

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

Township Committee Nov. 11, 2008

Devinney, Hinkle, Templeton, Ouellette Fitzpatrick

Also Present: Mr. Kearns, Twp. Solicitor; Janice Lohr, Municipal Clerk; Karen Zimmermann, Deputy Municipal Clerk; Mr. Denton, Township Engineer; John Fenimore, Public Works ; Phil Goffredo, Code Enforcement; Chief Parsons, Delanco Police; Lt. Sacalis, Delanco Police

ANNOUNCEMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF WALNUT STREET SCHOOL
ELECTIONWINNERS

Mayor: Katharine Stypinski

Deputy Mayor: Emily Noe

Committeemembers: Ian Boltz, Mandie Paygar, Timmy Rottinger

OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TOWALNUT STREET SCHOOL STUDENTS

ORDINANCE 2008-10 AMENDING THE DELANCO TOWNSHIP
CODE, CHAPTER 295, BY ADDING TRAFFIC CONTROL PROVISIONS FOR
THE STREETS WITHIN THE "NEWTON'S LANDING" DEVELOPMENT
2ND READING BY TITLE ONLY AND PUBLIC HEARING
HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chief Parsons added some technical corrections regarding Shipps Way cul de sac.

Resident: We're trying to have no parking around the island. It's easier to describe it as the inside of the loop all the way around. Parking would be on the back up side of the cul de sac

Chief: However you want it worded.

Fitzpatrick: What's he talking about? Inside the loop?

(I lost some of this.) Residents showed a map. There was further conversation referring to the map, but I couldn't see it.) Conversation was regarding wording. Other conversation regarding one-way streets. Final resolution was that there were so many changes, the ordinance couldn't be adopted tonight.

Hearing continued to next week.

ORDINANCE 2008-12 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2005-4 AND SECTION
60-3.C & D OF THE DELANCO TOWNSHIP LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE
PERTAINING TO THE COLLECTION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT FEES
2ND READING BY TITLE ONLY AND PUBLIC HEARING

HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – no comments

HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Passed unanimously

DISCUSSION OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE PARKING ISSUES

Ouellette: NJ Transit is supposed to be coming out in the next few weeks. We invited the residents to come out and give us input regarding parking. We're talking about one ways and safety issues.

Chief: (from memo to Township Committee) Wanted to address these issues with NJ Transit. Two first homes on Pennsylvania Ave. are being affected. Originally we had stopped people from parking on grass. There were too many cars. Many people are using Delanco Station. We allowed parking on grass so residents could park in front of their homes. Some didn't like aesthetics and talked about safety, but we haven't had any problems. If we do restricted parking, we will push them down the streets. Cars in the lot are Delanco residents. We need more parking. We've had people waiting on tracks while someone tries to turn left on Pennsylvania Ave. Considering no left turn into town, but allowing right from town. Concern is someone will be on tracks and a train will come. Residents might have some input to offer tonight. Not a good situation, but we are trying to do the best we can. No one has come out from NJ Transit.

Fitzpatrick: Last correspondence that Mr. Denton received said they were aware and may offer some funding.

Denton: They were working on 2009 budget and trying to find some funding for parking.

Templeton: I've had contact with a Ms. Hutton at NJ Transit as well as a regional general manager and assistant general manager. We've been trying to coax them to come here tonight. NJ Transit is reluctantMs. Hutton had come down and walked the site. She is looking at a meeting before Thanksgiving with Fenimore, Parsons, Denton. Ms. Hutton reiterated that NJ Transit is looking at funding even though they originally felt we should pay for it. I think they understand that we have a situation here. With snowplowing, it won't get any better.

Hinkle: We've talked about fence and curb. This is the most unusual spot the RiverLine has. There isn't anywhere else you can just pull up to the train and get in. Riverside and Beverly have tons of parking. They don't want to walk. More of it should be put towards the transit line. They will continue to do that.

Fitzpatrick: We could curb it. There is one end where they don't have enough parking in front of their homes. We've always allowed them to park there since there isn't enough room to park there.

Resident: We always pull in nose first.

Ouellette: Why don't we open it to the public. Please come forward so we can bring this to NJ Transit.

Fitzpatrick: Before we do that, we have to say that we are considering a no left turn.

Resident of Pennsylvania: Letter isn't working. People are parked on Spruce.

Regarding one-way...everybody leaving train station will go through the neighborhood.

Parsons: We're not making it a one-way, just no left turn.

Resident: That's fine, but people should know not to park on railroad tracks. I've lived within blocks of that intersection for years no accidents. Regarding parking...warn and then ticket. It's our police's job too. I think it would be a short time before people stopped doing that. As far as the 50 people parking lot, I was on the board then and people were against the larger parking lot.

Parsons: Everyone wants to park right beside the train.

Fitzpatrick: We've had residents who can't park in front of their house. That's why we opened up the grass.

