

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
AUGUST 10, 2015  
7:00 P.M.

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex on Monday, August 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Robert G. Campbell presided. Committee members present were Deputy Mayor Dennis Cook, Larry Jordan, Sr., and Edward Bart. Committee member Stephen Byrne was absent. 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 – Campbell, Cook, Jordan and Bart

Absent – Byrne and Municipal Clerk Constance Garton

PUBLIC HEARING FOR BUDGET AMENDMENT

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Bart to open the meeting for Public Hearing on Budget Amendment. All in favor.

There being no comments from the public, Mayor Campbell called for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Jordan to close the Public Hearing on the Budget Amendment. All in favor.

RESOLUTION

The resolution listed below was presented for approval

R-74-2015      *Adoption of Municipal Budget*

Mayor Campbell asked for a motion to adopt Resolution R-74-2015.

A motion was made by Jordan and there was no second motion to adopt Resolution R-74-2015.

Roll Call:        Aye – Campbell and Jordan

                      Nay – Cook and Bart

Mayor Campbell stated there being no second on the motion, the motion fails to adopt the 2015 Municipal Budget. If we don't adopt our budget tonight then the tax bills don't go out and the revenue doesn't get collected to pay the bills of the town. Would any of the committee members like to make a comment about why we are not adopting the budget tonight?

Mr. Cook stated when the Mayor stops obstructing the committee process of advice and consent we can move forward.

Mr. Bart stated that he feels the same way as Mr. Cook.

Mayor Campbell stated for the record, he doesn't understand what the personal vindictiveness is but this has nothing to do with me. This is the municipal budget. This is the revenue that the tax collector collects to pay our bills and make this Township solvent. The motion failed and we will not be adopting the budget tonight.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Campbell called for a motion to open the meeting for Public Comment.

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Bart to open the meeting for Public Comment. All in favor.

Kary Wilson, Newport, commented that at past meetings the agenda has referenced litigation. Can you tell us who the parties are, the statutes it falls under and the status of the litigation?

Solicitor Carr answered there is no current ongoing litigation. Discussions in reference to litigation have involved possible options in dealings with the State, NJDEP and the County Board of Health. Under the Open Public Meetings Act you are entitled to that information. There have only been discussions about our beachfront issues and how to avoid worst potential problems.

Jack Tribbets, Gandy Beach, stated he received a letter from the Department of the Army about a survey that will be conducted in the Township. Do you have any more information about this?

Mayor Campbell asked if the letter is about right of entry permission.

Mr. Tribbets answered no. The letter is dated August 10<sup>th</sup> and announces a topographic survey on certain properties.

Mayor Campbell stated that when the right of entry letters was signed by our residents for the Army Corp they discussed doing a topography survey along the beachfront. This is all part of the beach re-nourishment project with the Army Corp of Engineers. There are two \$10 million beach re-nourishment projects. One is for Gandy Beach and one for Fortescue. There are a couple of other projects with the Nature Conservancy that will travel all the way to the tip of Money Island. They will be collecting elevations along this area for the survey to be used for the beach replenishment project.

Mr. Tribbets continued he understands that projects have been halted for some reason.

Mayor Campbell stated this project is moving forward. It is under the direction of NJDEP and the Army Corp of Engineers.

Mr. Tribbets asked which projects have been stopped.

Mayor Campbell answered there are some FEMA projects that are on hold because of internal politics in Downe Township. You just witnessed what I am talking about.

Mr. Tribbets stated he just saw what happened and it would be nice if additional information was given. We would like to know why certain things are not happening.

Mr. Cook stated he has no idea what the Mayor is talking about. He is concerned about the impression that he is giving. As a member of the committee I have no knowledge or awareness of any projects that are being held up because of internal politics.

Mayor Campbell stated there are no projects moving forward right now. We have South Cove Road, Maple Avenue, and all the berm projects in Fortescue that are in limbo right now.

Mr. Cook continued he has no idea what may be holding up those projects.

Mayor Campbell continued people come in here and accuse me of being the King and state I am doing everything, I have stopped and I am not doing anything. The committee knows as much as I do. I do the same thing they do..... Nothing. I don't want to be the King or the only guy that runs the show. I want to share with everybody. Now I am being accused of being the King so let someone else be the King. I will come to the meetings and fulfill my obligations as the Mayor. If they want to find out what's going on and get the projects back running good. If they want to put me back in charge like I was before whatever this is happened, I will get things moving again. Right now I am not going to waste my time. I send out email to everybody and some respond but not all. For the last few months two committee people have decided not to talk and communicate with me. I have tried to include them so things can go forward.

Mr. Cook stated he thinks the Mayor has intentionally not held work sessions that were agreed upon. He has tried to stop things that have been agreed upon. He refuses to have executive sessions so the committee is not able to discuss these issues at all. It is not enough just to arrive once a month and receive our packets a couple of days before the meeting. There is no opportunity to discuss anything.

Marie Marlor, Gandy Beach, commented that this is the public comments portion and Mr. Cook should not be speaking.

Mr. Cook continued Mr. Tibbett's asked if other committee members would speak and it is my prerogative and I am attempting to cast understanding. I hope something I've said is helpful and useful.

