

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 8, 2016

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 7:00p.m. Mayor Robert G. Campbell presided. Committee members present were Larry Jordan, Sr. (Deputy Mayor), Stephen Byrne, Dennis Cook and Edward Bart. 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.

ROLL CALL

Present – Jordan, Byrne, Cook, Bart, Campbell

Absent - 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Byrne to approve the following minutes: Regular Meeting of December 7, 2015, 2016 Reorganization Meeting of January 4, 2016 and Regular Meeting of January 4, 2016.

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

Vote: All in favor

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Campbell read the Housing and Zoning Report. The Township Committee acknowledged the receipt of the following report:

- Housing and Zoning Report                      February 2016

MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Carr presented his report which consisted of information and updates on the following matters: Related to Planning and Zoning Board Appointments, Broomall Estate Easement, Information about Emergency Medical Services from a League of Municipalities article, Statue on Municipal Constable Services and a Acting Clerk Agreement.

Mayor Campbell asked for clarification on the lot numbers for the Broomall property easement. Mr. Bart asked why the township is not vacating the alley. Mayor Campbell stated the problem is it is not our street. Mayor Campbell stated he has no problem approving the easement being requested by the Broomall Estate. Mr. Carr stated

we are at a crossroads. If we entertain the easement as it is then they will hold us harmless, agree to hookup to future sewer and the easement automatically terminates at that time. If we deny the easement and choose to vacate the alley then there will be no way to guarantee the use of the alley with any future planning. Conversation continued in reference to preparing new deeds and other legal issues that could arise.

**PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE 2016-1 – *An Ordinance Rescinding Ordinance No. 2007-9 of the Downe Township Code.***

The public hearing was opened for public comment on a motion made by Bart and seconded by Cook.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

Kary Wilson of Newport commented these two organizations were formed for completely different reasons. The Committee was formed to provide activities exclusively for residents of Downe Township. The Commissions were created to satisfy a requirement for grants. The Recreation and Tourism Commission basically was created to advertise and promote recreation and tourism activities in the township such as fishing, shopping, boating, and trails, etc. to the general public at large. Therefore they are not similar at all. Saying they are redundant is not the reason you are getting rid of one of them. Mayor Campbell stated we have very few volunteers in this township. There are about a dozen people who volunteer for everything and they work hard. To try and spread our volunteers out over the three commissions makes it very difficult to get anything done. There is no reason why the recreation commission can't have a special committee that does just the recreation activities. Mrs. Wilson stated the committee needs to revisit the recreation commission to add those duties because that is not one of the purposes of the commission. Mayor Campbell stated we need to have a general commission meeting for all the commission and volunteers to get together and sort out what's been happening and come up with a plan to move forward. The only commission that is very active is the Historic Commission. They have about 12 members and are holding meetings monthly. Mrs. Wilson continued she thinks the committee needs to re-write the purpose of the commission. Mayor Campbell stated to Mrs. Wilson that she has done a great job in the township on the projects she did. Mrs. Wilson stated that would have continued but unfortunately the liaison to the committee, Mr. Cook, had himself elected chairman of the committee and all the activities were cancelled for the year. Mayor Campbell stated it is water under the bridge and we are looking forward and we want to make it better. Mayor Campbell explained the importance of having this committee. He is planning a meeting to solicit volunteers for all of the commissions. This meeting will be held in the coming weeks and will include refreshments. It seems a meeting with refreshment usually brings people out. Mrs. Wilson continued the township has so many important things that need to be accomplished. There are a number of ordinances that are lying dormant on the township books that need to be revisited. It is interesting to see the first ordinance of 2016 is to eliminate the recreation committee after all of the wonderful things it has done in the past. This shows the agenda and the mindset of the committee and this is just sad.

There being no further comments, the Public Hearing was closed on a motion by Byrne and seconded by Cook.

Vote: The Ordinance was adopted.

