

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

January 18, 2012

Chairperson Laurella 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 Laurella 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. Spatola, Mr. Laueremann and Mr. Laurella.

Minutes

The Deputy Clerk presented Minutes from December 7th, 21st and 29th, 2011.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola, to approve the minutes as written. The Committee approved.

Departmental Reports

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

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

Resolutions

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #12-80 Authorizing Shared Services Agreement Between the City Of Bridgeton And Deerfield Township.

Mr. Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola, to adopt Resolution #12-80. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #12-81 Certifying The List Of Volunteer Firefighters Who Have Qualified For The Length Of Service Award Program (LOSAP) Benefits For The Year 2011.

Mr. Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laueremann, to adopt Resolution #12-81. Roll Call Vote:

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

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The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #12-82 Authorizing The Execution Of An Agreement Between Cumberland Development Corporation And The Township Of Deerfield For The Year 2012.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to adopt Resolution #12-82. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #12-83 Authorizing Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) Between The Township Of Deerfield And Alvin Russell.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauer mann, to adopt Resolution #12-83. Roll Call Vote:

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

Old Business

Mr. Spatola stated that there was a Recreation Committee Meeting last night and an email was sent to our Township Clerk showing a list of the events, meetings and special events that will take place this year. He stated that for the budget he spoke to the Recreation Committee Chairperson, Roy Spoltore, and he believes that there should not be any increases this year. Mr. Spatola stated that the Recreation Trust shows a little more than Ninety Five Thousand but the bands are way up in cost this year and this is a big obstacle for them but they always seem to pull through it. He stated that it was resolved last night that if they have to cut back and not go after the real big gainers then they are going to have to do what needs to be done and not overstep their bounds financially.

Mr. Stanzione stated the Rosenhayn Fire and Rescue Company, Mr. Laurella and himself will be meeting with the Chief and Rescue Captain to go over their budgets and at the same time they will be discussing the start of paid rescue persons so at the next meeting it will be presented to the Committee as to what their intentions are.

Mr. Spatola stated that paid firefighters would benefit us a great deal especially during the hours of 8:00 am. - 5:00 p.m. but because of the economy everyone is working and this is why it was brought to the Township's attention. He stated that one thing that he has learned is that the Township is coming up with a budget and the Committee needs to understand that our spending cap or expense cap that is two and half percent is so important in our budgeting process. Mr. Spatola stated that he has learned that the payroll, insurance and the benefits that the Township pays for any of the firefighters is money that is going against our cap not outside our cap.

Chairperson Laurella asked Mr. Spatola if he said that it was inside the cap and Mr. Spatola stated that it was. Chairperson Laurella stated that even though the money is not raised through taxation it is strictly raised through Insurance Funds and other areas it is still part of the cap and Mr. Spatola stated yes it is because they are employees of the Township just like the other employees are and the money that is in the payroll comes against our cap and our cap is very sensitive now. Chairperson Laurella stated that he wondered about whether this was correct or not.

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Mr. Spatola stated that he stills believes that this is a great idea and the Township should stand behind what they planned but this Committee needs to be sure because this is going to impose a little more stress from another angle.

Mr. Stanzione stated that if the Committee looks at it where they become self sufficient it will not put any strain on the Township's cap.

Chairperson Laurella stated that this is a question that needs to be answered by the Auditors. He stated that we needed to let her know that this money is not through taxes from the residents in Deerfield Township that it is strictly money coming from Insurance Companies to pay for it.

Mr. Spatola stated that he believes it is quite evident that this is going to become self sufficient because in less than a year there is over Forty Thousand Dollars. He stated that this account is just billing from volunteers, but said the budget is Fifty Thousand and it does become a wash and the fact that it is a wash does not elude the fact that if the Township pays Sixty Thousand Dollars out in payroll that payroll is still against our cap regardless if we had to formulate a budget because it would be our goal to do away with that budget because it is now self sufficient.

Solicitor Testa stated that he would recommend that the Township have the Auditor's look into this matter.

Mr. Spatola stated that he attended the Land Use Board Meeting last Wednesday and he is fully aware that the appointment of any Land Use Board Member is the Township's responsibility not the Boards.

Mr. Lauermann stated that Mr. Montgomery and himself are working on the phone system upgrade in the building and have a small map out as to what is coming into the building and they need to coordinate what they have found with our Phone Contractor that installed our system some time ago. He stated that hopefully very soon we will get the automatic phone system where the residents can call after hours, we can call after hours or while someone is on the phone during business hours or there is a fax coming through someone will not receive a busy signal.