Mayor Campbell answering Mr. Tribbets stated from Hurricane Irene until now, you have been there. Ms. Marlor and all of you have been there when things happened. I just happen to be the one guy on the committee that doesn't have a full time job. I understand that and I didn't mind taking the lead and taking the responsibility on behalf of the committee and getting a lot of work done in the past five years. We have gotten a lot done. We have beaches back and we have bulkheads back. We have accomplished amazing things on the Delaware Bayfront in Downe Township. Millions and millions of dollars that never ever would have happened if it had not been for the storms. Whatever I did up until three months ago was okay. Then it was decided by certain people that I did everything wrong, I think I did a good job and I am proud of what I did and proud to represent the committee. I sleep well at night. All the stuff that has been done in the township in the last five years, now all of a sudden I have done it wrong. I am just not going to continue to work fighting with the state and the NJDEP and then have these two guys to fight also. I would like to continue to work and get all of these projects done but if at every turn I have to fight with two from the committee I would rather not waste any more of my time.

Mr. Jordan commented he is disappointed that we haven't been able to get over this hurdle that we are faced with. Somehow we need to because we are not being productive. I will address the

committee when we are done with the Public Comment portion. We don't have any answers right now for you, but we will.

Mr. Tribbett stated this is no way to run a Township. He is also disappointed. From his observation, Mayor Campbell has done an excellent job. I have not always agreed with Mayor Campbell on every issue or every subject. But I have always supported him and he has over the long haul been very attentive and he returns phone calls. You guys need to find a way to get your act together or quit. Let's find some people who will do the job and stop playing. It is very frustrating to hear this. This is not encouraging. I would appreciate it if you guys would sit down and roll the dice and do something to figure out who is going to steer the boat. Please. It is costing us a lot of money to drag our feet like this.

Marie Marlor, Gandy Beach, the fact that you actually want to sit up there Mr. Bart and Mr. Cook and tell me that you think anything about this town and not pass this budget tonight is an embarrassment. You should be ashamed of yourselves. You have sat in the public hearing already. You have had an opportunity for eight months to ask every question about the budget that anyone else could ask and now you sit here. Take your budget out then and tell me what's wrong with it that you are going to put this township behind the eight ball. Do you know what you have to do tomorrow because you sat here tonight and decided you had no good reason to pass it? Tell me what's going to happen tomorrow. You can't. I can. I can tell you that you are putting this township in harm's way by taking that attitude. You need to take that vote again. You need to pass the budget tonight.

Mayor Campbell called for a motion to close the Public Comment portion.

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Cook to close the Public Comment portion.  
Vote: All in favor

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Campbell asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Jordan said, gentlemen I would like to know what I can do. I sat on this board for nine years at another time. I didn't always agree with the people that I sat with. Most of the time I didn't agree with them and they didn't agree with me but at the end of the day we did our job. Right now we are spinning our wheels. All I am asking from Mr. Cook and Mr. Bart is what can Larry Jordan do to rectify what's going on. What can we do to pass our budget? What's wrong so we can correct it and move forward?

Mr. Bart stated he doesn't think it should be open for public discussion. We have asked for executive sessions and we haven't had one. I don't want to discuss anything or put blame on Mayor Campbell or anyone else in public.

Mayor Campbell asked what does that have to do with the budget?

Mr. Jordan asked can I do anything.

Mr. Cook answered yes, you can support work sessions and you can support executive sessions. And when things are agreed to by the committee, you can continue to support what was already agreed to by the committee. I want to have a full and open discussion about a number of issues having to do with the budget and I have not been given that opportunity.

Mr. Jordan stated there is one thing that he will not sit through and that is another bashing session. I will not sit through any more of them. If you want to come in here and work and have a discussion I am a part of that. I will not come in this building sitting through any more Dennis Cook and Bob Campbell bashing sessions.

Mr. Bart commented what about Dennis Cook bashing sessions are they okay.

Mr. Jordan stated he is not bashing anybody. I saying if you want to be productive and you want to sit at this table and work towards something, I am all for that. I will meet every week. When I was on the committee before, we had work sessions every single week. I supported them. Mr. Cook it hasn't been that long ago that I asked you for work sessions. I asked if we could work maybe an hour before our township meetings. You said no you couldn't be here early. I haven't turned my back on those type of things, I support them, if we are going to come in here and work. Any time you are ready for a work session, I am game. But the first time there is bashing I am out the door. I will not sit here through it. I didn't come back to this committee to be a part of what's going on here. Yes, I want work sessions. You guys need to work on your problems, I can't fix them and I tried to. You guys figure out when you want a work session and let me know. Not passing this budget is not the answer.

Mr. Jordan continued, I would like to make a motion that we pass R-74.2015 one more time. Mayor Campbell seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Aye - Campbell and Jordan

Nay – Bart and Cook

Mayor Campbell stated this budget was introduced, had a public hearing approved by the committee months ago and the only reason we did not adopt it then is because we had some issues with some grant money that we were going to get. It got pushed down the line. We got the grant money but not as much as we thought and for there to be an issue with the budget at this point in time I don't understand.

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