

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 May 21, 2018

Present: Browne, Ouellette, Dovey, Fitzpatrick, Templeton

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

***2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET – PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2018 BUDGET AMENDMENTS
- RESOLUTION 2018-61**

**HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE 2018 MUNICIPAL
BUDGET - none**

HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Fitzpatrick: At our May 7th meeting, we decided to review our budget since two members were opposed to it. We lowered the budget by \$75,000 by extending a payment we need to pay on a note. Average impact – for a home assessed at \$190,000 – increase would be a little under \$24 a year. This made more members comfortable with it.

Passed unanimously

***2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET ADOPTION**

RESOLUTION 2018-67 ADOPTION OF 2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET AS AMENDED

Passed unanimously

**ORDINANCE 2018-10 AMENDING CHAPTER 295 GOVERNING “VEHICLES AND
PARKING” *2ND READING BY TITLE ONLY AND PUBLIC HEARING**

Fitzpatrick: Adding stop signs.

HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ORDINANCE 2018-10

HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Passed unanimously

****SPECIAL PRESENTATION** - Friends of Burlington County Animal Shelter -
Services for Pets and Feral Cats- Regina Arey**

Arey: Trying to control population of free-roaming feral, community cats. We are suggesting an amendment to your ordinance to number of cat pets. Free-roaming aren't owned by anyone. Not licensed. 800 cats and kittens were euthanized last year. In 2017, 32 from Delanco were taken to a shelter. We have better live release rate than most. Why are there so many feral cats? Kitten season started in March. Cats can have new litters at 3-4 months of age – cycle keeps repeating. Trapping, shelter and euthanize isn't working and is costly to municipalities. Cats being killed is unpalatable. Cats are the most popular pets. Abandoned and lost cats start having litters. They aren't socialized and are unadoptable. Usually euthanized. Up to 25% of US households feed community cats. TNR (Track, Neuter, Vaccinate and Return) is successful. Promotes public health due to vaccination. Friends of Burlington County Animal Shelter's motto is "Neutering our way to no kill." When contacted, they will trap, evaluate animal by a vet, vaccinate, tip left ear so you know

it has been TNRd, and return. In 2016, 300 cats were trapped; 2017, 800 cats were trapped. Subsidized up to \$15. We were doing it for free at the beginning of the year. We loan traps and provide resources. Hoping for no kill by 2025. I shared Shamong's ordinance with you as a sample. They were the first to adopt TNR. Also given you some attachments with additional information.

Fitzpatrick: I haven't had the opportunity to read it all yet. I took in a cat. I took it to the vet and had it neutered. He had AIDS. I paid for shots. He only lived 6 months. Someone dumped him. I had a neighbor with an outdoor cat who lived in with me. He's lived with me for 8 years. Once a cat is out for a while, it's hard. I'm in favor of this program. I don't see as many stray cats now. There is a black and white cat who has been all over.

Arey: Cats were always mostly outside. Only recently that we wanted to bring them in.

Fitzpatrick: Do we need a committee or just volunteers? What is the cost to the township?

Arey: There used to be a vet who came around to talk about TNR. It was more complicated then. Now we have the Friends group – contact through the webpage. We have traps.

Templeton: What do you want us to do? The Shamong ordinance doesn't make sense with what you are saying. You are saying a community cat has no owner, but the custodian is getting a violation in the ordinance. Are you on the county website? Have you run anything in the Beverly Bee? It seems you need to get the word out to people.

Fitzpatrick: I agree with Mike to not change our ordinance. If someone wants to contact you to have cats or a colony taken care of, they should. I wouldn't want to fine someone who is taking care of feral cats.

Browne: Cat hoarders are a problem in a community. The feral cat areas stink. It is a way to rectify that. The cat people I know don't have the money. Say you pass the ordinance. If you do it, you have to do it right. Set traps, contact the Friends group. I look at my kitchen window and I am starting to see a lot of new faces in the community. We have raccoons and skunks and they are doing what they are born to do. If we adopt a program with you...

Fitzpatrick: I thought there is no cost.

Arey: But for an individual, it would be \$35 for feral cats and a little more for pet cats.

Fitzpatrick: I see when people leave an apartment, they leave their cats behind.

Arey: People pay \$15 and the rest is subsidized. But as a community, you don't pay.

Browne: Based on some of the scenarios, if it is a way to control the communities, and you can give the hoarders a way to take care of the cat. I would like the opportunity to read this over. Are these services available to Delanco residents now?

Arey: Yes

Fitzpatrick: When we get the website info, we should put it on our website. It's a nice way to handle it.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

COMMENTS - DEPARTMENT HEADS

1. Police

- April 31 investigations 269 motor vehicle, 1,665 police contacts, 20 arrests.
- Click It or Ticket It initiative underway now and related resolution is in the consent agenda.

Fitzpatrick: When is DARE graduation?