Mr. Lauermann stated that the Streets and Roads Department has received some complaints about the southern end of town again about the speeding and does not know if it is the kids over at the Vo-Tech Center, but would like a letter to go out again to let them know that the Township has received a lot of complaints about speeding in that area during the early morning hours when they are on their way to school and when they are leaving school. He stated that once we have the Troopers over there whether they are residents or not they will be getting tickets. Mr. Lauermann stated that the Township took care of this problem over on Big Oak Road because there was almost an accident with two small children while waiting for their bus and some of the tickets that were issued in that area were residents but a lot were from people that lived outside of this Township. He stated that they will be placing the speed limit trailer out in the Vo-Tech area and when that time comes they will get a notification that it will be out there and if anyone is riding out in that area and you happen to see it not working just let Mr. Montgomery or himself know so they can reach out to the County and have it looked at.

Mr. Lauermann stated that he spoke to our Clerk/Administrator about the Township Committee having a discussion about our Public Works Department getting a computer system out in their building. He stated that according to her our wireless service should be able to handle this but we are going to have to talk about cost and get her to get some prices from our I.S. people and move forward on this.

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Mr. Spatola stated that he has observed several times that wherever there is a School Zone it is a Drug Free Zone and that is a very aggressively protected area for these children and so many feet from that driveway and School Board is out of bounds for drug dealers and bad stuff. He stated that he has seen at least thirty times in the last year on Bridgeton Avenue, whether it be in the morning or in the middle of the day has seen one, two or more cars parked just on the West side of the driveway where you go in. Mr. Spatola stated that there are guys in certain vehicles right before the school just sitting there.

Mr. Stanzione stated that they are there because they are not allow to smoke on the premises so they have to leave and smoke. Mr. Spatola stated to Mr. Stanzione that he appreciates him telling him because he thought that maybe they were dealing drugs or who knows what they might have been doing on the side of the road.

Chairperson Laurella stated that pertaining to the school they are required to have signs up, stating School Zone, No Drugs within a Thousand Feet of the school.

Mr. Lauermann stated that he spoke to Sheriff Austino the other day and he asked him about the SLAP Program because we had heard a lot of woes with the County and then cutting budgets so he reached out to him to see if the SLAP Program was still available and he told him it was. He stated that the Sheriff asked if the Township would need services and Mr. Lauermann stated that he was on the south side of Sherman Avenue and it was loaded with trash all the way down to Route 55. Mr. Lauermann stated that the Sheriff stated that within the next week or two he would be getting a detail out there to clean that area up. He stated that the north side of Sherman Avenue he was under the impression that it was the loop that the landfill makes and you can just see the trash all over and he understands that they are cutting back on their people, but as the Host Community this is something that they can't neglect so the Township needs to reach out to them about this issue.

Mr. Stanzione stated that Mr. Spatola and himself will meet with them on Monday, January 23rd, 2012, and they will bring this matter up to them.

Mr. Lauermann stated that he would like to know what the status is with the Beauty Supply place in Carmel next to the Liquor Store.

Chairperson Laurella stated that the Building Inspector went out there and she found nothing wrong with it. He stated that there is one side of the building where the weeds are growing but if they do not clean it up he believes that the Township should clean it up and put a lien on the property.

Mr. Lauermann asked if the owner was in the arrear of taxes on this property.

Solicitor Testa stated that this may be a property that they received bankruptcy notification on about two years ago but the Township will have to have our Township Clerk look into this and see if in fact it does.

Mr. Lauermann asked with the lien on the property does that still allow the Township to clean this area up and Solicitor Testa stated no but the Township can put the lien on it. He stated that it would be hard to enforce because you will have to go through the Bankruptcy Trustee but if the Township would like him to look into this just have the Township Clerk pull the records from this property. Mr. Lauermann asked if the Trustees would sell this property and Solicitor Testa stated that they would to satisfy creditors.

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Mr. Lauermann stated that it would be a good idea to move along with this because if they are willing to do this the individual next door is interested in buying it.

Chairperson Laurella stated that the individual was interested in buying it about a year ago but he wanted the Township to go in with the money and the Solicitor told him that the Township could not do this.

New Business

Chairperson Laurella stated that there should only be two alternate members needed on the Cumberland Development Corporation Board of Directors because everybody moves up, but Mr. Stanzione stated that one is a voting member.

Mr. Stanzione stated that he will become the voting member and the Township just needs an alternate, and Chairperson Laurella stated he would be for the Township.

Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to appoint John Stanzione as the Regular Voting Member and Cosmo Laurella as the Alternate Voting Member for the Cumberland Development Board of Directors for the Year 2012. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Deputy Clerk presented a Raffle License for the 4H Advisory Committee Off Premises Raffle on June 6, 2012.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann, to approve the Raffle License. Roll Call Vote:

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

Chairperson Laurella stated that there are two members needed for the Land Use Board and they would be alternate members. He stated that Mr. Stanzione and himself came up with two names but then the Land Use Board came up with other people that are interested also. Chairperson Laurella stated that the Township could advertise to see if there were other people interested besides the four already mentioned or just bring in the four and interview them. He stated that it is the Township Committee's duty to appoint anybody they would like to have on this Board.

