

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

October 20, 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 7:02 p.m.

Chairperson Spatola led the flag salute.

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

The Deputy Clerk took roll call and members present included Ms. Musso, Mr. Stanzone, Mr. Laurella, Mr. Lauermaun and Mr. Spatola.

Departmental Reports

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

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermaun, to accept and file the departmental reports. The Committee approved.

Ordinances

The Deputy Clerk presented Ordinance #2010-4 On First Reading Of An Ordinance Amending The Fees For The Duplication Of Printed Records.

Mr. Stanzone made a motion, seconded by Ms. Musso, to adopt Ordinance #2010-4 On First Reading, To Set Wednesday, November 3rd, 2010, For Second Reading, Public Hearing And Final Adoption. Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Musso	Yes	Mr. Lauermaun	Yes
Mr. Stanzone	Yes	Chairperson Spatola	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

The Deputy Clerk presented Ordinance #2010-5 On First Reading Of A Bond Ordinance Appropriating The Sum Of \$178,500.00 For The Acquisition Of A New Ambulance To Be Used In The Township Of Deerfield, In The County Of Cumberland, New Jersey And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$170,000.00 Bonds Or Notes For Financing The Costs Thereof.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzone, to adopt Ordinance #2010-5 On First Reading, To Set Wednesday, November 3rd, 2010, For Second Reading, Public Hearing And Final Adoption. Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Musso	Yes	Mr. Lauermaun	Yes
Mr. Stanzone	Yes	Chairperson Spatola	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

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Resolutions

The Deputy Clerk presented A Resolution Refunding Overpayment Of Taxes To CTI Solutions, Inc.

Ms. Musso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann, to adopt Resolution #10-145. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Deputy Clerk presented A Resolution To Amend The Capital Budget.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Ms. Musso, to adopt Resolution #10-145. Roll Call Vote:

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

Old Business

Mr. Laurella stated that our Maintenance Man, Michael Laurella, is on vacation and his full time laborer, Joe Macera, fell on Saturday and fractured some ribs so they needed to bring in this morning one of our part time helpers to cover until this matter can be taken care of. He stated that we need somebody to be in and around the building at all times and he will probably be working for at least two (2) weeks because Mr. Macera's health issue is on a day-to-day basis.

Mr. Lauermann asked if Mr. Macera would be cleared to come back or is it going to be how he feels.

Ms. Musso stated that it would be under the discretion of his doctor and a note would be issued.

Mr. Lauermann asked if the Township had a modified duty policy or does he have to be full duty to come back. Ms. Musso stated that it is up to the doctor's note that would state light duty or full and this has occurred in the past. He stated that he was asking because his type of job requires that you have to be full duty before you are allowed back to work.

Ms. Musso stated that she does not believe it is in the policy and that the Township has been just given a doctor's note stating that they will be returning to work under light or full duty. She does not believe that it states that they have to be full duty but the Township can look into this because we have had other employees report to work under light duty.

Mr. Stanzione stated that the Harvest Festival had a good year this year and everything was safe and the Recreation Committee will know more on the final outcome at their next meeting in November. He also stated that the Fire Company is still moving forward trying to get their ambulance certified.

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Mr. Laurella stated that the Committee has talked over and over again about the fire hydrant and wanted to know when we could get started on this project. He stated that we would have to appropriate monies before the Township hires an engineer to make up the specs and he is sure that it is going to go over the threshold.

Mr. Stanzone stated that there is money set aside for the fire hydrant and Mr. Lauermann stated that he believes it is forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) and it just has to be moved over.

Mr. Lauermann stated that in the Buildings and Grounds Department he had recently found out that the Township has some interference issues with our new panic alarm system and a couple of ideas that were brought up by the current Alarm Company is that there are a couple of trucking businesses here close by and there may be an issue with their radio systems stepping on the signal that our system provides because it is wireless. He stated that they are going to have a site vision to set up for next week to talk about this and some outstanding issues for quite some time with the burglar and fire alarm system for the Municipal Building and Maintenance Garage. Mr. Lauermann stated that right now the Maintenance Garage is not being monitored and there is a lot of expensive equipment in there and the only way we would know if there was a fire in there is if one of the neighbor's called it in to 911 because we have no protection out there. He stated that he was going to set up something with the contractor the Township uses for the alarm system next week and do a walk through and try to get a hold on what needs to be done and what the cost is going to be. Mr. Lauermann stated that he will let the Township Committee know what the outcome is after he meets with them. He also stated that the department is also working on getting prices for the repair of the roof but in order for the Township to get any contemplation of any type of movement of money from the Capital Account we need to get some figures to put into consideration for next year's budget. Mr. Lauermann also stated that he received a phone call from a resident in Danna Estates and a lot of the elderly are moving out and a lot of families with small children are moving in but there are no signs warning driver's of children playing in this area. He stated that he would like to have our Maintenance Man go over this with him and talk about putting some children playing signs up because there have been some close calls. He also stated that another call he received from a resident on a privately owned street called Heritage Road had a concern because they have to bring their child all the way up the road in order for the bus to pick them up and after they had asked the bus driver why he could not come down and pick their child up, the bus driver's response was because he could not maneuver in the cul-de-sac with the bus. Mr. Lauermann stated that he would look into this further because he did not see any reason for not doing so.

