

The following are notes, not official minutes. For an official transcript, go to the Delanco Municipal Building at 770 Coopertown Rd.

Township Committee May 21, 2007

Devinney, Hinkle, Templetovn, Ouellette were present; Fitzpatrick absent
Also Present: Steven Corcoran, Twp. Administrator; Twp. Solicitor; Janice Lohr, Municipal Clerk; Karen Zimmermann, Deputy Municipal Clerk

ORDINANCE 2007-7 AMENDING “AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR AND DETERMINING THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES” *2nd READING BY TITLE ONLY AND PUBLIC HEARING HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

no comment

HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Passed unanimously

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

RESOLUTION 2007-79 AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER # 1 FOR THE IMPROVEMENTS TO PERKINS LANE PROJECT

RESOLUTION 2007-80 SUPPORTING THE CLICK IT OR TICKET MOBILIZATION OF MAY 21 – JUNE 3, 2007

PAYMENT OF BILLS

ACCOUNT AMOUNT

GENERAL \$119,648.09

PAYROLL 57,171.04

TRUST 18,861.64

RECREATION TRUST 213.74

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Passed unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter to Board of Health (Township Committee) – renewal notice – dues \$95.00 – to circulation bin for Township Committee to decide whether to join for this year (some years we do, some years we don’t)

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Resident of McCay Way: Click it or ticket?

Hinkle: Seat belts

Lohr: National program

Resident: So they can do it?

Lohr: They can do it anyway.

Hinkle: Fine \$46.

Resident: Didn't realize there is a resolution
Lohr: Money involved –small amount
Resident: Mr. Denton doing grants – paying extra
Devinney: no.
Resident: A lot of money available. Resident is helping Riverside. I will email his info.
Templeton: He could just come here. wouldn't have to drive as far.
Resident: Change order in consent agenda
Devinney: Amount \$137.00

Resident of Pennington Court: Resolution at last meeting releasing bonds at Newton's Landing with conditions. Final copy available.

Lohr: Yes

Resident: Number of the resolution?

Lohr: No, but it is done. Resolutions aren't on the website.

Resident: Shade trees on the resolution. Pulte and township engineer walk through. Did it occur?

Devinney: Yes

Resident: Will there be a report.

Ouelette: Shade tree involved.

Hinkle: No, they weren't asked.

Ouelette: That was one of the conditions.

Corcoran: Kathy Elliot and Walt for Birdsall walked with Pulte.

Resident: 5-6 weeks since basins behind creek were cut. County request that certain things be done on a timely basis. We want to see flowers grow.

Devinney: Plant in the fall.

Resident: Nothing else will happen.

Devinney: They may cut them.

Resident: We're at the same place we are now.

Devinney: No, discussion of planting them in the fall. They will die.

Resident: We complain to code official.

Devinney: If it's overgrown.

Resident of McCay Way: When Pulte seeded, it was the end of the season. They seeded, but the seeds never took.

Devinney: They are going to seed.

Resident: Question that will occur with other developments that will occur in the future. When we have a bond and we rely on an engineering firm which is responsible for monitoring. Things slip through the cracks. We have Creekside and Hovnanian coming in. Let's say there is dirt – by soil erosion standards, you are supposed to water down each day. We have laws in place, but don't have people to monitor. How can the Township stay on top of these kind of things – code enforcer or engineer? I wanted to make the Committee aware that these are issues that are going to come up along the way. You are all part timers and you work.

Templeton: Professionals are in effect part time also. They aren't here full-time. We don't have full-time people. You have the strength in your corner with the Homeowners Association to write a letter.

Resident: I really don't want to see the Township bombarded. When you have Mr. Denton, how specific are the RFP's – that you expect him to do a, b, and c. You may want to ask Joint Land Use Board how to monitor so you can include in RFP.

Devinney: You're suggesting ...how can we become more proactive?

Resident: Yes.

Resident of Kansas: Property of Kansas and Burlington Ave. – grass is knee high. We have ticks. We have children covered in ticks. How can I get that remedied.

Hinkle: Ordinance says it can't be higher than 10 inches. Call code enforcer, right, Mike?

Templeton: Mr. Goffredo is here Tuesdays, Thursdays, and some Fridays

Resident: Do I have to call every year?

Corcoran: Got

Resident of Buttonwood: Pennington – didn't cut what should be cut. Who does it belong to? Did the same thing last year. Last year they didn't cut at all. Small trees are growing in there.

