

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 April 16, 2018

Present: Browne, Ouellette, Dovey, Fitzpatrick, Templeton

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

John Phisterer: NJ Legislature joint legislative resolution honoring Kate Fitzpatrick for her many years of service.

Fitzpatrick: Thank you. It means a lot to be recognized and especially to have you do the presentation.

ORDINANCE 2018-8 AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP CODE AT CHAPTER 50 GOVERNING "LAND USE PROCEDURES" AND CHAPTER 100 GOVERNING "SUBDIVISION OF LAND" REGARDING PERFORMANCE, MAINTENANCE AND RELATED GUARANTEES

*2ND READING BY TITLE ONLY AND PUBLIC HEARING

Fitzpatrick: Updates our ordinances to comply with new laws.

HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ORDINANCE 2018-8 – no comments

HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Passed unanimously

ORDINANCE 2018-9 AMENDING TOWNSHIP CODE TO DELETE CHAPTER 178 ENTITLED "FIRE PREVENTION" AND AMEND CHAPTER 179 PROVIDING FOR A "FIRE SAFETY CODE"

*2ND READING BY TITLE ONLY AND PUBLIC HEARING

Fitzpatrick: Doing this due to update in response to request from our fire official.

HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ORDINANCE 2018-9 - none

HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Passed unanimously

Lohr: Ordinance 2018-8 was found consistent with master plan as per JLUB

COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

COMMENTS -TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

-Complete Streets Policy – postponed discussion to next meeting when engineer is here

-Memo regarding Capital Program – follow up on where we are in terms of our projects and can discuss it further.

-Status of sidewalk project in Newtons Landing – work is generally complete.

Meeting Thursday with contractor regarding road program. Two residential fronts that still need to be replaced. Being sure not to exceed dollars available. Contractor is responsible to fill and seed all disturbed areas. Engineer are providing punch list this week. By Thursday we will know where we stand and where we are going to go next.

COMMENTS - DEPARTMENT HEADS

1. Police

-Stats for March – 41 investigations, 112 motor vehicle citations and 99 warnings.

Police actions 1, 623. 7 accidents and 20 arrests.

-Resolution in agenda for 305 Walter Avenue – recommending approval of handicapped parking. One additional handicapped spot is there on the opposite side of the road a few houses down. Documentation was provided by requesting resident.

-Acknowledged Officers Mack and Moloney for Union Avenue fire – they and Riverside officers were nominated for ProCops award – they will be receiving award. I will purchase tickets and we will square up. May 3 in Delran – evening begins at 6; dinner starts at 7.

-Valuation – engineers looked at Orchard and Vine and agreed with need for stop sign. Indicated that it is forreason B – restricted view that requires road users to stop. He said we could use motor vehicle data. He suggested that stop sign be placed as well as two warning signs. Will put into an ordinance with other stop signs. Mr. Templeton had mentioned Second and Walnut. No stop sign will be placed there.

-Issues with Camp Meeting Ground center – young people blocking exits with bikes and won't move. Being rude. Additional officers placed. It is a quasi-public area. It falls back on store or landowner to file a complaint. I reached out to management company to advise that if they have issues, they can call, they can file a complaint. In the meantime, we have bike ordinances to use.

Dovey: Incident on Burlington – drivers who were stopped someone with a flashlight

DeSanto: Similar situation in Florence – gun brandished. Ours was just flashlight and two people who waved driver to the side. Searched driver's pockets.

Burlington Township had a similar situation.

Browne: Riverside is looking into a No Knock ordinance. Someone put it up on Delanco Facebook. Did you sanction that?

DeSanto: No. Sent it on our Facebook. Old residents they have the right to have their own sign – No Solicitation. We don't have an ordinance to enforce.

Ouellette: Do solicitors need to register?

DeSanto: Yes, and be fingerprinted by us or another department. We can use the background check data base.

Ouellette: Are they required to display the permit?

DeSanto: Yes. Mr. Softee truck drivers are required to have them too.

