

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

December 18, 2013

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.

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

The Deputy Clerk took roll call and members present included Mr. Montgomery, Mr. Stanzione, Mr. Laurella, Mr. Lauermann and Mr. Spatola.

Departmental Reports

The Deputy Clerk presented reports from the Construction Office, Zoning/Housing Officer, Treasurer and Emergency Management Coordinator.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella, to accept and file the Departmental Reports. The Committee approved.

Resolutions

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

Old Business

Mr. Laurella stated that the leakage with the Cupola has been found. He stated that there is an aluminum pan and the drain was clogged so he had our Maintenance Man go up and clear it out. Mr. Laurella stated that after a couple of heavy rains we would be able to see what happens now that it was cleared out.

Mr. Stanzione stated that the Breakfast with Santa was great. He stated that it is getting bigger every year and the Recreation Committee might have it moved to the Rosenhayn Fire and Rescue House if they get a response like this year.

Mr. Stanzione stated that the Rosenhayn Fire and Rescue are doing well and they have applied for the grant but have not heard anything yet.

Mr. Montgomery stated that Streets and Roads purchased a new spreader because the other one was beyond repair. He stated that Ron Shinn, our Maintenance Man, shopped around and in Upper Pittsgrove on Route 40, found one for Four Thousand Three Hundred and Fifteen Dollars (\$4,315.00), plastic not stainless and very durable. Mr. Montgomery stated that the money came out of the Snow Removal Trust and it does not affect the budget along with the salaries to the men when they plow the streets. Mr. Montgomery stated that there was Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) in this Trust and stated that Fifteen Tons of sand was purchased to mix in with the existing salt in the back so the Township will be able to make it last a little bit longer until the new budget is put into place.

Mr. Montgomery stated that the big blue Dump Truck is probably on its way out. He stated that he was in it with the Maintenance Man, Ron Shinn, and you could use it if you really had to but other than that he would not use it much.

Regular Meeting
Township Committee
December 18, 2013
Continued

Mr. Laurella stated that he spoke to our Maintenance Man and asked him to start getting some prices for another truck to be presented to the Township Committee at Budget Time. He stated that he agrees with Mr. Montgomery that the truck is not in good shape and if anything happens on the road with this truck the Township could be liable for a lot of fines. Mr. Laurella stated that he is not looking for a new truck because the Township does not need one and really cannot afford one.

Chairperson Spatola stated that the Christmas lights looked great on our Municipal Building and he would like to have our Maintenance Department know what a fine job they did. He stated that they did a lot of good work this summer and fall and everything is starting to come together. The Committee agreed.

New Business

Mr. Montgomery stated that Mr. Laurella and himself met last week with two (2) potential candidates for the position available starting January 1st, 2014. He stated that the first one is a current Tax Assessor and works in Pittsgrove, Alloway and Lawrence Township and her background is very familiar with our current systems and is very knowledgeable in our area. Mr. Montgomery stated that when they interviewed her she was very pleasant and it seemed to be a nice fit along with being highly recommended by our current Tax Assessor. He stated that the second candidate is the current Head of Taxation for Salem County that oversees all the Tax Assessors in Salem County. Mr. Montgomery stated that there were two (2) different types of ways of how to go about doing this job and this candidate did not have as much experience in the actual tax assessing part of it, but did know a lot of the ins and outs of it, although he did not seem to be a good fit as the first candidate, therefore, Mr. Laurella and himself have come up with their recommendation for Lisa Porella to be the Township's Tax Assessor.

Mr. Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella, to approve Lisa Perella, as the Tax Assessor for the Township of Deerfield with her hours to be set on Fridays from 10:00 – 12:00 p.m. with a salary of Sixteen Thousand Dollars (\$16,000.00). Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Montgomery	Yes	Mr. Lauer mann	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Spatola	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Chairperson Spatola stated that the Township was approached at their last meeting by a gentleman who is an advocate for free speech, free information, and Open Government, who did share several ideas where the Township could correspond with the public a little better. He stated that the Township had read everything that was presented to them by this gentleman and have taken everything into consideration. Chairperson Spatola stated that the decisions that the Township will make would be based on the advice from the Township's Solicitor.