Ouelette: Is that the county

Corcoran: Highway department

Hinkle: Highway department won't go in the park; they only do the road

Templeton: The county owns it, but that crew will only do the highway.

Hinkle: 66 dead trees out there. I'm going to request that they are taken out.

Resident: They died because they had grass growing taking their water. You can't keep a new tree without water.

Devinney: Still signs that say meadowland.

Resident: Will draw mosquitoes. I'm worried about the children.

Resident of Kansas: Anything the Township can do with the ticks. We've never had a problem.

Hinkle: They are bad all over. Everyone has a reason – warm winter, wet summer.

Hawk Island...

Resident: Watching games; they are all over the kids

Hinkle: I remember when we were kids, there weren't any ticks. But then they sprayed with DDT.

Resident: I was hoping there was something we could do.

Hinkle: Avon sells a spray for mosquitoes and ticks and it's very good. Last year my husband got Lyme's disease.

Devinney: Has the county ever done anything?

Corcoran: We can reach out to county mosquito commission.

Resident of Buttonwood: County went all through town two or three times last year spraying the drains.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. MEMORIAL DAY PARADE (Sunday, May 27th)

Starts at Larchmont to Union to 2nd to Willow to bridge at Gateway Park. 1:30pm start for march.

Resident of Burlington Ave: Last year county posted signs in Riverside to let people know that the road was going to be closed. NJ Transit has to reroute the buses so someone tells them. You should notify public that the road will be closed. It was done last year.

Corcoran: I'll check with police

Templeton: I'll check with Dave Rust

2. 2007 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Ouelette: It's been tough. We've applied to finance board for a cap waiver – appointment in June.

Hinkle: Steve, can you explain to the people what that is

Corcoran: Budget has two categories – undercap and overcap. Most are undercap and that phase is controlled by statutes – can increase by 2 ½% or by resolution to 3 ½%.

Challenge is that is fixed regardless of your size or growth. Growing communities challenged to provide same level of services to more people. State moves things from outside cap to inside cap. Sometimes they are large items like municipal court. This year it was insurance. You're not just comparing undercap from year to year. Last year, we went to Trenton for a \$500,000 waiver. This year we need \$280,000. We have to go to the state to spend the Township's money. The huge cost of the operating cost of the mansion affects our budget as that needs to be under cap. If this waiver is approved, Township Committee will be asked to have a waiver referendum approved early next year so they don't have to go to Trenton next year. Last year approved under conditions that there be a referendum. Didn't happen due to effort to sell mansion and revaluation. Essentially we need more than 2 ½% due to growth in the community. Challenge is to reduce or eliminate services. It will be painful. We can't maintain these levels of services and your operating costs at the same time.

Devinney: We're not the only community dealing with this. All on the committee feel the challenge.

Templeton: Mr. Corcoran talked of the shell game in Trenton. Now we have the insurance of \$500,000. It makes things tough on us. We're still in a growth cycle trying to absorb decisions that were made and money that was spent several years ago. We do have some bills coming through.

Resident of Burlington: Why does the state pull things from above cap to below cap?

Corcoran: So that they feel that did something by putting the limit on the Township.

Next year the budget process will be absolutely horrific. Nobody sitting here can possibly imagine it according to our auditor.

Hinkle: It's a shame the state doesn't put some limits on itself?

Resident: Any more workshops?

Lohr: Public hearing on June 11th.

Ouelette: We worked on the budge this evening.

Resident: Open to the pubic?

Lohr: They opened to the public, but much of it was contracts so they had to go to executive.

Resident: Wasn't on the website.

Lohr: If the Township Committee meets on it's regular night, it is covered by the annual meeting notice which states that Committee can meet in executive session at 6:00pm.

Templeton: Two of the budget workshops were preempted by Zurbrugg Mansion redevelopment meetings.

Lohr: Under the clerk's minutes on the website, there are minutes for the special meetings that aren't part of the annual meeting advertisement.

Resident of Buttonwood: Everyone in the room is having the same problem in their own household. When you go to the store, everything is higher than it was the week before.

Look at gasoline. We're going to have a tax bill that's going to be higher.

Lohr: More residents means more street lighting, more landfill space, but

Resident: If you were around in 1929, you'd know what's going on. If it weren't for the credit card...

Templeton: We have shelved all the capital improvements. Our piggybank is low.

