

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 meeting November 13, 2017

Present: Browne, , Jass , Dovey, Fitzpatrick, Templeton

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

****ANNOUNCEMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF WALNUT STREET SCHOOL STUDENT ELECTION WINNERS****

****OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO WALNUT STREET SCHOOL STUDENT ELECTION WINNERS*****

Fitzpatrick: Programs started by Joan Hinkle of Delanco Women’s Civic Club

Excerpts of students’ speeches:

- ways to make money – drive in movie at Dietz and Watson property with snacks.
- No car bicycle path through Delanco Beverly and Riverside
- Combine trash collection with neighboring towns to save money
- Merge municipal court with surrounding township and savings would go to Delanco schools.
- Collars for all pets; help stray animals to get to a safe shelter.
- Volunteering time to clean up trash around basketball courts and other parks.

****INTRODUCTION AND OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW DELANCO POLICE CHAPLAINS – Pastor Donshae Lee Joyner and Rev. Charles Robert Mitchell**

DeSanto: Appointing two chaplains who have churches in our town. They will be part of a bigger group – Riverfront Police Chaplains. Purpose: emotional support of residents and police officers

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

ORDINANCE 2017-16 AMENDING CHAPTER 295 GOVERNING "VEHICLES AND PARKING"

RESOLUTION 2017-134 AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WILLINGBORO FOR THE PROVISION OF ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES

RESOLUTION 2017-135 TO REFUND TAX OVERPAYMENT FOR TOTAL VETERAN EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30a

RESOLUTION 2017-136 AUTHORIZING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO ADVANCE PAYMENT FOR CERTAIN EXPENDITURES INCURRED BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS FOR THE NEW JERSEY LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES CONVENTION

RESOLUTION 2017-137
RESOLUTION CERTIFYING LIENS AGAINST CERTAIN PROPERTIES FOR COSTS
INCURRED BY THE TOWNSHIP IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 135 OF THE
TOWNSHIP CODE
PAYMENT OF BILLS ACCOUNT
CURRENT FUND \$1,117,969.61
P A YROLL 169,480.75
CAPIT AL 1,667.90
ESCROW TRUST ,714.00
MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE 13,716.81
APPROVAL OF MINUTES 9/25/17, 10/2/17 & 10/16/17
APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS
APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

COMMENTS FROM WALNUT STREET SCHOOL STUDENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Would like to bring back home ec.
- Browne: Kids have ideas and are innocent. Heard more ideas out of these guys even though some won't work.
- Farmers' market
- Browne: That is a great idea and can be done.
- Delanco Museum – learned a lot about Delanco at Community Day that all should know.
- Browne: Wonderful idea. Maybe you will be the one to make it come to fruition. In 2005 we didn't have a historic preservation board.
- Fitzpatrick: When you leave tonight, look at the display cases. The displays are changed..
- Clean up basketball courts and trash at the parks and at the schools.
- Fundraiser – Santa Secret Sweets - candy canes for sale to send to special people.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

- Professionals:
- Heinold:
- no comment
- Browne: Doug is one of our most valuable players.

- Fox:
- Seawall project – proposal submitted to mayor and committee
- Preconstruction meetings – Midlantic Logistics, Cornerstone (Rhawn property).
- Stormwater basin inspection – behind town hall - \$10,300 proposal to clean out , install sand, and reestablish for the shorter term. May need to be wider in the long term.
- Zurbrugg Park – Received from county \$130,000 for improvement for park there.
- CDBGrant – Federal funds improve handicapped accessibility and helping seniors – awarded and preconstruction meeting was held – construction to start in 2 weeks. Will be working by Walnut Street School, by Lilac, and at Newtons Landing. Curb in

front of Walnut Street is going to be replaced and the handicapped ramp where everyone is stepping in the puddle on Burlington

-Spring road program

Fitzpatrick: Handicapped ramp at corner of Orchard and Walter – water gathers there. In the winter, it freezes. Resident has tried to chop the ice away. Is there something that can be done while doing the others?

Fox: Will take a look at it. Might be able to address

Department Heads:

Chief of Police-

-Meeting – Jass and I attended– River corridor planning meeting – overview of what they are attempting to do. Another smaller one to be held in December regarding vehicle and pedestrian safety. Eg. Creek Road – industry and public transportation without sidewalk.

Jass: Dec meeting date hasn't been set. There will be four. Then there will be a final presentation

Supt of Public Works:

-45 yds of chipped up brush

-new drop box installed

-53 trees elevated on Newtons Blvd.