Mr. Spatola stated that he spoke at the Land Use Board Meeting also about this but noted that they were very interested in putting forth two other candidates that wanted to look into getting on the Board. He stated that it was Mr. Campagna's wish that they could have some input as to who is appointed and he stated at that time to the Board that it is the Township Committee's position that we appoint these people. Mr. Spatola also stated that if they have a couple of people who are interested the Board could give the Township Clerk their names so she knows who they are and she could produce a letter of invitation and if the Board's agree then Mr. Spatola stated that he would be willing to interview those interested so they have a formal interview along with Chairperson Campagna so that they can get some insight as to what their responsibilities are.

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Communications

The Deputy Clerk read a letter from Ken Money stating his resignation as of December 14th, 2011, due to the fact that he no longer lives in Rosenhayn, Deerfield Township.

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #12-184 for The Payment of Bills.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola, to adopt Resolution #12-184. Roll Call Vote:

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

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

Mr. Bill Brock, a resident of Deerfield came before the Committee to discuss about six months ago there was an ad in the paper about taking out some streetlights and he spoke to a Township Committee person and he said that he was not on the list. He stated that if he had been on the list he was going to volunteer to pay for his streetlight just by adding it to his tax bill whatever the cost was. Mr. Brock stated that his streetlight did go out before the holidays and he called and nothing happened. He stated that this morning he was walking down to the store and his neighbor was out with his dog and in that pitch dark and he stated to him that he should put a reflective jacket on. Mr. Brock stated that he said to his neighbor that he was contacting the Electric Company to see why they haven't fixed his streetlight and after calling they said that he had been removed. Mr. Brock stated that somewhere communication has fallen apart. He stated that another issue is that he was getting ready to purchase a piece of property and he came in to see Tony Lamanteer, Zoning/Housing Officer, and he said it was zoned as residential and Mr. Brock stated that was exactly what he wanted. Mr. Brock stated that he purchased the property and engaged an Attorney and contacted William Thompson, a Surveyor, and they were getting ready to write it up but they gave him a call and told him it was zoned commercial and he told them they must be mistaken because he had just talked to the Zoning/Housing Officer and he stated that it was residential. He stated that he found out after that it was never reported on the computer that it was transferred from Commercial to Residential and it has been done by Ordinance or something with the Township. Mr. Brock stated that he then attended a meeting with his lawyer the other day and he stated to Mr. Brock that he needs a twenty or twenty-five feet variance where he wants to put a house and he recalls speaking to Mr. Stanzione about where they had made his street which was Spruce Street narrow and then he found out yesterday that the Township had also done Pine Street which was good for him because he would not need the setback because that street was narrow also. He stated that he would like to know why it is not in the books.

Chairperson Laurella stated to Mr. Brock that it was just done and he does not believe that the map is not done either to show it. Mr. Stanzione stated that the job is not One Hundred Percent complete but that Mr. Brock will not need a variance and Chairperson Laurella agreed because it's law.

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Mr. Lauermann stated that he had a conversation with Mr. Brock when he first asked him about his streetlight and Mr. Brock agreed and let it go. He stated that at the time when the Township made the list up, the light in question was not slated to be removed and it was a surprise to him to see it out and when Mr. Brock had asked him about it that was not part of the original list when they first went out there. Mr. Lauermann stated that he had a conversation with Mr. Brock explaining to him that it is easy to refer to a streetlight as yours when it is in front of your house but it is not that way. He stated that he explained to Mr. Brock that what the Township was looking at was a large amount of money to illuminate the Township and the whole thing went from a Municipal Light Program to a more Residential Lighting Program and it cannot be this way anymore because it is an enormous amount of money to maintain them. Mr. Lauermann stated that at the time the way that light was and the way the hill crested the Township had talked about lights at intersections, hills and curbs not being touched. He stated that he told Mr. Brock that the light in front of his house as it stood at the time of the conversation was not going to be turned off so he does not know why this has happened.

Mr. Brock asked when the final word was put out on the streetlights being turned out because he did not call to get it fixed before the holidays. He stated that he called after and asked to have it repaired and they did not say anything about it being turned out. Mr. Lauermann stated that it was before the holidays and maybe that is why it was not fixed.

Mr. Lauermann stated that he explained to Mr. Brock that the Township could put him in contact with the people that he would speak with at the Electric Company and what they would do is invert that light and put it more on your property. He also stated that the information is given to the resident when they approach the Township about the streetlight and they are told that they can have a light on their property but they will be paying for it and Mr. Brock stated that he did not have a problem with that.

