

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

Township Committee April 6, 1009

Devinney, Hinkle, Fitzpatrick, Jass, Templeton joined meeting in progress as per notes below

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – DELANCO SCHOOLS Budget 2009-2010

Walter Bowyer – Interim Superintendent

Bowyer: Public hearing was held regarding budget. Booklets are left over. (Referred to booklet). Budget shows a decrease of 1 cent. Expenditure side is under cap, but there is a decrease due to three factors – state aid of \$124,000, Board’s decision to budget more free balance than usual (\$250,000 more), and increase in ratables.

-No new positions

-Expenses gone up due to tuition increase from Riverside (17% - \$12,000 per kid) and salary increases in contract. Out of district special ed placements – three moved in this year already in out of district placements. We had to absorb these costs.

-Administrative costs 4 ½% lower since administrators are interim and they don’t need health benefits.

-Pre-school expansion – Governor had proposed this – Funding was taken out, so that program will not be started.

***ORDINANCE 2009-5 C A L E N D A R Y E A R 2 0 0 9 MODEL ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

2ND READING BY TITLE ONLY AND PUBLIC HEARING

HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – no public comment

HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Passed unanimously

***ORDINANCE 2009-6 REGULATING STILL PHOTOGRAPHY, VIDEOTAPING AND AUDIOTAPING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS**

2ND READING BY TITLE ONLY AND PUBLIC HEARING

HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – no comment

HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Passed unanimously

COMMENTS – PROFESSIONALS

Heinold: Abundant Life Zoning – questions raised – ordinance sent to Abundant Life and our COAH planner – should be ready two weeks from tonight – April 20

Denton:

-Roof drain piping at Municipal Building – 2 prices submitted. Recommending award to Artex. (Not sure if I have the company name correct)

Schwab: Only purchase order required. Balance of bonding from building

-Ready for Richards St.

Fitzpatrick: Grant from DOT.

Schwab: Needs to be supplemented from local funds. Will discuss through budget meeting.

Denton: \$15,800.

Schwab: Design work can't be paid by the state. We'll go over it and send out a letter of authorization.

Schwab: Monday – public meeting on budget here at 7:30. We had a reduction in state aid of 2 ½ %. Delanco has been hit with a \$120,000 reduction in two years.

COMMENTS – TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

COMMENTS - DEPARTMENT HEADS

1. Police – Sacalis

-Looking into contacting seniors – no one has answered at the number you gave me.

-Building project – I need to contact JIF

2. Public Works – Fenimore

-First brush pick-up wasn't too heavy – more out this week

-Leaves – we've started.

-No storm damage from winds.

-Fields were ready for Opening Day

-Women's Club going to do anything for Hawk Island Clean-up?

Hinkle: That's CUPHI - Debbie is willing to do it. We usually do it in the fall.

Fenimore: We have Clean Community money

-DYSA – Cleaned up ball fields – can get Clean Community money

-Banner – can't put it on telephone poles – need a permit. Last year it was taken down.

They took it down and gave it to the fire house.

Fitzpatrick: Can we write a letter and ask for permission?

Hinkle: Poles are shared.

Fitzpatrick: I'll look into it.

(Phil Jenkins will look into it through his contacts as well.)

Fenimore:

-Dates for dumpsters – April 25 or May 9. We'll put three out by the garage and list items that can go in there.

Jass: Is that enough time to get it in the *Beverly Bee*?

Fitzpatrick: Yes, we'll go with May 9

Fenimore: I was one of the houses robbed. I wasn't able to recover anything. The police kept at it and that really helped. Though we lost stuff we can never replace, they kept trying until they got results. I really appreciate that.

Fitzpatrick: Two of our officers have received Lawman of the Year awards – April 16th is the dinner. Adam and Jessie. Burglar has been booked.

Sacalis: It was a trying case – other counties involved.

Fitzpatrick: DYSA had opening day – 199 children in softball, baseball, and T-ball. I was told that paths were cut, but they weren't. It's easier for the kids to understand the game if the paths are there. We could rent the equipment from Beverly cemetery.

