

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 May 20, 2013

Present: Fitzpatrick, Ciancio, Templeton (absent), Jass (absent), Dillenbeck

Also Present: Mr. Schwab, Township Administrator; Mrs. Lohr, Municipal Clerk; Mrs. Martin, Deputy Municipal Clerk; Chief DeSanto, Delanco Police

COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

COMMENTS - TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

-assessor's report – revaluation process has started; inspections underway

-received written agreement from Rec and DYSA on facility use

-Banking proposals – current bank is charging fees for services so we've been searching for better alternative – Investors Bank from Short Hills, which has opened a branch – won't charge anything and will give interest. If Committee is in favor, we can put it on an agenda. Board of Education is moving in the same direction.

Fitzpatrick: Fire Commissioners may want to do that too.

Schwab:

- Coopertown sewer line costs that Township needed to cover in agreement with the Sewerage Authority. Costs of \$550,000. We budgeted 27,000, need to borrow balance. 1.75% Delanco Federal Savings \$900 interest. Awarded to them.

COMMENTS - DEPARTMENT HEADS

1. Police

- Officer is home from the hospital and doing well. In our prayers. Will keep in touch.

-Reviewed changes covering overtime and for coverage on Sundays so an officer isn't out for the entire day.

2. Municipal Clerk – nothing to report

COMMENTS - TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Dillenbeck: none

Ciancio:

-JLUB – Heard application for Costume Gallery to use Jevick site

-Board of Ed. – Student awards for honesty given out. Board is looking go with Investors Bank to save charges

-Book for middle schoolers was offensive to parent. Board agreed to remove the book from the library collection.

-Dunes presentation for children was held on May 11 - Hunters of the Sky by Woodford Refuge –excellent presentation. Estimate that 30 people were present.

-Acknowledged officer for valor and bravery.

Fitzpatrick:

-Missed last meeting – sick – first time in 12 years.

-Attended VFW awards dinner – Joan Hinkle honored

-open house at the mansion for carriage homes – 5-8pm Tuesday May 21 – all welcome
-met with Marlene Robinson regarding Sustainable New Jersey
-article – 50 years ago – Burlington County Times – 24 hour police protection resumed after a month’s absence. 50 years ago we had 250 residents. We now have 4800. I know you are here tonight because of what happened to Frank. We have directed the chief to bring candidates in. His voice is being heard. Yours will be.

PUBLIC COMMENT STATEMENT

There are two opportunities for the public to comment and ask questions. The purpose of the public comment sessions is to allow residents to share information and/or views with the Delanco Township Committee. Since the Committee may be hearing the information for the first time, it is not always possible to have issues and questions settled within the public comment session.

During the first Public Comment Session, we ask that you limit your comments to items presented on this agenda. At the second Public Comment Session, which occurs toward the end of the meeting, any matter may be brought before the Township Committee. Thank you.

Fitzpatrick: I am going to waive that this evening.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS SESSION ONE

Resident of Third St: First came in the 70’s looking for a place to keep my car. Pulled over by a cop who was friendly. Made my home here and got involved. (Read from Delanco Book) In 1976 we had 8 police officers – same number as now. Increased housing to almost double. I sit on the school board and we have made some good decisions in the past to allow three classrooms per grade. I understand the budget. Demographics have changed – rentals, Riverline, transients. Having one police officer on call is dangerous. Riverside has twelve. We don’t have enough coverage. Glad you are moving forward to address this. We need five new officers. You need a good strong police force to increase economic value. More people will make the town safer. I work weird hours and come home at 3 in the morning. You wouldn’t believe what goes into 7Eleven then. If we need to get in touch with the sheriff...I hope you can work something out.

President of Local FOP: I’ve worked with most of these officers. This used to be a town where the biggest problem was juveniles at 7Eleven. You guys have problems now. One officer won’t do it. You should have twelve hour shifts with 2 patrolmen on each one. I was given a management study on Delanco police in 2004 – you paid for it. It says you should be at a total of 10 in 2005. That’s what you can get away with for now. You can’t wait for someone to come in from Edgewater with someone on the ground. I’m glad it was Frank because he knows how to take care of himself. If it was a younger guy, who knows what would have happened. The guy that fought Frank chased one of your residents yelling, “You’re going to die.”

Lt from Riverside: I’m here because my friend got shot. A lot of times we are working by ourselves. If you have one person in Delanco, you are relying on other

towns to cover you. We don't have a problem doing it. Jesse is an outstanding officer. But we can't have an officer getting shot alone in the dark.

Resident: of Trout Trail: Can you tell me what happened as far as the shooting? This is the first I've heard about a resident being chased. I like to walk early.

Desanto: Can't comment on specifics due to investigations. Police were called by resident who heard a disturbance in the street. Officer had to use force after a struggle ensued.

