Verizon along with the County of Cumberland and the other municipalities of Cumberland County. Roll Call Vote:

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Mr. Sparacio	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Laurella	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes		

The Clerk presented Request From The Senior Center To Sell Their Crafts In The Municipal Building. The Clerk stated that she received a request from the Senior Center Coordinator as to whether or not the crafters could put a table in lobby and sell their crafts. Mayor Laurella indicated that they make some different crafts and would like to get rid of some of them. The Clerk stated that the seniors would have to come in around 2:30 and pick up any money that was left for the crafts. Discussion was held and the Committee agreed to let them sell their crafts.

Mayor Laurella asked about specs for the new well to go in at Carmel Park. Mr. Spatola stated that he brought that to Chuck Fralinger's attention at their last meeting. He further stated that Mr. Fralinger turned the matter over to Bob Mulford in his office.

The Clerk stated that she spoke with Mr. Mulford this afternoon and he is looking for his file. She further stated Mr. Hutchinson called and left a message and would like the Clerk to call him and discuss keys, water test and wanted to know if Mr. Stanzione could speak with him regarding continued use of the well until the new well is established. Mr. Stanzione agreed to speak with Mr. Hutchinson regarding this matter.

Mayor Laurella noted that the Township received a new fire rating from a 9 to a 7, which is very good.

Mr. Stanzione stated that he spoke with some people from the County and he noted that now is a good time to put in for 4-way stops. Mr. Stanzione stated that the County indicated to him that it's not as big of a hassle for the County and it will help slow the traffic down on Morton.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to have the County put in a 4-way stop at Lebanon Road and Kenyon; Big Oak and Parvins Mill Road and Morton Avenue and Lebanon Road. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Sparacio	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Laurella	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes		

Communications

The Clerk stated that there are no communications this evening.

The Clerk presented Resolution #15-121 For The Payment Of Bills.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Danna, to adopt Resolution #15-121. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Sparacio	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Laurella	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes		

Public Comment

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

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

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

Cosmo J. Laurella, Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Karen Seifrit, Clerk
Township of Deerfield