

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 24, 2015
3:30 P.M.

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. Mayor Robert G. Campbell presided. Committee members present were Larry Jordan, Sr., Stephen Byrne, Dennis Cook (Deputy Mayor) and Edward Bart. Municipal Solicitor, John Carr, was also present. Sitting in the absence of Municipal Clerk Constance S. Garton, is Nadine Lockley, Deputy Clerk/Office Manager.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / STATEMENT REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Campbell called the meeting to order; led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present – Jordan, Byrne, Cook, Bart, Campbell

Absent – 0

RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions listed below were presented for approval

R-71-2015 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills*

R-72-2015 *Authorizing Executive Session in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meeting Act – N.J.S.A. 10:4-12*

PUBLIC COMMENT ON RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to open the meeting for public comment on resolutions listed above.

There being no comments from the public, a motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to close the segment.

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution R-71-2015.

Roll Call: Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Cook, Bart, Campbell

 Nay – 0

Mayor Campbell stated there are a couple of items not on the agenda he would like to speak about. Mayor Campbell stated that core testing results arrived on the New Jersey Avenue and Dyers Cove Projects. The results state that both roads passed and meet the standard requirements of the NJDOT. Mayor Campbell continued that two resolutions were tabled by the Committee until these test results were available. There is still some work to be completed on this project. There were two changes orders from the Contactor presented at the last meeting that were tabled. They need to be approved in order to proceed with the work to complete the project. Due to extenuating circumstances

and to avoid possible damage it is necessary to approve these Resolutions. He asked for public comments on resolutions R-65-2015 and R-69-2015 to complete work on the projects.

Solicitor Carr stated because of extenuating circumstances these two resolutions can be added if action is expected.

Mr. Cook stated these items were not covered on the agenda. This was suppose to be a work session.

Mayor Campbell commented the approval of these resolutions is necessary. If this work is not completed and it fails we will not be reimbursed by FEMA and the Township will be responsible.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Campbell asked for a motion to open for public comment on Resolutions R-65-2015 and R-69-2015.

On a motion made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne, the meeting was opened to the Public for comment.

Roll Call: Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Cook, Bart, Campbell
Nay – 0

Dave Pflueger, Money Island, asked what the cost is for the change order to complete Dyers Cove Road.

Mayor Campbell stated no work is proposed in the change orders for Dyers Cove. The change orders are for work to complete New Jersey Avenue. Dyers Cove Road is not going to fail. The core testing passed NJDOT requirement. It is not a perfect job but it passed the testing.

Kary Wilson, Newport, we hear you say none of these projects are costing the taxpayers money. After scanning grant information she discovered the grants require matching funds which is a direct cost to the taxpayers.

Mayor Campbell explained the grant covers 75% of the projects. With this storm FEMA will be covering 90% of the costs and we must cover the remaining 10%. We bonded for the 10% costs to the taxpayers.

Kary Wilson asked if all of our projects are falling under the FEMA Disaster Relief process. Also how much money was approved for the Dyers Cove project through FEMA and other funding sources? What is the anticipated total cost and what was the final cost?

Mayor Campbell stated when FEMA came here after the storm they wrote a PW (project worksheet) for about \$40,000 for Dyers Cove to rebuild the roadway. Now, FEMA, under their new rules, wants to fix the beach areas under the new sustainability and resiliency rule. Now our original PW has been upgraded to meet the sustainable and resilient standards. Dyers Cove was formally bid at a cost of \$140,000. We held a formal bid with a public bid opening for the project.

Mayor Campbell spoke about Maple Avenue and the proposed Mitigation Plan with FEMA under the sustainability and resiliency standards. He also gave an update on the status of a number of future projects for Downe Township.

Kary Wilson stated we hear about the Blue Acres buyout in Money Island and we wonder why we would spend money on a road that is under a buyout.

Mayor Campbell answered it doesn't matter if one home or twenty homes are involved in the buyout, we have a responsibility to maintain these lands even if there is only one homeowner in Money Island.

Mayor Campbell spoke about negotiating with the contractor on the final stages and completion of the New Jersey Avenue and Dyers Cove project.

Mayor Campbell asked for a motion to close the Public Comment portion. Motion made by Cook seconded by Bart. Vote: All in favor.

Mayor Campbell asked for a motion to approve Resolutions R-65-2015 and R-69-2015. Motion made by Bart and seconded by Cook. Vote: All in favor.

