

The following are my personal notes, not official meeting minutes. For official minutes, please go to the Delanco Municipal Building, 770 Coopertown Rd.

Delanco Township Committee July 9, 2012

Present: Fitzpatrick, Lord, Templeton, Jass, Dillenbeck

Also Present: Mr. Schwab, Township Administrator; Mr. Denton, Township Engineer; Mrs. Lohr, Municipal Clerk; Mrs. Martin, Deputy Municipal Clerk; Mr. Heinold, Township Solicitor; Chief Desanto, Delanco Police; Mr. Fenimore, Supt. of Public Works

INTRODUCTIONS AND OATHS OF OFFICE:

POLICE CHIEF JESSE DESANTO

POLICE LIEUTENANT DONALD NESBITT

APPOINTMENTS:

RESOLUTION 2012-96 RESOLUTION APPOINTING SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS

CLASS II Michael Russell and Byran Norcross

RESOLUTION 2012-97 RESOLUTION APPOINTING DEPUTY TAX ASSESSOR James Renwick

Passed unanimously

COMMENTS - PROFESSIONALS COMMENTS

Solicitor Heinold:

-Township is in litigation with state/DEP re:Dunes...ordered to mediation held last week. DEP is putting a proposal to the township to consider. Delaware Riverkeeper filed a motion to intervene primarily in support of the township and for public access issue.

-Litigation Re: RiversEdge regarding improvements. Called the bond. They responded and have been responsive to Mr. Denton. Mr. Heinold is preparing a resolution for Township Committee to review to resolve the issue.

Denton:

-Contractor started phase II - grading and base asphalt

-Field of dreams sewer connection (missed part of this) if we can show that location was included in sewerage service area prior to 2008; in 2004, tract was specifically included by DEP. Not included on the map for some reason though the document specifically includes those lots.

Jass: When was your last contact?

Denton: Thursday. Will be following up.

Fitzpatrick: So the documents state that we had DEP approval, and we could go out for bid.

Denton: Within a month.

Township Administrator Schwab:

-Report on ballistic windows proposal – expanding project to include all the windows in the public area. The quantity made more contractors interested and

improved the price - \$1600 vs. \$16,000. We have it in the capital account and the fund for the building. Clear Security Systems is the winning bid.

Templeton: Court administrator's window needs to be able to use a pinpad. Will that work?

Schwab: Contractor is aware. Met with Jen and George.

Templeton: Long overdue. It is an item that comes up with court inspection.

Jass: Been looking at it since I was on council. We looked into doing ourselves. This is a good price for materials and labor. This is needed for the protection of our employees. Things have changed over the years.

Passed unanimously.

Township Administrator Schwab:

-Court has had pinpad for the last year and a half. It was to be charge free, but as of July 1, we will have to pay the charges that go with a credit card machine. About \$400 a year. They take in \$900 a month. The court administrator reports that the machine improves the collection rate and streamlines the cost of recovering it.

Jass: Is this a lease to purchase?

Schwab: No, FIS is a service company -2-4% transaction fee. Based on the past twelve months, it would cost about \$400. When we first got it, we concluded that if we couldn't get it for free, it would still be worth doing.

-Significant lightning loss through the electric wires through PSE&G system. We thought we were under the deductible, but kept finding more things that were fried. Will submit through JIF. We will get proposals on the equipment that we don't need right away. Public Works has no telephone or computer as of now. Hopefully, they have been shipped and will arrive.

Fenimore: That's the fourth computer and the sixth phone. The line here always gets hit. What good are the surge protectors?

Schwab: We are going to need some professional help. The phone service company doesn't have anything better that protects them. I suspect the fiber optic cable under this building. Janice advises that there was no problem for the first five years the building existed.

Jass: Seems that certain things are targeted, like the TV.

Schwab: There are no surge protectors on the TV's. Strange

Jass: Are the heating people coming in to check? Is the JIF still open for that?

Schwab: That doesn't happen in JIF. It doesn't get closed. They are us.

-Assessor sent out his report. There is a deputy helping out. He's here all the time.

Fitzpatrick: Impressed that he has settled 56 claims so far.

COMMENTS - DEPARTMENT HEADS

1 . Public Works

-40 cubic yards of debris from the streets

-Swept all streets except two

-Mowed township property four times.

-Removed a tree from Maple

-Cut four properties as per zoning officer.

-Installed two handicapped parking signs.