The Deputy Clerk presented a Renewal of Bowling Alley License for the Year 2014 – Campani's Legacy Lanes.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to approve the Renewal Of Bowling Alley License for the Year 2014. Campani's Legacy Lanes. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Montgomery	Yes	Mr. Lauer mann	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Spatola	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Regular Meeting
Township Committee
December 18, 2013
Continued

The Deputy Clerk presented a Renewal of Junk Yard Licenses for the Year 2014 – Deerfield Truck and Vern’s Place 4 Parts.

Mr. Lauermann made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to approve the Renewal of Junk Yard Licenses for the Year 2014. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Montgomery	Yes	Mr. Lauermann	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Spatola	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

Chairperson Spatola stated that the Township is currently involved with a Shared Service with the Construction Code Official and Secretary with Upper Deerfield Township. He stated that recently Upper Deerfield had approached us with an increase regarding a fee of about approximately Twelve Hundred Dollars (\$1,200.00) or so, due to the change of medical coverage for one of the employees within the Shared Services. Chairperson Spatola stated that after speaking to their Business Administrator, he assured him that the entire Committee was unanimously uneasy about this being put to us so quickly and at the end of the year. He stated that if this were a pertinent financial issue for the budget concerning the Shared Service with them, then it would be best to discuss this at the next budget and the next Contract Agreement for 2014. The Committee agreed.

Communications

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #13-148 for The Payment Of Bills.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to adopt Resolution #13-148. Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Montgomery	Yes	Mr. Lauermann	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Spatola	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

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

Jason Scythes, 786 Landis Avenue, a resident of the Township, came before the Committee to address the fees for the Township. He asked who set the fees in the Township, particularly the fees for the rentals. Mr. Scythes stated that he compared them with other Municipalities in the area and they are less than most and was wondering if the Township has ever considered increasing these fees along with some in other areas because this would be a quick way to increase the revenue without burdening every taxpayer in Deerfield.

Chairperson Spatola stated that the Township have been looking into increasing fees in various Departments and maybe looking into raising fees in the one particular one questioned by Mr. Scythes.

Mr. Laurella stated that he does know that the Zoning/Housing Officer will be coming before the Committee in 2014 to have his fees increased because he feels that they are low also.

Regular Meeting
Township Committee
December 18, 2013
Continued

Mr. Scythes stated that after looking over the website he could not find a fee schedule there and maybe that could be looked into also.

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

Chairperson Spatola stated that the Township Committee would like to present Mr. Montgomery a plaque for his dedication and services to Deerfield Township.

Mr. Montgomery stated that it has been an honor to get this opportunity to work with a great Committee and Township.

Chairperson Spatola stated that there was an email sent by Solicitor Testa about a week ago about a County roadway for drainage that starts from Morton Avenue that was just cleaned out. He stated that there were four (4) pipes that were put in on Kenyon Avenue and runs down through Mr. Pepitone's property, along the back of Mr. Orsci's property into the woods and continues on. Chairperson Spatola stated that he was told about a week ago that there was some gravel dumped in the middle of the right-of-way between the two (2) properties and there are several truckloads of gravel to stop it. He also stated that he was contacted by Mr. Pepitone and was quite concerned about it, but has not heard anything from Mr. Orsci as of today as to why he had done this. Chairperson Spatola stated that he spoke to Solicitor Testa about this issue along with Doug Albrecht at the County, and after looking at the area stated that the dirt needed to be taken out because after the dirt was put there it rained and the water was starting to come over Kenyon Avenue. He stated there is a problem there and at the advice of our Solicitor, it is a County Right-Of-Way, so the County Solicitor has been notified and it has been put on record what happened and he would be reaching out to his people and get it cleared out along with any correspondence or letter to get this problem resolved.

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

Frank Spatola, Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Cheryl Tramontana, Deputy Clerk
Township of Deerfield