

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
MARCH 3, 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.

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

The Clerk presented Minutes of February 3rd, and February 17th, 2010.

Mr. Lauermann made a motion, seconded by Ms. Musso to approve the Minutes as written. The Committee Approved.

Ordinances

The Clerk presented Ordinance #2010-1 First Reading Of An Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A CAP Bank (N.J.S. A. 40A:4-45.14)

The Clerk stated this Ordinance is done every year, it gives the Municipality a cushion should the Municipality have to go above the CAP by a percentage point.

Mr. Laurella Made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann to adopt Ordinance #2010-1 on First Reading and to set Wednesday March 17th, 2010 for Second Reading, Public Hearing and Final Adoption. Roll Call Vote.

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

Resolutions

The Clerk presented Resolution #10-86 Amending The Temporary Budget.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Ms. Musso to adopt Resolution #10-86. Roll Call Vote.

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #10-87 Appointing Albert Stanley Chief Financial Officer For The Township of Deerfield.

Mr. Laurella stated he and Mr. Stanzione met Mr. Stanley, the new CFO and the interview went well. Mr. Laurella stated that Mr. Stanley works for Galloway Township and right now they are on a four day work week, so he will be coming into the office on Mondays.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione to adopt Resolution #10-87. Roll Call Vote.

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

The Clerk presented Resolution #10-88 Amending Chapter 5, Subsection 5.2 Entitled "Pay Periods" In The Township Of Deerfield Personnel Policy And Procedure Manual.

The Clerk stated this is because the Township is going to a payroll service and the monthly employees to a bi-weekly, because it cuts down on costs.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Ms. Musso to Amend Policy Manual Regarding Pay Periods. Roll Call vote.

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

Old Business

The Clerk presented Reports from Department Chairpersons.

Mr. Laurella stated he and Mr. Stanzione met with the Improvement Authority last Monday and the meeting went well. Mr. Laurella stated that the Improvement Authority gave them paperwork showing all the money the CCIA gave to the Township, on different Resolutions over the years. Mr. Laurella stated there were some things that he did not like, one of them being the purchase of the fire truck. Mr. Laurella indicated that was actually a court agreement, to get back the fire truck, the second was the paving of Old Kenyon Road of a hundred sixty five thousand dollars (\$165,000.00). Mr. Laurella indicated it wasn't his fault that the road had to be paved. Mr. Laurella stated that between the Improvement Authority and the CCIA, they tore up the road with the heavy trucks. Mr. Laurella stated the third was when they gave the township a hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) towards the purchase of the fire rescue truck, which the Township was told that came from the six cents, that they originally put in their tipping fees, which they never took out over the years. Mr. Laurella indicated they can hold them for in the future, Mr. Laurella thought they could have the Improvement Authority add in the six cents to buy future equipment for the fire company but the Improvement Authority has the Township down for the two dollars and forty cents (\$2.40) tipping fees. Mr. Laurella stated he made it known that no one wanted the landfill but everyone has their hands out for the donations from the Improvement Authority. Mr. Laurella indicated they met with Donald Rainear and the meeting went well.

Ms. Musso asked if Mr. Rainear gave him the comparison she asked for the night of the meeting. Mr. Laurella stated he had that but did not bring it. Mr. Stanzione stated the CCIA gave the County one point six million dollars more than they gave Deerfield Township. Ms. Musso stated she would have asked why if Deerfield Township is the host community.

A discussion was held among the Committee regarding the CCIA and the monies it contributes to the County and surrounding Towns.

Mr. Laurella stated that the CCIA is giving monies to the County College, and to the three surrounding cities, but still Deerfield Township is just getting its two dollars and forty cents (\$2.40). Ms. Musso stated in the future the Township needs to make sure that before the money goes anywhere it goes to Deerfield Township first. Mr. Laurella stated the Township needs to know if legally it can do anything. Solicitor Testa stated that off hand he is not sure there is anything the Township can do. Mr. Laurella indicated that all he wants is for the Township to be treated fairly, because it has been treated unfairly for many years. Ms. Musso asked if the smell of the landfill was discussed and what is going to be done about it. Mr. Laurella stated the smell was discussed and the Improvement Authority stated it was putting in new lines. Mr. Spatola stated he believes another factor is that the ground was frozen and nothing is gone yet, it's laying on top.

