

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
July 11, 2016

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex on Monday, July 11, 2016 at 7:00p.m. Mayor Robert G. Campbell presided. Committee members present were Larry Jordan, Sr. (Deputy Mayor), Stephen Byrne, and Dennis Cook. Committeeman Edward Bart was not present. Municipal Solicitor, John Carr, was also present.

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.

Deputy Mayor Jordan asked for a moment of silence in honor of Doris Sanza. Mrs. Sanza passed away this week. She was a 40 year employee of Downe Township. She was still active in her job up until the last couple of weeks of her life. Mr. Cook commented he would like to have a moment of silence for all of those who have died in our Nation. The level of violence that we have been experiencing on all sides and how it is affecting all of us.

ROLL CALL

Present – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Absent – Bart

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

April 19, 2016 – Special/Workshop Meeting

May 2, 2016 – Regular Meeting

Mayor Campbell asked for a motion to approve minutes of previous meetings as listed. Motion made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne.

Mr. Cook stated he will abstain because he has not read the minutes.

ROLL CALL

Present – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell

Absent – Bart

Abstain - Cook

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Campbell highlighted a report from the Tax Collector for the month of June, for the CFO for the month of May and the Zoning Officer for the month of June.

PUBLIC HEARING – MARK BLAUER – 2017 SMALL CITIES GRANT PROGRAM

Mark Blauer of Blauer Associates gave a presentation explaining the process in applying for the 2017 NJ Department of Community Affairs – Small Cities Grant Program.

Mr. Blauer opened the meeting for public comment on the Grant Program.

Mrs. MacMurray asked if there is a limit on how much a person can receive. Mr. Blauer stated there is a limit of \$25,000 per home that can be waived if there are life threatening problems that demand action. We try not to spend that much on a house. We stick to doing whatever is necessary and try to spend money on as many homes as we can. We were able to complete work for 6 homes with the \$100,000 grant last year.

Mayor Campbell asked what is the Township's match for this program.

Mr. Blauer answered the Township has a 5% match. The funds for this program are a zero interest deferred loan. There is no payment until you choose to sell your house. There is a provision if the property is being passed on to a blood relative that states they must be willing to take on the lien. The way that we minimize the costs to the township is with recaptured funds when properties are sold. These recaptured funds are put back into the program to cover our local match. The long term goal is the Township will have money coming back for a number of years that can be used to help residents long after this program is done.

A resident asked what happens with a property that has a reverse mortgage, will they still qualify.

Mr. Blauer stated there are no rules to say we can't provide the loan. The reverse mortgage company may need to agree to the loan. I would need to review this with the Township Solicitor to see if we can make a loan in that case.

Mayor Campbell and the Committee thanked Mr. Blauer for his time and assistance with the program.

MUNICIPAL SOLICITORS REPORT

Solicitor Carr presented his report which consisted of information and updates on two issues related to litigation that are important for discussion during closed session.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2016-8 *Ordinance Amending Property Maintenance Terms Regarding Maintenance of Vacant and Abandoned Properties.*

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Jordan to introduce Ordinance 2016-8.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Cook, Campbell

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2016-9 *Ordinance Opposing Licensed Casinos Outside of Atlantic City, New Jersey*

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Byrne to introduce Ordinance 2016-9.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Cook, Campbell

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2016-10 *Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Ordinance No. 10-04 – An Ordinance to Establish the Policy and Procedures to Purchase Goods and Series by the Township of Downe*

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to introduce Ordinance 2016-10.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell

Nay – Cook

Absent – Bart

Mayor Campbell stated a public hearing will be held at the next township meeting for comments and adoption.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE 2016-6

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Byrne to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2016-6.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell

Nay – 0

Absent – Bart

The auction will be held at 6:30pm on August 1, 2016 just before the regular meeting.

Mr. Charles Miller of Newport asked if the 20-acre property on Railroad Avenue is land locked. Mayor Campbell answered he is not sure if the property is land locked. Mr. Miller is welcome to stop in the office to check on property information.