Resident of Holly St: Incident in my neighbor's backyard at 12:30am. Male attempting to get into my neighbor's shed. He knows I saw him, but it was dark. Called 911. There must have been 10 police cars in a few minutes. Last night was the first I heard that there is only one officer on. It's scary. I'm a single mom. I grew up in the house I live in now. We never closed our doors at night. Now I never leave my door unlocked. Last night shook me. Thank you to the responding officers who really stepped it up. There were searchlights. They were in every backyard.

Desanto: (To Township Committee) You know what I need. It has to be done. I don't care how. These officer came right back to work like nothing happened. They put on their uniforms and they did their job. You should commend them. They didn't gripe or cry. They should be commended. We can't stop here. The public has to stand behind us. We're going to have to raise taxes. We have to build. Tell your friends that the time is now. Delanco has changed. Everybody has to do something about it. If you say no, we'll be back here again and someone is going to get hurt.

Fitzpatrick: We'll have to do a referendum in February to increase our budget over the 2% cap. You are all here because you know that we need more officers. We need at least two right away. This referendum is going to have to pass. You, as residents, will have to talk to your neighbors. The officers can't be on their own. The Committee is behind Jesse 100% right now. Without that referendum passing, we won't be able to keep the two officers we hire now. Fifty years ago we didn't need an officer all of the time. Now we do. Jesse shared his concerns.

Ciancio: As Township Committee, we have the responsibility to ensure the safety of the residents. We are willing to do that. It will require sacrifice in terms of taxes. Whatever support you can give will make it stronger.

FOP President: Does that mean you are hiring two officers?

Fitzpatrick: That's our plan

Fop: Timeline?

Fitzpatrick: June meeting. We already had one in the works.

Resident of Chester Ave in Delran: Considering purchase of 2222 Burlington Ave. It currently has a cesspool. There is a sewage line on another property. Asked Sewerage Authority to come out. I'm going to buy it for my mom to live there.

Fitzpatrick: What are you asking for?

Dillenbeck: This gentleman came to Sewerage Authority and was referred here. Our code states that if you are within 200 ft. of sewer line, you have to hook up when septic is out. He has to cross two properties to do that. Neither will give an easement. Will cost \$20000 to upgrade septic. It's by Bogs Ditch. More than likely that sewerage connection would be cheaper. We asked him to get an estimate and talk to the neighbors. He would need a waiver from the Township Committee for the septic tank.

Fitzpatrick: It has a cesspool. I didn't think that was legal.

Lohr: Grandfathered, but new owner would be required to connect to sewer.

Township can grant a waiver to allow a new septic tank.

Fitzpatrick: Did you get the estimates?

Resident: Not yet. Not enough time between Sewerage meeting and now. I don't want to move my parents in and find out I can't get a septic or sewer.

Lohr: Doug looked at it. Committee can grant a waiver. Asked for two estimates. Can't act tonight without that information.

Schwab: Need to see the plan and where it is. Township Committee hasn't seen that.

Resident: Just want to see what the price difference would have to be for you to approve a waiver.

Dillenbeck: We need to look at the plan and the proposal for the sewer line. You probably would need a pump. Include the details in the plan. Make it as complete as possible. It's a big undertaking.

Resident: Trying to decide whether to buy the property.

Fitzpatrick: Get the info to Janice.

Lohr: You will have to do one or the other.

Resident: I know.

Fitzpatrick: Need the paperwork so the attorney and engineer can review.

Resident: Can I drop it off?

Lohr: Yes. Some time before the June 10 meeting.

COMMENT AND QUESTION SECTION OF THE MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLUTION 2013-81 IN SUPPORT OF A PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY STUDY FOR THE ROUTE 130 HIGHWAY

RESOLUTION 2013-82 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)

RESOLUTION 2013-74 AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR LICENSED SITE REMEDIATION SERVICES

RESOLUTION 2013-75 APPROVING THE TOWNSHIP'S APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, COPS HIRING PROGRAM (CHP) GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING

Approval of Gateway Park for a wedding on Wednesday, May 22.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

ACCOUNT AMOUNT

GENERAL \$33,313.31

PAYROLL 62,952.42

TRUST 10,561.07

MCPL OPEN SPACE 11,055.22

UNEMPLOYMENT 715.29

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 4/15/2013 APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSES 2013-25, 2013-35, 2013-36, 2013-37, 2013-42, 2013-50 & 2013-51

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA Passed unanimously

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS SESSION TWO COMMENT AND QUESTION SECTION OF THE MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

CORRESPONDENCE

-Open house at Riverwalk – 5-8 pm 195 Union Street

-Verizon has filed with feds to be included in the area for FIOS.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. MUNICIPAL PARK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GRANT – ROUND 4

Fitzpatrick: Due June 14. Phase 3 of Field of Dreams. Janice suggested that we add it to that plan. It would allow for path on Creek Rd from Pennington to our section. I would think the county will be receptive to that.