Mr. Stanzione stated that in all fairness to Mr. Rainear, he is new and all the Committee can do is keep after him, develop a good relationship with him and go from there. Solicitor Testa stated that the Improvement Authority does have to comply with the agreement of two dollars and forty cents. (\$2.40).

Mr. Spatola stated that he spoke to another Mayor from another Township, they were talking about budget obstacles and goals for their Townships. Mr. Spatola stated that in talking to the Mayor, he brought to light that what Deerfield Township doesn't have to worry about being the Host Community, which is the largest expenditure in their budget, is operating, funding, payroll support for running their convenience center and then they have to pay the tonnage to transport it. Mr. Spatola stated that is something that the Township doesn't have to worry about, the convenience center is right there, the Township doesn't have to worry about transporting it anywhere and it's free.

Mr. Laurella stated that it wasn't always free, it used to be two dollars for a car, and five dollars for a pick up truck, and the Township bargained for that and finally got it. Mr. Spatola stated that the best thing that is going on is that the CCIA knows that the Committee pays attention, and is vigilant, and that the Liaisons are on the job and their biggest concern is Deerfield Township. Mr. Stanzione stated that the Improvement Authority also discussed mining Lebanon Road, from in front of F&S down to almost the Kulig property, and indicated they would not go forward with anything until they notified the Township, but what they may need to save money on putting a new cell is, scrap off all the top soil off the hundred acre field and take out the gravel and level it off with top soil. Mr. Stanzione indicated there are some fills in there and they can get enough out without disturbing the land, so it will still have the run off but get enough gravel out.

Mr. Laurella stated another thing that was discussed was that leachate, they are bringing it to Bridgeton and Bridgeton can't except it because it has to go to the Maurice River Basin. Mr. Laurella indicated that there is an agreement that any waste water from Deerfield Township Bridgeton has to accept it. Mr. Laurella stated he spoke to Chuck Fralinger and he is waiting for a certain person to come in so he can send them a letter and ask to forward us a copy of the letter, and we can present it to the Improvement Authority and maybe they can take the leachate to Bridgeton instead of going to Chester.

Mr. Stanzione stated that the Township was thinking about going to shared services with the Electrical and Plumbing inspectors, he and Mr. Laurella spoke to the current Electrical and Plumbing inspectors and they agreed to cut their salaries about two thousand dollars a piece (\$2,000.00) and stated they could be available to the Township five days a week. Mr. Stanzione stated it might be cheaper to go shared services but in his opinion, he feels the Township should reappoint the Electrical and Plumbing Inspectors for the purpose that they are under the Township payroll and are available five days a week.

Mr. Stanzione stated that those are the terms that the inspectors agreed upon in order to save their jobs and he feels it would be a great gesture to try and save their jobs, and also the fact that they cut their pay in order to stay with Deerfield Township.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella to keep the Electrical and Plumbing inspectors. Roll Call Vote.

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

Mr. Laurella stated there will be a meeting regarding Maxim Avenue, somewhere in the middle of March. Mr. Laurella indicated that he and Mr. Lauer mann would be meeting with someone from DEP, the Township Engineer, and the property owners, and Mr. Laurella stated he is going to try and get someone from Soil Conservation. Mr. Laurella stated that Chuck Fralinger is working with the representative from DEP to try and schedule something, but it is hard to go out there when there is snow.

New Business

The Clerk presented Update On 2010 Safety Kick Off Breakfast And the 2010 Safety Incentive Program.

