

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

Township Committee November 9, 2009

Devinney, Templeton, Fitzpatrick, Jass

Also Present: Mr. Schwab, Acting Township Administrator, Mr. Heinold, Twp. Solicitor; Dave Denton, Township Engineer, Janice Lohr, Municipal Clerk; Karen Zimmermann, Deputy Municipal Clerk; Chief Sacalis, Delanco Police

Fitzpatrick: Joan Hinkle can't be with us due to an illness. The Delanco Women's Club runs this program through 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Walnut Street School.

\*ANNOUNCEMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF WALNUT STREET SCHOOL STUDENT ELECTIONWINNERS

\*OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TOWALNUT STREET SCHOOL STUDENTS

ORDINANCE 2009-17 PROVIDING FOR THE TOWNSHIP'S DEVELOPMENT OF PENNINGTON FARM PARK LOCATED AT BLOCK 2100, LOTS 12 & 12.01 ON CREEK ROAD, APPROPRIATING \$300,000 THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$300,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF

\*2nd READING BY TITLE ONLY AND PUBLIC HEARING

Fitzpatrick: To certify that township has ability to pay back \$300,000 loan from Green Acres. Intention to repay through open space tax. Fund has \$200,000. Cost is \$20,000 a year for 39 payments. Money is earmarked for soccer fields at Pennington. Plan by engineer for two fields \$500,000+ (included irrigation) That estimate went along with the plan after DYSA met. Decision to work on the soccer end.

HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Resident of Pennsylvania Ave: Supportive of bond. 99-2000 when I was on committee worked on concept of rec center at Pennington based on needs of kids who would be coming here. We bonded \$1.5 -1.3 - it didn't get done for various reasons. Don't pass the opportunity up.

Resident of Second Street: All for kids having soccer fields. Question: Usually fields have fertilizer and pesticides. I would hope that something organic would be used since those chemicals aren't good for kids. Why does it cost so much to build a couple of fields? Seems outrageously expensive. Heard for the first time tonight that there will be equipment and a place to keep it. I can't go along with spending that much money for soccer fields.

Fitzpatrick: Regarding soil – asked Doug to get first phase plan from county so we can see their test results. Planner indicated that he would need a copy of that. Soils are very sandy. In planner's experience, if there was contamination it would be long gone. They remove 12 inches of soil, set it aside and check it.

Resident: I understand that. I'm talking about growing new grass. We're realizing how dangerous that is for kids.

Fitzpatrick: I thought you were talking about what existed.

Resident: No, what you put there will run off into the Rancocas. There is an eagle nest there.

Fitzpatrick: Green Acres wouldn't have approved the initial plan if they hadn't looked into that. There is a buffer zone. Contractors and planners have to follow certain rules with being close to the water.

Resident: You would think so.

Denton: I'm not familiar with phase one. Fertilizers (couldn't hear him)...if it had been farmland.

Resident: What I am asking is that you stay on top of it and make it safe.

Resident of Pine St: I'm against this. I heard something for the first time tonight – 39 years.

Fitzpatrick: No, \$20,000 a year – 39 payments

Resident: When we made our proposal for the “field of dreams”, we were thinking of everyone ... kids, seniors.... we had a plan that people could look at.

Fitzpatrick: We bonded \$500,000

from audience ...Are you against it?

Resident: Yes, I ...

Fitzpatrick: We didn't want to do a plan until we knew that this loan was still available to us. Original loan of \$300,000 for whole field of dreams included a \$300,000 match from the township. We knew we couldn't afford that. We met with DYSA and Rec to see what they needed. Our engineer came up with a plan for 2 soccer fields. We are getting a loan for \$300,000 for a project that costs \$500,000. We submitted a plan for millions and now we are getting the same loan for this project.

Resident: Any consideration to put sidewalks to go out there?

Fitzpatrick: Not on the plan.

Resident: It's dangerous for kids without one.

