

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

February 20th, 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 7:01 p.m.

Chairperson Spatola led the flag salute.

The Clerk was at a Joint Insurance Fund Meeting in Ocean City, 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, Tax Collector, Treasurer and Fire Marshal.

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

Resolutions

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #13-71 Authorizing The Execution Of A Shared Service Agreement With Lawrence Township For Zoning/Housing Officer Services.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann, to adopt Resolution #2013-71. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #13-72 Appointing Andrew Pizzo, Jr., As Emergency Management Coordinator For The Township Of Deerfield.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to adopt Resolution #2013-72. Roll Call Vote:

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

Old Business

Chairperson Spatola stated that he went over the video cameras that were installed with our Maintenance Supervisor, Ron Shinn, and was very impressed and stated that Mr. Shinn did a very good job installing them. He stated that it is a good system with good clarity and also saw quite a bit of things that can be done with the system. Chairperson Spatola stated that this is something that should have happened a long time ago.

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Mr. Montgomery stated that he believes that it takes away that whole uncertainty that the Committee has had in the corner and back of the garage along with in the front and the parking lots. He stated that Mr. Laurella and himself have worked and reviewed on this project for a while and are both happy with this system also.

Mr. Laurella stated that he has a price but it is not going to be made public yet because there are other prices coming in for the work that will be done to the cupola but noted that Mr. Lauer mann and himself are going to meet with one builder one afternoon and a couple other ones but there will be no action until the Committee gets everything together. He stated that after everyone reviews all the quotes then it could come before the whole Committee for discussion.

Mr. Stanzione stated that he met with the Recreation Committee last night and as far as the sign in the park and leaving the lights off from dawn to dusk is fine with them. He stated that whatever the Committee chooses to do they would agree.

Mr. Laurella stated that an Ordinance would need to be drafted; therefore, Chairperson Spatola stated that he would like to have a motion to ask the Solicitor to bring forth a proposed Ordinance that would address the timely opening and closing of the LoBiondo Park as well as the Light Service at this park.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to have the Solicitor bring forth a proposed Ordinance that would address the timely opening and closing of the LoBiondo Park as well as the Light Service in the park. Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Montgomery stated that the Committee is sending a letter to the County to inform them of the lights we decided to have shut off on the County Roads in our Township along with the same letter going to Atlantic Electric. He stated that he spoke to the County in regards to what their involvement would be and they have no involvement with the Township's street lights, but we do have to send them a letter to let their Solicitor know what our Township is doing and the same copy goes to the Electric Company and the process can continue as far as turning off those lights requested by the Township.

Mr. Laurella stated that once the final light on the list is shut off Mr. Montgomery and he will be going back to check and see the next ones they feel should be turned off.

Mr. Montgomery stated that the light at Kenyon Avenue and Sherman Avenue was brought up to him saying that the streetlight was put back in that location.

Mr. Laurella stated that there was one streetlight that he noticed installed but should of never came out in the first place but to be reinstalled without the Township approving it is a question he would like answered.

Mr. Montgomery stated that he would follow up on this and get in touch with their Engineer at the Electric Company but believes that when they did the job over there and came through it was never off their records permanently and they saw that it needed to be put back. He stated that he would definitely find out and get back to the Committee with an answer.

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Mr. Lauermann stated that particular light was about One Hundred (100) Feet away from the intersection because it did not even illuminate it. He stated that the Township had discussed with them in the past about the one pole in the corner that is a Bell Telephone pole and if the Township could have a light placed on it so that it would illuminate that corner. He stated that the one that was there before was One Hundred (100) Feet going towards Carmel and it did not illuminate the corner at all and that is why there are so many reflectors out there.

Mr. Montgomery stated that he believes that the Electric Company wanted the Township to pay them a couple thousand dollars to do that work.

Chairperson Spatola stated that he spoke to our Maintenance Supervisor, Ron Shinn, and he is doing quite well at the Animal Control Officer's School. He stated that Mr. Shinn told him that it is quite involved and it is a semester long College Course with credits. He stated that Mr. Shinn told him that there is so much involved but he is very interested in the course.

Mr. Montgomery stated that the Township would be installing new FIOS Internet and Video Services next week to both the Township Building and the Rosenhayn Fire Company. He stated that at the same time he will be having them run that line to the Maintenance Garage so Mr. Shinn, our Maintenance Supervisor, will be fed finally and have Internet and Video back there which will help the Township with the cameras on the computer which will allow remote access for everybody to be able to see whenever they wanted to.

Chairperson Spatola asked Mr. Montgomery if the FIOS was separate from the computer upgrades and Mr. Montgomery stated yes it was completely different. He stated to Chairperson Spatola that this is a Municipal Program that is offered through Verizon to all the Municipalities which gives where it is applicable a free service to them.

Mr. Montgomery stated that he did more research on the Cloud Program but two (2) local businesses in the area have problems with it and after speaking with our Township Clerk they agreed that if they are having problems the Township should look into it a little more before going with it. Mr. Montgomery stated that he does believe that the Township needs to move on with the E-Mail System as a priority compared to the Phone System and the Township Clerk agreed. He stated that when Mr. Stanzione and himself had a Personnel Meeting with everyone in the building it was the consensus that would make life easier for everybody.

Mr. Lauermann asked if Verizon could supply a phone switch for the voicemail and Mr. Montgomery stated that there is a leftover fiber feed from the Court when they were taken over by the Upper Deerfield and after talking to Premier Technology, our Internet Company, the Township can get it here but we will still need to get a vendor to pick up from that point to get into the offices because it will only go so far.

Mr. Lauermann stated that with Verizon and the Municipality Program as far as updating the backbone system could they do anything as far as the expense that the Township spends on our phone bill and then go with a private vendor like the Township was going to do before. He stated that he believes that biggest issue here is just trying to do away with the phone bill and go with someone that does everything.

