

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 July 9, 2018

Present: Browne, Ouellette, Dovey, Fitzpatrick, Templeton

Also Present: Mr. Schwab, Township Administrator; Mrs. Lohr, Township Clerk; Mrs. Martin, Deputy Township Clerk; Mr. Heinold (absent, but a colleague was present – didn't catch his last name - Steve), Township Solicitor, , Chief DeSanto, Delanco Police; Mr. Noll, Township Engineer

ORDINANCE 2018-11 TO AMEND "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF DELANCO PROVIDING FOR AND DETERMINING THE RATE OF COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES" \*2ND READING BY TITLE ONLY AND PUBLIC HEARING

HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Passed unanimously

ORDINANCE 2018-12 AUTHORIZING GRANT OF EASEMENT TO COUNTY OF BURLINGTON FOR PUBLIC ACCESS OVER PORTION OF BLOCK 2100, LOT 64 \*2ND READING BY TITLE ONLY AND PUBLIC HEARING

HEARING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

HEARING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

Passed unanimously

\*PRESENTATION OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN (CFMP) FOR DELANCO TOWNSHIP - William Matulewicz and Kevin Scibilia (professional on Shade Tree)

Matulewicz – Delanco Shade Tree Commission has been recertified for another 5 yrs by NJ Dept of Forestry – provides legal protection under state for court claims (ex. sidewalk lift liability)

- some towns thought that if they dissolved Shade Tree commission, they wouldn't be liable for sidewalk issues. That's not true. It just transfers liability to the town.

-This has been in effect for 15 years.

-14 points that need to be hit –(This part went quickly. I didn't get them.)

-Delanco Shade Tree has 5 major Goals: to increase rate of tree planting, maintain safe urban forest (commission receives core training. Citizens being made aware of threat to ash trees through emerald ash borer), encourage interest and activity among the citizens, investigate methods to alleviate or repair sidewalk heaving without damaging tree roots or removing the tree, develop plan for addressing impending Emerald Ash Borer Infestation (only 5% of the trees in Delanco are ashes)

-Just reached Tree City USA 10 year status.

Scibilia:

-We have a community forestry plan because the state wanted to provide legal benefit for towns. Towns were running for cover and trees were suffering. This

gives towns legal cover, but towns need to show that they have a viable plan to improve streets with trees. We want to avoid the barren landscape. People enjoy large shade trees especially when it is hot.

Fitzpatrick: Oak tree blight – is there something to treat them?

Scibilia: There is a treatment. Streptmyacin (sp?) is the treatment, but just masks the symptoms. It won't cure the tree, just keeps it more viable for a longer period of time. Pin oaks are particularly susceptible to it.

Fitzpatrick: Does it help to trim them?.

Scibilia: Sprouts come out on trunk. Trimming makes the tree safer, but won't save the tree.

Fitzpatrick: Tree on Mr. Berger's property – red oak, but dead.

Matulewicz: We are in a triage situation with the ashes. Ash trees by the Delanco bank on the sidewalk. They are a hazard.

Templeton: Is there an approved list for treatment of ash trees?

Scibilia: Certified and licensed for pesticides.

Templeton: Is there a state list?

Scibilia: By county on the state web site.

Resident of Pennington Court: I live in the area without trees. Will I live long enough to see a tree planted there?

Matulewicz: HOA should sit with Shade Tree. We would love to plant shade trees there. Right now we don't have the budget.

Templeton: Is there a dollar amount for the liability protection?

Matulewicz: You fall under state umbrella

Browne: I think we should hire a landscaper to plant the trees within the budget.

Staff seems to be the problem – public works stretched and volunteers can only do so much.

Matulewicz: Mechanics of shade tree planting aren't in here.

Browne: Shade trees make a huge difference in the heat.

Scibilia: In 2008-9, you got a grant to put in 127 trees on West, Goucher, and Colgate. I would encourage you to do that again. Consider how you are going to water them after planting. Some towns purchase the gator bags, but they need to be filled 2-3 times a week. Maybe homeowners would do it or a lot of them will die.

Matulewicz: There is NJ Shade Tree nonprofit group. Been talking with them.

Planning to explore for another planting. They may have folks to fill the gator bags.

Fitzpatrick: We have been fortunate. We have a list of homeowners who want trees. At some of the plantings I've done, homeowners asked for them, even on their properties.

Matulewicz: 15 sycamores put in on last planting on Pennsylvania Avenue – haven't lost a single one. Trees are being used to shield residents from lights and noise from the train.

Fitzpatrick: Brett Harris is here. His dad was deputy mayor.