2. Municipal Clerk

-Beverly is here to report on our first shredding event:

Beverly: Tag Shredding provided two employees for confidential shred. 87 household 237 lbs. Total Cost \$750. Residents were appreciative. In addition, we disposed of 490 lbs of township documents. Paid for from recycling grant.

Fitzpatrick: Both events that day come out of that fund.

Templeton: There was quite an effort to get the right company at the right price. Lots of work in that. Thank you.

Lohr:

-Preconstruction meeting for road program this week.
-Received email from Matt Johnson at the county regarding the off road portion of trail – 10 feet of gravel trail - to connect Amico Island and Pennington Park. Under rail bridge and behind Newtons Landing. Small section of easement wasn't conveyed to county.

Most of trail is on county property, but part was curved due to some trees. I forwarded this to Doug Heinhold. He proposed that county provides legal description and conveyance could be done by ordinance

Fitzpatrick: We should do that because they will maintain that trail anyway.

Lohr: It's just a little piece.

COMMENTS - TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Ouellette:

-Attended Joint Land Use Board – Boise Cascade Plan approved, Alliance HSP site plan approval, discussion of master plan – part of our packet

-Attended Library Board meeting – They received \$500 grant for the sign project

-Attended School Board meeting in support of the library – asked about next steps for the sign. Meeting to be held by school administrator with their facilities committee. Mayor Fitzpatrick addressed the school budget regarding transparency. You handled that very well, Kate.

-Attended Recreation Commission meeting – discussed field usage and rest periods for the fields in July and August between spring and fall. Discussion about parade staging for a better flow for dropping off folks at Delview and Larchmont.

McFadden: Trying to avoid congestion – People will be sent right on Delview and can make a right to the street before the school. Other issue is use of Boise lumber for tractor trailers for the parade. We have to find out if the new company will allow us to use their property. One idea would be to use Turtle Court.

Fitzpatrick: The other place – Braga?

McFadden: Not enough space.

DeSanto: Tieman Circle?

McFadden: Yes. Police department could actually block road and allow access.

DeSanto: Best scenario is to use the company lot off the road. Tieman is option two as it is a loop.

Ouellette: Clean up – May 6 was scheduled, but EAB has already set up for May 12 so Recreation will support Environmental Board on May 12 from 9-12.

Schwab: Be sure to tell John Fenimore.

McFadden: He is aware.

Ouellette: Sat, April 14 was opening day. I worked in the morning, but stopped by the in the afternoon. I was impressed with the condition of the fields.

Dovey:

-John and I received draft of Shade Tree Ordinance. John, do you want to get together one more time?

Browne: Yes. You and I will review. It's important to reach out to subcommittees.

Dovey: I'm on Shade Tree.

Fitzpatrick: Not a good idea. We need two members of Shade Tree.

Dovey: Richard and Janice did a great job putting together the ordinance.

Lohr: Took the liberty of providing a copy to Randy Johnson.

Dovey: Did he get back to you?

Lohr: No

Dovey: Can you reach out? We want to be sure something doesn't get planted in front of something fire department needs.

-Edgewater Park has a Shade Tree Advisory Committee – they attended our last meeting. We agreed to give them a copy and open up communication. They would like to go back to a commission. They have similar issues.

-Ash borer has decimated trees in Montgomery County – they have come down during the storms on municipal and private property. Trees become very susceptible to wind and storm damage. They become dangerous. You can treat, but only by an approved company and it is every two years.

Fitzpatrick: We've treated the one on Delaware.

Dovey: In Newtons Landing, some places on private property have sidewalks raised more than a quarter inch and they didn't do them. I think they used orange dots to indicate what was to be removed and orange to indicate utility lines so it was confusing. Anxious to see how their list compares to what was done.

Templeton:

-Environmental Advisory Board has been busy – coordinated clean up day with Rec. Put up a number of the No Idling signs. Liz and Vince did presentations at the school regarding the importance. They set up a contest to see how many people the kids could tell about the program. Liz has been the main driver behind this with support from the entire board.

-JIF on-site property review – John Fenimore took them around today.