Resident: Permit parking might be an option.

Fitzpatrick: We were considering it with permits to residents.

Resident of Pennsylvania Ave (2): You are right that people are lazy. Transit's problem has become our problem. It looks horrendous. NJ Transit has land. It's their issue. We should just enforce our regulations. No left turn – would affect deliveries. If a truck is coming from Rt. 130, they would have to come through town.

Parsons: We are concerned that someone will get hit by a train and they will want to know why we let that happen.

Ouellette: Tractor trailers?

Parsons: Guy across the street? That's going to have to stop.

Resident: Ordinance they have requires someone to stop traffic for their trucks. That came up at the planning board.

Resident of Pennsylvania Ave (3): NJ Transit came into schools and taught kids not to trespass on their property. We're allowing adults to do that when they get out of their cars and walk across the property. It's a simple solution.

Parsons: I don't have the officers I would need to sit there. We're trying to stop them from parking in front of your homes. The only ones going past Union are the people who live there. If they cut across the landscaping, I don't have the officers to sit there.

Transit guys should be doing that. They have thousands of officers and I have eight. We need their help and they aren't helping us.

Resident: No left turn will cause problem on Spruce St. since cars are right down to the corner.

Parsons: I haven't had any calls on that.

Resident: Isn't it supposed to be 15 ft. from the corner?

Parsons: We can block the grass and write everybody and hope they ride from another town.

Resident: Coming down Spruce onto Pennsylvania Ave, it's hard to see.

Fitzpatrick: I go down there all the time.

Resident: That lot is half empty at 6 in the morning, but they are parked in front of my house.

Parsons: We can put a fence on the grass and enforce the no parking.

Resident of Spruce: Concerned about traffic. Hard to turn right. It's a nightmare. Is there talk of expanding the parking lot?

Templeton: yes.

Resident: Soon?

Fitzpatrick: There's been a lot of talk.

Parsons: We'll just block off the grass and write everyone.

Fitzpatrick: If we did permit, we would have to provide for Pennsylvania, Spruce and (I missed it) For example, Victor would have two permits and would still have his driveway for a visitor.

Resident: Next to me is a house with five cars. What if you have company coming and no permit?

Fitzpatrick: In my neighborhood, parking is like a feud between neighbors. We should enforce the no parking on the grass. If that doesn't work, we would have to go to permits.

Resident: The little side streets don't need additional cars.

Resident of Pennsylvania (4) Live on Pennsylvania and Spruce. At 6 in the morning, sometimes it's hard for me to pull out of my space. From across from my house to in front of the train station, they are half on the street and half on the grass. People pull over to wait. I've seen them pull onto the sidewalk. Spruce St. – house behind me has five cars. Trash truck has to redirect their route to get down Spruce St. Normal cars have difficulty getting down Spruce – young children live there.

Fitzpatrick: You can't get two cars down there at one time.

Resident: There are problems from 6 in the morning to 6 at night – sometimes overnight on the grass.

Parsons: If they stay in the lot over night, they tow them.

Resident: No, they are in the lot all night too.

Resident of Pennsylvania (6): Lived there 34 years. Sometimes I can't park in front of my house. Truck came up Spruce and ripped the bumper right off a car on the grass. I don't like the idea of fencing off the grass. I'll never get a spot.

Parsons: We can't please everyone.

Resident: If I go out, I can't get a spot. There is plenty of space in the lot.

Parsons: If you do residential parking, there's no place to park if you have a party.

Hinkle: I wonder if the students have any thoughts on the parking.

Templeton: Jump right in.

Student Mayor: Sometimes we park at our neighbor's house after school.

Hinkle: I've been there three mornings at 6:00 – half the spots were empty, but they were still parked there.

Resident of Spruce (by email through Lohr): Parking gets worse with time. Traffic increased – speeding. Cars are double-parked. Difficult to make a left from Spruce to Pennsylvania.

Fitzpatrick: Can't we put yellow paint on streets so they don't park right into the end?

Parsons: We can do that. I think we have to do more there. If they park on the grass, we write them. People are parked everywhere. Maybe there will be enough complaints for light rail to do something.

Fenimore: Tell light rail that we are going to give them two weeks. They can move those rocks.

Hinkle: Give them a little warning.

Fitzpatrick: We need to send them a letter telling them what they are doing and telling them that they need to provide parking for their commuters. They could move the rocks.

Sacalis: Issue has increased since gas prices went up. 40% of the cars there belong to Delanco residents. You will push people to Laurel. The intersection – painting would be good. Area along the tracks is NJ Transit property. We need a letter from them to give us the authority.

As a township, we need to ban together to hound NJ Transit.