-Got to stumps

-Removed two big trees on Lilac and Third – PSEG took them down

-Cut all town properties one more time

-started leaf pickup – no trash or sticks

-1/2 ton asphalt for potholes

Fitzpatrick: Trees on Lilac were huge. Who will grind them out? Will they do any others?

Fenimore: Making a final list for Shade Tree – 30 stumps – 10 are county's .

Fitzpatrick: They did grind the ones on Burlington Ave. I would be happy to make the call.

Browne: Thanks for saving that tree.

Municipal Clerk

-Annual Rabies Clinic was held – 38 vaccines – lowest ever seen. One year we had 150 vaccines and ran out. 1 cat – not recommended for cats.

-new mailbox at municipal building on the other side of parking lot – won't have to get out of your car - new traffic patterns at this building. Do not go behind the building.

DeSanto: Safety issue– cameras – We are trying to eliminate the number of unknown vehicles behind the building. People have been illegally dumping. Safer and more convenient for public.

Fitzpatrick: One-way sign is still there.

DeSanto: Striped on Friday. Sign will be taken down.

Township Committee

Templeton:

- great to have a reasonably full room tonight
- all of the township committee members report at each meeting
- CDBG grant – sat in on preconstruction meeting – lots of details.
- Working on preparing for meeting with Dept of Environmental Protection regarding a seawall at the Zurbrugg riverfront park. We have been working on it for years met twice in the last two years. We are at an impasse. Setting up another meeting – went through Singleton’s and Allen’s offices and another DEP contract. Hopefully can get back to a line as close as possible to the original seawall. Some people don’t realize that that is a municipal park for public to enjoy. Trying to make it a better place.
- Joint Insurance Fund – DeSanto is safety officer, Erin makes it run.
- Sat in on municipal court – having two sessions a month.
- Environmental Advisory Board – discussed No Idling signage. EAB will craft a letter to ID locations for those signs. Will approach school board as well. The signs will be a reminder of existing state law that prohibits idling to cut down on emissions.
- Attended school board meeting – Kate Fitzpatrick and I share that. It’s important for people to be in the audience. Attend if you can and lend your voice to the community.
- Last year enacted ordinance for trick or treat and mischief night. Seems to work out quite well.

Dovey:

- Thanks to Shade Tree for arborist led pruning workshop at Newtons Landing – hands on. Would be good to run a town-wide one for trees on your property.
- Harry, we would like to send notice to homeowners at Newtons Landing regarding which trees will be removed and which sidewalks be replaced.

Fox: Yes, by address

Dovey:

- John and I talked about working with other river towns to discuss erosion. Perhaps together we could approach state legislature.
- Attended Fire Commissioners meeting – comedy night was the first ever.

Fitzpatrick:

- 5K 82 runners – successful – profit for Womens Club -will share with schools
- Historical Preservation – determining future projects. Excellent presentation – Rolling on the Rancocas – was held. John Anderson is working to have Rancocas established as a trail waterway on the national level – not just for power boats, but kayaks and canoes. Delanco signed on.
- Take Back Drug Day- box was filled.

DeSanto: two boxes

Fitzpatrick:

- Attended DYSA’s fall feast and won basket of cheer.
- Attended veteran’s ceremony. Was asked to speak. My father served in WWII and is buried in Hawaii. My brother is a Vietnam vet and I read the speech he wrote.

-A resident – no crosswalk at BCCAP– no sidewalk. Contacted county engineer. Suggested changing speed limit. County won't put crosswalks without sidewalk. I would like committee's input to ask if I can ask Jesse to study and have Richard write a letter. Would be a good project for Safe Streets to School grant in the future.

Fox: When that grant comes up again.

DeSanto: County would have to do the study.

Fitzpatrick: They are asking us to write a letter. They are asking that Jesse look at it too.

DeSanto: County has established the speed at 40mph. I can say that the development of the town has changed since that speed limit was put in place.

Jass:

-not much happening at Joint Land Use Board

-Attended Historical Preservation Board meeting – attended Rolling on the Rancocas

-Attended DYSA fall fest – good to support youth sports.

-Attended school board meeting – impressed that you were honoring students for respect and those who scored high in PARC test.

-Attended River Route Advisory Board– been on for 12 years. Reassessing Rt 130 – one of the most dangerous highways in NJ.

-Library has many things going on – Soup/Wood Turning luncheon – Nov 18.

Tickets \$8. Nov. 28 evening of holiday crafts.

-Recreation Dec. 2 5:45 with tree 6:00 Dec. 3 Gingerbread House 11 or 1 session – call township building to register. Best decorated house – Dec. 17 judging – call to put your house on the list by Dec. 15. Dec. 9 carriage rides - \$5 four time slots – tickets at Browne's Jewelers.

