

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

September 15, 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. Stanzione, Mr. Laurella, Mr. Laueremann and Mr. Spatola.

Departmental Reports

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

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

Resolutions

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #10-137 Authorizing The Hiring Of Temporary Help To Serve As Drivers For The Deerfield Township Harvest Festival.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to adopt Resolution #2010-137. Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Musso	Yes	Mr. Laueremann	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperon Spatola	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #10-138 Appointing Darin Dorzan As A Part-Time Laborer.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella, to adopt Resolution #10-138. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #10-139 Authorizing The Exclusion Of The Public From A Meeting Of The Township Committee To Be Held On October 6, 2010.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Ms. Musso, to adopt Resolution #10-139. Roll Call Vote:

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

Regular Meeting
Township Committee
September 15, 2010
Continued

Mr. Laurella stated that the Township spoke to Fralinger's Office, the Township's Engineer and our Solicitor's Office and they are working on the Maxon Avenue project. He stated that they are trying to set up a meeting with the property owner to see if he would give an easement for the water to go through his property.

Mr. Stanzione stated that the Fire Company is doing fine and the Recreation is gearing up for the Harvest Festival and would like to make a suggestion that all the Township Committee comes out and helps the Recreation during the festival because the help is needed. He stated that they would greatly appreciate it.

Chairperson Spatola stated on behalf of the whole Township Committee, he would like to sincerely thank everyone in the search for the elderly woman that was missing about a week ago. He stated that he would like to publicly and personally commend the Rosenhayn Fire Company, the New Jersey State Police and all the other Fire Companies involved because it was so impressive to see how this operation was run, contained and organized and it was never out of control. Chairperson Spatola stated that there were well over One Hundred Fifty people out there and this went on from 7:00 p.m. until around 3:00 a.m. and wanted to say again how very proud he was of their community to jump in and help and thank God with our prayers the woman was found the next morning around 9:30 a.m. unharmed and seems to be doing well.

Ms. Musso stated that our own employees came and opened up the vacant building in Carmel for us and turned on the water. She stated that it was nice to have that building there even though it has not been used and it is a great asset to have and keep in our Township. She also stated that she wanted to remind the Committee that the parade was on Saturday not Sunday and noted that it has been changed to Saturday for a few years now but wanted to make sure the Committee remembered. She stated that everyone needed to be at the school before noon so we can lead off the parade.

Chairperson Spatola stated that the Committee had talked at great lengths about the monies that were set aside in the budget for improvements and Ms. Musso had asked for a document showing this information and the Committee has received it. He stated that since we have received this information, was there anything else that needed to be brought up concerning this list.

Mr. Laurella stated that the Township Committee sits every year in the building together and works on the budget and we state what needs to get done, but when it comes time to do what needs to be done the Committee finds out that the money was never put into the budget. He stated that he just found out that reducing the roads was not in the budget either and he thought that the Committee agreed to have it done and it was in there because he wanted to see if on the next agenda we could talk about having our Engineer go out and start doing the roads. Mr. Laurella stated that the first two roads are in the Solicitor's hands and are coming along but we need to take the responsibility of the width of roads off the Township. He stated that we discuss the budget but the numbers never get posted to the final budget so we need to find out a better way to make sure the money is put down where we say it should be.

Ms. Musso stated that she had told our Municipal Clerk, Karen Seifrit, that she wanted to make sure that everyone is aware what the Township used for surplus since she is involved with Finance and what is remaining in our surplus this year. She stated that this is important going forward in January and also what the Township would probably be receiving from the Cumberland County Improvement Authority will be One Hundred Thousand Dollars less than last year.

Regular Meeting
Township Committee
September 15, 2010
Continued

Theodore Cooper, Construction Official, from Deerfield Township, came before the Committee to answer any questions the Committee may have regarding Kim's Midway Stop that was abandoned at 602 Sherman Avenue. He handed out pictures regarding this property and asked if there were any questions.