Resident of Second St: Suggestion- important that people use light rail – saves energy and CO2. You don't want to punish them for using it. You don't want to punish the commuters. It's not Delanco's problem. It's light rail's. Document and tell them to build a garage there. It's a problem that needs to be addressed overall. Residents should be involved in sending the petition.

Resident of McCay: With new homes being built, send a letter to builders that people aren't allowed to park in that area. Send a petition from residents to NJ Transit and then ticket. Left-turn issue is really important.

Ouellette: Ms. Hutton has been out to Pennsylvania Ave. and will be back out within the next two weeks. If we don't get a positive response, we need to go to a petition for additional pressure.

Templeton: When that meeting occurs, notify Trenton legislators so we can get additional leverage.

Fitzpatrick: Send a letter now – stating comments of residents who spoke at this meeting regarding safety and parking. It's impacting property values in town. The quick remedy is to move those stones. They could get fifty spaces there. What I don't understand is that we had an ordinance that you couldn't park there. Why can't we ticket?

Parsons: We need permission from them.

Fitzpatrick: That's why the letter needs to go now.

Hinkle: It would be a good idea to engage our legislators – one lives here in town.

Fitzpatrick: If each resident who came out signed their name and address, it would be important for us to document.

Resident of McCay: When the ordinance went in for light rail, was there a description?

Fitzpatrick: They went to the schools to educate. They had public meetings to show the train and the crosswalks.

Resident: Any documents between the town and NJ Transit?

Fenimore: Yes, on the planning board.

Fitzpatrick: How far back does that go?

Templeton: We can get the paint for the streets. (To Denton) Can we bracket driveways?

Denton: You could establish parking wherever you want to.

Templeton: We'll see if NJ Transit does come down. Hopefully they will do something – move rocks to the grass so people can't park there.

Parsons: I can do a letter as soon as you want.

Resident of Pennington: Pennsylvania is a Delanco street...

Fenimore: That's what we thought when we were cutting the grass there until the light rail came in.

Resident of Pennsylvania (7); Noise from horns - can't hear TV. Why don't they pull nose in?

Parsons: Landscaping. When we check the vehicles, they are different every day.

Resident: Let them park across the street. Get them away from the front of our houses.

Resident of Pennsylvania (8) Lifelong resident. Not allowing left turn on Pennsylvania will be a problem. We've had problems with tractor trailers parked in front of our house at 3 in the morning. How are those rigs going to back in across the street? Transit has impacted the property values, but our taxes haven't gone down. By 6:20 every morning, every 20 minutes you can't hear yourself think. It's made life miserable for everyone on Pennsylvania Ave. Parking at Cooper Street end hasn't been a problem. We need to get on the light rail folks. I wasn't in favor of light rail. I think that was a bad decision. Making a left out of Pennsylvania Ave. is dangerous. It's just hard to see. I would like to

see it widened so there could be a left turn lane. I don't know about permit parking. You'll have a problem with visitors.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Fitzpatrick: Water bill is \$200 for Gateway Park. It should only be \$23. It's high on the municipal building too.

Ouellette: Had sprinklers fixed. Irrigation water meter is in the back room. We subtract that from the overall reading. With Mr. Templeton and Shirianne's help, we were able to track that down.

Fitzpatrick: Reimbursement of Zurbrugg?

Ouellette: That should have come out of Open Space

Fitzpatrick: And Parker McCay's bill – the same thing?

Ouellette: Yes.

RESOLUTION 2008-140 REFUND OF TAX OEVERPAYMENTS- REDUCED ASSESSMENTS

RESOLUTION 2008-141 AUTHORIZING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO ADVANCE PAYMENT FOR CERTAIN EXPENDITURES INCURRED BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS FOR THE NEW JERSEY LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 2008-142 AUTHORIZING THE TREASURER TO PAY LONGEVITY PAYMENTS TO QUALIFYING CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES

RESOLUTION 2008-143 GRANTING AND REFUNDING VETERAN'S TAX DEDUCTION FOR YEAR 2008

RESOLUTION 2008-144 REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT – 3RD QTR 2008

APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF PERMIT FEES – DOBBINS MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –LETTER OF 10/21/2008

APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSES: 2008-18, 2008-25 & 2008-60

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 9/30/2008

PAYMENT OF BILLS

ACCOUNT AMOUNT
GENERAL \$989,745.10
PAYROLL 30,240.96
CAPITAL 2,810.00
PUBLIC DEFENDER 300.00
TRUST 3,947.18
ACCUMULATED ABSENCES 30,633.89
HOUSING TRUST 12,715.21
MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE 1,834.45

Ouellette: Question on business license...car dealer?

Hinkle: He's not supposed to sell cars there.

Parsons: He's hardly ever there.

Lohr: He needed a physical address. It's one or two cars. He came to planning board. It's to keep his license.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Resident of Burlington and Maple: Two street lights put up last week.(showed photos). Three street lights are within two houses in one block. There is plenty of light on that street.