Jass: Hovnanian's project – They haven't come in to Joint Land Use Board for final.

Resident: That's only 150 feet.

Resident of Walnut: Not in support. Open space money ...I prefer that to be used to buy natural land that might be left or to build trails. You say there is no tax impact. I know that public works is working hard. There are piles of leaves on the streets.. Maintaining fields cost money. 50% of our taxes are going to schools – plenty of people who don't have children. We just had a school construction. That carried cost.

Resident of ....: My children participate in sports. When we travel, other towns have better fields than we do. When people buy homes, they look at schools and fields. I would like the fields built now.

President of DYSA: I speak for the coaches. Thanks to everyone for coming out tonight. With both sides of the argument, we can see where we are going. We have over 300 kids enrolled – 200 signed up for soccer 80% Delanco. Why are we looking at this and contemplating both sides? Why do we need it? We have the best volunteers and coaches. We need to keep our momentum. The \$300,000 starts the project moving

forward. Once we get that, DYSA will fully support that we move forward. We will work together with Rec.

Jass: How many games did you play?

Resident: 11 weeks – August thru November. We use the fields seven days a week. The fields are in terrible condition.

Jass: What is the overlap? Adult soccer?

Resident: Older men's league and middle school uses fields from 3-5.

Jass: Why don't you use the AA field?

Resident: Parking. Issues in past where nets were removed from where we play. Last year, one of the soccer nets almost fell over on a kid. Lots of activities on those fields.

Jass: What is the overlap?

Resident: We utilize the field from March thru November.

Fitzpatrick: 120 games T and softball. 150 games for soccer.

Jass: Playoffs?

from audience: Doesn't include spring soccer.

Resident: DYSA supports whatever the youth in the community want to do. Lots of our in-town kids play both soccer and baseball.

Resident of Falcon: Three years ago I transferred from VA to here. One of the things my wife looked at was the park at Pennington. I have two kids and one on the way. My wife is at the hospital right now. Taxpayers... think of it as a recreational field, not just a soccer field. That will bring people in and add to the taxes. Soccer scares people. Think of it as a sport. People might be more inclined for football or baseball. This is my first year as coach with DYSA – wonderful people. Kids get leadership, discipline, and confidence. We need facilities for kids to play instead of playing X box or Playstation.

Resident of Peachtree: You are members of the health department. Obesity is on the rise. Kids go to school, then day care and then home. They are tired. Soccer is running. Soccer builds skills in my girls. I see them every day.

Resident of Kansas: Supports the bond. Town needs this. We have to shuffle the kids between towns. If we add more houses and families, you need to add more fields. It's not fair to the kids or volunteers. It isn't easy putting 60 kids on a field. You can't do that in a school. You have to split them. We can't do that. This money is available now. Some people may say to use the open space fund. That can be used for other things – bulkhead on the river. What's \$20,000? It's nothing. There's not enough for these kids to do. You have to give back if you keep adding to this town.

Resident of Magnolia: Coaching for years. Watched the program getting better. Great team at DYSA. I challenge you to think about this differently - \$18000 interest for \$300,000. I would tell you go back to Green Acres and as for \$600,000 match it with your \$250,000. Give DYSA the opportunity to have tournaments and fundraisers. It brings a lot of parents and kids together. I would pressure you to think aggressively. You have a great opportunity ahead of you.

Resident of Maple: Concerns ... What's the deal with crushing up the concrete?

Fitzpatrick: This is just about the bond.

Fitzpatrick: I sat with Winiinger – they asked for reduced taxes. They withdrew their application and state has voided it. Dietz and Watson may purchase it and return it to the tax roll..

Resident: Are we talking about putting lights?

Jass: Sprinkler system to keep the condition of the fields up.

Resident: I'm not against the fields. Do it in the way that would be the most beneficial.

Jass: Dave, what is the average field run?

Denton: Depends on the size.

Resident: Lights, bathrooms, water?