The Clerk stated there was an update in the Committee's packet. The Clerk explained that as part of the Safety Incentive Program for the JIF, they ask that the Township has a topic of safety and discuss safety at least one meeting during the year on the agenda. The Clerk stated that the Safety Kick Off Breakfast for 2010 was held Thursday February 18th at the Savoy. The Clerk indicated that Deerfield Township did very well, even receiving a bronze award, which is better than we usually do, which is just a qualifier. The Clerk stated Deerfield received 85% of the points out of 100 and will be receiving twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200.00) in safety incentive monies to be used toward safety related items, such as safety attire, vaccinations, training and anything else that falls under that category. The Clerk stated that Deerfield also received two awards, one for zero workers compensation lost time and outstanding claims reporting, also under our agenda there is a discussion regarding the handicap ramp at the Senior Center. The Clerk stated there were two minor incidents where two seniors fell down the stairs leaving the building, it was not slippery, they just missed a step and fell down. The Clerk indicated no one was seriously hurt but there are quite a few seniors that use a cane or some kind of supportive device, and if it is possible she would like to force them to use the ramp, because if you have to use a cane and try to go up and down the stairs, that is what causes you to fall, and that is why the ramp is there so they don't have to use the steps. The Clerk indicated the rail is on the left hand side, their cane is on the right and go up the ramp. Ms. Musso and Mr. Spatola stated they are not sure if you can force them to use the ramp. Solicitor Testa stated to put a sign that suggests they use the ramp. Mr. Stanzione stated he had a meeting with the Seniors the following week and he would suggest that anyone walking with a cane or walker should use the ramp.

The Clerk stated that at the second incident Mr. Jilinski Rescue Captain was in the building and he checked on the person who fell. Ms. Muso asked if there was a report made, the Clerk stated both incidents were reported as a report only because there was no physical harm.

A discussion was held among the Committee regarding the seniors and the handicap ramp and what changes could be made.

The Clerk presented Discussion Regarding Potential Purchase Of Liquor License At Auction To Be Held On March 10, 2010.

The Clerk stated that Mr. Laurella asked if this topic could be put in the agenda and on the top of the Committee's packet was a public auction of a property notice that was received by the Division of Taxation and the terms and conditions for the sale.

Mr. Laurella stated that he would like to see this license retired and believes everyone in the room would like to see the license retired. Mr. Laurella indicated that property has been an eyesore in the Township for years, and the residents in Carmel have been complaining about the place. Mr. Laurella stated if the Township could buy the license it would be nice, and he was thinking of a maximum bid of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00), and as the Township did years ago when it bought another liquor license for ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) to retire that license. Mr. Laurella stated it would be nice if the Township could buy the license but with the state regulations it didn't seem too nice, the Township doesn't have the money in the budget at the time to pay all the fees to purchase the license. Mr. Laurella indicated if there were any way possible, he would like the Township put a bid in and maybe the State would go along and since some of the monies might be owed to the Township.

Mr. Stanzione stated the State does recommend you having one (1) liquor license per three thousand (3,000) people, and Deerfield has six (6) or seven (7). Mr. Laurella asked the Clerk to call the State. Ms. Musso asked if it was advertised, Solicitor Testa stated Division of Taxation has to make it public knowledge.

A discussion was held among the Committee regarding the liquor license and the possibilities of someone making a bid and purchasing it, and what they could and could not do in the Township with the liquor license.

The Clerk explained to the Committee that whoever purchased the liquor license has to make a good faith transfer, pay the back fee owed to the Township plus do a twelve (12) page application with the necessary State Police investigation and approval of the Committee. Mr. Spatola asked how much the back taxes are. The Clerk stated the levy that was given to her said it was at least seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000.00) due in back taxes, and that was monies due to the Division of Taxation, not property taxes. Ms. Musso asked if the Township were to buy the license, the Township would have to pay the bid plus all the back taxes. Solicitor Testa indicated that it does not state that on the paperwork. Ms. Musso asked the Clerk if she could find out if someone bids on the license if they have to pay the additional fee.

A discussion was held among the Committee regarding the bids and monies for the license.

Solicitor Testa stated the only additional fee they are talking about is the seven hundred twenty dollars (\$720.00) that is owed to Deerfield.

Mr. Stanzione indicated if the Clerk could find out if the Township could bid on it without having the funds up front, and Solicitor Testa stated without incurring any additional liability above the amount of the bid.