Mayor Campbell asked for a motion to move into a Work Shop Session. Motion made by Cook and seconded by Bart. Vote: All in favor.

Mr. Cook stated the Downe Township Clerk is coming to the end of her three year commitment. We need to start to have the conversations about moving forward. This position has been a 15 hour a week position for \$15,000. We are very sorry to see her go but now we are faced with the challenge of replacing her. We need to start to have the discussions about what we need going forward.

Mr. Jordan commented the Deputy Clerk has spent a lot of time assisting the clerk. We need to look at that also.

Mr. Cook continued that 4 years ago we had an administrator. I am asking the Township Committee to look at two part time positions. There is a lot more work assigned to the Clerk as the government becomes more and more complex and the State continue to hand down additional regulations and expectations for Municipal Government. Going forward we have to build more hours into the clerks position and also consider having a part-time administrator.

Mayor Campbell stated to Cook that his thoughts are timely. We have to face reality and think about the future. You want to hire a part time administrator, so where do we start. Do we advertise?

Mr. Cook stated he has put together some notes showing the duties and responsibilities of each position as a tentative way to accomplish this task.

Mayor Campbell stated that list will give us a starting point and we can build on.

Mr. Jordan stated it should be done with a clerk/administrator in mind. Initially he is not on board with an administrator. But he is willing to discuss the position and duties.

Mr. Cook stated he welcomes input from all the Committee as well as staff.

Mr. Cook continued we have been contacted by the New Jersey Weather and Climate Network to install a weather station. This specific effort in Southern New Jersey is referred to as the Delaware River Railway Weather Station project. One of the critical partners is our Cumberland County Emergency Management office. After visiting our township they have chosen a location in Fortescue for the placement of a weather monitoring station. The location they originally requested has been changed. They are also requesting (at the municipalities' expense) a 33 foot square fence, concrete foundation and electric service for the 40 foot tower weather station. The new location has us concerned. The original location will work better. Discussion continued about better locations and the benefits to the township residents this weather station could bring.

Mr. Cook stated we have been asked by Cindy Randazzo to support a grant application from the DEP to NOAA. We will contact her for more information to prepare a resolution of support at our July meeting.

Mayor Campbell asked for a motion to open the meeting for Public Comments. Motion made by Cook and seconded by Byrne. Vote: All in favor.

James Giles, Money Island, why are we being asked to pay anything for this weather station. If they want it down here they should be paying for it.

Mayor Campbell stated initially when we were approached it was my understanding they would pay for everything except the electric panel hook up. It was a system that everyone would have access to online.

Dave Pflueger, Money Island, Shipjohn currently has a weather station like that which is accessible. Why do we need another?

Mr. Cook stated they seem to be overkill with the number of stations they are erecting.

Mr. Jordan stated we need a total cost estimate for what they are requesting.

James Giles, Money Island, the access camera which is running 24 hours will use a lot of data collection time what would be an additional hidden cost to the township.

Kary Wilson, Newport, asked if this is a mandatory project/commitment.

Mayor Campbell answered no it is not mandatory.

Mayor Campbell asked for a motion to close the Public Comment Portion. Motion made by Cook seconded by Jordan. Vote: All in favor.

Mayor Campbell asked for a motion to approve Resolution R-72-2015. Motion made by Cook and seconded by Bart.

Roll Call: Aye – Jordan, Cook, Bart
Nay – Campbell and Byrne

Meeting room was closed to the public until after the Executive Session.

Motion made by Bart and seconded by Cook to close Executive Session. Vote: All in favor.

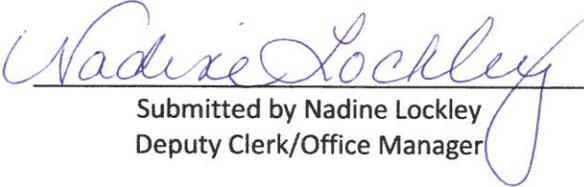
Solicitor Carr stated the meeting room has been reopened and the time is 5:00pm. We have discussed employment matters and also discussed a matter in which the release of information could impair the receipt of federal funds.

Mayor Campbell noted there was no one from the public to address the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Jordan and seconded by Cook to adjourn. Vote: All in favor.

Meeting Adjourned


Submitted by Nadine Lockley
Deputy Clerk/Office Manager