Fenimore: We can't

Fitzpatrick: Just rent it and do it and make our volunteers jobs easier even if we have to replace the grass for soccer. Do we have any infield dirt left?

Fenimore: About a trash can full.

Fitzpatrick: We have to do it. This is the learning group. It's well worth it to me. It's a great activity for kids. We're fortunate to have so many parents volunteering.

Devinney (to John): I had an anonymous comment that you were out the day before preparing these fields

Fenimore: We take pride in what we do out there.

3. Zoning and Code Enforcement - Goffredo

February – 24 complaints, 20 in compliance, 1 summons, 4 pending violations

Rentals – did one and issued certificate. Zoning – two permits approved. Winzinger complaint was adjudicated.

March – 11 complaints, 13 in compliance, 3 summonses, 4 pending violations

15 commercial rental certificates were issued – none failed. 3 zoning permits approved and 3 denied and sent to Joint Land Use Board

Pulte and the basins – hopefully they are going to maintain

Fitzpatrick: Basins are on first year – what was the problem?

Goffredo: Traps were blocked. Homeowners' Association cleared them.

Jass: When does Pulte come in for the hearing?

Goffredo: April 15.

Heinold: I think it's in May

Sacalis: May 20th

Jass: Someone was out doing the paths – issues on Scott Taylor's list.

Goffredo: 320 Orchard started cleaning up

Fitzpatrick: You issued a warrant

Goffredo: Yes.

Fitzpatrick: They didn't come to court.

Goffredo: Yes

Fitzpatrick: Can't you talk to him, George? Residents have been fuming about this property for years.

Goffredo: 312 Walnut is in court. He is getting an attorney.

4. Municipal Clerk - none

Township Committee
Devinney:
-Attended Budget Meeting

Hinkle:
-Attended Budget Meeting
-Attended special meeting for two ordinances
-Project Mayor – meeting – project per year – West Avenue is the focus- will plant a tree on Arbor Day – Shade Tree members and mayor will accept Tree City Award
-Thanks to police for job on burglaries

Jass:
-Opening Day was wonderful – adorable kids
-Historic Preservation – changing library display to shoemaking industry. Current display will rotate to Municipal Building...getting ID badges.
-annual update for RiverRoute Advisory Board – will be here May 4 –
-Boy Scouts are having a plant sale and selling mulch

Fitzpatrick:
- Attended two School Board meetings - poorly attended by public – budger April 21st. Candidate for School Board – Phil Jenkins, Eric Hoffman – police officer in town who has done a great job with youth. There is another open slot – write-in candidate – Tom Lewandowski.
-Eight former mayors met
-Egg hunt was Sunday
-DYSA opening day
-Women’s Club dinner to benefit Delanco Public Library
-2209 \$4,500 Clean Community entitlement – can be used for the budget
-Memorial Day Parade – notice from Riverside American Legion – Are we going to participate?
-Costco Day for municipal employees...

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Fitzpatrick: Mike sent email regarding Master Plan monies – since he isn’t here, let’s hold that.

**RESOLUTION 2009-61 RESOLUTION HONORING TROOPS AND SUPPORTING
“SUPPORT OUR TROOPS
RESOLUTION 2009-62 ADOPTING BURLINGTON COUNTY HAZARD
MITIGATION PLAN**

RESOLUTION 2009-63 APPROVING THE TOWNSHIP OF DELANCO'S
APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, COPS HIRING
RECOVERY PROGRAM (CHRP) GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING

PAYMENT OF BILLS

ACCOUNT AMOUNT

GENERAL \$ 819361.75

PAYROLL 105177.99

TRUST 19116.91

HOUSING TRUST 4272.69

MNCPL OPEN SPACE 5481.52

APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR MARRIAGE CEREMONY AT GATEWAY PARK

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 2/2/09 & 2/9/09

APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSES

2009-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 & 22

CONSENT AGENDA Passed unanimously

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

-no comment

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

CORRESPONDENCE - Lohr

1. DOT Municipal Aide for Safe Streets and Trnasit Village,. – two separate application
Fitzpatrick: Edwards is the next one

Fenimore: Yes.

