

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 October 1, 2012 started at 7:45

Present: Fitzpatrick, Lord, Templeton, Jass, Dillenbeck

Also Present: Mr. Denton, Township Engineer; Mrs. Lohr, Municipal Clerk; Mrs. Martin, Deputy Municipal Clerk; Mr. Heinold, Township Solicitor; Chief Desanto, Delanco Police; Mr. Fenimore, Superintendent of Public Works; Ms. Taylor, Township Planner

****SPECIAL PRESENTATION****

RESOLUTION 2012-124 HONORING an area student – RUTGERS UNIVERSITY BizEd PROGRAM WINNER

Fitzpatrick: Loves reading the newspaper especially when someone from Delanco is recognized for their accomplishment. Brought article to last meeting. (Read aloud a portion of the article. – Students’s team placed first out of 25.)

Passed unanimously

Jass: We’ve just learned that there was another winner from Delanco. He will be invited to a meeting.

RESOLUTION 2012-125 PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF ANY SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF ANY COUNTY OR MUNICIPALITY PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-87 CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1985) –DONATION IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN GERALD P. DRUMMOND to the Delanco Police Department.

Chief DeSanto: Sally Drummond heard that we were in need of a defibrillator in honor of her husband who was a law enforcement officer in Delanco and then worked in the prosecutor’s office for 30 years. He was involved in the Police Academy. Former Police Officer of the year. A career award from the prosecutor’s office is named after Captain Drummond. He will continue to save lives. (Mrs. Drummond and their son were present.)

Passed unanimously

**ORDINANCE 2012-11 AMENDING CHAPTER 10 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE, SECTION 10-2 TO ADD SUBSECTION B(5) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
2ND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – no comment

Passed unanimously

ORDINANCE 2012-12 TO AMEND “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DELANCO PROVIDING FOR AND DETERMINING THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES”

2ND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - no comment

Passed unanimously

ORDINANCE 2012-13 TO AMEND “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DELANCO PROVIDING FOR AND DETERMINING THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES”

2ND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING

HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC – no comment
Passed unanimously

DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION – PROPOSED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS
ORDINANCE – Michelle Taylor, Taylor Design Group

Taylor: State has said that solar energy serves public welfare and that renewable energy must be permitted in some zones - industrial or preserved farmlands. There are two categories considered -those which produce energy for sale back into the grid, not for use on site and those for private use of energy on site. Private solar for heat or power on site will be permitted as an accessory use in all zones. Ex. School would use energy during the school year and could sell back in the summer. Family of four wouldn't probably sell back, but a two-person household may. Wind turbines were excluded since wind energy isn't currently a feasible possibility in this area. Note that the turbines near Atlantic City – they need to be that size and have that type of wind to be effective.

Fitzpatrick: One resident has one.

Taylor: Any deviation from standards would be bulk unless it was height, which would go to JLUB. Some communities are creating solar use data bases – logged into the computer. Some townships will intercede for you if neighbor has an issue. It would be handled in Delanco as a civil matter.

Templeton: What was the answer on private residential wind turbine?

Taylor: For a farmer?

Templeton: Say it's me.

Taylor: No, not permitted.

Jass: Resident on Illinois is using a solar collector. There are 10 foot units for private use. 55 gallon drum size. My concern for future use. Portable units are available as well.

Taylor: That is addressed. We've allowed an 8 foot height. Some of the heat and cooling transfer systems tend to be higher off the ground or roof, so that 8 feet is allowing that.

Templeton: But 8 feet can't exceed the total height permitted in that zone.

Taylor: Right

Fitzpatrick: Simple example. You have to apply for a permit through JLUB?

Taylor: We're treating it like pool or shed or fence. It creates bulk and can affect view.

Fitzpatrick: Panels on PSE&G poles are hazardous when the sun reflects on them when you are driving. That's my concern for solar panels. I think PSE&G should be addressed for the panels they put up. This time of year when sun is setting, you get barraged.

Taylor: That's in the public right of way.

Fitzpatrick: We have no control, but could write to the utility

Jass: I've been looking at a solar panel that is an awning type for one specific use.

Taylor: If the awning would be permitted on your house as an awning, the solar awning would be permitted. We've tried to create as much flexibility as possible.

Jass: Other municipalities...do most allow solar fields? or are they looking more towards restricting it at this time?

Taylor: If we had an industrial user, they might use a solar field. For example, Dietz and Watson has covered some of their land right now. A solar field is a commercial or utility use – permitted in industrial zones subject to buffers from the road and set-backs. Not allowed in fronts of parking lots.