Matulewicz: Just graduated with masters in urban planning. Three of us serve on a commission of 22 people – Brett, Amber Perlmutter and myself. To have three representatives from Delanco is impressive.

Dovey: Looking for at least 2 more volunteers for Shade Tree Commission.

\*PRESENTATION OF RANCOCAS CREEK GREENWAY PLAN Steve Lennon and Mary Pat Robbie – presenters weren't present, but TC discussed:

Browne: Mike and I attended meeting. – Greenway will run from Delran from Amico Park over Delanco Bridge. Maps in handout. There will be improvements to the crossing at bridge and blinking light. They offered to replace sidewalks and handicapped ramps (to federal standard). The Greenway goes down Rancocas to Poplar to Rancocas and under train bridge (new hung bridge) to Pennington Park. Coming from Pennington – under train bridge Pennsylvania to Franklin to Union to crosswalk.

Browne: Concern of safety with cars coming over the bridge. Signage will be placed on the other side of the bridge to alert drivers.

Fitzpatrick: We put in some ramps in areas- road wasn't done at the same time so water gathers there.

Browne: Eventually, you will be able to walk from Smithville.

Templeton: Nice surprise was that they had done surveys of sidewalks. 200 sidewalk panels will be replaced on their dime.

Schwab: 12 curb ramps and 195 sidewalk panels.

Templeton: Handicapped ramps will have to comply with current standards, not previous.

Browne: We brought up safety under the train bridge. Could ask PSE&G to put up a motion sensor light.

Templeton: to keep it a safe environment. Bollards will prevent vehicles.

Schwab: They are willing to come on August 6. When the contractor is out of maintenance bond, sidewalks revert to homeowners. They will maintain the bridge and signage. There are also 3-4 trees involved that need to be referred to Shade Tree Commission.

Fitzpatrick: Doug will have had an opportunity to review. Let's do that.

Matulewicz: Is there a map on the county website?

Fitzpatrick: You can have my copy.

Matulewicz: From my Delaware Heritage Trail experience, there will be a lot of questions from the public.

Fitzpatrick: It is going in a different direction?

Browne: Up Burlington Avenue.

Dovey: It would be nice if the public could ask questions.

DeSanto: My concern was making the crossing as visible as possible. I was an advocate for some type of lighting under the bridge. Motion sensor would be the best compromise.

Harris: May I get a copy too?

Fitzpatrick: Sure

#### COMMENTS AND REPORTS:

##### COMMENTS – PROFESSIONALS

Noll: Seawalls permit plans and application were submitted. Addressed questions. Waiting for DEP and Army Corps to respond.

-(Missed it)

-2018 road program – Barrett \$219,000 low bidder to be awarded later this evening

#### COMMENTS -TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

-two reports from assessor – May and June

-Public Works report – John Fenimore and Rec are working on turf at Field of Dreams. Heat stressed it – soil isn't letting water get to roots. Fungus develops. Have to wait to apply the fungicide. Precipitated by growth during the heavy rain – mowed frequently but dead grass was on top. Scott is involved. Fields are closed for the moment. Not cutting until appropriate. Contractor walking on it to inspect every day.

Fitzpatrick: I thought some of the treatments were to improve the soil.

Schwab: They only did one of those treatments. Softball field is perfect. Soil was there from the beginning.

#### COMMENTS –

#### DEPARTMENT HEADS

##### 1. Police

-stats for May - 28 investigations, 160 motor vehicle violations, 128 MV warnings, 1314 calls for service, 11 arrests.

-Cooper Hospital offers employee assistance program – contact will come out to meeting or subcommittee. Mr. Templeton brought it up as well. My experience is there are pushing mental as well as physical wellness. They want us to monitor employees as to behavior that is affecting performance before it becomes a performance issue. \$30/employee a year. They will direct employees as needed so they get to the right person who is part of their coverage plan. They do the phone calls. They offer two trainings a year for the entire township – relevant to everyday life.

Templeton: Chief found it through Edgewater and I brought it up at JIF.

Westampton has just enrolled. EAP programs have a lot of benefits. Low cost.

Provides direction – employees at any level often don't realize how they are being affected until performance falls off. Offers an opportunity to employee to seek help. The company I work for has an extensive program and has been able to turn employees around and make them productive again.

Fitzpatrick: Sounds like it is a way for them to use benefits they have.

DeSanto: Offers 5 counseling sessions without cost. They train supervisors as to what to look for. Right now, Mrs. Lohr is our EAP. She has enough to do.

Fitzpatrick: Seems like a great idea. Subcommittee during the day.

Templeton: Don't know if we need a subcommittee. Look at the website and then we can set up a rep from Cooper in September.

