

REGULAR MEETING
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

April 21, 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 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson Spatola led the flag salute.

The Clerk was at a Joint Insurance Fund Meeting in Vineland, 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. Lauermann and Mr. Spatola.

Departmental Reports

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF THE 2010 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The Deputy Clerk stated that The 2010 Municipal Budget Of The Township Of Deerfield Is \$1,852,698.30. The Local Purpose Tax Will Be One (1) Cent Per One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars Of Assessed Valuation For 2010.

A Summary Of The 2010 Budget Will Be Published In The Bridgeton Evening News On Friday, April 30th, And A Public Hearing Will Be Held On Wednesday, May 19th, At 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Musso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Lauermann, to adopt the 2010 Municipal Budget On First Reading, To Set Wednesday, May 19th, 2010 For Second Reading, Public Hearing And Final Adoption. Roll Call Vote:

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

Proclamations

The Deputy Clerk presented Proclamation #2010-2 Proclaiming The Month Of May As "Older Americans Month" In The Township Of Deerfield.

Ordinances

The Deputy Clerk presented Ordinance #2010-2 A First Reading Of An Ordinance Providing For Salaries And Compensation Of The Officers And Employees Of The Township Of Deerfield, Cumberland County, New Jersey.

Mr. Lauermann made a motion, seconded by Mr. Laurella, to adopt Ordinance #2010-2 On First Reading, To Set Wednesday, May 5th, 2010 For Second Reading, Public Hearing And Final Adoption. Roll Call Vote:

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

Resolutions

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #10-98 Authorizing An Amendment To The Host Community Benefit Agreement Between The Cumberland County Improvement Authority And Deerfield Township.

Ms. Musso made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to adopt Resolution #10-98. Roll Call Vote:

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

The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #10-99 For Tonnage Grant Application.

Mr. Lauermann made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to adopt Resolution #10-99. Roll Call Vote:

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

Old Business

Mr. Laurella stated that there was a meeting on Monday, April 19th, 2010, with the Soil Conservation, the Township Engineer, neighbors, farmers and a couple of Committee Members to discuss the issue on Maxon Avenue. He stated that there was a comment from a gentleman that stated that the Township did not want to do anything with the flooding but the Soil Conservation gentlemen told this resident that it was not a true statement. Mr. Laurella stated that they are checking into this flooding issue and when finished the gentleman would be contacting our Engineer and will be getting together again to discuss what could be done to correct it. He stated that one neighbor stated that they do not want the water running onto their property and another one stated that there was never a problem until the road was resurfaced but does not feel that is the reason because another neighbor complained about water problems in the mid nineties. Mr. Laurella stated that he would like our Administrator to look in the mid nineties minutes to see the discussion he believes took place pertaining to drainage on this road.

Chairperson Spatola stated that he would like to make a suggestion on behalf of the Committee that it would be a good idea to discuss this again by the second meeting in May, this way it would give them a month to gather information because what the Committee has found with this meeting is that according to Mr. Laurella there are six or seven pertinent ideas and people who need to be represented in this water problem that is occurring here in the Township. He stated that it is very difficult to get everyone to be here and he does not think that a problem like this although it was good to go there during daylight hours and see this problem physically, now that it is done all the interested parties will know what is there.

Chairperson Spatola stated that he feels that it could be put on the May 19th, 2010 agenda and a discussion be done so that all parties involved are properly notified. He stated that they can come here to represent themselves in the evening after work and it could be handled in front of the public and gain some direction on this problem.

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Ms. Musso asked if we were going to be able to get the State and everybody here and Chairperson Spatola stated that if someone was not able to attend and supplies us with a report on what their opinion is as to what they found then the report could be used at the meeting.

Solicitor Testa stated that as long as it is posted on the agenda, yes the Committee could discuss this issue subject to the Engineer being here.

Chairperson Spatola stated that the Administrator knows everyone involved and a formal letter of request for their participation at our May 19th, 2010 meeting pertaining to this matter should be sent out. He stated that anyone that needs to speak should be here because if not do not say that the Township is not doing anything.

Mr. Stanzione stated that after this meeting a decision should be made because this has been an ongoing battle that has nothing to do with the Township.

Ms. Musso stated that at the liaison meeting at the Cumberland County Improvement Authority she would like them to know that they are supposed to pick up the trash twice a day and they are not picking it up because there is trash all over Kenyon and Sherman Avenue. She stated that she would like them to be told about this.

Mr. Stanzione stated that the Fire and Rescue is doing fine and the Recreation Committee are booking the groups for the Harvest Festival. He stated that they are also going to be having a float again for the seniors and since they will be honoring veterans they will need to find out who the veterans are in the Township and notify them for the event.

Ms. Musso stated that it should be published on the website and advertised in our newsletter and paper.

New Business

Chairperson Spatola stated that last Wednesday, Mr. Stanzione and himself were invited to the seniors' monthly meeting. He stated that he was very enlightened by it and is very proud that this Township does this for the seniors and reaches out to them whenever possible. Chairperson Spatola stated that the food and entertainment was nice, the meeting ran very well and he thinks that Ms. Thompson does a wonderful job. He stated that the garden was brought up at the meeting and after discussing it at their meeting a vote was taken and it was a definite no.