Jass: No lights projected at this time. You have to consider the \$300,000 at this time, when we can get more for our dollar. Plan would probably include more fields and would be done in phases.

Resident: Pennington closes at dusk.

Jass: Same issues at West Ave.

DYSA: We already use it... it's got a slope.

Jass: Rec and DYSA will provide portapotties.

Denton: The fields there would be easy to convert to soccer fields.

Resident of West Ave: I did my homework before I came here. I looked at schools. I am vice-president of DYSA. Soccer has been exciting for my son – more than T-ball. I want the fields. I spent my tax dollars here too. It's a 2% loan for \$300,000. To vote against it is a disservice to townspeople. I bought a new home and I expect that.

Resident of Laurel: Secretary of DYSA – look at the numbers . Pearson School is used for soccer and games. Three or four teams share that field as well as the middle school field hockey. The field isn't flat. We need an outlet for these kids. It would be a start for that. We've watched mini program go from 30- 60 kids to 100 4 and 5 year olds. Town continues to grow and that's wonderful.

Resident of Chestnut: Parent with two children on soccer team. Lived in Riverside, but wanted to come back to Delanco to raise our children. We wanted to come back here.

Resident of Maple: I'm a senior who raised children in Medford Lakes. Pennington looks like a farm field. When little kids are on fields without grass, it can't be good for them to breathe in. Kids are playing out in the streets. I thought I'd be home watching the football game. What do we get for the \$300,000?

Fitzpatrick: Estimate was for \$509,000. ( Reread bond.) Irrigation \$120,000 is most expensive, but most important.

Resident: If there aren't sufficient votes this evening, can you vote on it again?

Heinold: You need four affirmative votes. Committee can take a vote tonight or continue the hearing. It would have to be resolved this year or you could start over.

Fitzpatrick: Green Acres approved the money.

DYSA President: How long is it available?

Heinold: We have a couple of months to get this resolved.

Templeton: I spoke with Ms. Murphy at Green Acres today. She said we do have some time into next year.

Resident of Riverside: Riverside soccer was disbanded. Now all of those players are here. The towns are growing together. You have coaches who are committed. In the long run, these kids go to school together in Riverside. They form friendships and grow together.

Resident of Pennsylvania Ave: urge committee to wait for full committee.

Resident of Pine : Nice to see as much enthusiasm out here. Soccer fields – kids are going to get hurt. The emergency squad doesn't get funded by this town. Join your emergency squad or fire department.

Resident (Rec president): I've been around for all of the fields of dreams. We've looked at the possibilities. Five or six years ago, I was totally against having the fields out at Pennington. We're using the outfields of baseball fields and don't have time to correct them. We need all four soccer fields out there, but right now, we need two. We have a guarantee that the money will only be used for fields. Open space money can be used for other projects. There was money bonded before and it went to other projects. I know that all of that open-space money isn't going to go to soccer. The committee has to decide. The kids are being affected the most. Every year, we try to maintain them and move on, but we can't any more. We have to move the project forward.

Fitzpatrick: Grew up here and played sports here. Town has grown. I coached at West Ave and coached softball for 12 years. My daughter played soccer. I've seen the program grow to an incredible opportunity. If I had the time, I'd be out there coaching too to see the smile on their faces. I know where you are coming from. If I continue this to another public hearing, how many of you would be willing to come back?  
(applause)

Devinney: I'm impressed by how many came out and expressed your opinion. It's an important matter. Since I've lived here, I notice that we don't have enough facilities for kids. I may have given the signal that I'm against kids. That's not true. I wanted to know what we could do with \$300,000. It's hard to get people to volunteer or campaign

Templeton: Thanks for coming out. A couple of questions: Are we all looking at the same plan? What is it?

Fitzpatrick: It's a conceptual plan between Rec and DYSA. Was submitted through Doug with the estimate that Dave Denton gave us.

Templeton: So everyone has seen it?

