

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

May 16, 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 Avalon, 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. Lauer mann and Mr. Laurella.

Departmental Reports

The Deputy Clerk presented reports from the Construction Office, Tax Collector and Treasurer.

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

Ordinances

The Deputy Clerk presented Ordinance #2012-4 An Ordinance Appropriating The Sum Of \$10,000.00 From The Capital Improvement Fund Of Deerfield Township For Road Improvements In The Township.

Mr. Spatola stated that he would like to table this Ordinance because he had several questions about this Ordinance. Mr. Spatola stated that he knows that it is tough right now with money being a big issue in this Township, but the damage where the road is torn up where the trucks are turning onto Landis Avenue is a State Highway. He stated that Willow Street is the Township's road but probably ninety-nine and nine tenth of the damage done to that road is done by private commercial vehicles. Mr. Spatola stated that if the State deems that this road is necessary to fix it is an entrance to a State Highway so why is the Township accommodating or why are we putting Ten Thousand Dollars up to repair that road.

Chairperson Laurella stated that the Township is only putting up Eight Thousand Dollars towards this project the other Two Thousand is going towards Cedar Street. He stated that the road is Township property and the Township does not have an Ordinance for road weight and he tried to do at one time and was shot down. Chairperson Laurella stated that you should have a weight limit on the roads and the road does not have one. He stated that if the Township did not go out and fix it and tried to put the blame on the owner he stated that the Township could end up in a court case.

Solicitor Testa stated if the road needs repair the Township needs to maintain the streets.

Mr. Spatola stated that the only part of the street that the Township needs to maintain is where it enters onto a State Highway.

Chairperson Laurella stated that the road in question is in the Township right-of-way not the State right-of-way. He stated that the Township will not touch the State part.

Regular Township
Township Committee
May 16, 2012
Continued

Chairperson Laurella stated that the business was given a Superior Court Case to come out onto Willow Street and then onto the highway that was a costly lawsuit for the Township that was done back in the 1980's.

Mr. Lauermann stated that what the Township's plan is not to just lay asphalt down there but also to create a heavy duty frictional surface where the Township will not have to address this for another five or ten years. He stated that if the Township is going above and beyond what is normal repair shouldn't there be some way of recouping the cost.

After further discussion, Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to adopt Ordinance #2012-4 On First Reading, To Set Wednesday, June 6th, 2012 On Second Reading, Public Hearing And Final Adoption. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Ordinance #2012-5 An Ordinance Appropriating The Sum Of \$14,000.00 From The Capital Improvement Fund Of Deerfield Township For The Reduction Of The Right Of Ways Widths For Willow Street And Poplar Streets In The Township Of Deerfield.

Mr. Spatola stated that he would like to know if the Township did not spend the Fourteen Thousand Dollars then if we did spend this amount, how are things different after the Township spends the money.

Mr. Stanzione stated that what this does by changing the widths of the road in the Township is it knocks our right-of-way down. He stated that the trees that fall down in the Township that we have to maintain, cut down and remove will no longer be the Township's responsibility. Mr. Stanzione stated that it would be the homeowner's responsibility that actually put them there to begin with.

Mr. Spatola stated that the Township has talked about this before and would like to know the frequency that the Township takes the trees out and several Committee Members told him pretty regularly. He stated that he understands cutting the trees down and reducing the exposure to liability because that is what this is all based on but wanted to know how many other streets are there to do and will each occurrence cost the Township Fourteen Thousand Dollars or more.

Chairperson Laurella stated yes. He stated that the last one was Spruce and Pine Streets when the Township decided that they were going to go North and East and take one road each way each time and this is what the Township is doing again if the Township so wishes to cut down that responsibility.

Mr. Spatola asked Chairperson Laurella how much was spent on Spruce and Pine Streets after they were completed and Chairperson Laurella stated close to Thirty Thousand Dollars only because those two roads are longer but the ones that are in question are shorter. Mr. Spatola stated that he would like to know the upkeep and the responsibility to maintain these roads compared to the Fourty Four Thousand Dollars that was spent on the other roads is. He would like to know if it is more than this amount in the last twenty years.

Regular Meeting
Township Committee
May 16, 2012
Continued

Chairperson Laurella stated no but if the Township were to have a lawsuit on something happening where some farmer could plow on our right-of-way, and some are doing it, and if the ground is unlevelled and a jogger or someone walking goes down the street and they get hurt it would be the Township's responsibility not the farmer.

Mr. Spatola stated that he understands that the driving force for this idea is to reduce the amount of exposure to liability but he believes there is a point where you can be insurance poor and that is what the Township is doing if we are buying insurance to cut down our liability. He stated that his only concern is he would really like to know how much has been spent compared to the Forty Four Thousand Dollars, because that is a lot of money being that the Township just raised the taxes two cents.

Mr. Spatola stated that he would like to know how much money was taken out of Capital for improvements.

Chairperson Laurella stated that the Township took out Eighty Four Thousand Dollars for the Cupola, the roads and other items.