-Replaced all air filters in this building.
-Starting working on grounds around here. Sprinkler heads in the back are broken. Shut off the front. There's no sense in watering ivy.
Jass: Any way we can dispose of ivy?
Fenimore: It's a lot of grunt work. You put weed killer down first. Then you need to get the grass to grow.
Jass: You can use the wood chips that we have.
Fenimore: What I get from the county isn't good enough – too much dirt in it.
Jass: Can we get a plan for this that is low maintenance?
Fenimore: Once the ivy takes over, you can't get rid of it.
Jass: Riverkeeper worked on vegetation at the Rancocas. Maybe you could do a section at a time.
Fenimore: We have to get them away from the heat and air conditioner.
-Everything has been OK at the Dunes. Just one incident where someone whittled one of the benches. No trash.
Jass: We have a lot of people going through there.
Fenimore: Yes

3. Municipal Clerk

-extension of third quarter taxes. Tax rate isn't struck due to the state adopting its budget late. Tax bills will be due 25 days after the date of mailing. As we get closer to mailing, we will have a specific date, but for now, post that the date has been extended.

COMMENTS - TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Dillenbeck:

-June Sewerage Authority – fee to be raised \$200
-Attended Walnut Street graduation, Fire meeting
-Met with Fire Commissioners
-Attended Shade Tree meeting
-Attended concert at Hawk Island
-July 1 – problem with water pressure – 6-8 in line for Distributec ruptured. Dumped a million gallons of water in Edgewater Park. We started a fire line – contacted outside agencies to be ready to bring tankers in case we had a fire.
Jass: Field of dreams has a well.
Dillenbeck: Pressure isn't all the way back yet.

Fitzpatrick:

-I've had a slow month since I can't get around
-Bill attended Fire Commissioners meeting for me
-Attended concert at which George Sacalis was recognized for his service

Lord:

-Attended library meeting – last until September. Membership drive is going well.
-School board – last month went well.
-Attended eighth grade graduation

- Attended concert at the marina – wonderful turn out
- next concert this Thursday at 7:00
- attended mortgage foreclosure presentation - discussion between panel and audience. County had a lot of agencies that can help you. Bigger banks were on site.
- Tax assessor is doing yeoman’s work right now. Fabulous job.

Templeton:

- Committee had presentation from Joint Insurance Fund – renewal is in progress. Working on inventories. Nancy Bray is safety coordinator and held a training for public works employees. Safety equipment has been purchased.
- Attended mediation session re Dunes. 6 hours in Trenton. Proof that the state believes that if you say something loud enough and long enough it will be so. State needs to get back to us with answers to our questions. Residents need to keep up the calls to our representatives who seem to think that depositing 300,000 cubic yards of river material in Delanco is the right thing to do. I would appreciate your help in contacting freeholders, state, and federal representatives. State and DEP have other areas. There is no need to take the easy and cheap way out.

Jass:

- Also attended mediation – new terminology – dredge spoils is now “rehabilitation” It was an enlightening six hours.
- Attended graduation – presented Brett Harris award
- Attended JIF safety meeting
- Attended presentation on mortgage foreclosures – excellent – if you know of anyone who is having financial problems, there are grants available - \$20,000 grant. If you are unemployed - \$30,000. A lot of people didn’t know about these grants.
- Attended concert at Hawk Island – 225 people – photos are on township website as well as West Ave Nature Trails video and the video from the Memorial Day parade.
- Attended Shade Tree – suggested that tree report is also given to township administrator.
- National Recreation and Parks month is July – Pennington and West Avenue Nature Trails offer a canopy of shade.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA:

ORDINANCE 2012-8 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PROVIDING FOR AND DETERMINING THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES” 1ST READING BY TITLE ONLY AND SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR AUGUST 6, 2012

RESOLUTION 2012-98 RESOLUTION FOR RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE BURLINGTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND

RESOLUTION 2012-99 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH THE CHIEF OF POLICE

RESOLUTION 2012-100 RESOLUTION SPECIFYING SALARIES OF CERTAIN EMPLOYEES WITHIN DELANCO TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION 2012-101 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF THE THIRD QUARTER TAXES PURSUANT TO NJSA 54:4-66.3(d)

RESOLUTION 2012-102 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF OUT OF SERVICE AND INOPERABLE OFFICE EQUIPMENT

PAYMENT OF BILLS

ACCOUNT AMOUNT

GENERAL \$ 657,701.13 PAYROLL 167,643.60 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT 3,371.25
PUBLIC DEFENDER 150.00 DOG TRUST 60.00 TRUST 2,868.75 MCPL OPEN SPACE
TRUST 12,536.11

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 6/11/2012

APPOINTMENT – SUBSTITUTE CROSSING GUARD – Charles Miller

APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSE 2012-45

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Passed unanimously

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: none

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

CORRESPONDENCE:

-Letter from Randy Cherkis (Grapevine/ Zurbrugg) requesting amendment of township ordinances regarding rental inspections. We are noting receipt of the letter in the minutes.