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Byrne to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2016-6.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell

Nay – 0

Absent – Bart

ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2016-6 - *Declaring Certain Parcels of Real Property Owned by the Township of Downe No Longer Needed for Public Use and Authorizing the Public Sale of Same*

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Byrne to adopt Ordinance 2016-6.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Byrne to open the meeting for public comment on the following resolutions.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart

Mayor Campbell stated the Annual Budget approval was held up due to waiting for the results of a grant the township applied for. The grant program was pulled at the last minute so the township did not receive those anticipated grant funds. Mr. Cook asked if there is a tax increase because the township did not receive the grant. Mayor Campbell answered the grant amount was not included in the budget documents therefore the budget documents will not be amended. Mr. Cook commented on all the tax increases the residents are dealing with. Mayor Campbell commented the township has no control of the increases mention by Mr. Cook except our own local budget. The increases from the County are outrageous. Our local budget increased by less than a penny but the County's increase is about 7 cents and the school budget increased by at least 2 cents.

R-48a-2016 *Adoption of 2016 Annual Budget*

R-80-2016 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills*

R-81-2016 *Authorizing the Submission of a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for Home Rehabilitation FY2017*

R-82-2016 *Adopting Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program Policies and Procedures Manual for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant*

R-83-2016 *Designation Fair Housing Officer for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program for Home Rehabilitation FY2017*

R-84-2016 *Authorizing the Adoption of a State Model Cities Participation Plan for State of New Jersey, Department of Community Affairs Small Cities Program*

- R-85-2016 *Approving Grant Management Plan for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program for Home Rehabilitation FY2017*
- R-86-2016 *Authorizing the Entry into an Agreement for Professional Services with mark Blauer Associates as Consultant for the FY2017 Small Cities Community Development Grant Program for Home Rehabilitation*
- R-87-2016 *Authorizing the Township of Downe to Submit an Eligibility Determination and Funding Application to the USDA Rural Utilities Service for a Predevelopment Planning Grant*
- R-88-2016 *Authorizing the Redemption of Municipal Tax Sale Certificate 15-00036 in Installments*
- R-89-2016 *Awarding Asphalt Paving Corporation the Contract for the Paving of Union Street*
- R-90-2016 *Resolution of Appreciation for the Services of the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department*
- R-91-2016 *Authorizing Executive Session*

Bernie Sayers of Newport commenting on Resolution R-90-2016 stated he feels the Sherriff Deputy standing in the back of the room during our meeting is quite offensive and totally unnecessary. He would like to know how much it is costing to have them here. Mayor Campbell stated their presence is at no cost to Downe Township. Mr. Sayers commented as a citizen of the County he will make that inquiry. Mr. Cook commented we all know that overtime is a hugh additional expense in the County.

Joe Cerone of Newport asked for clarification on the location of the port a pot charges. Mayor Campbell answered the port a pot is located in Fortescue. How many are we paying for. Mayor Campbell answered three. Mr. Cerone continued Mr. Jordan should recuse himself from voting on the bill list because his name is on it for reimbursement. Mayor Campbell stated Mr. Jordan paid for the floral arrangement for Mrs. Sanza and he will be reimbursed. Mr. Jordan is allowed to vote on the bill list and will not have to recuse himself. We have been through this before. Mr. Jordan does not approve his own voucher. The vouchers are the approval to spend the money. This approval is to pay all the bills.

Karen Smith of Raybin Beach commented it is nice to see someone here from the Sherriff's Department. If we had not put up with so much obnoxious and threatening behavior in the past it wouldn't be necessary. She continued she was under the impression that we might have a patrol officer in Fortescue to enforce ordinances, is that still an ongoing project. Mayor Campbell stated the discussions have started and a meeting has been scheduled.

Bernie Sayers asked for the topics of discussion for the executive session. Solicitor Carr answered personnel issues, contract issue, Comcast vs. Downe Township, Fortescue Marine Services vs. Downe Township and the litigation related to Money Island.