Fitzpatrick: Didn't Moorestown pass an ordinance not allowing that type of use?

Templeton: I'm intrigued by that. Those large arrays seem a waste of that land.

Taylor: It's a policy decision. Not aesthetic. NJ is exceeding California in production of solar. There is a glut of solar.

Fitzpatrick: Couldn't we do what Moorestown did?

Taylor: Yes

Templeton: So there are two sets of rules – selling for the grid or for residential use.

Taylor: 80% of their roof is the limit on residential. You don't need 80% to power your house. We decided to allow that 80% for a mix of systems for photovoltaic systems as well.

Templeton: Would residential property owners be permitted to build a free-standing unit?

Taylor: Yes. Issue with small lots, if neighbor builds a shed or plants a tree, it will impede you – issues. Ground systems (missed this)

Templeton: A ground system in someone's yard can be an ugly situation and blinding.

Taylor: Thermal is more likely to be located on ground. They are heavy and strain the roof.

Templeton: Involved with Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission – I was on the solar group. When we got into discussion, there were many issues - aesthetics, historic areas, neighbor's tree or building addition. Became extremely complicated. Is that different than if I had a garden there? I'm involved with JIF too. There is a safety issues - needs to be a chain of notification through building codes and fire departments so they can turn them off in emergency. The ordinance in Philadelphia mandates a walking path on the roof. If some kind of mechanism can be incorporated...

Taylor: They need to show voltage warning sign and emergency shut-off procedure.

Templeton: We might want to bring fire and EMT in on that.

Taylor: If you are hiring an electrician, you are supposed to get a permit. That's not a zoning issue; it's a building issue.

Jass: Shade Tree Commission reps are present.

Lacina (Shade Tree): Shade trees are considered a part of green energy as well. I'm only concerned about town's trees. We discussed the ordinance at our meeting. We'd like it to say that shade trees should not be removed. The solar system is to the homeowner's benefit -no different that putting a pool in the backyard. Life expectancy of panel is 25 years. Shade trees need 25 years to mature. As Mr. Templeton pointed out, you're not going to say to cut a shade tree down so someone can have a garden.

Taylor: I'm married to a landscape architect. We've had discussion. State has not said that shade trees are beneficial, but they have said solar panels are. We dealt with this specifically on Illinois Ave. with a ground-mounted system. He was concerned with a proposal for a home and our requirement for shade trees. We required one single-stem tree instead of three shade trees. It may benefit the homeowner, but it benefits all of us by created energy. (referred to #9 in the ordinance.) Set-back requirements refer to areas like wetlands which forbid clearing of trees.

Lacina: Root systems – pg. 6 #16.

Taylor: Front yard is space between the property structure and the property line.

Lacina: 16A – reference to a more aesthetically pleasing.

Taylor: Rear yard that faces a street. You may allow in a special case. We could clarify that.

Lacina: E Trees (I didn't have a copy of the draft of the ordinance and got lost here.)

Dillenbeck: I like that they have an emergency shut off required. The panels on the PSE&G poles are always live. If someone hits them, they are dangerous. If there is a fire in a house with a solar system, it is live. If a tree falls onto one...we really have to think about these things.

Taylor: Legislature didn't give you that break.

Lacina: When I worked for PSE&G, we didn't want anyone putting power back into the grid due to safety of workers.

Fitzpatrick: Just because legislature passed this, do we have to adopt it?

Taylor: You don't have to do anything. We ask you what you want. We put what we were told in the preamble – enhance power grid, decrease pollution, reduce power demands. Renewable energy sources create choice.

Jass: When that solar company came in, we had nothing on the books.

Fitzpatrick: Since then, I've been thinking that putting solar on virgin property isn't good. We can put it in there that we don't want a solar farm.

Taylor: You have to allow it in industrial zone, but without anything on paper, they will be in for variances. We put buffers in there to minimize the visual impact.

Lord: Has state said it's inherently beneficial in residential and commercial?

Taylor: Commercial and farm. We're saying these sites are appropriate and we're setting standards.

Jass: In this ordinance it states that technology is constantly changing and will be amended.

Lacina: When we get all the cheap natural gas coming in, we won't need it.

Tarashi for Shade Tree: I read ordinance. #9 Ordinance needs to place burden of street tree replacement on the applicant to remove the tree and replace it with a smaller decorative tree. Shade Tree can't do that on \$6000. We are a Shade Tree City and want to keep that status. Looking at 16A – something about this paragraph that uses a double negative in a single negative way. Means to say that unless you can prove it is more aesthetically pleasing in the front yard, you can't have it.