He stated that the last time the Committee did not have pictures of the roof so he provided a few of those and basically the questions that he feels the Committee will have will be on page 11 and 12. He stated that in the two pictures the Committee could see that the beauty supply shares a roof with the liquor store and they want to put a new roof on their part but do not want to pay for the roof on the beauty supply. He stated that complaints have come in to our Municipal Clerk stating that they smell mold and mildew coming from the other side and they would like to fix the leaks that they have on their side as soon as possible.

Mr. Laurella asked if anyone knew the history on this building? He stated that this particular building was the first wood building there and the block building with the other two stores were added on and there is a space between them.

Mr. Cooper stated that basically Mr. Laurella was correct but the front of the beauty supply is new and they share the common wall with the liquor store. He stated that the buildings are separated but only several feet and where the addition was put on in the front they share that block wall and this is where the problem will be when it goes to be taken down.

Chairperson Spatola stated that it should be taken down and he knows that there have been some prices given on how much it will cost to do this.

Solicitor Testa stated that according to the photographs this is in bankruptcy. Mr. Cooper stated that this was cleared up and he had the date of discharge on August of 2009. Solicitor Testa stated that Mr. Cooper should get a copy of the discharge from the trustees in Bridgeton and he stated to the Solicitor that he will and had spoke to them and they stated to him that they were done with it and did not care what the Township did with it. Solicitor Testa stated that Mr. Cooper should get that in writing to protect the Township. Mr. Cooper stated that a letter should go to the owner of the Liquor Store to let them know that this will be taking place because they are going to need a lot of time to get all the bottles, etc. off that wall. Ms. Musso asked Mr. Cooper if we needed to notify the female by certified letter who owns the other side to let her know about the demolition and Mr. Cooper stated that all he needs to do is give a twenty four (24) notice on the door.

Solicitor Testa asked if there were two (2) separate lots and Mr. Cooper stated that there were.

Chairperson Spatola stated that for the record and the future this was an extreme blunder in the Zoning Department in Deerfield Township whenever it happened because nothing like this should ever happen and even though this took place a long time ago this should be a lesson to learn.

Mr. Laurella stated that he checked on how much the building was worth and the ground is assessed at Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) and the improvements are at Sixty Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000.00) so the Township has Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) there at Township Assessment which was taken out of the book by the Municipal Clerk.

Regular Meeting
Township Committee
September 15, 2010
Continued

Solicitor Testa stated that first the Township needs to get clearance on the bankruptcy and second check to see if the taxes are being paid on the properties because you want to make sure the Township has enough to pay off both liens if there are back taxes on both properties.

Chairperson Spatola would like to have an update on the property in Danna Estates on Laurel Lane. Mr. Cooper stated that he had it boarded up and there is still no change. Mr. Cooper stated that there is also another issue on Lebanon Road with a home being left standing. Chairperson Spatola stated that there was a great deal of discussion on the property on Lebanon Road at the Zoning Board Meeting concerning parties, beer bottles, cans and trash but when he took a ride back on this property he went in the barn and looked around but did not find one can, bottle or trash so he does not know where the information came from.

Mr. Laurella stated that he would like to have our Zoning Officer and Construction Official both go out to this property on Lebanon Road and give the Township a report on it.

Mr. Stanzione asked the Solicitor if it is the Township's responsibility to make sure these homes are safe and Solicitor Testa stated not really but depending on the status of the property if it is in bankruptcy or foreclosure because if it has been foreclosed it is really the bank's responsibility because they are now the owners. Solicitor Testa stated that if the Township could find out who the owner is right now, a notice could go out demanding that they take whatever measures are necessary to board it up to protect against any problems and if they do not do it then the Township could do it themselves and put a lien against it but the Township will wait a long time for the money to come back to them.

New Business

The Deputy Clerk presented An Application For Raffle License – On Premises Merchandise Raffle – Deerfield Township PTO To Be Held On October 9th and 10th, 2010.