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

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook
Nay – 0
Absent - Bart

RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-48a-2016.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell
Nay – Cook
Absent - Bart
Vote: The resolution was approved.

A motion was made by Byrne and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-80-2016
Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the amount of \$239,526.85.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook
Nay – 0
Absent - Bart
Vote: The resolution was approved.

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-81-2016.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook
Nay – 0
Absent – Bart
Vote: The resolution was approved.

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-82-2016.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook
Nay – 0
Absent - Bart
Vote: The resolution was approved.

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-83-2016.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook
Nay – 0
Absent - Bart
Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-84-2016.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-85-2016.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-86-2016.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-87-2016.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-88-2016.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Cook to adopt Resolution No. R-89-2016.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-90-2016.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-91-2016.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart

Vote: The resolution was approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Campbell stated earlier this year the committee agreed to support the County's Verizon lawsuit with a \$1500 contribution. We were contacted this week for another \$300-\$500 to support the cost for an expert witness. Mayor Campbell continued he wants to support the efforts but he doesn't support fixing the old copper landlines. We should be spending the money on more cell towers instead of spending money to repair copper landlines that are going to be obsolete in a few more years. Mr. Bart has shared he is a no vote to the additional fee. Mr. Cook stated the County has put in a lot of money. The health and safety issue weighs heavy on our residents. Mr. Cook is in support of the additional fees. Mr. Jordan stated if it was for Comcast he would support the fees. Mr. Byrne stated he is not in favor of spending the additional fees.

Mayor Campbell reported he and Mr. Byrne attended the settlement conference for the overdue Comcast Franchise agreement. During the settlement conference Comcast offered to put in three miles of new cable into the township as part of their agreement. The old agreement was for five miles (a mile a year for five years). They never complied with that. The three miles are located somewhere on Ackley Road. Mayor Campbell stated during the conference if we are only getting three miles, we would like those miles to be for the Fortescue beach area. They have 30 days to review the location. Our position is we want all seven miles we are due and we want them in Fortescue, Gandy's Beach and the Money Island area. They gave a few weak excuses as to why they don't want to do those areas. They stated it cost \$20,000 a miles to run cable which is \$210,000 for seven miles. This is not a lot of money for Comcast. We are waiting for Comcast's settlement proposal. Discussion will continue.

Mayor Campbell stated he was invited to the State House with the Fortescue Captains Association to deal with some issues and the Association won. Also on that same day there was a meeting to discuss the States proposed Permit Extension Act for permits as

a result of Hurricane Sandy. It was decided to approve a permit extension to all of the permits for the nine Counties on the Oceanside only. That day while at the State House, I asked why Cumberland County has been excluded and expressed my disappointment to them.

Committeeman Cook asked for committee support of the \$300-\$500 additional fees to support the County's Verizon efforts. The committee agreed. Mr. Cook stated the Army Corp has announced the receipt of Public Comment on the beach replenishment efforts in Fortescue and Gandy's Beach is over and again Money Island is being excluded.

Mr. Cook continued the Municipal Court is doing very well and we have seen a reduction in costs due to the shared services agreement with the court.

Committeeman Jordan had nothing to report.

Committeeman Byrne stated the turtle crossing sign will be going up soon.

Mr. Cook asked for an update on the implementation of the new security system. Ms. Lockley stated the new system will be up and running after a meeting with the Senior Commissioners and Staff to distribute new keys and give a brief demonstration on how the system works.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no Old Business topics for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no New Business topics for discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

On a motion by Cook and seconded by Jordan, the meeting was opened to the public for comment.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart

Michael Oates of Fortescue read a letter about some issues at his property on New Jersey Avenue. He continued after contacting the township solicitor he was informed the issues would be discussed at the May 2nd township meeting. Mr. Oates stated it has been six months and he has not received a response from the township. He would like to know what's going on. Mayor Campbell stated the committee authorized spending funds to have the right-of-way established. We have been in contact with a few surveyors do get the survey done and we have been unsuccessful. Mr. Oates stated this information should have been communicated to him.