Chairperson Spatola stated however that they would like to be more involved by being notified about events or activities happening. He stated that they would like to have minutes from the Recreation be placed on their bulletin board every month along with the Committee minutes. Ms. Musso stated that they could be placed in the Coordinator's bin.

Ms. Musso stated that during the month of May they will be having their luncheon to celebrate Older Americans Month and every Wednesday in May the seniors had talked about sending letters out for donations. Ms. Musso stated that she has a lot of contacts through her business and she asked them for donations so one week they will have a pretzel day another a Rita's Water Ice and a chocolate covered strawberries day.

Communications

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

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The Deputy Clerk presented Resolution #10-100 for the Payment Of Bills.

Mr. Laurella made a motion, seconded by Mr. Stanzione, to adopt Resolution #10-100. Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Musso	Yes	Mr. Lauer mann	Yes
Mr. Stanzione	Yes	Chairperson Spatola	Yes
Mr. Laurella	Yes		

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

John Barbagello, Emergency Management Coordinator, came before the Committee to let them know that the reimbursement came through FEMA in the amount of Two Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Seven Dollars (\$2,847.00) clear which is seventy five percent what was being asked for. He stated that there were forms that were picked up at the 911 Center and some at the Municipal Building for damages from the floods the residents had. He stated that he has a list of the applications filled out and found out that they can still accept through FEMA not the State what damages residents may have from all the rain we had. He stated that FEMA is going to be doing this not the State.

Ms. Musso asked Mr. Barbagello what FEMA would be giving the residents and Mr. Barbagello stated that they would be giving them a reimbursement. Ms. Musso asked if this could be advertised and Mr. Barbagello stated that it could not that it had already been advertised in the paper.

Mr. Lauer mann asked Mr. Barbagello what the cutoff was for the applications to be turned in and he stated the end of the month. Mr. Lauer mann asked if it could be posted on the website and Mr. Barbagello stated that he would speak to Mr. Severs and let the Committee know before they did any advertising.

Ms. Musso stated that she would like our Emergency Management Coordinator to find out if the Township could advertise it in our Senior Center or our website and see if they can apply for it until the end of the month.

Joe Neeley, a resident of Deefield Township, came before the Committee to state that he is employed with the Gloucester County Emergency Management and they have a FEMA site where residents can apply for damages suffered from the March rainstorms. He stated that they advertised through various entities or means to well over fifteen thousand residents and their FEMA agents up there are stating that they need to get the message out so they can come in and apply for their relief efforts from the storm or low interest loans. He stated that he was not sure if Cumberland County was declared a disaster or not but there has been site in his area for several months.

He also stated that last week he picked up three (3) trash bags along his property. He stated that a white truck came and walked about five feet and picked up some trash but does not see it everyday although he is not looking for it or is at work. He stated that they should sweep Gershal Avenue all the way down to Sherman Avenue because it looks really bad because the trucks pull off the side of the road and debris blows out of their trucks.

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Sally Callahan, 437 Morton Avenue, came before the Committee to begin by saying she really appreciates the way the Township has handled her questions about the water situation on her property. She stated that she realizes that it is not a Township issue, that everybody here has been a good resource and it has put her right on track with the people that she did need to talk to and she really appreciates it. Mrs. Callahan stated that they have had the water coming in since about the 14th of March and it has been a steady flow. She stated that they have a finished basement and have lived there for seven (7) years but have never had this happen before. She stated that there are two other people next to her that were pumping with a larger hose than theirs and her husband had went to the Office of Emergency Management to fill out papers and they took pictures to put with the form on a CD-Rom. Mrs. Callahan stated that everyone she has spoken to has told her that this has not been declared a disaster that they were still waiting to hear from the agencies. She stated that she has seen people riding up and down Morton Avenue but the vehicles are not marked where she would think they had to do with this matter so she is a little reluctant to walk out and inquire about it. She stated that her husband is working but wanted her to come out this evening to see if the Township had any other direction for them as far as who they can talk to on the road. She stated that Joe Severs of the Emergency Management Office told her that people would be coming around and looking at damage but to date no one has been to her house and she did not know what she should look for.

Mr. Barbagello stated that she would know when they would be coming to her house because FEMA will contact her before they even attempt to stop over.

She stated that in Buena where it was declared a disaster a gentleman whose house was not affected but was helping people in his neighborhood that were and went with some of them to their Township Meetings and they said in that Township the water table was eleven to sixteen feet above normal. She stated that the concrete block on her basement has holes where the water is coming in as steady as a faucet but she is thankful that she can still live in her house and have her pets because a lot of people that she has talked to who were buying pumps are in hotels and their pets are in kennels, so after hearing this she feels blessed.

Chairperson Spatola stated that he feels for her because he has also burned out several pumps and it is over a month that the water is still coming in. He stated that it is flood conditions and our biggest goal is to watch and be vigilant and through our agency and Mr. Barbagello will let us know as soon as possible if this is declared a disaster area or if they include us in their disaster relief and the Township Committee will make sure that everyone knows about it.

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

There being no other 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