-Letter from two residents requesting appointment to Environmental Advisory Board.

Heinold: Do we want Mr. Cherkis to come in in August?

Lohr: Noted that we had a similar oral request from Living Springs. Because they are receiving different funds, they have many inspections. We noted the exemption is for one year. We didn't exempt for Living Springs. Our code exempts it for the hotel exemption.

Jass: I remember that a gentleman had come in. He had eight units. He asked if they would be exempted on the year of the state exemption.

Fitzpatrick: Yes, it was Mr. Malone. We granted it for one year.

Heinold: That was carved out in the ordinance so they wouldn't have to pay for two inspections. What Randy wants us to do...it's our ordinance, we can't just waive it. He's not requesting special treatment.

Fitzpatrick: I'd like to see the letter.

Heinold: The ordinance is the way it is because that is the way we wrote it. If he is saying that he is having other inspections, we have to see what they are.

Lohr: They would qualify for that one. Living Spring and Zurbrugg are asking for exemptions during the years they have other inspections.

Jass: We shouldn't be amending the ordinances. There are other units in town that may comply with that. One is a PILOT program. Our exemptions are what they are.
Dillenbeck: I feel the same. He can come in.

Fitzpatrick: I agree. I would like to know what the other inspections are. The purpose is for the safety of the tenants and we are responsible for that.

Templeton: The other two letters regarding EAB appointments – Ms. Khatri has come to our meetings and is very enthusiastic. Mr. Ludden has attended meetings and is also enthusiastic. I'm not sure if we are capped.

Jass: EAB is capped at five. We can address that at the next meeting. Ms. Khatri has already written an article for the *Beverly Bee*.

Templeton: I'd like to see her appointed as soon as possible.

Lohr:

-Fall townwide yardsale date for publication: Sept. 29th

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. PROPOSED RESOLUTION: APPROVAL TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE NJ DOT FOR A 2012 TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM GRANT.

Jass: Burlington Ave streetscape and Burlington/Pennsylvania Ave. We can only do one.

Fitzpatrick: Burlington to Pennsylvania and bike path. That might help us get the grant and might get us to the train station.

Denton: Who will do the application? (Someone else was mentioned here, but I didn't hear the name.)

-We were going to apply for the portion on Cooper to the train station.

Lohr: Can Dave submit the Cooper? Which one do you want to do?

Lord: (The other person) was approved for one transportation grant. Did the Safe Transit one. He has most of it done.

Fitzpatrick: Just needs to add a bike path.

Resolution 2012-103 to submit application for 2012 Enhancement Grant.

Passed unanimously

Fenimore: Ask the county if they plan on doing it?

Lohr: Deadline is around the corner. Submit Burlington to Pennsylvania along Cooper with a bike path if feasible.

2. FIELD OF DREAMS: FIELD MAINTENANCE

Denton: Punchlist for contractor. Seeded portions need to be deferred to maintenance bond period for reseeding until we are satisfied. List would consist of replacing dead sod. He has applied insecticide. There seem to be a lot more weeds. I told him to address the weeds and the dead spots before he gets the formal punch list. I've asked for other comments or suggestions for the punch list.

Fitzpatrick: Reached out to Scott Taylor. It's up to our professionals to resolve these issues. He needs to be a part of this until we square away what needs to be done there. Ran this by the committee. Scott feels that professionals should meet – you, Scott, Doug, Thom, me. We need to meet now. If there are legal ramifications, we

should do them now. Doug needs to see the contract. Contact him via certified mail. I want to put on the record that it's not the first time we've had a problem with a contractor – Walnut, Rivers Edge, Newtons Landing. This project affects the most volunteers in our town – DYSA and Recreation. No decision can be made about who is taking care of what until we know what is going to be done. I can't walk the fields, but I rode through them. The weeds are incredible. It's not always something we can control.

Jass: You are right. We spent \$82K for irrigation and \$82 for sod. He was penalized \$11K.