Fitzpatrick: Went to everyone in February?

Templeton: Have we received a project agreement from Green Acres?

Fitzpatrick: I signed it. The ROSI list was (missed this)

Templeton: What's the project cost?

Heinold: They don't have (missed this)

Templeton: What is the figure Green Acres uses for the project? I don't know what that number is.

Fitzpatrick: There is no number.

Templeton: So on the agreement this top line is blank?

Schwab: Yes

Fitzpatrick: Birdsall did the estimate.

Templeton: When Green Acres authorizes ...so you are saying that that number is now zero. Plan is sparse – no parking, etc. Lots of opportunity for cost overrun.

Heinold: Then you would get a full plan. Would have been money wasted without approval.

Templeton: For other Green Acres money, you have to have what you built in two years. What is that other number we would be required to fund?

Denton: Cost estimate is a function of the size so it doesn't matter if you have two fields or four fields,

Templeton: Obviously, this is a needed facility. Do we take the loan or do as we can afford this?

Fitzpatrick: We did vote on it to accept that agreement at least two months ago.

Jass: Thanks for coming out. I've been here eight years in December. I've been involved in Rec. You've almost tripled the numbers since we've been here. I watch the children with all of the energy. I'm concerned with safety. We don't have the time to condition the fields properly. I look forward to not only one, but more fields. I look forward to having them learn leadership. It's a win-win situation.

Fitzpatrick: I agree with Marlene. Sports and recreation has grown. I'm concerned about the vote tonight. I feel we should table this and let everyone know of the next public hearing. I would like to give Joan an opportunity to be here.

Heinold: I would suggest the first meeting in December 7.

HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Student government representatives were given the opportunity to address any issue.

Comments: Should go along with the fields. When they get to high school, they might not have the grades to play.

-I would like to play on these fields before I graduate from middle school

-I want to wait until we have a better economy

-Fields we have now – you are kicking the dirt. It would be fun to have the extra soccer fields. Kids of the future may turn out to be professional from those fields.

*I left at here. It was 9:30pm. Maureen*

\*PUBLIC HEARING FOR RENEWAL OF COMCAST CABLE TELEVISION AND  
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM IN DELANCO TOWNSHIP  
HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

COMMENTS – PROFESSIONALS

COMMENTS – TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

COMMENTS - DEPARTMENT HEADS

1. Police
2. Public Works
3. Zoning and Code Enforcement
4. Municipal Clerk

COMMENTS – STUDENT TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

COMMENTS - TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

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CONSENT AGENDA:

RESOLUTION 2009-136 AWARD OF CONTRACT TO SOUTH JERSEY  
SANITATION FOR 'HISTORIC RIVERFRONT NEIGHBORHOOD SOLIDWASTE  
COLLECTION PROGRAM

RESOLUTION 2009-137 AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID FOR TRAILER  
MOUNTED BRUSH CHIPPER

RESOLUTION 2009-138 AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO FORGIVE  
INTEREST ON PAYMENT OF TAXES FOR THE PREMISES LOCATED AT  
BLOCK 1202, LOTS 6 AND 10 ON THE TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF  
DELANCO

RESOLUTION 2009-139 RESOLUTION TO CANCEL PROPERTY TAX AMOUNTS  
FOR 2008 & 2009 PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A.54:4-54

RESOLUTION 2009-140 AUTHORIZING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO  
ADVANCE PAYMENT FOR CERTAIN EXPENDITURES INCURRED BY PUBLIC  
OFFICIALS FOR THE NJ LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES CONVENTION

PAYMENT OF BILLS

ACCOUNT AMOUNT

GENERAL \$1,156,412.89

PAYROLL 76,136.12

CAPITAL 3,304.68

TRUST 10,346.38

MCPL OPEN SPACE 1,750.00

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 9/21/09

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 9/14/09

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

CORRESPONDENCE

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

ADJOURNMENT

Submitted by Maureen Barrett