Fitzpatrick: Did public service put them up?

Resident: Public service said I would have to come to your next meeting.

Fitzpatrick: Did they tell you why they were installing them?

Resident: Public service installed (referred to numbers on his photos that I couldn't see.) In one spot, it's really dark, but they took that one down.

Resident: On that whole street, there are three lights all the way down to the river, but there are five on the other side.

Templeton: Are the new lights a different color?

Resident: Yes, they are dim and brown. We can barely see our house parked out there.

Devinney: You are saying that despite all this light, you aren't getting enough illumination.

Resident: Dog was almost hit on the sidewalk. Cars make wide turns. We were glad they were putting a light on number 4.

Templeton: Mr. Devinney and I were surveying lights – our electric bill on street lights was \$65,000 a year. Lights were on intersection and sometimes in the middle. This is unusual.

Fitzpatrick: So you are asking for one to be put on #4.

Resident: Maybe one could be moved to #4. Our neighbors all agree. Maybe light on pole #7 could be moved to pole #4.

Fitzpatrick: We need PSEG pole numbers.

Resident had one of the pole numbers.

Devinney: I will look at what is in those lamps. It made no difference in price based on illumination. Maybe I can improve the illumination.

Fitzpatrick: Do you want to get rid of #7?

Resident: There is a lot there.

Templeton: I will check it on my way home tonight and Mr. Devinney and I will look into it.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

CORRESPONDENCE -Lohr

1. Schools will start Preschool program for income eligible residents – call Nancy Fox at the school.

2. Letter from NJ Transit – proposed bus stop at Falcon Lane at RiversEdge. We would need to do a resolution.

Ouellette: DEP letter regarding hazardous substance discharge notification – Coopertown Rd. NVR – passed on to attorney for review.

Lohr requested a copy for the file.

Fenimore: Did it say what it was?

Ouellette: Oil

Kearns: 100 gallons of oil on NVR property.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

FY 2009 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Denton: Walnut and sidewalk on Poplar – both were approved, but there wasn't enough money to do both. We should reapply.

Fitzpatrick: Did the grant people contact you, John?

Fenimore: I know they are bad on Walnut. Poplar needs a curb.

Fitzpatrick: When we did Rancocas, we were going to do the other side. We walked that with Birdsall. We were going to widen it using our property (easement).

Fenimore: Rancocas, Union, Walnut,

Fitzpatrick: Washington is getting bad. Can we get more than one street?

Denton: We can apply.

Fenimore: I would say Poplar. There aren't curbs. We are going to have to remove several trees there. That was our main drainage problem. Everything dumps down to Ash.

Ouellette: I believe we are allotted around \$73,000.

Denton: (missed this.)

Templeton: Is there a black list for contractors like that?

Denton: Contractors like that you only deal with once.

Fenimore: They use a different name.

Lohr: Public hearing for first meeting in December.

COMMENTS – PROFESSIONALS

Denton:

-Report on Zurbrugg Waterfront – showing plan to use stone ripwrap – stone needs to be sloped. Lots of variation in riverbed elevation. Sheet piling (? I couldn't hear whether he said piling or paneling) which is vertical would enable us to reclaim the land. A vinyl product has been used on the Hudson. We are waiting for additional information, but it is promising due to cost effectiveness. We could reclaim 5,000 square feet. It would cost \$100,000 more to reclaim that area.

Fitzpatrick: Is there a grant?

Denton: I haven't been able to find any.

Ouellette: Army Corps of Engineers?

Templeton: I forwarded a letter from the Riverkeeper listing grant sources.

Denton: They didn't include any for us.

Devinney: Ripwrap cost?

Denton: \$85,000.

Templeton: What is the lifetime on the vinyl?

Denton: It lasts a long time. I'm concerned about ice.

Hinkle: We have ice.

Denton: There is also a composite that would be a little more.

Templeton: I passed on the name of Joanne Davis from DEP who seemed to be in favor of us reclaiming. Do you know about the ZANE exemption?

Denton: We're working under an emergency... it's quicker.

Kearns:

-DEP issue – nothing the township can do. (Missed what it was – didn't speak into the microphone)

COMMENTS - DEPARTMENT HEADS

1. Police

-Armed robbery at 7 Eleven – apparently he made it up.

2. Public Works

-Leaf season

-Carts coming in for recycling on Thursday – 954 of them which require assembly – takes 4-5 hours to assemble. I went to see them. They are huge.

-removed 17 trees and 23 stumps.

-employee injured at home – short a man for leaves.

Ouellette: On generators... we have two quotes. Company from Riverton – one year \$1300...\$2400 for two years.

I left at this point. It was 10:00.

Maureen Barrett

3. Zoning and Code Enforcement

4. Municipal Clerk

COMMENTS - TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

ADJOURNMENT