Heinold: We have that situation come up – they are going to have to come before the board anyway. We can't put it on our administrative official. I think we should just strike that language. If someone wants it in the front yard, they need to come before the board.

Tarashi: Reflection – need to be situated to avoid glare to adjacent property.

Heinold: We don't really have a historic commission with regulations. In Chesterfield, they put in architectural standards – lots of regulations. When someone comes in with solar panels on the roof, there is no accounting for taste. Are the solar panels at the most optimal angle? That's not always the pitch of the roof. They ended up with a requirement that they be parallel. The biggest issue is when a township is generous in the ordinance and someone does it and everyone hates it. If you put on restrictions, you can't do it on smaller lots and they come in to the board. Maybe you want to do a work session on it or maybe one person needs to be a point person. It's going to be permitted in industrial. If you don't permit it in residential areas, you will get mixed results with individual variances.

Jass: Good recommendation. We do have to be proactive.

Taylor: The only reason we talked about ground-mounted systems is because we had one. You can require panels be on the roof and thermal systems on the ground.

Heinold: Not familiar with thermal systems.

Taylor: It's like a radiator of sorts. Water is heated and then the heat goes into the building. I don't understand how it cools.

Heinold: Is there a typical size?

Taylor: Not too big, they get too heavy. Work session would be good.

Jass: Subcommittee with participation from committees?

Tarashi: Newtons Landing requirement that any application be accompanied by installer's site report which includes the efficiency of those panels. That may be important when considering the location of the panels within the property.

Jass: Please provide us with Newtons Landing documents.

(Mr. Tarashi did so.)

Jass: Volunteer from Township Committee?

Templeton: I will.

Heinold: I will attend subcommittee meeting if asked. Please send me draft.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

COMMENTS – PROFESSIONALS

Denton:

-Safe Streets to Transit application – After reviewing, we're proposing applying for funding to reconstruct sidewalk on other side of Pennsylvania and going around the corner. That sidewalk area is in very bad shape. \$120,000

-RiversEdge – should be done in 2 weeks.

-faulty valve in Field of Dreams irrigation is now fixed.

Heinold:

-update on DEP re: Dunes. Still in mediation. We have responded to their initial offer and waiting for their response. I wouldn't say that we are close, but mediation is confidential.

Also as per Judge Suter, she has one year to bring some resolution to this case and has a schedule up to April of next year. We have exchanged discovery.

Jass:

-Basins at Newtons Landing?

Heinold:

-Our contact at Newtons Landing has been out and we haven't been getting great response. I will pursue and then try a different angle.

COMMENTS - DEPARTMENT HEADS

1. Police

-Take back prescriptions – 50 pounds.- big success. Will be done every 6 months.

-Oct. 10 goal to have one day free of motor vehicle fatality. NJ fatalities have increased by 71 deaths since 2010. All violations that are associated with fatalities – texting, lack of seat belt, speeding

-NJ Transit meeting – Task force – officers in uniform from Burlington County riding with NJ Transit. First day yielded several arrests/summons. Delanco Police will be riding off peak. Burlington County officers will be riding twice a week for four weeks. I worked the first day. People were calling on their cell phones telling people we were riding.

2. Public Works

-Month of Sept – 48 cu yds brush, cut township 4x, 3 residential, hauled out mulch.

-Problems at the Dunes – someone is pulling out the signs.

-started on the Shade Tree list and working out at Newtons Landing.

-Sign at Field of Dreams removed as planned. Two trees fell onto the field.

Jass: On the county side.

Fenimore: Near our side. I cleaned it up.

-Hickory Street check valves – we will need a tripod if we need to go in there to clear out. We will need to monitor the air. Got a price on getting the TV camera and (missed this) – about \$4000

Dillenbeck: Fred Weller is very knowledgeable. You could reach out to him.

Denton: Valve will provide protection from high tide and stormwater. Eight feet down.

Fenimore: We have to get a couple of drains in that ball field. It's low and holds a lot of water. When it floods, it will be more.

Denton: It would definitely help.

Fenimore: Wouldn't be that expensive.

3. Municipal Clerk

- Thanks to Marlene Robinson for Tracks and Trail event at West Avenue Nature Trail.
- Town-wide yard sale went well.

COMMENTS - TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Dillenbeck:

- Attended Fire, EM and many others (He talked fast and I missed a lot.)
- Oct. 13 Community Day
- Oct. 20 Fall Fest
- Compliment to Delanco Police for assist to EMT and compliment to our officers for their great job.