Mr. Orcsi who lives on Maxon Avenue came before the Committee and stated that on the night of December 7th, 2011, the Township had about an inch and half of rain and heavy winds. He stated that there was a lot of debris on his road in the morning and when he left for work he told his wife to call the Municipal Building and have someone come and clean it up if they could. Mr. Orcsi stated that when he got home he noticed that they did not clean it off or pick it up they just pushed it to the side a little bit and the next rain it would just wash back up in the road and only half of the road was done not his side. He stated to him it felt like a personal attack on him so he asked his wife to call the Township and ask them if they could clean the other side of the road and pick it up. Mr. Orcsi stated that Chairperson Laurella called him and Chairperson Laurella stated that was correct because there was a number given to his Administrator to call his wife and being that he was in charge of Streets and Roads he made the call. He then stated that when he called Chairperson Laurella back he wanted to know why only half of the road was done and not his half and he felt that it was personal and Chairperson Laurella stated that he was going to find out. Mr. Orcsi stated that he told Chairperson Laurella that he wanted something in writing for his records and Mr. Laurella told him okay which was December 8th, 2011 and now it is the middle of January, 2012, and it either got lost in the mail or he did not do it.

Chairperson Laurella stated that December 8th, 2011 was the date Mr. Orcsi called the building and fortunately that morning he was off from work and him and his wife went out and he stated to her that he wanted to go down Maxon Avenue and see how the road was. He stated that he went down the road approximately 8:20 a.m. and he did not see much of anything in the road but he did see some water stains. Mr. Orcsi showed Chairperson Laurella a picture while Chairperson Laurella was speaking and he stated to Mr. Orcsi that the picture did not give him the time but at the time he was there the road was clear.

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Mr. Orcsi asked Mr. Laurella if he would like him to bring something in because now he feels that Mr. Laurella is calling him a liar and Chairperson Laurella stated that he did not say that Mr. Orcsi was lying. He stated he could get the time the picture was taken by bringing in the disc and that will have the exact date with that exact picture and if Chairperson Laurella is telling him that he did not see what is being shown in the picture on December 8th, 2011, one of them is lying. Mr. Orcsi stated that his wife did not call until 8:00 a.m. on December 8th, 2011, and this is a picture of the Road and you can see they cleaned that half but not his half and Chairperson Laurella was going to find out why this was and get back to him. He stated that Chairperson Laurella told him that he took pictures also so if Chairperson Laurella would like him to come back next month with the discs, the times and the dates on it he will do that but one of them is wrong and it is not him. Chairperson Laurella stated that he took pictures but not of that but then interrupted himself and asked the Solicitor of the Township if he was saying too much because we are in litigation.

Solicitor Testa stated that he was just going to ask if this was the property that was subject to litigation. Mr. Orcsi stated that this has nothing to do with it stating that his situation has to do with the Township Road and them not cleaning it up. Chairperson Laurella stated to Mr. Orcsi that the road was cleared at 8:20 a.m. Solicitor Testa stated enough said. Chairperson Laurella stated that he was sorry he did not get him a letter on it. Mr. Orcsi stated that was on December 8th, 2011, and he called back on December 8th, 2011, and they did not come back until December 9th, 2011, to do the other half of the road, but Chairperson Laurella is telling him that on December 8th, 2011, the other half of the road was clean. Chairperson Laurella stated that he told him it was clear. Mr. Orcsi stated that he will be returning at the next meeting with the disc and one of them is going to apologize because one of them is wrong and it is not him. Chairperson Laurella stated that Mr. Orcsi may do whatever he wishes to do on this. He asked Chairperson Laurella why he did not notify him in writing to let him know what happened. Chairperson Laurella stated that he was sorry for not calling him back but knows that Mr. Orcsi made a big hassle about him calling his wife

Chairperson Laurella stated that he did not receive it in writing because he did not direct the letter to go.

Solicitor Testa stated that it was stated on the record and that was enough. Mr. Orcsi stated then that as a taxpayer he does not have the right and Solicitor Testa stated that Chairperson Laurella answered his question and that was Mr. Orcsi's right to get his question answered. Solicitor Testa stated that Chairperson Laurella can give you the answer in writing but does not have to give it to you in writing, he stated it on the record.

Mr. Orcsi stated that he is going to have to record everything now so everything will be taped on his telephone. He also asked Chairperson Laurella as far as the road is concerned is the Township doing anything as far as the flooding. Chairperson Laurella stated that an Act of God the Township can not control. Mr. Orcsi asked again if the Township is working on something to resolve the problem and Solicitor Testa stated that this is the issue that is subject to litigation and stated to Mr. Orcsi that he has an Attorney so the Township can not discuss pending or potential litigation.

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

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

Cosmo J. Laurella, Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Cheryl Tramontana, Deputy Clerk
Township of Deerfield