

REGULAR MEETING  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 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 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson Danna led the flag salute.

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

Departmental Reports

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

Ordinances

The Clerk presented Ordinance #2016-10 – First Reading Of An Ordinance Amending Chapter 148 Entitled Property Maintenance Of The Code Of The Township Of Deerfield. Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to adopt Ordinance #2016-10 on first reading and to set Wednesday, October 5, 2016 for second reading, public hearing and final adoption. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Ordinance #2016-11- First Reading Of An Ordinance Appropriating The Sum Of \$26,000.00 From The Capital Improvement Fund Of Deerfield Township For The Installation Of A New Roof For The Public Works Garage. Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella to adopt Ordinance #2016-11 on first reading and to set Wednesday, October 5, 2016 for second reading, public hearing and final adoption. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	No	Mr. Sparacio	No
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #16-126- Authorizing Temporary Help To Serve As Drivers For the Deerfield Township Harvest Festival. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to adopt Resolution #16-126. Roll Call Vote:

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

Old Business

The Clerk presented reports from Department Chairpersons. Mr. Laurella stated that he and Mr. Shinn went out to Richards Road to investigate a complaint by a resident at the last meeting regarding trees and brush growing into the roadway. He further stated that they road up and down Richards Road, but didn't see anything. Mr. Laurella indicated that when they traveled Richards Road into Upper Deerfield they did see the overgrown trees. He further indicated that since it was not in Deerfield we could not do

anything and the resident should be notified. Mr. Laurella also noted that in the future anyone with a complaint regarding a situation on a road should bring a house number near the location for which they are bringing forth the complaint.

Mr. Spatola stated that Recreation is working towards the Harvest Festival. He noted that 2 parking lots have been acquired for parking and that there will be no off-site parking. The Festival will be using lots from the Speranzas and by Tony Brago. Mr. Spatola indicated that the fireworks will be shot off at the lot owned by Sam Pipitone.

Mr. Sparacio added that volunteers are need with regard to the Festival and if the Committee knows of anyone to please send them our way.

New Business

The Clerk presented Discussion And Recommendation For Full And Part Time Public Works Employees – Motion.

Mr. Spatola indicated that he and Mr. Danna as well as the Clerk and public works supervisor met on Friday, September 16, 2016 and interviewed about 6 individuals for the 2 positions. He further indicated that after reviewing the applications and speaking with Chairperson Danna they are recommending Frank S. Manno, Jr. for full time public works employee and Richard Kates, Jr. for part-time public works employee.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella recommending Richard Kates, Jr. as part-time public works employee at a rate of \$11.00 an hour. Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien recommending Frank S. Manno, Jr. as full time public works employee at a rate of \$12.00 an hour. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mr. Sparacio	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Laurella	No		

Mr. Laurella stated that he was voting no as to the individual not because he knows the young man in question, but because he knows that this individual currently has a full time job. He further stated that he doesn't want to see someone hired and then have the current full time individual not leave and have to lay off the new employee.

Mr. Spatola indicated that the recommendation was being made not just because of the Harvest Festival, but because our current full time employee came to the Township this year and indicated that he is still anticipating leaving at the beginning of the new year. He further indicated that in order to avoid a scramble when the individual does leave and to avoid the need during any potential snowstorm then the Township would be covered. Mr. Spatola noted that it was imperative that the Township be prepared when the individual does need to leave and a new employee would not be approaching the job cold and will know what we expect. He further noted that if the Committee decides to do away with that position then so be it.

Mr. Laurella stated that he felt that it was unfair. Mr. Spatola indicated that the individual was told as to why the interviews were taking place and was made aware of the situation. Mr. Sparacio felt that it was very "pro-active" on the Township's part to hire someone and get them up to speed so that the Township is not behind the 8 Ball.

Mrs. O'Brien asked if it would be appropriate for the individual leaving to submit a letter of resignation for the first of the year. Mr. Laurella noted that if the individual is leaving at the first of the year then a letter would be required. Solicitor Testa stated that it would be an appropriate step to take. Discussion was held regarding the promise of the position. Mr. Spatola noted that the individual leaving may not be leaving on January 1 or February 1 and that there is not set date. He further noted that the position that the individual is leaving for and the time frame is open and no one is aware of when it's going to happen, it will just happen. Mr. Spatola stated that the individual is 98% through the hiring process and it is just one more step for him to achieve. He further stated that it is important that the Township is aggressive on this labor issue so that things can continue getting done. Mr. Spatola indicated that it would not be a bad thing if the individual did not leave so that the Township could have 2 laborers and the supervisor could supervisor and organize

Discussion was held regarding making Mr. Manno aware of the risks involved in taking the position.

Additional discussion was held regarding budget concerns and the need to have a second public works laborer and allow the supervisor to do his job and get organized.

Mr. Sparacio clarified that each year at reorganization the positions are year to year and if we already have that in writing we should be covered. Mr. Spatola agreed and if we need to make economic adjustments then so be it.

The Clerk presented Resolution #16-127 appointing Richard Kates, Jr. as part-time laborer for the Township of Deerfield at a rate of \$11.00 an hour. Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to adopt Resolution #16-127. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #16-128 appointing Frank S. Manno, Jr. as full time laborer for the Township of Deerfield at a rate of \$12.00 an hour. Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mrs. O'Brien to adopt Resolution #16-128. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mr. Sparacio	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Laurella	No		

The Clerk presented Discussion Regarding Trick Or Treat In Deerfield Township-Proposed Date: October 31, 2016 From 4-7 pm. The Clerk indicated that these hours are usually set during the CDC meeting in September, but due to the fact the meeting has been postponed until mid-October and to get the notices out to the newspapers and radio stations the municipalities were asked to vote on the hours. Mrs. O'Brien made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio to set October 31, 2016 from 4-7 pm as trick or treat hours in the Township of Deerfield. Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Spatola apologized and wanted to mention that the Personnel Committee will be holding annual reviews on September 30, 2016 starting with the full time employees.

Communications

The Clerk stated that there are no communications this evening.

Mr. Laurella brought forth a packet from a resident about abandoned homes. He noted that the Clerk has indicated that the Township already has such an Ordinance

The Clerk presented Resolution #16-129 For The Payment Of Bills. Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio, to adopt Resolution #16-129. Roll Call Vote:

Mrs. O'Brien	Yes	Mr. Sparacio	Yes
Mr. Spatola	Yes	Mr. Danna	Yes
Mr. Laurella	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, Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella to close the meeting to the public. The Committee approved.

Mr. Laurella mentioned that the Township put a lot time in designating house numbers and requiring 911 posts. Mr. Laurella stated that something needs to be done as there many homes without the posts. Discussion was held recommending that the Zoning/Housing Officer follow up and issue letters and summons to residents and make them aware of the Township Ordinance regarding 911 posts.

The Clerk was asked to issue a memo to the Zoning/Housing Officer indicating the Committee's wishes to follow up on the 911 posts.

Chairperson Danna also recommended that the Zoning/Housing Officer follow up on the abandoned/vacant properties in the Township. The Clerk stated that he is doing that and has quite a set of files, but that it takes time to find the owner or the bank or management company to serve them with our Ordinance and registration paperwork.

Chairperson Danna indicated that it wasn't so much that as the properties that get construction permits and never do anything with them and then renew them. Discussion was held as to the vacant property Ordinance.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Sparacio 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