

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

December 15, 2010

Chairperson Spatola 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 Spatola led the flag salute.

Mr. Laurella asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Walter Butterfield, a Former Township Committee Person who served six (6) years on the Committee was Mayor and served on the Deerfield Township Board of Education along with many other things in the Township.

The Clerk was at a Joint Insurance Fund Meeting in Somers Point, and the Deputy Clerk, Cheryl Tramontana, filled in for her.

The Deputy Clerk took roll call and members present included Ms. Musso, Mr. Stanzione, Mr. Laurella and Mr. Spatola. Mr. Lauermaun was absent this evening.

Departmental Reports

The Deputy Clerk presented reports from the Construction Official, Zoning/Housing Officer, Tax Collector, Treasurer and Fire Marshal.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Ms. Musso, to accept and file the departmental reports. The Committee approved.

Resolutions

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #10-154 Amending The Hours Required For Full Time Status In The Township Of Deerfield.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella, to adopt Resolution #10-154. Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Musso	Yes	Mr. Laurella	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Spatola	Yes

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #10-155 Authorizing The Transfer Of Funds.

Ms. Musso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to adopt Resolution #10-155. Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Musso	Yes	Mr. Laurella	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Spatola	Yes

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #10-156 Awarding A Contract For One Class I Type III 100 E-Super Ambulance To P.L. Custom Body And Equipment Co., Inc. In The Sum Of \$157,580.00.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella, to adopt Resolution #10-156. Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Musso	Yes	Mr. Laurella	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Spatola	Yes

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Chairperson Spatola stated that he had Mr. Spoltore from Upper Deerfield who hosts our Shared Service Agreement for the Construction Code Official's Office and supplied us with the numbers the Township had last year and what our projected cost is for this year. He stated that he was told that they are in pursuit of another Construction Code Official and he asked him to go back and do a review so our Township could decide and make a good judgment to see what our best opportunity or option would be with the Shared Services. Chairperson Spatola stated that the Township has had some personnel issues with this department in the past year or two but at this point it seems to be they are going to be rectified although there still was a fifteen thousand (\$15,000.00) approximate loss this year in our Construction Code. He spoke to Mr. Spoltore about this and he told him that he needs to make this more attractive to the Township to look at because he knows it works better for our people if it is taken care of over in Upper Deerfield so he would like to have our Committee make a decision based on what our savings would be in 2011 versus 2010. Chairperson Spatola stated that they also talked about Beth Blandino, the Control Person for the Construction Office spending eight (8) hours here a week and they discussed having her spend two (2) hours here which would be on Tuesday morning when our Zoning/Housing Officer was here because most of her interacting with Township residents are when he is here and will go back to Upper Deerfield when she leaves our Township and also cutting the eight hours (8) that the Construction Official is here also. He also wanted the Committee to know that Upper Deerfield's Plumbing and Electrical Inspectors are still about Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) less than our Inspectors so this would also be a savings if we shared these Inspectors with Upper Deerfield along with the fact that any money you spend for Shared Services comes out of the Cap and this is separated and can help with the Township.

Ms. Musso stated that after looking at the figures from 2010 to 2011 if she is being told that the Construction Code Official's hours are going to be decreased the amount went up but the Control Person's went down but that is because of the decrease in hours. She stated that the Township is not really saving because we are getting cut more hours but giving more money in Construction according to the spreadsheet that was given to her.

Chairperson Spatola stated that every time he comes into the Township Building and he sees the Control Person in Construction, he has had her tell him herself that she is doing nothing, why am I here? He stated that he has had this happen a hundred times in the last year.

Mr. Laurella stated that the Township should look at giving the Construction Official three (3) hours per week but for the Control Person he feels that her hours should just be a little longer because she has to enter the information at the end of her work day into the computer. He stated that he would hate to lose our Control Person the Township has now because she is good and he was pleased with the Construction Official also because he has a job to do and people are paying for that service but does feel that this matter needs to be looked into more before any action is taken.

Chairperson Spatola stated that he would be setting up a meeting with Ms. Musso, Mr. Spoltore, Mrs. Seifrit, our Township Clerk and himself and the four of them can sit down and any questions can be asked then and discuss this matter in more detail.

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Chairperson Spatola stated that he followed up on the Municipal Court issue at the meeting and Mr. Laurella was there. He stated that Carol Cummings, the Vicinage 15 Municipal Division Manager for the Courts, has an appointment with Upper Deerfield, Shiloh and Hopewell to do some investigating to see if it would work to have Shared Services for Municipal Court. Chairperson Spatola stated that the Township Committee is invited on December 20th, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in Upper Deerfield to discuss this. He stated that the Committee had spoke of this before and at the last meeting he had the Township Clerk copy some information that came from that meeting and wanted to know if anyone had time to go over it because even if it results to nothing he would still like to go to the meeting on the Township's behalf and listen to what she has to say.

Mr. Laurella stated that less summons have been issued this year from last year and he realizes that the Township is losing money but he would hate to see the court go somewhere else. He stated that the Township has a good Court System here and here we go again another Shared Service.