-Attended comedy night – was the best ever

Browne:

-Solar panels – Forming a subcommittee. Mike Templeton and Bob Dovey with George.

-Attended Veterans Day ceremony at Beverly – very emotional.

-Attending League of Municipalities convention.

-Attended DYSA event

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Matulewicz asked to be sworn in.

Matulewicz: I am here to respond to some comments that were made at a prior meeting that were disparaging to the Shade Tree Commission.

These are notes I received from Kristine Holland, an attorney. I asked her if they were accurate and she said that they were. Committee was discussing CDBG

Jass: Are you doing this on behalf of the Shade Tree Commission or yourself?

M: I have been a member of JLUB

Fitzpatrick: These aren't official minutes. Did you look at our official minutes?

Matulewicz: First comment was by Mr. Dovey. Alfred DeSilva has done a miraculous job with another property. Shade Tree planted this tree on Poplar. We

looked at this afer DeSilva's request. This is a redbud. John was insistent that we make a decsion. This was amicably resolved with contractor.

Dovey: You weren't at the next meeting. My comment was made that this guy was trying to improve the property.

Matulewicz: I went out last weekend and the tree was still there.

Dovey: Tree is four feet from a transformer. It's in the wrong spot.

Matulewicz: This tree will only be 15 feet high.

Browne: Request came in and it takes a month to look at it. You hadn't seen it. We got in a little tiff. I had confronted you. The other members of the board didn't want to make a decision without you. You can't make a motion unless the commission is convened.

Matulewicz: We aren't the (missed it)

Browne: It bothered me that it all seemed to depend on you.

Mataset: Listening to the immediacy issue raised...that house sat there for three years. Shade Tree is a volunteer board where people have full time jobs.

Jass: I'd like to hear (missed it)

Matulewicz: Board has reached out to the developer personally. His step son sits on our board. We didn't hold him up.

Matulewicz: John, here is what you said: They are right-wing tree lovers. How much longer do we ask them to control this?

Matulewicz presented credentials of Shade Tree Commission members.

Matulewicz: All are passionate about trees - all attend 8 hours of CORE training. We serve free of charge in our own town.

Dovey: It's all Shade Tree's mistake for planting wrong trees.

Fitzpatrick: It's the developer.

Matulewicz showed slide of plan for Newtons Landing: Plans were reviewed and approved by JLUB

Jass: There were many field changes made.

Matulewicz: How many?

Jass: Three - builder couldn't get those trees.

Matulewicz: It's oK if they are within the guidelines.

Dovey: Last seminar - certain trees you don't plant in the hell strip. Buttonwoods are inappropriate. Will grow 2-3 feet in diameter.

Matulewicz: Do you have training?

Dovey: Just common sense.

Browne: Too close together.

Dovey: We are talking about trying to develop policies to guide planning board based on historical studies.

Matulewicz: Are they scientific studies?

Dovey: 5 or 8 foot planting area - they would be fine.

Matulewicz: You have 4 1/2 ft.

Dovey: I'm hearing the word volunteer. We are all volunteers. When I was on the planning board in Edgewater, I didn't believe the engineers. I went out myself to check.

Matulewicz: This strip is 5 ft and was when it was approved.

Dovey: You have an obligation to go and look at these projects while they are being built.

Taraschi: Problem is that just because we sit on these boards, it doesn't mean that we have the same degree of knowledge as the professionals that advise us. If the professionals say it is appropriate, ...

Browne: Planning Board asks a million questions. You have one shot to get it right. We're the ones stuck with the problem. We all have to work together. This is the second time you are here. Last time, you turned your back and walked out.

Fitzpatrick: I've sat for 16 years. If a professional advises us and I have confidence in them, I will take their advice. I don't go to JLUB so I don't influence the board. The Joint Land Use Board approves what the professionals recommend.

Matulewicz: Over 4 ft should be adequate for any tree. I've worked all over this state.

Browne: I learned in 2000, I don't depend on professionals. I've been burnt before. They are human too. The Twin Towers fell.

Dovey: I've heard you question, Kate.

Matulewicz: There was an engineer.

Dovey: Engineer is in jail.

Matulewicz: There was a landscape architect.

Dovey: 15 years later there are problems.

Matulewicz: CDBG – 61 trees coming out, 51 are ash. No problem with removing the ash. 10 more to come out.

Fox: 160 additional trees would be evaluated.

Matulewicz: Will Kevin be involved?