-Attended JIF safety breakfast with Chief DeSanto and Erin Provenzano - another full day tomorrow. Attending with Erin.

-Attended seniors monthly meeting – Walnut Jazz Band. I have heard that the band was to be discontinued at Riverside.

Fitzpatrick: Unfortunate- great program and

-Meetings regarding sea walls

Browne:

-Clean Up day –

-Hazardous waste – I went out to county. They are great. I've offered to take it out for residents.

-Attended Freeholders meeting. They go very quickly. Three proclamations – Parkinson's Alcohol Abuse Awareness, Sikh Awareness. Driving hard to settle contract with employees. Ran into (missed it) I brought up Hawk Island. I asked if they were buying inventory. She said not really. I told her not to discount Delanco.

We may be able to partner. Voters may approve an increase if there was a chance to purchase Hawk Island.

Fitzpatrick: I emailed Matt Johnson. He didn't respond. I will do so again.

Browne: Fire site now looks safe. Drove Newtons Landing – looks nice and I hope residents are happy.

Fitzpatrick:

-Two Boy Scouts worked with me at Gateway to weed flower beds and around the trees. They picked up all the little branches. They got community service hours and I got help.

Browne: I always see Kate out there working by herself.

-Women's Club Trivia Night – Library team won first prize. Mike and Maureen were on that team. We got an email from Mr Mersinger. He said the Walnut Woodpeckers had won one year and he was hoping to get into first place again. We came in 10th place.

-Attended Seniors meeting – next meeting will be about the Jersey Devil

-Attended school board meeting: April 25 ChikFilA for PTO, AdHoc committee is working on specific questions regarding the high school. I gave them copies of our budget. I looked for the law that said it has to be OPRA'd and didn't find it. I sent the law to him. It seems to say what they have to do after presenting to the county. I was annoyed to have to submit a written request for their budget. I asked why they couldn't give the public something readable. I think it was misunderstood a bit, but then I think they understood. The township didn't always have what we do now. I think it's time for the school board to do the same.

Dovey: What did their solicitor say?

Fitzpatrick: They don't have one. Their administrator wanted to talk to me first. I think it's important that people on the school board understand that they are to run that meeting. I like Joe Mersinger and he has made nice improvements, but he seems to control the board. Steven Lohr asks questions and I am proud of him. Lynne Whitney asks questions and understood what I was saying.

-Opening Day – speaker who had lost a leg gave a speech about not giving up on your hopes and dreams and keeping a positive attitude.

-Memorial Day Parade – I will get the flowers – we will ride and walk.

-DEP – I emailed Lindsey Davis – she gave me the hot line so you can warn them if there is a problem.

Templeton: That works for everything?

Fitzpatrick: Yes.

Dovey: Lots of tree limbs down. Our town has done the best job of cleanup. John has done a great job.

Lohr: This Saturday is yard sale – EMS has hoagie sale and Scouts have breakfast. Library has book and yard sale.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS SESSION ONE

Resident of Delaware:

-Thank you for the shred event.
-Library sign – just want to bring you up to date that before any work was done on the sign project I went to the school board. That was four years ago and no one had any objection to it. A year ago Mr. Mersinger said he wasn't in favor. They are having a facilities meeting about it this week.
-FYI, the County Library Commission budget is discussed in executive session, there is no copy for the public and no public hearing. They approve it and you have to file an OPRA request to see it.

COMMENT AND QUESTION SECTION OF THE MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLUTION 2018-54 TO EXTEND COMPUTER/NETWORKING SERVICES AND SUPPORT CONTRACT WITH FITZ-IN CORP DBA FITZGERALD AND COMPANY

RESOLUTION 2018-55 AUTHORIZING ONE HANDICAPPED PARKING SPACE AT 305 WALTER AVENUE

RESOLUTION 2018-56 TO REFUND TAX OVERPAYMENT FOR TOTAL VETERAN EXEMPTION PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30a

RESOLUTION 2018-57 REFUND CASH PORTION OF MAINTENANCE GUARANTEE AND ECSCROW BALANCES FOR DUNKIN DONUTS, AT 801 BURLINGTON AVENUE, BLOCK 1602 LOT 20