Mr. Spatola stated that the Township would be in Fifty Percent of that amount by doing this and Mr. Stanzione stated that was not correct. He stated to Mr. Spatola that last year was paid for and the Township is only going to put out Fourteen Thousand Dollars this year on this project and there will be approximately Seventy Thousand Dollars left in the Capital Account. Mr. Spatola stated that the other issue with the road is that the Township is caught between a rock and a hard spot because the Township does not have to do it but we are responsible. He stated that this is elective surgery because we are electing to do this to protect the Township from liability and that is the only difference.

After the discussion, Mr. Spatola made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to table Ordinance #2012-5 until the next meeting on June 6th, 2012. Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolutions

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #12-119 In Support Of Phased In Funding Restoration Of Energy Taxes (For Property Tax Relief).

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola, to adopt Resolution #12-119. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #12-120 Appointing Ronald W. Shinn Public Works Manager.

Mr. Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to adopt Resolution #12-120. Roll Call Vote:

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

Regular Meeting
Township Committee
May 16, 2012
Continued

Old Business

Mr. Montgomery stated that he had a long discussion with the General and Education Accounts Manager from Verizon Business Management Center and he was unhappy with the responses he had been getting to this point about trying to reduce the Township's bills. He stated that he sent an email to them stating that if he did not get an answer in a few days he was going to discuss with the Township switching service providers. Mr. Montgomery stated that after that was told to them he received a response within fifteen minutes and he found out that each phone number has multiple listings that is costing about Ninety Dollars and the way to reduce this is to put one listing per phone number. He also stated that the Township is getting billed for extras on each bill and it could all be combined on one plan. Mr. Montgomery stated that the Township would be joining MICTA that is a Business Organization and Non-Profit Organization for Education, Government and Non-Profit Entities through Verizon. He also stated that there would be no membership fee and because we are part of this we can receive lower cost for our phone services. He stated that a password would be set up and it would enable us to receive our phone bill electronically not in paper that would also save the Township money.

Mr. Lauermann stated that we need to get this all tied in so the Township can then move forward with Mr. Barbagello's issues for OEM and at the same time fill out the paperwork to get a direct line in the basement and for the Rosenhayn Fire and Rescue on Morton Avenue. He also stated after all this is complete the voicemail system will be looked into.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola, to have Mr. Montgomery proceed with the cost reduction plan for the Verizon Phone Program. Roll Call Vote:

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

Mr. Stanzione stated that he met with Mr. Spatola, being Chair of Personnel and had interviews for the personnel who would be hired as EMT 's and answering fire calls. He stated that they have a list from the two (2) Chiefs along with their list and by June 6th, 2012, they would like to have on the agenda the hiring of the individuals chosen and by the second meeting in June the Township will have them actively on duty.

Mr. Stanzione stated that Recreation had their Youth Week tonight at the Municipal Building before our meeting and everyone can see that this was probably the nicest one they have had in a few years.

Old Business

Mr. Laurella stated that he believes at the last meeting the Committee approved the reducing of the two roads that were discussed previously and would like to see if this is correct because if it is a letter may of gone to our Engineers to start on the roads. He also stated if this were correct we needed to let them know they should wait on proceeding until the Ordinance is adopted.

Regular Meeting
Township Committee
May 16, 2012
Continued

New Business

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Spatola, to approve the Corrective Action Plan. Roll Call Vote:

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

Chairperson Laurella stated that he would like to have the light switches in the Court Room changed back.

Mr. Montgomery stated that the Public Works Department brought to his attention that they are having a problem with the old lawn mower. He stated that it is a ten (10) year old mower and the transmission is going and it is going to cost roughly Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars to repair. Mr. Montgomery stated that they are going to be getting different prices for a new one and after, everyone can look them over and decide what we would like to do about getting a new one.

Mr. Stanzione stated that he contacted the State about the potholes at Morton and Landis Avenues. He stated that the woman was very nice and stated that she would make sure someone goes out and fills them. Mr. Stanzione stated that they were done terrible and he kept the woman's number and maybe we need to have someone else come out because he had told her that they keep coming out and filling them in but it does not stay and something else needs to be done so they stay filled in.

Communications

The Deputy Clerk stated that there were no communications.

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #12-121 for the Payment Of Bills.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Montgomery, to adopt Resolution #12-121. 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. Stanzione, to open the meeting to the public. The Committee approved.

Before opening the meeting to the public, Mr. Stanzione stated that on the Payment of Bills under Recreation we no longer charge taxes on tent rentals and the Deputy Clerk stated that we were told just recently that we still collect the taxes. Mr. Stanzione stated that we needed to look into this to make sure this was correct.

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

John Barbagello, Deerfield Township Emergency Management, came before the Committee to ask when he was going to get that direct line for down the basement.

Regular Meeting
Township Committee
May 16, 2012
Continued

Mr. Montgomery stated to Mr. Barbagello that he will start working on this tomorrow and as soon as he finds out anything he will contact him and let him know the date that is scheduled because he will need to be coordinated with them to make sure they get it where he wants to put it.

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

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

Cosmo J. Laurella, Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Cheryl Tramontana, Deputy Clerk
Township of Deerfield