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Mr. Montgomery stated that there are certain restrictions and protocol that the Township needs to follow in order to get changes done and moves done because it is a whole different department. He stated that we have to sign up for a pin number, a special account and then the Township can go in and make all the changes.

Solicitor Testa stated that he has a cautionary note for the Township. He stated that there is litigation going on now with respect to the use of e-mail amongst Governmental Officials and the allegation is that if everybody is e-mailing each other on a particular subject in effect you are having a meeting and this would fall right into the Open Public Meetings Act so you have to be very careful with your e-mails. Solicitor Testa also stated that e-mails are discoverable, the courts will give a litigate e-mail so they have to be used with some certain exceptions.

Mr. Stanzione stated that he would still expect that if someone were in the building from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. that there is an actual person on the phone not a recording. Mr. Montgomery stated that is the beginning part of the process and it will direct them directly to their department. Mr. Stanzione stated that he does not want to go through a process before he speaks to someone, he would like a live person to answer the phone and if the Township Employee needs to transfer to someone that is fine.

Mr. Lauermann stated that the Township needed to get away from a resident calling the Municipal Building after hours or during the day and not getting in touch with the individual. He stated that if that person is not there in that department the voicemail should be available. He stated that each employee should be able to check their voicemail when they are not there and this should be a requirement.

After further discussion, the Committee agreed to continue to look into the matter of the phone system regarding the voicemail.

New Business

Mr. Laurella stated that he would like to bring an issue up but would like to have it discussed further at our next meeting, March 6th, 2013. He stated that there are a few Ordinances that the Township needs to take out of the book. He stated that if the other Committee Members could take some time and look in the book they could look the Ordinances over and see if there are some that they feel are really not necessary anymore. Mr. Laurella stated that one is 05-37 the Welfare Director and the other one is 05-43 the Retirement pertaining a certain age and this is actually an illegal Ordinance on today's limit and this definitely has to come out. He stated that he would like to have our Deputy Clerk have our Township Clerk place the two he just spoke of on our next agenda in March and if possible to have each Committee Member have a copy of those Ordinances and start doing away with some of them.

Solicitor Testa stated that his office had issued a legal opinion on the Retirement Ordinance so the Township should have that on file.

Mr. Laurella stated that the Township should do something with the delapidated homes on the main streets in this town. He stated that it is time for the Construction Official or the Zoning Officer whichever one can do it, and it may take both of them to do something with these homes.

Mr. Lauermann stated that there are a lot of unregistered vehicles in the Township also. He stated that we also have to look into this to see if there is an Ordinance in effect to enforce this matter.

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Mr. Laurella stated that if the Township Clerk can ask the Construction Official and Zoning/Housing Officer to be here at the next meeting or have our Township Clerk mention to them that the Township would like to get something done.

Chairperson Spatola stated that our Zoning/Housing Officer or our Township Clerk could connect with our Solicitor to review what Ordinances are pertinent and what the Township is allow to be done legally. He stated that after the Township finds this information then we can go out and see where we need to enforce the issues because there are a lot of eyesores and structures that are dangerous if a child walks in the yard.

Chairperson Spatola stated that this is the same exact scenario as trying to enforce vandalism in our parks, the people there after hours and tearing up the light switches. He stated that the Township could not enforce any of this unless we have an Ordinance saying that they are not supposed to do this.

Mr. Montgomery stated that under our current model it is difficult but there is an International Construction Code Book that was around the Township Hall and that is what the Zoning/Housing Officer would like to switch to because it gives him more direct ability and it is stated clearly.

Mr. Laurella stated that it will also fall under the Construction Code and he believes that both Departments should be involved with the issue.

Mr. Montgomery stated that our Zoning/Housing Officer is on vacation and when he returns he could be reached out to and have him at the next meeting to discuss the whole process.

Mr. Laurella stated that he would like to have the Construction Code Officer here also because he feels it is necessary to have both of them here not just the one.

Mr. Stanzione stated that today our Township Clerk went to her Joint Insurance Fund Meeting in Ocean City and she normally takes the Emergency Management vehicle but the battery was dead and the radios were left on. He stated that he went out in the garage and checked over the mileage log and Mr. Williams, our Fire Marshal, used it on the 6th of February which was written correctly in the log, but someone else has used it because it has twenty (20) extra miles on it and all the equipment was left on causing the battery to go dead. Mr. Stanzione stated that this vehicle was moved again in the last couple of weeks so maybe our camera system may have picked it up but does not believe it did.

Mr. Lauer mann asked who has the keys to the vehicle and Mr. Stanzione stated that the keys are left in the vehicle. The Committee stated the keys needed to be changed so there are only a handful of people with access of the keys to the vehicle. Mr. Stanzione stated that the Committee needed to find out who used it.

Chairperson Spatola stated that today the Committee received e-mail from our Fire Chief to our Clerk and listed a number of issues that the Township Committee needs to address that pertains to Purchase Orders, payments, along with a whole list of things. He stated that he would like to suggest with the Committee's approval to set a meeting as soon as possible with the liaisons of the Fire and Safety Department, the liaisons from the Finance Committee which are the same to have a meeting with our Clerk, CFO and our Fire Chief to sit down and see how things are to be done, why they are not being done and why there are problems so the Township Committee can fix it. The Committee agreed.

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Communications

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #13-73 for the Payment Of Bills.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to adopt Resolution #13-73. Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Jason Scythes, 786 Landis Avenue, came before the Committee to state to Mr. Laurella that he appreciated him bringing up the buildings because he feels that it was a very important issue in the Township.

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

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

Frank Spatola, Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Cheryl Tramontana, Deputy Clerk
Township of Deerfield