Mr. Laurella stated that the School Board may have to start removing the snow at the school themselves, because the cost is getting too great for our Public Works Department. Mr. Stanzione stated that maybe there could be a discussion with the Board of Education and ask them to take over the responsibility of the snow removal. Mr. Stanzione stated with the heavy snow this year, one the Township does not have the equipment, the landfill had to come in again this year with a loader and a truck to get some of the snow out of the school. Mr. Stanzione indicated what is really disappointing to him is that the Township offered the school the old dump truck with a plow for one dollar (\$1) and they would not take it, and they could have had their own snow removal. Mr. Stanzione stated two people should be appointed to go talk to the school board and make some suggestions to work something out with the snow removal. Ms. Musso asked if the Township always cleared the snow for the school, Mr. Laurella stated it has been about twenty two (22) or twenty three (23) years because the school was having a difficult time and the Township was doing ok, but now things are getting tough for everyone.

Mr. Spatola stated that once again he hears something that states, well twenty three years ago we said we were going to plow their snow. Mr. Spatola asked if it was in a policy, was it an ordinance or resolution? The answer is no, so if we are not going to plow their snow, the Township needs to pass a resolution, adopt it to a policy and put the policy in affect. Mr. Spatola also stated that he does not see how someone can say if it's less than two and a half inches we'll plow the snow, you can't do that because then that will cause another argument. Ms. Musso stated that two people from the Township Committee should meet with the School Board and discuss the removal of snow. The Clerk stated that there is a School Board meeting at the end of the month where the School Board is going to discuss its budget. Ms. Musso stated they should make a meeting just with the School Board and discuss it with them. Mr. Spatola and Mr. Lauermaann stated they would be the two to go and meet with the School Board.

Mr. Spatola stated that he initiated discussion regarding the Emergency Management Vehicle being kept in the Township garage or where ever it is kept. Mr. Spatola indicated he does not know for how many years, in the past, when there is going to be a storm, in preparation, felt necessary for the vehicle to leave and go to the Emergency Management dwelling to be more readily accessible. Mr. Spatola stated that in his opinion, he feels the vehicle should stay at the building and have the person come get the vehicle when it is needed. Mr. Spatola stated that when the roads need to be plowed, the plow does not go to the persons house it stays at the Municipal Building, because if something happens to the equipment, who is liable for the damage done to the equipment. Mr. Spatola wanted to open the discussion up with the rest of the Committee to see how everyone felt about it. Mr. Spatola indicated there is no policy in the manual, he read it and it states the vehicles must stay in the Township building. Mr. Spatola wants to have a discussion to see how everyone feels and then if need be pass a resolution to amend or adopt another policy as an addition to that policy. Mr. Spatola would like some comments and/or input regarding this situation.

Mr. Laurella asked if the policies were going to be discussed at a personnel meeting or at a public meeting. Solicitor Testa stated if there were a subcommittee they make recommendations to a full Committee. Mr. Stanzione indicated since he and Mr. Laurella are in charge of personnel, that everyone read over the manual and any recommendations they may have they can give to himself or Mr. Laurella, they can go through the recommendations and write them down and then they can be reviewed. Ms. Musso asked when they wanted the recommendations, Mr. Stanzione stated by the next meeting, in two weeks and then move on the policy manual by the beginning of April.

Mr. Lauermann stated he agreed with some of what Mr. Spatola stated as far as the snow removal. Mr. Lauermann indicated that Michael Laurella, Public Works manger heads into the Municipal Building before there is a significant amount of snow on the ground, and usually the blade does not touch the ground until there is at least four (4) to six (6) inches of snow on the ground, so Michael Laurella comes in before the snow really starts coming down hard. Mr. Lauermann indicated that in Mr. Barbagello's, Emergency Management Coordinator situation, at what point in time should he come to the Municipal Building and wait for a situation to arise, because if the snow rises then he will have an issue getting to the Municipal Building. Mr. Stanzione stated that he understands what Mr. Lauermann is saying but Mr. Barbagello knows if he needs to get out and he can't get out, someone will get him out, the plow will go and get him out. Mr. Laurella stated that it is not different than having four guys from the fire department driveways cleared out ready to get out if need be. Mr. Lauermann stated that if it is voted that the Emergency Management vehicle stays at the Municipal Building, Mr. Barbagello should be extended the same services as the firefighters. Mr. Stanzione stated that was fine, if they needed to get Mr. Barbagello out they would. Mr. Stanzione indicated he agreed with Mr. Spatola, whatever was written in the policy should be the same for every vehicle in Deerfield Township, no vehicle should be singled out, unless it is a extreme circumstance and get approval from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

A discussion was held among the Committee regarding the Emergency Management vehicle.