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to adopt the aforementioned Ordinance No. 2016-1 on second reading.

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

#### 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.

Vote: All in favor

- R-36-2016 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills*
- R-37-2016 *Authorizing the Refund of Property Tax on Block 23 Lot 60*
- R-38-2016 *Endorsing the Submission of a Recycling Tonnage Grant Application and Designating Individual to Ensure Proper Completion and Filing*
- R-39-2016 *Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement Between the Township of Maurice River and the Township of Downe for Services of a Certified Recycling Coordinator*
- R-40-2016 *Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the New Jersey Avenue Project*
- R-41-2016 *Approving the Engineers Proposal for Union Street Construction Specifications and Inspection Support*
- R-42-2016 *Appointing Members of the Downe Township Combined Planning Board*
- R-43-2016 *Accepting Memorandum of Agreement Between Acting Clerk Nadine Lockley and Township of Downe*
- R-44-2016 *Authorizing Executive Session*
- R-45-2016 *Approving a Proposed Easement Across Certain Township Owned Property Serving as Block 74 Lot 15 and Block 74 Lot 16*

Bernie Sayers of Newport gave a little history on the request associated with R-45-2016 and stated the Committee should be eager to approve this resolution.

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

Vote: All in favor

#### RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No.

R-36-2016 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills* in the total amount of \$635,303.80.

Mr. Cook asked for an explanation and expressed his concerns on the following invoices: Commercial Township Joint Court invoice-he would like the invoice reviewed for correctness. NJ League of Municipalities invoices are questionable due to their lack of support to Downe Township. Rutala Associates invoices. DiMeglio Septic invoices. NJ Unemployment Invoice. Cumberland Tire invoice -did we have a lot of problems with truck tires this month. Arbrisco Enterprises invoice.

Roll Call: Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Cook (with Kubota excluded), Bart, Campbell  
Nay – 0

Vote: The resolution was approved.

Mr. Byrne excused himself and left the meeting.

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Bart to adopt the aforementioned Resolution Nos. R-37-2016 through R-41-2016.

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

Vote: The resolutions were approved.

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Jordan to adopt the aforementioned Resolution No. R-42-2016. Mr. Cook abstained from voting on his appointment. His “Yes” vote was recorded on the appointment of Mr. Daly.

Roll Call: Aye – Jordan, Cook, (on the appointment of Mr. Daly), Bart, Campbell  
Nay – 0  
Abstain – Cook (on his appointment)  
Absent - Byrne

Vote: The resolution was approved.

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Jordan to adopt the aforementioned Resolution No. R-43-2016.

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

Vote: The resolution was approved.

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Bart to adopt the aforementioned Resolution No. R-44-2016.

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

Vote: The resolution was approved.

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-45-2016.

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

Vote: The resolution was approved.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Campbell reported on upcoming events in the town. There is a Horscramble event in May, Youth Development Coalition in June, JIF Annual Safety Breakfast in April, Rabies Clinic on March 5<sup>th</sup>, and a OEM, Army Corp & FEMA Workshop February 18<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Campbell reported we received the approved Modified Permit for the Money Island Bulkhead project from the DEP. Mayor Campbell reported he has been in numerous meetings with the NJ League of Municipalities in the past month. At one meeting there was a discussion about the Verizon situation. The Blue Acres tax exempt status and our revenue base was discussed at another meeting. We may need to think about going after our state legislators to adopt legislation to stop the takeover of our lands by these tax exempt organizations. Discussions continued with Mr. Cook and Mayor Campbell about the lack of help Downe Township receives from our legislators.

Committeeman Cook expressed his concerns about the lack of attention from the County in reference to the roadway in Money Island and the critical danger of the situation. The Township needs to do something.

Mayor Campbell stated the Money Island issue has been discussed with the County Engineer, County OEM and FEMA at a meeting held to discuss the aftermath of Winter Storm Jonas. An estimate of damages was submitted to FEMA.