PAYMENT OF BILLS ACCOUNT

GENERAL \$ 189,362.23

PAYROLL 94,871.32

CAPITAL FUND 8,692.50

DOG FUND 10.00

ESROW TRUST 24,032.52

MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE 153.57

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 3/12/2018

APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSES 2018-1, 2018-18, 2018-22, 2018-27 THRU 2018-35, 2018-37, 2018-38, 2018-41 THRU 2018-47

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 3/19/2018

Passed unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE

-Letter from Delanco Schools – 8th grade graduation June 21. Are we going to continue to do two awards?

Fitzpatrick: Absolutely

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS SESSION TWO - none

COMMENT AND QUESTION SECTION OF THE MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. NATURE CONSERVANCY LIVING SHORELINE PLANNING GRANT

Templeton: Handed out packet regarding this grant due May 4 - \$5 – 35,000 for study, planning and construction. Went to workshop in Tuckerton last week. Met with regulators and coordinator from Nature Conservancy. Only thing likely to get approval is something that creates habitat. DEP is rigid on not approving sea walls or bulkheads – rules for oceans vs. rivers and streams seem to be different. I signed up for 15 minutes with Lindsey Davis of DEP – we’ve met with her on at least two other occasions without success. Mike (missed it) , Phila area Corps of Engineers – is interested and sees it as a difficult area due to ice. I’ve pulled down research papers to educate myself. This is developing science. Most are designed for protected backwaters. Not much experience in high energy environments like ours. This could be a prototype to get some data on the wind, waves and ice and be able to do something. What that looks like might be ripwrap or enhanced rebutment –with shrubberies. Another feature you can augment that with is a breakwater beyond the low tide line – crushed rock or ripwrap or precast blocks that would be anchored. Talked with Mike (Corps of Engineers) this morning. It seems like DEP and Corps are telling me two different things. He was encouraging and offered some other contacts at state agencies. He asked me to send the proposal to him if we decide to proceed so he can forward to his contacts. I have the data together.

Fitzpatrick: Does Harry or Chris have to do anything?

Templeton: No

Fitzpatrick: I would say if we can get some funds to do a study...I hope that DEP will come up with us to repair.

Templeton: We did touch on it. Harry wants to submit permit request.

Schwab: Can’t do work during sturgeon mating season. There is a concern about a mussel – tidewater mucket. We will have to pay someone to count the muckets. Until you start the process, you can’t negotiate.

Fitzpatrick: Yes. You have all the information. Are you comfortable doing that?

Templeton: Yes, talked with grant coordinator. I have the two page summary.

Sounds like the Zurbrugg mansion project is a plus.

Browne: What about at the ends of the streets?

Templeton: Remains to be seen. Talked with Mike regarding private property seawalls. General permit possible for homeowners to repair. He said there should be some way to do that under one umbrella. Very nebulous at this point.

I think it would be a good test. I don't want the township to pay to experiment and have it wash away in three years.

Schwab: Study is for the Zurbrugg. We have already filed for permits for ends of streets. County won't give us money to protect the land, just to make the park look pretty.

Browne: Once you lose the sea wall, it's not coming back.

Schwab: Right.

Browne: What about like in front of your house? If you lose your seawall, can you rebuild?

Templeton: This grant has nothing to do with the DEP, but they may look more favorably on the cooperation. They want habitat, but sea wall was there for 70-80 years.

Fitzpatrick: I'd say move forward.

Browne: Yes. I'd like to learn more about it.

Lohr: Resolution 2018-58 to move forward with grant.

Passed unanimously

2. NEW BUDGET REQUIREMENT: FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS REQUIREMENTS

Schwab: This is the first year in which you are required, as part of the budget process, to sign a personal affidavit to affirm that you are familiar with requirements and that our hiring practices comply. We have just updated our policies that include the requirements. We cannot ask about criminal records unless the person will be working directly or indirectly with minors or in public safety.