Fitzpatrick: Washington could be done with CCD (not sure I have the right letters)

Devinney: If we applied for a bike way grant, would it impact our money for roads?

Denton: No

Hinkle: How about the sidewalk from Seven Eleven to train.

Lohr: Traditional and non-traditional projects within ½ mile of a train station are
mentioned. Seems perfect.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. LIGHTS FOR BURLINGTON AVE. STREETSCAPE PHASE II – Vine to Union on
old Municipal Building side.

Fitzpatrick: We just have to OK – cost is \$7000. There are capital funds for that, but
Mike and Ed were checking to see what lights were going to be removed. As soon as you
know, I can contact PSE&G and find out what the process is and we would only have to
purchase a few more.

Devinney: We will clean that up.

2. POLICE VIDEO CAMERA

Fitzpatrick: Police video camera – Chief said he would put it my mailbox, but I didn't get
it.

Schwab: Was required statewide; we have quotes and will go over at budget meeting.

3. CHANGE DATE FOR MAY MEETING

Fitzpatrick: Two members can't make the 18th. We could have the 4th and the 11th.

Schwab: If you cover everything on the 4th, you can cancel.

4. TOWNSHIP PROPERTY - "THE DUNES"

Devinney: It's a big piece of open property. When I looked at Master Plan, it doesn't say a whole lot about what we want to do there. We've discussed the possibility for putting it or some of it under Green Acres. I'm bringing it up to see what you all feel about the Dunes. I'm concerned to leave a piece hanging there which could end up with something we don't want like housing.

Fitzpatrick: How is it zoned?

Lohr: Municipal

Fitzpatrick: Can we put a deed restriction on it? Mike has done a lot of research on it. He has the deeds. I will ask Mike to send that information over to you. We can continue the conversation. I would hate to restrict it from being able to do anything on it, but I wouldn't want housing. We have a concern with sewage line at West Avenue. I know that's a concern.

Chairman of Sewerage Authority: Delran's leaf mulch had to be moved for Green Acres. Dunes are dredge spoils. I've heard the Corps is going to dredge and isn't. Township owes \$350,000 to us – supposed to make a payment this year. Sewerage Authority will trade you the money for the land.

Fitzpatrick: Is there an acreage amount?

Jenkins: Why not all of it. We don't have plans to build a sewer plant there – we have another five year agreement with Beverly. We might have to add a holding tank to Beverly.

Fitzpatrick: Are any improvements needed right now? I understand that the current plant is sufficient for our flow.

Jenkins: Yes.

Hinkle: It's only operating on half the capacity.

Jenkins: If Corps wants to dredge, they aren't dealing with the township, they are dealing with the Sewerage Authority.

Fitzpatrick: If this were Green Acres, I was told they couldn't dredge on it. That is incorrect. Green Acres would not stop them from dredging there. I don't know if the Sewerage Authority would have any more authority than the township.

Jenkins: None of us know where it is going to go. John could still have the mulch there and the fall fest. It would give the Sewerage Authority a bargaining chip when we go back to Beverly in five years.

Fitzpatrick: All that talk and the study was part of what Beverly wanted to do in their redevelopment plan, but that went south.

(Templeton joined the meeting in progress at this point.)

Hinkle: It's a beautiful piece of property and I want to preserve it. If you do Green Acres, you don't own it. If we do a deal with the Sewerage Authority, maybe you could do fields for us.

Jass: When you do Green Acres, anyone can use it. It requires more police, etc. I would like to postpone this at this time.

Fitzpatrick: No real rush on this decision. I don't want to see a housing development. I think we should put a deed restriction on it fairly soon. Mike, can you forward the information on the deeds to Doug?

Templeton: Copies are with Janice now.

Matulewicz of Enviromental Advisory Board: Ironic to read about towns along the Delaware fighting for every scrap of property that can be used for recreational use – even cleaning up and reclaiming properties. Ball fields in Delran, etc. by sewer plants – you can smell it. Green Acres said that compost facilities are grandfathered. It's an incredibly valuable piece of property. Even entertaining the idea of sewer facilities there is a poor decision.