Schwab: Full time employees only? Who is covered and who is not? We have some people who don't have enough hours to get benefits.

DeSanto: I will ask

Fitzpatrick: Hidden driveway sign on Rancocas – could it be on the other side? By the time you reach it, you have passed it. There is a Children Playing sign there as well. Maybe if they are all together, people would slow down.

DeSanto: I will talk to Mr. Fenimore

Schwab: signs have to be 7 feet off the ground.

Browne: Is Bicycle problem better?

DeSanto: Seems to be after the parade. Violations issued. 4 opted to reduce their fines to \$106 by doing community service. Other cases will be heard in Mt. Holly in juvenile court.

## 2.Municipal Clerk

-subcommittee – Thursday regarding solid waste collection.

-finished required Hazard Mitigation Plan – Templeton and I have been working to get the plan detailed and accurate. FEMA is required more detailed risk assessment. If we have an event, we have documented the risk. Thanks to Mr. Templeton for his hard work and diligence on this.

-Burlington County met threshold for Winter Storm Quinn- can recover 75% of costs.

-Lot of people with blow up pools. We need to get rid of standing water – flower pot, tire rims, small pools with no filtration systems – breed millions of mosquitoes. It is on the website.

## COMMENTS - TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

Ouellette:

-JLUB – 2 applicants – one incomplete; 1111 Coopertown – three car garage approved. Suggested they get formal approval from neighbor

-Humidity levels at the library – Dennis Adams has helped to resolve the issue by providing maintenance.

Fitzpatrick: He called me personally to let me know he was working on it.

Dovey:

-Responses from Brett and Bill and Tom Finan regarding Shade Tree ordinance,

-Spoke with tax assessor regarding abatement programs. He suggested we talk to Michelle Taylor who gave advice in Medford. With TC permission, we should ask for advice. Might be specific zones to consider.

Fitzpatrick: Conversion plan had an abatement program in it too.

Dovey: He suggested that Michelle may have some ideas of areas or phasing. State rules on that.

Templeton:

-Bill, can you send me a link to that state court umbrella provision? I would like to send it to JIF.

-Met with grant coordinator of Nature Conservancy – we had submitted a proposal, but weren't awarded a grant. He walked the site and spent 90 minutes. Liz Mateset from EAB happened to be walking by and joined the conversation. The Nature Conservancy only had \$70,000 in funds available total. They wanted to offer it to projects they could assist from beginning to end. Drove by a site they funded in Brigantine in the back bay – very small area. Received other points of contact in DEP/Corps of Engineers from him. He seems baffled that we can't make headway.

-Hazardous Mitigation Plan – working on it since January. Been both an education and struggle. Aspects we don't have impact on. Ex: Coastal erosion doesn't seem to apply inland, but Delanco was identified as being at risk for an occasional landslide that would entail \$1.4 billion dollars in damage. County listed all facilities at the county park. We added Boggs Ditch and canal around West Avenue Park as regional hazards. Beverly Sewerage Treatment is on it. In the event of a 500 year flood – Riverside Bridge vulnerable as is Burlington Avenue. Part of town would be an island. Thanks to Mrs. Lohr, Harry Fox, and (missed it) for all of their work.  
-JIF property appraisal came in – I reviewed it. Some of the storage sheds dropped off. I am working to get them back on.

Browne:

-Attended Freeholders meeting – decrease in county taxes because they cut their open space tax. Mary Pat gave a great presentation. Should be available for the public.

Fitzpatrick: Link on our website

Browne: One point of interest – no one is applying for open space purchase. That's why they aren't budgeting money to buy.

-Attended Shade Tree – did all their regular business. Ash borer plan – safety hazard ranks first.

-Attended middle school graduation So impressed with the kids. I get angry when I hear people talk about the schools.

-Rental ordinance – I have family that moved to Delran – met neighbors. No Habitability Ordinance there. Situations exist there that would never be allowed here.

-Fire did a drill for the kids – families out and enjoying it.

Fitzpatrick:

-Attended Senior luncheon – last event until September.

-Attended DARE graduation- now the LEAD program.

-Attended Board of Ed meeting – went over stats – graduation rates from Riverside. They base stats from senior year on. I think it should be the # of students who graduate who started from freshman year. Mr. Mersinger thought they should only count seniors. Their number is 88%. I suggested that they get numbers for Delanco students. When our students are doing well, we can show them to real estate agents.

Steve Lohr: It is a slow process to get them to break out Delanco students. It took a year to get that information.

Fitzpatrick: Attended flag ceremony by Boy Scouts. They honor the flag.

-Attended eighth grade graduation.

-Two championship softball teams this year. Coach of new Riverside football team is having a family day to raise support for the team.