Fox: Yes

Matulewicz: Planting at Newtons Landing were appropriate. Every tree in Newtons has mulch piled against the bark. Most homes have irrigation heads in curb strip. It's the contractor.

Browne: We know this. Where are you going with it? None of us are perfect.

Matulewicz: Tree roots come up then. Grant details: \$25,000 shortfall. You are going to use the townwide money...

Fitzpatrick: Harry calculated how the funds were being spent. CDBG – handicapped ramps \$68,650. \$9,950 Newtons Landing; \$25,000 - 15 ash trees removed from Shade Tree. \$12,960 for Walnut. It was misunderstood. That breakdown will be on the website. CDBG won't let us do streets in town any more.

Matulewicz: Kudos for you for getting that grant. Suggested remedies: responsible comprehensive management plan specific to NL, including a sustainable watering program. NL Tree care corps. Need to stop the adversarial relationship between Shade Tree Commission, Committee and Newtons Landing HOA.

Matulewicz: Valuate: Newtons Landing street trees are estimated at several thousand dollars in value each. Trees can add up to 15% home valuation and sell a property quicker. Street trees reduce pollution, storm water, summer temperature, winter wind velocity. They attenuate sound and light. Also reduce stress, lower blood pressure, improve air quality and general well being.

Last slide was of a sugar maple – 60-70 years old. When this township was part of Willingboro Shade Tree established in 20s.

Browne: I defend the trees.

Matulewicz: You've planted with us.

Fitzpatrick: What are going to do with all the trees they are going to remove? Can they be put someplace else?

Matulewicz: Newtons Landing planting strips are 4 1/2 feet.

Browne: Was Scott Taylor involved?

Matulewicz: It met state guidance and was approved.

Jass: Sprinkler systems – we should mandate that it isn't in the curb strip.

Dan Martin: Sprinklers are never shown in a site plan.

Matulewicz: You are trespassing when you put a sprinkler system in a public right of way.

Jass: A sprinkler system is part of the development in a planned community.

Matulewicz: Think about cost recovery against the contractor.

Jass: There were many times when the administrator and John reached out to homeowners association to talk about volcanoing trees.

Ann Moore: It's the contractor who broke the ordinance.

Jass: Realty and Riverton were the contractors..

Dovey: We have a costly problem. Our goal is a new Shade Tree Ordinance to bring it forth to the committee. There will be a public comment. We will mirror after model towns.

Taraschi: Sprinkler systems shouldn't be in public areas and should be shown in site plans. Our ordinance may need to be addressed.

Heinold: Isn't there an opportunity when people purchase?

Jass: Not in a planned community. You automatically had a sprinkler system from Realty.

Moore: Does a sprinkler system require a building permit? Would need to get that addressed?

Fitzpatrick: Bill had brought that up before. You can see trees that have been there for years and years and haven't been a problem. When you water every day for 15 minutes, it's common sense that roots rise.

Matulewicz: We would never plant in a 2 foot strip any more. Takes a while to evolve out of it.

Fitzpatrick: If a tree in the right of way is causing a problem, would you consider having allowing the homeowner to remove, fix sidewalk and plant an appropriate tree.

Matulewicz: We have done that.

Browne: Was it said that we spend a lot of time talking about trees?

Matulewicz: You can't be calling people names on the record.

Moore: How many trees will we lose? Hoping that town will look into reforesting.

Dovey: We are looking at replacing every tree that was taken down. It's important. How does Shade Tree keep control? Some towns plant 8 feet onto the private property, but Shade Tree controls.

Matulewicz: When you manage trees, you manage time. Treescapes are generational.

Dovey: Let's get back to letting people get trees removed.

Resident: The pot of money for 50/50 share on fixing sidewalks damaged by trees—is that still there?

Browne: Yes, we haven't spent anything.

Fitzpatrick: No, it would have gone to surplus.

Jass: Do you think that if there are grant monies available for one part of town, we shouldn't go for them?

Resident: I think you should go for every grant you can. I know that in the past when a project is being done and there isn't enough money, the project stops.

There are examples of that all over town.

Jass: It's an accounting thing that \$3,600 will be used. Richard said that he wasn't sure of what would be used until we got into the project.

Resident: Does this mean that Newtons Landing will be done and no one will be applying for a 50/50 share from that pot next year?

Fitzpatrick: It should.

Moore: County recycling tip and tag program – they go through sections of town. West end of Delanco this Thursday. Tag that you are doing a great job. Cart won't be rejected. Only 2% has been rejected. We are going out four hours before the crew will get there. We are always looking for volunteers.

Fitzpatrick: I can tag carts.