Templeton: If there is a gap in employment history, can you ask about the gap?

Schwab: No. You are taking a risk. I would avoid it.

Ouellette: In speaking to residents about the budget we introduced, people ask where we can cut. We cut \$100,000 from public works. Township, school district, county, and fire district. Is there anything there we can look at.

Dovey: Richard gave us a list at the last budget workshop.

Fitzpatrick: I didn't think we approved it. I will have to look at it.

Ouellette: We had two committee members who voted not to introduce. Is there a place you think we should cut?

Browne: We sat and listened to each department. We were to take \$950,000 out of surplus and ended up with \$900,000. Our cuts were minimal based on a large amount of money. I felt there was no negotiation. I was looking for a little bit more.

Dovey: Looking like 7-8 cents with school, county, fire district.

Browne: I don't want to be complacent and let taxes continue to rise. All we hear is about property taxes.

Fitzpatrick: When I first got on committee, there was a smart bill to take real estate taxes to income taxes. When you were young, you would be paying less, you would pay more when you were earning more through your income, and less again as a senior. I was sad it didn't continue. It was the smartest way to control taxes so real estate isn't what it is in NJ. If we don't hold back, we will be up against it again last

year. If you go to 0, it takes a long time to get back from it. One year after Township Committee did that, it would have been 18 cents just for municipal so we split over two years. I could see taking that \$50,000 out of surplus. If we can't put it back, we have less to help taxpayers with. I can't see cutting employees. Our residents came out and said they wanted more police. I don't see any reduction in my bills either. There is a cost to run the town and we couldn't run it for less. They give great service. We could take from surplus and pray we could replenish it.

Browne: On the smart bill and sharing services and merging municipalities. Are any of them going to get done?

Fitzpatrick: I brought it to you, and you were on then. You laughed at me.

Browne: I have ideas, but I am only one person. Police (missed it)

Fitzpatrick: If you have a solution... the \$50,000 would be it. I can't do a 0% increase.

Dovey: What we are proposing 3% - too much.

Fitzpatrick: It's less than last year and that was less than the year before.

Dovey: Ratables are down.

DeSanto: We were supposed to be at 12 officers in 2007.

Dovey: I thought the projects would be done. I thought the school board would be more responsible. This is a working class town. People are struggling to pay their bills. I think we could have looked more closely at what we could hold off on. We asked Richard for the list. We had two meetings where we discussing portapotties at Christmas events. We didn't talk about the big things.

Fitzpatrick: Like what?

Dovey: The surplus was one. Take a look at the list from Richard and reevaluate.

Browne: If you put the surplus back in, the increase would only be about 2%

Schwab: I will resend the list.

Browne: Fern, where would you be happy? What penny?

Fitzpatrick: Mike found the list. Eliminate ...

Templeton: Changing the surplus amount is risky. There is a lot of trouble you can get into draining your surplus. It is very hard to climb out. A minimal year over year is dangerous too. The way budgets are structured, you need to have a strong foundation. You are asking for trouble 2-4 years down the road for one year's gratification. It's taken several years to recover from 2006-2008. It's not worth hanging it out. You buy down the tax rate with the surplus.

Dovey: You are not taking ...

Fitzpatrick: We could reduce or delay the note. \$127,000. That is the most sensible.

Schwab: Just renew it as is, and don't pay it down.

Browne: After the last municipal building payment is paid for,

Fitzpatrick: \$127,000. That is the most sensible. It doesn't affect the way we service our people.

Browne: Do you still pay the interest?

Schwab: Yes. If you are assuming that things will be better in the future... It's a wonderful thing to pay off your note just like your credit card.

Templeton: and whatever new bond...

Schwab: You want to have enough to consolidate into another bond. Many municipalities never pay off bonds. They borrow \$200-300,000 every year and then go out for 15 year bonds later. You would hold a public hearing and amend.

Fitzpatrick: I think we should do that. It would bring our increase down to 1.4 or 1.5%

Schwab: We will need to adopt another temporary budget to operate.

ADJOURNMENT

Submitted by Maureen Barrett