Mr. Stanzone stated that the Township Committee should get some numbers because we have court twice a month and maybe we can go with a court session just once a month since the numbers are down.

Ms. Musso stated that some towns have cut down to one court session because of the decrease in the amount of money collected and tickets issued. Ms. Musso stated that she would like the Chairperson when he attends the meeting on December 20th, 2010, if the Township decreased our court from two meetings to one a month what would this be instead of going to the Shared Services.

The Committee agreed to have our Chairperson attend the meeting on Monday, December 20th, 2010, to see what information is coming out and bring forth the questions the Township Committee have asked.

Ms. Musso would like to have the Township Clerk e-mail Carol Cummings and ask her for the figures of the Court so we have them for the Monday, December 20th, 2010 meeting.

Mr. Laurella stated that the Sunday Sales should be on Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. and if they open on Sundays they should be open from 12:00 Noon until 10:00 pm. which is twelve (12) more hours a week.

The Committee agreed with the Saturday hours being 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. but some of the Committee would like to have the Sunday hours longer then 10:00 p.m.

Chairperson Spatola stated that he agrees with Mr. Laurella's hours. Mr. Stanzone stated that he would like it to be from 11:00 a.m. until 12:00 a.m. and the reason is because if the Township ever wants any businesses to come into this town to open a restaurant you can not have it closing at 10:00 p.m. and you can not have it opening at noon time because you will have people who will want to go to lunch and some that will want to go to a late dinner. He stated that the Township would never attract any business here opening at 12:00 p.m. and closing at 10:00 p.m.

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Ms. Musso stated that she does agree with Mr. Laurella about not opening early and her thoughts were 11:00 a.m. because you would like them to come to our stores before heading to Vineland or Millville because it is only ten (10) minutes away. She stated that she would like it to close at 1:00 a.m. because of the Deerfield Elks Lodge which is a Non-Profit Organization because when they have special events on Sunday they have to come in and get a special permit and by allowing them to stay open later they will not have to do this and in return save the money which is One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) to get one.

Chairperson Spatola agreed with Ms. Musso but wanted to express his concerns on traffic safety. He stated that there could be more incidents pertaining to alcohol content and more traffic issues may occur in this Township.

Solicitor Testa stated that whatever hours the Township sets this evening they can be changed at any time.

Tony Nichols, Chairman of the Trustees with the Deerfield Elks Lodge, came before the Committee to let the Township know that in the past if they close at midnight they have to stop serving an hour before so if the Township decides to go with these hours they would have to stop serving to give the people an hour to get out so if they would reconsider closing at 1:00 a.m. then they can stop serving at midnight which would be better for them because of bands, football, etc. that happens over at the lodge. He stated that unless there was an event they would be closing earlier.

After further discussion, Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Ms. Musso, to set Saturday 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 a.m. and Sunday 12:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m. as Sunday Sales. Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Musso	Yes	Mr. Laurella	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	No	Chairperson Spatola	Yes

Mr. Laurella stated that Mr. Stanzione and himself met with the Cumberland County Improvement Authority two weeks ago and they will be giving the Township an answer on helping with our truck. He stated that they were definitely going to go back and try to help us.

Mr. Laurella stated that landfill passes are being given out at the Municipal Building if anyone from the Township needs one.

New Business

Mr. Stanzione stated that the Township has been lighting the park and there are still problems over there and feels that we should have Atlantic City Electric come and disconnect the lighting at the park especially during the winter time hours. He stated that there are lights on past midnight and there is no one out there.

Mr. Laurella stated that there should be a breaker box and shut them off.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to have Atlantic City Electric disconnect the electric during the winter months until daylight savings of 2011. Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Musso	Yes	Mr. Laurella	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Spatola	Yes

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Before contacting the Electric Company, Mr. Stanzione stated that he would speak to our Maintenance Man to see if it could be shut off without Atlantic Electric disconnecting it.

Mr. Stanzione stated that the house-decorating contest would be this weekend from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Communications

The Deputy Clerk stated that there were no communications this evening.

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #10-157 for the payment of bills.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Ms. Musso, to adopt Resolution #10-157. Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Musso	Yes	Mr. Laurella	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Spatola	Yes

Ms. Musso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to open the meeting to the public. The Committee approved.

Ken McMahon, 495 Landis Avenue, came before the Committee, to ask that someone go out and check the Old Landis Lounge out. He stated that it is a real eye sore and he would like to have something done with it. Chairperson Spatola stated that they would have our Zoning/Housing Officer go out and check it out.

Tony Nichols, Deerfield Elks, came before the Committee if the Sunday Sales passes when will they be able to open and the Committee stated that February 2nd, 2010 would be the final adoption in time for the Super Bowl.

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

Before adjourning, Mr. Laurella wanted the Township Committee to know that their tax rate is down approximately six percent (6%). He stated that the residents need to come and pay their taxes before the end of the year because it could affect the township's taxes next year.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Ms. Musso, to adjourn the meeting. The Committee approved.

Frank R. Spatola, Jr., Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Cheryl Tramontana, Deputy Clerk
Township of Deerfield