-Sent letter to freeholders regarding trails – DVRPC has trail grants through William Penn Foundation. Looking for partners.

-PSE&G – this last outage – dealing with Mike Coyle. We had one in February, March, July 3, and 9 hours on July 4. I called at least 20 times. I talked to Mike Coyle.

He said the fire on Cooper Street fire burned out major lines and they worked around the clock. I sent him an email today that I want a representative to explain what is happening. The whole town has been out. There were a couple of lightning strikes, but they were controlled.

Resident: They must need another grid here. Two texts – one said storm related, but they turned it on and off.

Fitzpatrick: I put on Facebook what Mike told me. Even if that is what happened, what they have for us isn't sufficient. I was told we were connected to Riverside. Let's see what resonance I get.

Dovey: Report to Board of Public Utilities.

Fitzpatrick: Terrible heat. Hard on my dog.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS SESSION ONE

Resident of John: I packed up and went to Cherry Hill during the power outage. When I drove by NJ Motor Vehicles, it was all lit up. There is a lot of draw.

Browne: The trucks were in town that day.

Fitzpatrick: I came to township building. I called their emergency line. I asked for information to post.

Resident of Delaware: While we're at it, our Verizon internet is out again today.

Resident of Pennington: Ordinance regarding easement. Easement is actually on HOA lot. That was given to township.

Schwab: They just need a few feet to get around a tree. We are letting county share the easement.

COMMENT AND QUESTION SECTION OF THE MEETING CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

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CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLUTION 2018-81 AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF THE THIRD QUARTER TAXES PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 54:4-66.3(d)

RESOLUTION 2018-82 RELEASING LIEN AGAINST 629 HICKORY STREET (BLOCK 1511, LOT 6)

RESOLUTION 2018-83 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 2018-84 REFUND OF PAYMENT PAID IN ERROR FOR PROPERTY TAXES AND AUTHORIZE AMOUNT BE PAID TO THE DELANCO TOWNSHIP SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2018-85 RESOLUTION CERTIFYING RECEIPT OF AUDIT

RESOLUTION 2018-86 AUTHORIZING DISTRIBUTION FROM AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND IN SUPPORT OF WALTERS PROJECT (“DELANCO FAMILY APARTMENTS”)

RESOLUTION 2018-87 IN OPPOSITION TO RATE INCREASE REQUESTED BY NEW JERSEY AMERICAN WATER

RESOLUTION 2018-88 URGING THE LEGISLATURE TO AMEND S-716, S-477 AND S-1766

PAYMENT OF BILLS ACCOUNT AMOUNT

GENERAL \$813,269.00 P A YROLL 176,063.88

DOG FUND FUND ESCROW TRUST MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE

CAPIT AL 24,275.99 PUBLIC DEFENDER 350.00 DOG FUND 10.00 UNEMPLOYMENT 84.00 ESCROW 1,545.00 MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE 12,648.71

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 6/11/2018 (public session meeting)

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA Passed

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 6/11/2018 (Executive session)passed

REPORT ON RECEIPT OF BIDS FOR 2ND ST., DELAWARE AVE., & RANCOCAS AVE. IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

RESOLUTION 2018-89 AWARD OF BID AND CONTRACT FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO 2ND STREET, DELAWARE AVNUE, ORCHARD AVENUE AND RANCOCAS AVENUE UNDER A NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT PROGRAM

Noll: four bids received

Fitzpatrick: Sink hole on that street. 3 ft across and 3 ft down. John Fenimore coned it on the Fourth of July. Filled it on Thursday. I talked to NJ American Water.

Noll: NJ American said they hadn’t done any work on that main for 10 years.

Ouellette: At 212 Rancocas where the telephone pole is, hole there too.

Motion passed unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE

-Mark Lucina’s letter of resignation from Shade Tree Commission. He has moved.

Fitzpatrick: I will do a letter to him and send a certificate of appreciation.

Fitzpatrick: This Thursday at 6:00 Mrs. Thomas will be presented with flowers and cupcakes for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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:

NJDOT GRANT APPLICATIONS \* NJDOT Municipal Aid –

Lohr: We authorized ERI to do the school earlier.

Noll: Haven't received notification on this grant yet. Not sure when it will come out.  
Safe Routes to School.

Fitzpatrick: We asked to include the Walters Group development. They will have to cross at the train station.

Ouellette: With state budget, will the schools get more funding?

Fitzpatrick: Delanco is getting \$5000; Delran is getting much more. Not written in stone.

Schwab: They haven't struck the tax rate.

ADJOURNMENT

*Submitted by Maureen Barrett*