Mr. Stanzione made a motion, seconded by Ms. Musso, to accept the Application For Raffle License – On Premises Merchandise Raffle – Deerfield Township PTO To Be Held On October 9th and 10th, 2010. Roll Call Vote:

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

Ms. Musso stated that she wanted to let the Township Committee know that at the Deerfield Township School about a month ago the Superintendent and Board Member of the school contacted her and asked her if she would attend the meeting to help them do some fund raisers since she does a lot in the community and she stated that she would be glad to attend. She stated that she wanted to give the Committee a couple of dates that they have set for fund raising nights and they would be on Tuesday, September 21st, 2010, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Friendly Ice Cream as a Family Fun Night in Upper Deerfield Township and a Comedy Night at the Centerton Country Club on February 5th, 2011, from 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.. Ms. Musso stated that they are doing this because of their budget being cut and defeated and they had to cut more so they are trying to reinstate the after school sport activities and also bring back the field trips for the kids.

Regular Meeting
Township Committee
September 15, 2010
Continued

Communications

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #10-140 For The Payment Of Bills.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Ms. Musso, to adopt Resolution #10-140. 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. Laurella, to open the meeting to the public. The Committee approved.

Trooper Brian Stanker, Bridgeton State Police Barracks, came before the Committee to thank everyone on behalf of the New Jersey State Police and even though the Mayor had already done so he wanted to thank the Fire Department and everyone who came out to help during the search. He stated that it was pretty amazing the way all the different agencies, 911 Center, the Fire Personnel, the State Police along with many others were all on the same page and frequencies and luckily there was a happy ending. Trooper Stanker stated that Route 56 was shut down earlier because of a tree that had fallen across the road that was caused by a vehicle that hit the tree and got caught up in the wires that caused this to happen. He also stated that they have had a lot of burglaries and thefts in residents all around this area and if anyone notices a suspicious vehicle let the trooper barracks be aware of this. Trooper Stanker stated that they have had a couple of leads of a red vehicle of some type, possibly Dodge Neon or Honda and a couple of males. He stated that they are throwing rocks or bricks through the window and then they go inside the homes and take a lot of items. Trooper Stanker also stated that some of the elderly people in Greenwich are getting phone calls stating they are with the Social Security and are asking them if they have a monitored alarm for their home so please spread the word and never give your personal information over the phone and say yes to the alarm and monitoring whether they do or not.

Mr. Lauermann stated that the same problem is happening again with the prostitutes hanging around the Major Truck Stop and we need to send a letter to the owner that owns the business to take care of this issue immediately because this needs to go away.

Trooper Stanker stated that he would like them to keep this under wraps a little bit and he will have someone go over there during the night and possibly catching them without knowing anything ahead of time.

Mr. Lauermann stated that pertaining to the description with the car they think may be involved with the burglaries and theft, he stated to the Trooper that his mother lives over near Crow Pond Road and there is a hardware store over there and they have hit her three (3) days in a row. He stated that the car that stopped at her store a week before and she said a couple of young males were asking her a lot of questions and were trying to lure her to the back of the store but when they left she became a little suspicious but not enough to get the license plate of the vehicle but did remember that the vehicle has a white decal on the back window. He stated that an Officer was asking her questions about this and that he had spoke to David Blank.

Regular Meeting
Township Committee
September 15, 2010
Continued

John Barbagello, Emergency Management Coordinator, came before the Committee, to thank the Bridgeton State Police Barracks, Township Committee and the Rosenhayn Fire Company for the great job on the missing woman search and also wanted to recognize one personnel person from the 911 Center, Jimmy Matlack, because he was a tremendous help and made it very easy to work with everyone else involved.

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

Before adjourning the meeting, Chairperson Spatola stated that he met with the Chairperson of the Recreation Committee today and he wanted him to reach out to everyone on the Township Committee to feel free to be there all weekend or whatever time they could give to them would be helpful. He stated that Betty Ann Mosley is in charge of volunteers and reach out to her and let her know that you are interested and she will set you up somewhere at the festival.

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

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

ATTEST:

Cheryl Tramontana, Deputy Clerk
Township of Deerfield