Lohr: June meeting is June 11

2. Municipal Clerk Next meeting is June 11

COMMENTS

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Ouelette:

- Attended Library meeting – working on sign and policies for background checks.
- Attended Rec meeting – discussed parade May 27 at 1:00 – line up at 12:30. They generate a monthly profit and loss report. Operation is transparent. Discussion pertaining to fencing and improvements at Field of Dreams.
- Attended Clean Up day at West Ave.
- Economic Advisory meeting was postponed
- Working on subcommittee regarding our trash/ recycling contracts.

Dovey:

-Would like Township Committee to consider a tax abatement program for older homes – 3-5 years for improvement to help young people and improve properties. We should consider an abatement for converting multi-tenant homes to single family. JLUB has received a multi-tenant conversion report from Taylor Design in 2016 and 2017

Fitzpatrick: I did a lot of research on that in 2006 and had Delanco Federal lined up to do financing at a lower interest rate. Then the economy crashed. I have a file. Mike brought this up as well. The most important issue is to get a bank.

Dovey: You don't need a bank to do an abatement.

Fitzpatrick: Nice to give a package.

Dovey: I didn't realize there was a program while I was in Edgewater. Assessor suggested that I take advantage of the abatement. I financed myself. A lot of people will do that. This is a way of helping young homeowners.

Fitzpatrick: I see that, but when you are talking about converting...

Dovey: Talked with Joe. Owners are getting great rates now so will be unlikely to look into that now. Report is worth reading. This might help with moving upkeep of houses along. Kitty, can we get copies of the Taylor reports from JLUB for the Township Committee?

Martin: Sure

Dovey: Want to correct Newtons Landing list – only one list was posted

Fitzpatrick: Why would it be posted?

Dovey: Because it is public information. People asked me. I called here.

Fitzpatrick: When you have an engineer working in the field, there are changes in which they may sign off and we don't get that information. Chris had said that at our meeting.

Dovey: It didn't say confidential. When people ask me for public information, I give it.

Templeton: I think it's inappropriate to send things through a back channel.

Browne: Bob is a homeowner in Newtons Landing.

Templeton: Public contracts always have changes. It's misleading to the residents if you are publishing something.

Browne: List of properties. No problem.

Fitzpatrick: Harry said there were some issues with the degree of height.

Dovey: He had a list.

Fitzpatrick: I appreciate what you are doing.

Dovey: I will continue to do that unless told by the solicitor not to release something.

Idea – join with other river towns and environmental groups, perhaps we will have more clout with DEP. I've been on here 2 years. I know that Mike has gotten frustrated. If we all acted together, we might get somewhere.

Fitzpatrick: Not sure some of these towns have problems. Riverton's bank is much different than ours. They have a wall. Not sure they have erosion. Someone could look into it.

Dovey: I'm thinking about Delran and (missed it). Burlington City seems to have special rules.

Fitzpatrick: Good idea.

Dovey: New Jersey American can increase rates prior to approval by DEP. Kills me. If there is a resolution in other towns, we should do one too.

Fitzpatrick: Amazing they can get away with it.

Dovey: Thank you for reconsideration of the budget, especially for Fern for bringing that up. Other issue, Cornerstone Fair Share issue. the Sewerage Authority had meeting today. Authority was notified. Totally different picture.

Fitzpatrick: Need to look at my file. We had an escrow account and we gave the developers funds. \$60,000 Creekside, over \$100,000 Living Springs. Now we have \$90,000 that must be used for affordable housing project. They are entitled to receive it.

Lohr: There is a small amount that is available for administrative costs.

Fitzpatrick: We have funds to contribute.

Dovey: They have gotten a reduction in the connection fees.

Fitzpatrick: Whether they pay or we pay as our contribution to the fair housing project. We will have Doug advise.

Lohr: Doug got the correspondence.

Templeton: I got it verbally from Richard.

Lohr: It is an executive item for June 11 as per Doug.

Dovey: Shade Tree Ordinance – my favorite. Draft 4 – Janice, please send to JLUB. Ask them to review and get back to us prior to our July meeting. I will give it to Shade Tree.

Fitzpatrick: I thought we did that.

Dovey: Janice and Richard cleaned up the language.

Fitzpatrick: How was Shade Tree's response?

Dovey: They have copies. Only Mark has made a comment that he wants to talk with me about it.

Browne: We do want the help of JLUB and Shade Tree.

Dovey: Would like to see language in new master plan.

Lohr: I will email to Kitty for her to email.

Templeton:

- Attended Dunes Clean up – thanks to Phil and Erin for putting it together and Liz and Amber on EAB - filled a whole dump truck. Thanks to John and crew and Boy Scouts. 30 people turned out.

- JIF – safety meeting on Wednesday.