We're not buying anything. We're trying to scrimp and save where we can. We don't have redundancy in employees – no people sitting in an office with nothing to do.

Resident: I don't know how Beverly does it.

Devinney: They get a lot of state aid

Hinkle: They are a city and that has a lot to do with it.

Resident of Burlington: Besides salaries and contracts that you can't do anything about, were you able to find a big chunk? Big tickets to cut?

Devinney: Majority of budget is in personnel.

Corcoran: Township Committee has made significant reductions – turned over every rock. With Joan's help, getting Sewerage Authority to forgive or lengthen terms. Cut \$175,000.

Lohr: When budget was introduced, public hearing was announced for June 4th, but there isn't one due to primary. Meeting will be June 11th.

Ouelette: Last year we were supposed to have an increase of 18 cents. Borrowed from surplus knowing that we would have 9 cents to start. State added 10 cents. Right now we're at 21 cents.

Corcoran: They started at 31 cents. They've cut dozens of things. Now you're into the real meat of the budget. This is the hard part. There are no frills. State's medical plan can't keep their cost increase to 2 1/2 %, but they pass it to us under

Templeton: Talked about dipping into the open space fund to help some of the public works and recreation because maintaining those grounds was in that ballot question.

We're looking into the legalities of that. If we can knock off a penny or two, maybe we want to look there. We can't ask people to write checks for hundreds of dollars more each year. I advocated for that open space tax, but we need to go there in these times.

COMMENTS - PROFESSIONALS

COMMENTS – TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR Corcoran

1. Cops and Lobster Day at Red Lobster – Delanco police from 11-2.
2. Winston Chaffin – Emergency Coordinator – resigned. Requires time and training. Asked for motion to move emergency management function to police department. It has grown beyond the scope of a volunteer – in a week, three daytime meetings and 6-7 reports required.

Hinkle: So much time involved, that will be a paid position in time.

Corcoran: A shared position with three or four towns.

Resident of Buttonwood: Fire department is overloaded too. County and state pushes everything off on the townships.

Corcoran: The tenor or communications is not like they are talking to volunteers.

Devinney: Shouldn't this be handled at the county level. County could coordinate this. Why should each township have to do this? This means in townships like ours, jobs really won't get done. It's not effective.

Corcoran: My suspicion -generate reports to justify funding. Example Keith was interrupted at the pump house during a storm to fill out a report about the pump house.

Hinkle: Township Committee are first responders – have to take 2 hour test on computer

Templeton: Talked to Keith – had to buy a \$300 DVD. I asked why county doesn't buy it and put it in the library so that everyone could take it out.

Corcoran: Put it in the police department – level the playing field. They will be dealing with professionals. Keith made the recommendation that a paid Township employee take it over.

Ouelette: Robin will stay?

Corcoran: Yes, will take meetings and reports off their backs.

Templeton: Need to work out the details between the departments during this transition as to who is doing what.

Motion authorizing movement of emergency management coordinator function to police department passed unanimously

COMMENTS - DEPARTMENT HEADS

Municipal Clerk Lohr:

1. Memorial Day – wreath from Township Committee?

Hinkle: Yes

2. Primary is coming up on June 4th. District 6 will vote at Municipal Building for primary and general.

COMMENTS - TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Templeton:

1. Budget – spent 20 hours in the last week on the budget. It's been a learning process.

Spent an hour with Mr. Hudnell every day that he is here. It's difficult and not pretty.

We're working hard on the residents' behalf to survive this.

Hinkle:

1. Lots of meetings.

2. Township Committee reps will meet with Sewerage Authority for fair share

3. Women's Club Garden Tour and Tea upcoming

Devinney:

1. Seminar on ethics – improving procedure handling money. Defined “pay to play” – you can accept nothing. Train two people to do each money job.

2. NJ Vietnam Veterans Memorial – Holmdale exit.

3. March 16 attended NJ League of Municipalities – teleconference – exploring additional sources of funding .
4. School Board – NJ mandate to improve safety of playground equipment – insurance company can't insure Pearson since it doesn't meet the standards. By Oct. 1, will be declared off limits. Two-thirds of the regulations concern padding on the surface; most of the rest is distance at the end of the sliding board. Look at possibility that some of our larger businesses might like to help – Rotary?

Ouelette:

1. With Roseane Lameiras to Philadelphia Census for 2010
2. Emergency, police and fire memorial service

Next meeting Monday, June 11, 2007

Submitted by Maureen Barrett