Mr. Laurella stated that two weeks prior, he and Mr. Stanzione were at the Muncipal Building and when they left about five o'clock, Mr. Stanzione noticed the small dump truck was not in the garage. Mr. Laurella indicated he called Michael Laurella, who was upset about the truck being out and in turn called Joe Macera, and the truck was put in the garage in about an hours time.

Mr. Stanzione stated he would like to have all recommendations by Wednesday, March 10th, so they could be reviewed and voted on by the following Township meeting.

Communications

The Clerk indicated there were no Communications this evening.

The Clerk presented Resolution #10-89 Authorizing The Payment of Bills.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella to adopt Resolution #10-89. Roll Call Vote.

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

Public Hearing

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann to open the Meeting to the public.

Trooper Stanker, Bridgeton State Police Barracks approached the Committee and stated that a month prior, Mr. Dennis Weiss brought to the attention of the Committee the issue of the bus stop on Big Oak Road. Trooper Stanker indicated that he and Mr. Lauermann met with Mr. Weiss and Mr. Weiss addressed his concerns. Trooper Stanker stated he placed the speed monitoring device on the West bound side of Big Oak Road.

Trooper Stanker stated that device has been out for two weeks and also he has sat on Big Oak Road and monitored the traffic, there were only three vehicles who were over the speed limit. Trooper Stanker indicated that the speed monitoring device is going to be moved to the East bound side of Big Oak Road and that traffic will be monitored for a couple of weeks, but he will continue to monitor the traffic on Big Oak Road. Trooper Stanker stated the bus stop signs are up now, and it is a horrible place for a bus stop, but hopefully some of the methods will help the problem yet.

Trooper Stanker stated with the snow things have been slow, but there was one motor vehicle stop in Deerfield, in January. The Trooper observed an empty holster in the vehicle. Trooper Stanker indicated they searched the vehicle and a found a loaded hand gun. Mr. Lauermann asked if there was any gang activity, Trooper Stanker stated there was no gang activity in Deerfield but in Bridgeton City, not to say they were not traveling through the Township. Trooper Stanker stated the car stopped was from Bridgeton City.

Ms. Musso stated there are a lot of gangs in the County, Trooper Stanker indicated yes in the County there are a lot of gangs. Ms. Musso stated they talked about gangs at the school.

Mr. Barbagello, Deerfield Township Emergency Management Coordinator, approached the meeting and stated he wanted to update the reimbursements of the Township for the month of December. Mr. Barbagello stated the State declared a state of emergency and the Township was going to get reimbursed from FEMA. Mr. Barbagello stated that he and Michael Laurella went to a meeting on Monday. Mr. Barbagello stated he took the best of the 48 hours and ended up with fifty five sixty seven (\$5,567.00), and FEMA pays seventy five percent (75%) of that, so the Township will be reimbursed four thousand one hundred seventy five dollars and forty five cents (\$4,175.45) for the month of December. Mr. Barbagello stated they have not declared a state of emergency for reimbursement for the month of February as of yet, but he has all the figures figured out. Mr. Barbagello stated what the Township puts in is three thousand nine hundred and seventy one dollars and nineteen cents (\$3,971.19) and the reimbursement will be two thousand nine hundred seventy eight and thirty nine cents (\$2,978.39). Mr. Barbagello indicated they were fair and he enjoyed working with them. Mr. Barbagello stated once the check comes in he would like to make a copy of it so send it into the County.

Mr. Barbagello stated he would make copies of the paperwork and give them to the Committee so they can see where the Township stands with what the Township gets per hour with the trucks, tractor etc.

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There being no other comments to come before the Committee, Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Ms. Musso to close the Meeting to the public. The Committee Approved.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee Ms. Musso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann to adjourn the Meeting. The Committee Approved.

Frank Spatola, Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Karen Seifrit, Clerk
Township of Deerfield