- Zurbrugg – first week of June should hear regarding the grant application. Talked with Beverly administrator. They are at the beginning of conversation with DEP about restoring their sea wall. Seems positive as it impacts sewage. Pulled records from Riverton on the project they did years ago.

Fitzpatrick: Is it a wall?

Templeton: Most of the riverfront property there is privately owned. 6-8 years ago something was done. Can't figure out exactly how they did it. There are some complicating factors for us.

Browne:

- Met with Kate regarding Camp Meeting Grounds.

- Freeholders meeting . Bridge is coming down. Seeking grant funding to restore bridge for pedestrian use. Public comment there was in favor of taking it down.

-Janice, can we do anything so that Delanco residents get first dibs on the housing in the Cornerstone Project?

Lohr: No. Process of application processing is very specific. In Delanco, traditionally it is done through a lottery. Nothing allows residents to get preference.

Dovey: Can we put something on the website?

Lohr: First informational session was to be mid June, but it has been canceled due to being behind in construction. They want to use a first come, first qualified process..

Marybeth Lonergan is checking to see if that is acceptable rather than a lottery.

They wanted to know how we could provide 24 hour security and bathrooms for those who would line up.

Dovey: Can we put something on the website for our Delanco residents?

Lohr: Not sure if that violates, but will check.

Fitzpatrick: I have provided an individual the information.

Lohr: Advertising has to be regional – not through town.

Dovey: Intent of the Mount Laurel decision was to have people be able to stay in their own town.

Fitzpatrick: We followed that case in our paralegal association.

Fitzpatrick: There are Delanco residents living in the mansion.

Lohr: It is first come, first qualified after the initial lottery.

Browne: Budget – thank you to everyone. It’s the hardest thing we do each year. Though we don’t always agree, we have to get it done.

Fitzpatrick:

-Attended Senior meeting – talk on the Jersey devil. Mike was there. I gave them info on Swift 911 and packets to register if they need assistance. June meeting is at the Madison on the 12th at 12:00 \$20 for members; \$28 for others.

-Attended Field of Dreams meeting – waiting for plan from Scott.

-Asked Rec to reconsider using funds for Zurbrugg Park elsewhere.

Phil MacFadden: We have put it on hold until we talked with Mike

- Attended West Avenue Clean Up – Girl Scouts were cleaning up our riverfront property.

-Met with owner of Camp Meeting Grounds who was shocked at the pictures I took. Unacceptable to residents of town. He had just left lunch at Vinny’s. Talked about trash and containers. John Fenimore will put some on Burlington Avenue. Trash had been cut with lawnmower and is all over. Spruce Street had been totally neglected. John suggested they trim up trees. As of tonight, it is still not to my liking. Gave him two contacts of landscapers. Snow removal cost him a lot. I gave him names of companies that do both. We are going to set up another meeting and take more pictures. That is the center of our town.

Browne: He is in over his head a little. He is going to replace some lights. Good meeting.

Fitzpatrick: Performed a wedding Saturday, not the royal one, but it was to them.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS SESSION ONE

Resident of Willingboro: Newly organized football team in Riverside - Riverside Junior Rams. New organization trying to get things going. Trying to get things going for these kids. Been to township, library meetings, historical meetings. My son plays. Kids from Delanco play. Asking for township to support the kids – would like to have flag football game with police.

Fitzpatrick: Have you reached out to Delanco Youth Sports Association? Money donations may be available through some civic groups like Women’s Club.

Resident: Working with Riverside Library to have a study hall one day after school.

Fitzpatrick: Where do you play?

Resident: Riverside – Chester Field. Right now trying to restore a storage building. New board.

Templeton: Little Greens – not operating any more?

Resident: No.

Fitzpatrick: Our recreation commission president is here. DYSA meeting is 4th Monday of the month, but they are meeting every other month.

Browne: I’ve always felt bad that we left and the Riverside program never recovered. Here is my personal card if I can help you. We need better recruitment.

Fitzpatrick: Age groups?

Resident: 5-14.

Fitzpatrick: We’ve supported the cheerleaders.

Resident: We are in West Jersey League.

(There was one additional public comment, but I stepped out to speak with the football coach and missed it.)
COMMENT AND QUESTION SECTION OF THE MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
RESOLUTION 2018-68 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 2018-69 SUPPORTING THE CLICK IT OR TICKET MOBILIZATION OF MAY 21 – JUNE 3, 2018

RESOLUTION 2018-70 REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENTS
PAYMENT OF BILLS ACCOUNT
GENERAL \$127,345.87
P A YROLL 89,392.87
CAPITAL FUND 17,426.89
ESCROW TRUST 2,080.00
MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE 3,398.84

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 4/16/2018 & 5/7/2018
APPROVAL OF BUSINESS LICENSE 2018-49 APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT REPORTS

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE – none

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS SESSION TWO –
no comments
COMMENT AND QUESTION SECTION OF THE MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

ADJOURNMENT

Submitted by Maureen Barrett