Templeton: I was originally motivated by the threat of dredging and looked into Green Acres. The township does own the Dunes free and clear – copies are there. Several properties in town were listed in April of 06 – Babe Ruth, West End fields. I don't think we've had a great influx of outside users – nor has the state come in and imposed anything.

Fitzpatrick: We can restrict the development ourselves and still own it.

Templeton: You would still own it.

Fitzpatrick: We can do this now until we decide if we want to do it. What if we do need land for something down the road? I'm not thinking of a sewer plant. I think it's too valuable to make that decision if there are other means where we have more control. I don't think we need to make the decision overnight. If we restrict it, does it run with the deed?

Heinold: To remove it, you would have to go to court. You can't guarantee it forever. It seems to me that there are competing demands for the property, but it's a large piece of property. Maybe there is way of meeting those needs. At some point, you need to develop an overview of how you are going to use or not use the property.

Hinkle: Can we get a grant for a totally independent study?

Heinold: Dave and Scott would know.

Hinkle: I would be willing to do that.

Fitzpatrick: Maybe a portion could go to John, part to Green Acres

Jass: When you do Green Acres, can we put out no trespassing signs?

Heinold: No, you have to provide reasonable public access. You can still put recreational fields and prioritize use, but have to allow outside groups to use it.

Jass: Regarding the Army Corps – does it being public property make it easier?

Heinold: Does the Corps honor those restrictions or does the federal level override? I'd want to know that if we did use Green Acres for that, it would work.

Fitzpatrick: I was told that the Green Acres had nothing to do with the Corps

Hinkle: Problem with jughandle in Edgewater Park– Green Acres wouldn't let them use it.

Heinold: If you are going to use it for recreation anyway... If you already have something on the list you want to remove, you may be able to trade a piece out. It's a very difficult process to get a property unlisted.

Fenimore: The number one thing is the clarification about who will own the property. If I were a Township Committee member, I would be more proactive on it. I think you guys have to do your homework.

Fitzpatrick: You could apply for a development grant which is a 2% loan for improvement (from Green Acres).

Fenimore: Look at all we've done up there ourselves. Mike has a lot of good information. Get a committee together and make a plan for the area.

Fitzpatrick: John has an area where he has planted shrubs up there. It's beautiful. We should open it up to our public residents.

Fenimore: We have to stop development.

Lohr: This is a significant piece of property. I've seen lots of ideas for it over the years. It has the best low tide beaches. It's a significant piece of waterfront. Towns go into debt for waterfront. My family camps in a small town that developed a similar area over the span of a few decades. It's a wonderful facility for the residents. It's nothing fancy – not a 3 or 4 million dollar project. We should have a plan for the property. It's gorgeous. We may not see it under our time, but it's valuable for our future residents.

Templeton: The EAB went to Florence to meet with a presenter from NJ Audubon Society. They are putting together information regarding wildlife and birding. In this economy, people are looking for a town with amenities nearby – nature and a place to buy a drink or use a bathroom. We have the Dunes and Hawk Island. We have benches for someone elderly or handicapped as well as light hiking on Hawk Island or the Dunes. I see some good things coming together. We don't have to buy anything and it gets people into nature. Is there a way to open up access to Hawk Island and the Dunes so we can develop some stewardship to nurture these areas?

Fitzpatrick: We don't own enough of Hawk Island to open it up. We could open up the Dunes. We have that ATV.

Sacalis: No, we don't. They went out of business.

Hinkle: Still dirt bikes out there?

Sacalis: They will start up again.

Fenimore: It would be great to sit down with the engineer. It would be a great place to have some walking paths. Let's see what we can come up with. Opening it up to the public would be a great idea.

Devinney: This has been a positive and useful discussion. We can do a deed restriction and possibly open it up as a park

Fitzpatrick: Legislation – contractors who cut down trees in town should be certified.

Shade Tree is asking that we move forward with this. State Bills 2503 2872

We'll circulate and discuss at next work session.

Jenkins: This hurts little guy trying to make a buck.

Matulewicz: You had discussed residents taking care of their own trees. Tree work is inherently very dangerous. I would be in favor. It's like Burlington's Code.

ADJOURNMENT

Submitted by Maureen Barrett