Ms. Musso stated that this issue needed to be brought up before the School Board.

New Business

Mr. Laurella stated that he would like to have a revision made to the Township Code to include the requirement of a Grading Plan and Checklist. He stated that what he could refer to as an example would be the property on Maxon Avenue. Mr. Laurella stated that the resident would get a variance to build a house on an under sized lot but then they start having problems with flooding and wants the Township to take care of it. He stated that by this revision in the Township Code Book this would unfortunately cause that property owner to spend some money to state where their water is going to go so it takes the responsibility off the Township. Mr. Laurella stated that the Township is spending a lot of money between engineers and lawyers to work the problem out on Maxon Avenue which he still feels is not the Township's responsibility but continue to look into it.

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Chairperson Spatola stated that at the meeting that Mr. Laurella and himself attended the checklist concerns primarily the fact that the homeowner has to retain his own engineering firm to do a site plan, survey and grading plan which has to be adhered to. He also stated that before the permits are issued it has been reviewed by our Engineer Department and signed off on so they are in agreement with what their plans are and then at the end before the house could be issued a certificate of occupancy, they would have to go to the second phase which would be the grading plan and it would have to be per what it was at the beginning so that it insures that the water run off is not changed.

Chairperson Spatola stated that it still would not take the liability away from the Township because if there is a water problem after it is all approved then it will come back to our Engineer who said that it was okay but that is highly doubtful that two firms would do this.

Mr. Laurella stated that he would like to have this ready for the next meeting on November 3rd, 2010 to approve it for first reading.

Chairperson Spatola stated that he was approached by the Mayors Of Upper Deerfield, Hopewell Township along with another one and they would like to do Shared Services with the Municipal Court and he believes about eight or nine months ago there was some talk about this then. He stated that they would like to set up a meeting just to get the feeling of involvement or interest that the Township might want to get into if at all. Chairperson Spatola stated that Mr. Roy Spoltore, the Municipal Clerk in Upper Deerfield is the one setting up the scheduling and he asked that he attend with the Township's Administrator. He also stated that our Administrator has already spoke to him about this preliminarily so they are trying to set up something where everybody can attend to discuss this issue.

Ms. Musso stated that before they meet she said there was a packet that everyone should read from Judge Curio in reference to Municipal Court Consolidation Plan. She stated that she had spoke to a few people and actually a few judges and she knows that right now Downe and Fairfield Townships have consolidated and one Township has said that they do not feel that it is very beneficial even though they are not putting money out it is not what they had thought it would be. She stated that consolidation is great but sometimes it is not.

Chairperson Spatola stated that the purpose of this meeting is to explore and decide how far they are going to go if at all and what he feels is necessary when he commits to a date when this meeting is going to be he will get an agenda of what will be talked about and everybody will get a copy along with a memo or letter as to what took place at this meeting.

Chairperson Spatola stated that the Township is involved with Shared Services through our Construction Code Official and Office. He stated that he has been approached by a couple of different Construction Code Officials who showed interest in our Township because of its size and volume but he does not know if it would be more beneficial. Chairperson Spatola stated that we have some numbers worked up but he does not know if everybody is okay with where we are and we should stay where we are or if they would like to explore going back to just Deerfield just doing Deerfield.

The Township Committee decided that they all need to look at a few to consider for Shared Services and now is the time to do it before the year ends. The Committee agreed to discuss this in more detail at their Budget night in November to see what is feasible.

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Mr. Stanzione stated before moving on, the only advantage he sees as far as Shared Services with the Construction Official is the fact that you can go and get a permit any day, but again if it is costing the Township money it means it is costing the taxpayers money so we may have to look into going back to our part time Official we had. He stated that whoever controls the Shared Services controls it and the Township has no say if they choose to raise their salary by six percent then we have to pay our percentage no matter what but our local employees are only getting two percent. The Committee agreed.

Mr. Laurella stated that our Plumbing and Electrical Officials are being paid by the Township so since they are our own employees, virtually we just need Construction and Fire to be covered through the shared services.

Mr. Lauermann stated however that with the two Officials, shared services did help the Township because they were willing to make concessions to keep their job. He stated that the Township Committee was very comfortable with how they handled us in the Township. He stated that we did not want to lose that control or the competence of those two employees that he felt was very high and through shared services the Township was able to come up with some ideas and saved money.

Communications

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #10-147 For The Payment Of Bills.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Ms. Musso, to adopt Resolution #10-147. Roll Call Vote:

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

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

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

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

Frank R. Spatola, Jr., Chairperson
Township of Deerfield

ATTEST:

Cheryl Tramontana, Deputy Clerk
Township of Deerfield