2. REQUEST FOR PARADE ROUTE APPROVAL – CENTRAL JERSEY TRACTOR PULLER ASSOCIATION

Fitzpatrick: They are coming through town in July

Lohr: Stopping at the Fire House.

Desanto: What is the expectation for assistance for police? They said they use the county fire police. My concern was getting them in and out. They have two tow trucks and a mechanic. 78 tractors in the convoy.

Lohr: Are they closing Burlington Ave?

Desanto: No, it's a moving caravan. They close a few side streets ahead.

Dillenbeck: They should move fairly rapidly. Just got our summer supply of water.

Desanto: I was satisfied with the information I received from the president of the association. It's the first time they have done the river route.

Fitzpatrick: Should be neat to see.

Lohr: Sunday, July 14

Dillenbeck: Probably around noon.

Fitzpatrick: They are going to come over the bridge.

Desanto: Yes

Motion to approve

3. SUSTAINABLE JERSEY CERTIFICATION ADJOURNMENT

Fitzpatrick: Funding for preservation funding needed (Burlington County Times) Also article regarding Delran. Why get certified? To achieve environmental goals throughout the state municipalities need to participate. First step is to do a resolution. Marlene Robinson has agreed to be the coordinator of the program. She and I will work together and go to all of the committees in town. Some of these activities listed, we have already accomplished. Between EAB, JLUB, Rec, things going on at the Dunes, I think we have the resources to do it. It may take a year or two to complete. We should get started.

Robinson: We can apply for grants; don't need to use municipal funds. We've already done a lot. We have about half of the credits we need.

Fitzpatrick: We have Open Space, Tree and Woodlands Management, Recycling...we have to document.

Robinson: Right, document and get it certified. With all of the things that have been done, it won't take long. We need to bring people together to decide what each group would take over and make their own.

Fitzpatrick: Registered towns get special notice of grants for small towns.

Robinson: (presented map)

Fitzpatrick: I have the same one. (passed it to TC)

Robinson: 114 towns already certified; over 80 in the process; many just beginning.

Fitzpatrick: Delran just did this. Hatcher would talk to us.

Robinson: Promoted by a buddy of mine who lives in Delran. He got it started there. They already had activities. We have them too. We just need organization.

Fitzpatrick: Resolution listing environmental and educational goals and governmental practices toward a sustainable future.

Ciancio: Looking at silver level of certification. Implementation of three out of seven actions. I could only come up with four. Actions must be completed in 8 of 16 categories.

Lohr: It's the whole page. You can pick from both columns.

Robinson: For the bronze one you have to do less.

Fitzpatrick: I was thinking the silver one.

Lohr: Are they cumulative or do you have to start over from bronze to get the silver?

Robinson: We can work that out. We can have people working on different categories.

Ciancio: Which people?

Fitzpatrick: maybe the school, recreation.

Ciancio: As I read this, we would have to do (missed this)

Robinson: Would you like to meet together with one of those and I can talk it out with you? The bronze has less to do. Delanco has done so much with parks, playgrounds, ...

Ciancio: Bronze looks easier to do.

Fitzpatrick: They go together.

Robinson: We can go to bronze first and then go to silver. If we can do them both at the same time, that's fine.

(Side conversation...missed some here. Sorry)

Lohr: I wonder if Hunters of the Sky could be used.

Fitzpatrick: The idea would be to get working on it almost immediately so we can start working with some of the groups. Are we in favor of signing on? It doesn't cost us money right off the bat. I can see at least 50-60 points that already exist.

Ciancio: Is there an impact on duties of administrative staff?

Fitzpatrick: If groups would work with us, it could be achieved. Marlene would coordinate the documentation. Up to Township Committee to decide if you want to move forward. If we wait, we may not start until September. Cherry Hill is gold.

Schwab: Try to create the "Dream Team". You could try to get your Dream Team over the summer. If you can't get that, you won't be able to do it.

Fitzpatrick: Should we get the Dream Team together before we do a resolution?

Schwab: You can't do it without it. If you can't get the representatives, you can't do it.

Fitzpatrick: Why don't we as Township Committee members, reach out to our liaisons to see if we can get a volunteer from library, board of ed, fire house, ...five or six people, then we can move forward. We'll get back to you (Marlene) after they go to their next meetings.

Robinson: I'm willing to go to any of the groups.

Lohr: Delran was going to have a mini farmers' market to help achieve theirs.

Fitzpatrick: Yes.

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Maureen Barrett