Mr. Cook stated we need to place cones or some type of caution notice to motor vehicles traveling in that area of the dangers of the roadway.

Mayor Campbell stated an emergency declaration from the committee should be prepared and sent to the County who is responsible for all County roadways. There are two other areas the township needs to declare as an emergency situation.

Committeeman Bart had nothing to report.

Committeeman Jordan stated during a storm the road department may not be able to respond immediately. They have to wait for tides to recede and for the conditions to improve for safety reasons.

CORRESPONDENCE – This topic was discussed during Mayor Campbell's Committee Report.

## NEW BUSINESS

New Compactor – Mr. Bart reported he has received a final quote for a new compactor for the convenience center of approximately \$15,000.

New Security System – Mr. Bart reported he has received three quotes for a new security system and would like to move forward with the purchase on a new security system for the township building, garage and convenience center.

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Jordan to purchase a new compactor from Rudco in the amount of \$13,234.00 installed.

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

Nay – 0

Absent - Byrne

Vote: The motion was approved.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Vote: All in favor

Bernie Sayers of Newport asked what is the actual percentage of tax exempt lands in Downe Township. Mayor Campbell answered he cannot commit to an actual percentage but we are over 80%. If these tax exempt agencies obtain all the properties they are currently reviewing, we will be at about 85%.

Bernie Sayers of Newport stated there is a green box full of concrete and building debris that has been sitting for about 2 months at the convenience center. How did it get there? This is not acceptable material to be accepted by the convenience center. Mr. Levenknight answered the Cumberland County Health Department is requiring the Township to store those items at our convenience center in the containers.

Michael Oates of Fortescue asked what is the status of the sewer system for Downe Township? Mayor Campbell answered there is a USDA SEARCH Grant for a feasibility study for a sewer system in Fortescue that has been completed. There is a conceptual plan done. They have looked at Gandy's Beach and Money Island for a batch plant. They are coordinating with all of the state agencies for a pre-application meeting in the next few weeks in Trenton. In the meantime, Cumberland County's Engineering Office and others are proposing a sewer main extension project from Bridgeton to Maurice River Township. Their plan is for Newport, Dividing Creek, Gandy's Beach and Fortescue. They want to exclude Money Island. We have made it very clear that if it doesn't include Money Island we are not interested. They are moving forward. The cost is \$35M to be paid by Downe Township. I have asked if the County is planning to help with the financing. I was told no they are not financing the project, Downe Township is responsible.



Mr. Oates continued he received a call recently from a company interested in his videography services. Mr. Oates read an article about a town in Pennsylvania that was having a problem with upgrading a 40 year old wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Oates stated an Indian government in India is interested in investing in these small municipal sewer systems. This organization has an operation that serves 450 homes and it is clean enough water to discharge into the Bay after treatment. This system costs \$5.7M. Mr. Oates distributed copies of documentation to explain the system. He also stated that the Indian government is interested in investing in these types of systems for any municipality that is interested.

Mr. Oates read a letter he prepared in reference to his property at the south end of Fortescue. The letter states some of the work the Township has done may have encroached on his property. He has had the property surveyed with the township improvements noted. He would like the blocks moved. When can this issue be discussed so we can resolve it. Mayor Campbell stated we can arrange to meet at the location to further discuss it. Mr. Oates continued that behind his property is a piece of property that has been in tax arrears for over 5 years. The township should foreclose on it.

There being no further comments, the public segment was closed on a motion by Cook and seconded by Jordan.

Vote: All in favor

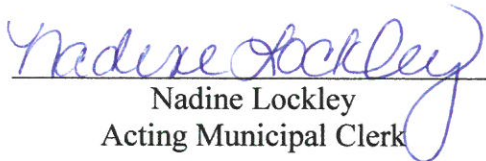
#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Monday, March 7, 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 Jordan.

Vote: All in favor

  
Nadine Lockley  
Acting Municipal Clerk