Vivanna Tanner of Fortescue stated she has a safety problem. She showed pictures of piling that are unsafe. She has stopped children from playing in the area. Mayor Campbell stated this is the Hunt property. When we did the beach fill there were a lot of pilings exposed like this and we covered them up. Mrs. Tanner stated two weeks ago all of that sand was washed away and they are exposed again. Mayor Campbell stated the situation will be addressed in the next few days.

Charles Miller of Newport asked does anyone know who he should contact regarding speed limits or signs on Methodist Road. This road is becoming a race track. A representative from the Sherriff Office stated there is a digital speed trailer that is placed in various locations throughout the county for situation like this. Send in a request to the Sherriff Office to have one placed there for several days. Mr. Miller stated when he moved on Methodist Road it was a marked road but there are no signs there now. Mr. Jordan commented we will contact the Sherriff's Dept. in reference to the speed trailer and speak with the county engineer to see about speed limit signs.

Mayor Campbell asked if anyone knows what the standard speed limits for New Jersey and Delaware Avenues in Fortescue. Mr. Jordan stated there are no speed limits less than 25mph in that area.

Mr. Miller asked about the deadline for the Farmland Assessment paperwork. Mayor Campbell told Mr. Miller to fill it out and submit it to the office. We are working on a replacement for Mrs. Sanza position.

Dave Raudenbush of Fortescue stated there is a serious with house numbering for Fortescue there is a real need for posting house numbers on the properties in this area. Mayor Campbell stated he will take responsibility for this not getting done. He has spoken with USDA and they are willing to write a grant to do the numbering and it has just been on the back burner. He will make some calls to get this going again. Getting this project funded with grant money and some volunteers is what we are working on. Mr. Jordan stated he is willing to work on that project.

Bernie Sayers of Newport stated he would like to compliment the township employee who cuts the grass on Sharp Lane and is doing a fantastic job. He is a new employee. He also stated that he has not seen or heard of anybody being hired. Is this new hiring process legal? The hiring of an employee should be done by a full vote of the committee. Mr. Carr stated the Department Head has the authority to hire new employees. Mr. Jordan stated Mr. Bart was given the authority to interview and hire convenience center workers because of the high turnover in that area. Mr. Sayers asked if they are being paid over \$17,500. Mr. Carr asked Mr. Sayers if he is suggesting the hiring of a convenience center worker be put out for bid.

Mr. Sayers asked if he came in and asked for copies of resolutions that have been read and voted on at this meeting, will there be a charge. Mayor Campbell answered there will be no charge. Mr. Sayers stated about year ago a friend recommended he get something called Verizon Home Phone Connect. This is a box that is very similar to a cell phone tower which

picks up its signal from the nearest cell phone tower. For the last year he has had terrible phone service at a lower cost. Verizon does not want to spend money on copper lines. This issue forced him to reach out to Comcast for service. Comcast want \$7,000 to run a line from Route 553 back to his home.

Annette Perry of Money Island stated the Seniors are selling \$5 Boscov Discount cards for 24% off your purchase on October 18th. Also the Senior Center has been declared an official cooling center.

Donna MacMurray of Fortescue stated the roadway in front of 280 NJ Avenue has a clogged catch basin and floods with rain events. Mr. Jordan stated we have a grant to do New Jersey Avenue and the first item on that grant is to address the drainage problem. The engineer will be working on that situation in the next two months. We want to get it done before the cold weather.

On a motion by Jordan and seconded by Byrne, the meeting was closed to the public for comment.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Monday, August 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex.

ADJOURNMENT

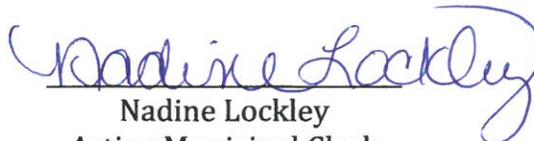
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Cook and seconded by Byrne.

ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Nay – 0

Absent - Bart


Nadine Lockley
Acting Municipal Clerk