Fitzpatrick:

- Article in newspaper– free trees for county homeowners – 150 left – distributed from Mt. Holly
- Mock Election for seventh graders Oct. 23 at 9:00 – Detective Hoffman will give tour of Police Dept. Mrs. Lohr will do the township side. Senator Allen will be there.
- Women’s Club 5k run upcoming
- County sent out medals to 200 veterans from Burlington County. You can accept on behalf of a relative or a deceased family member. I accepted medals for my brother who served in Vietnam and for my father who is deceased. You just need to write a letter.
- Can’t attend Community Day due to class reunion

Lord:

- JLUB scheduled for tomorrow canceled due to lack of applications
- Library – Oct. 11 knitting class. Oct. 12 is movie night.
- Oct. 23 Meet the author night at the library- author climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro
- Economy talk at Merion with the mayor
- Fall Fest – trails open at 5:00

Templeton:

- Attended JIF meeting and quarterly safety meeting.
- working on Dunes – homework from Mr. Heinold
- Working on another special project for the administrator

Jass:

- Senior citizens police academy starts Thursday here – posted.
- Leaves will be picked up to Dec. 31
- Fall Fest – field games start at 1-4 – lots of activities for children, DJ...

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA:

ORDINANCE 2012-14 TO AMEND CHAPTER 224 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DELANCO ENTITLED “PUBLIC RECORDS, ACCESS TO”
 1ST READING BY TITLE ONLY AND SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR OCTOBER 15, 2012 7:30PM

RESOLUTION 2012-126 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF SHARED SERVICES

AGREEMENT WITH BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS OF THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON FOR SNOW REMOVAL AND ASSOCIATED USES

RESOLUTION 2012-127 OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DELANCO TO SUPPORT OF THE PASSAGE OF S108/A291 BY THE LEGISLATURE

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS -AUTHORIZING CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER TO PAY THOSE BILLS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE TOWNSHIP THAT ARE AND BECOME DUE AND PAYABLE PRIOR TO THE OCTOBER 15, 2012 TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 9/10/2012

APPOINTMENT – ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR (Per Ordinance 2012-11)

Janice Lohr

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA Passed with Dillenbeck abstaining

Dillenbeck: Didn't attend meeting meeting on 9/10

Janice Lohr was appointed Assistant Administrator for Delanco Township

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Resident of Delaware: Interesting listening to the conversation about glare from a neighbor's property being bothersome. Same is true with sound waves. You may want to consider your code when there are more outdoor speakers available. Noise is an much of a problem for a neighbor as glare.

Fitzpatrick: You know as well as I do that when you live on the water, sound is magnified. Sometimes I run my air-conditioner and fan just to sleep.

MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

CORRESPONDENCE

-Community Development Block Grant application upcoming.

-Tech meeting – has attended and will again if needed.

Jass: Please do.

Lohr:

-Letter from RiversEdge HOA requesting use of township building for HOA meetings.

There are insurance requirements which I can discuss with her. Is Committee in agreement?

Jass: Other groups have met here, but there is usually someone from the committee present.

Does the ordinance state our policy?

Lohr: If policy says someone has to be there,...

Lord: I will be here.

Lohr: You could rotate it.

Fitzpatrick: I remember before when a group was using the building, when it was my turn, no one showed. I waited and waited.

Lohr: The door opens and then the building would be unsecure for two hours.

Jass: They should notify us if they are not meeting.

Lohr: We could state that if no one shows in 15 minutes, the building would be closed.

Jass: They would have to notify us 24 hours in advance.

Lohr: You can have that too. Those logistics can be worked out.

Jass: Motion for Rivers Edge to use the building third Wednesday of the month.

Lohr: We can cancel if we have township business.

Motion passed unanimously

-Randy Robinson requesting a waiver for regulations on farm animals. Wants goats and chickens at his residential home. We've had a resident request a neighbor for a Vietnamese pot bellied pig for autistic child. The animal was recommended. That request was granted.

Jass: I'd like to look at the property.

Dillenbeck: It's on Laurel. I was born and raised on a farm. A rooster crows all night and all day. My answer is unequivocally no. There is no need.

Fitzpatrick: He has ten people who signed approval.

Fenimore: I think we had a problem with a rooster years ago.

Jass: It's plural – goats and chickens.

Fitzpatrick: Where's he going to keep them?

Fitzpatrick: Rules for municipal building require two weeks notice.

Dillenbeck: Attended Shade Tree – new enthusiastic member. She has a red oak tree that she grew. She is donating it to the township to replace the liberty tree on the 20th.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: none

ADJOURNMENT

Submitted by Maureen Barrett