Fitzpatrick: We are spending close to a half million on these fields. If we need a turf specialty lab look at it, then do it. This isn't a small project. Scott needs to get back on board. I want him to view the project as well. This is the biggest project we've ever done in Delanco. We'd like it to be done on time.

Jass: Vendor was out there who is an expert. S&J.

Mr. Denton will send a copy of the signed contract to Doug.

Jass: Sprinkler system has issues.

Fitzpatrick: Keith sent you a picture of sprinkler heads.

Denton: Contractor addresses, but never really completely. He says the seeded area is seasonal. Can't be addressed until fall. He's asked for a punchlist so we can possibly accept the sodded fields.

Fitzpatrick: Scott said some of the problems are seasonal.

Resident of Maple and member of Recreation Commission: I'm begging you not to accept these fields. If you deal with him as we have, it won't get done. We've paid \$530,000 for fields that we can't use. I don't understand how a contractor can hold a township hostage. Adjust your contractor. Hold him responsible. Everyone who looks at those fields says they are the same as every other field in town. I don't understand why we've waiting until July 9 to get it fixed for Sept. 9 so the kids can play. I don't want a temporary fix so that when it is turned over, we are stuck with a field that the kids can't be safe and the adults can't enjoy. The comment that got me fired up is the idea of accepting the sodded areas. Was that soil tested? We found rocks, glass, dirt.

Denton: It was tested for ph.

Resident: It needs to be tested to be safe for schools. I don't think it was tested.

Fitzpatrick: I don't think we brought in soil for the sod.

Denton: He brought in what he wasn't supposed to bring in, but removed it.

Fitzpatrick: Scott recommended testing if we need it. It might benefit us.

Resident: Why now?

Fitzpatrick: It was tested by the county.

Resident: I feel the whole situation hasn't been oversighted. Makes Rec look bad before DYSA – they want to play on the field.

Fitzpatrick: They weren't supposed to be done until October so they wouldn't be ready May, June, or July. We haven't had success with this contractor.

Resident: Next growing season is November. The sodded area is another nightmare.

Fitzpatrick: He's not totally paid.

Resident: He's only out \$34,000. He made his money. If you receive the inner areas, we can't use the outer areas. We'd be hustling around trying to put everything up. I would not accept these fields.

Fitzpatrick: Marlene is from Newtons Landing. We fought for years to get that done. I can't do that as a member of the Township Committee

Resident: But you have an engineer who is receiving a payment from the township for this project.

Jass: We are all upset. There is a penalty of so much per day. There were a lot of other issues that ensued. The poles needed to be moved, but weren't put in the right spot. The entrance was modified. PSE&G put solar panels on the wrong poles. This whole project has been one fiasco after another. Recreation has been helpful identifying issues. Now everyone will come together and legal issues will make it even more costly. We want it to be right. If we were a business, the guy would be out the door, but we can't do that here. We are trying to do the best that we can. Maybe we should have one person from Recreation and John there too. Ultimately, it is Recreation's responsibility and John's to deal with DYSA.

Fitzpatrick: I agree with John. I don't agree with Recreation or DYSA until we know what we are doing. What do you think, Doug?

Heinold: When we had problems with Rivers Edge, we called the bonds last year. I think we need to have this meeting and look at our options.

Fitzpatrick: If there is litigation, Recreation and DYSA can't be involved.

Jass: There needs to be communication with those groups.

Fitzpatrick: I agree that they should get a report from the meeting.

Fenimore: You need to test the soil and see what's wrong with it. You need to see if the irrigation is really working. Those fields should be green back there.

Fitzpatrick: Keith has sent an email every week about a different sprinkler head. Sod can be saved now.

Jass: There are issues with the sod also.

Fenimore: Bugs were devouring the grass.

Jass: There are moles out there.

Denton: He didn't water it early; we had all the rain in August. It should look like Pennsylvania Avenue.

Fitzpatrick: I can meet this Friday.

Heinold: Maybe late in the day.

Fitzpatrick: Four o'clock on Friday.

Fitzpatrick: I would like committee to discuss vacant properties in town.

Complaints from neighbors. We have no ordinance to protect us or ensure that the properties are maintained. Just riding on Burlington Avenue, there are properties that used to be the nicest in town.

Jass: Put it on the August agenda

Heinold: Executive session.

Jass: Phil has been working on several properties in town.

Estate on Delaware Ave – needs property that is included in their deed to be deeded to that estate.

Ordinance 2012-9 First reading by title only

ADJOURNMENT