Browne: Don't fall in it though.

Moore: I'll be glad to have you.

Taraschi: Haven't heard about sidewalk repairs – small rises of about an inch. Drove to Florida and stopped at other towns to walk. Surprised at how many sidewalks were ground down. Could control price.

Browne: Have seen that too. Delanco is in pretty good shape.

Fox: Don't like the grinding – a short term fix if the tree is still there. Don't grind more than an inch.

Browne: Homeowner can elect to do that. It's on them.

COMMENT AND QUESTION SECTION OF THE MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

CORRESPONDENCE

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. PROPOSED ORDINANCE – AMENDING CHAPTER 216 GOVERNING “PARKS”

Browne: Who is responsible for trees in Delanco's park system? There is a discrepancy in the ordinance. Key players are here. Need a subcommittee of Rec and Shade Tree to meet.

Fitzpatrick: Ties into Shade Tree ordinance.

Browne: No, that is right of ways, species, height, pruning...

Fitzpatrick: My concern is that since township is the ultimate responsible body...any recreational plan has been submitted to Township Committee for approval.

Therefore, the TC has final approval.

Tarachi: You need to resolve the conflicting language. This sets out who has control in what area. I suggested TC have approval since they pay the bill. For parks, planting and removal of trees would need the approval of Recreation with advice of Shade Tree Commission. Planting plan shall be presented by Recreation.

Templeton: I suggest that Recreation act with Shade Tree's concurrence.

S. Lohr (Recreation): We do seek advice of township professionals – Mr. Fox, Mr. Taylor. For sports and athletic fields, I take issue. I see advice of Shade Tree in parks and trails. If a tree is ruining a \$50,000 sprinkler system, how much consultation do we need? The tree needs to be removed.

Heinold: This is the hour that we can start making bad decisions. Need to have further conversation.

Fitzpatrick: We have a subcommittee on Rec. – includes Fox, Taylor, DYSA, and Recreation. Has worked well.

S. Lohr: My understanding that subcommittees were for construction.

Browne: Subcommittee – Brown and Fitzpatrick (TC) , S. Lohr and McFadden (Rec), and two representatives from Shade Tree.

2. FY2018 NJDOT LOCAL FREIGHT IMPACT FUND GRANT - should contact the county regarding Coopertown Road, Burlington Avenue, and Creek Road

3. ENGINEERING PROPOSAL FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR SEAWALL REPAIRS AT EDGEWOOD, CENTER AND OAKFORD AVES.

Browne: In my travels, interested in forming a waterfront community consortium of towns. Would still like to move forward on permit phase.

Lohr: You need to do the topographies. \$17,300

Fitzpatrick: Richard recommended that we do that.

Browne: For something as serious as erosion on the Delaware River, maybe we want

Fitzpatrick: Oakford has been roped off for two years. If we don't do this, you don't get approved.

Jass: Don't you need your approval first?

Fitzpatrick: I've contacted DEP and Mike has worked with them several times. You think the county wants to get involved?

Jass: I've been with Mike. Met several times. We finally found someone who has worked very hard to get these people together. It would behoove the township to move forward. At least we would know that we have done our due diligence. If we don't do this...

Browne: It's like buying a home and spending the fees and not getting the house.

Fitzpatrick: I have a motion on the floor.

Passed with Browne voting no.

Lohr: Trees – township clerk on the books as the approver now. That could solve it.

4. 2016 MUNICIPAL PARK DEVELOPMENT GRANT AWARD

Lohr, S: Correction - \$500,000 mentioned for sprinkler system includes soccer fields.

Dovey: Oct 20 meeting comment – I missed three – back surgery, work, and missed last one)

I took offence at Mr. Suter’s statement that two members of the board would take advantage of that. He overtalked Mayor Brown as he left. He didn’t stick around for explanation from Harry. Some comments made tonight by Bill Matulewicz. He isn’t here now. I don’t think this board has put down, demeaned anyone. Mistakes were made by Township Committee, Planning Board, and engineers. Not directed at any individual on those boards. Costs the taxpayers money. Boards have an obligation to check on what they approve. We all put in a lot of time in our areas of responsibilities.

In the shade tree seminar I attended, there are trees for 4 foot strips. You don’t plant by telephone poles. Other towns have already been through this. You have seen what PSEG has done.

Hope this thing that has been going on that we are picking on individuals....

Fitzpatrick: Called us greedy. Seemed to think we shouldn’t have gone for the grant. I think that was what his intention was. He didn’t hear the breakdown and hearing the breakdown made a difference to me.

ADJOURNMENT