

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 7, 2016

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex on Monday, March 7, 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 Byrne and seconded by Jordan to approve the following minutes: Special Meeting – January 27, 2016, Special Work Session Meeting – January 27, 2016 and Executive Session Meeting – February 8, 2016.

Roll Call:     Aye – Byrne, Jordan, Bart, Campbell, Cook (February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting only)  
                  Nay – 0  
                  Abstain – Cook (was not present at the January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting)

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Campbell read the CFO and Tax Collector Reports. The Township Committee acknowledged the receipt of the following reports:

- |                         |                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Tax Collector         | Annual Tax Collectors Report for 2015 |
| • Tax Collector         | January 2016                          |
| • Housing/Zoning Report | December 2015/February 2016           |

MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Carr presented his report which consisted of information and updates on the following matters: Trap, spay, and neuter program, updated flood damage prevention ordinance, MEL/JIF policy updates, establishing a litigation subcommittee, Ashman property and the Hanson Tax Appeal.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2016-2 – *An Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank*

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Bart to introduce Ordinance 2016-2.

#### ROLL CALL

Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Cook, Bart, Campbell

Nay - 0

Vote: The introduction of Ordinance 2016-2 was adopted.

#### 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-40-2016     *Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for New Jersey Avenue Project(resolution revised to correct name)*
- R-46-2016     *Authorizing Equipment Buyout with Kubota Leasing Agreement*
- R-47-2016     *Authorizing Payment of Bills*
- R-48-2016     *Municipal Budget Notice – 2016 Budget Introduction*
- R-49-2016     *Determining that the 2016 Municipal Budget May Be Read by its Title at the Public Hearing and Declaring that the Conditions Set Forth in Subsections 1.a. and 1.b. of NJS 40A:4-8 Have Been Met*
- R-50-2016     *Resolution Accepting a Grant for a Portion of Property Known as Block 57, Lots 9 and 10 from Perry Ashman and Marie Ashman*
- R-51-2016     *Authorizing the Sale of Tax Sale Certificates 11-0041, 11-0042 and 11-0043*
- R-52-2016     *Authorizing the Entering into of a Form of Satisfaction and Discharge of a Small Cities Program Mortgage for Residents/Taxpayers W. Burnight and B. Burnight*
- R-53-2016     *Approving the TWA-1 Form for the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Quality Relative to Rhena Saar at 275 Cove Road, Gandy's Beach, Downe Township Known as Block 2, Lot 36*
- R-54-2016     *Approving the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey Devilman Triathlon to Occur on Sunday, May 1, 2016*
- R-55-2016     *Authorizing Executive Session*
- R-56-2016     *Self Examination of Budget Resolution*

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

Vote: All in favor

#### RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Jordan to adopt the aforementioned Resolution No. R-40-2016.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-46-2016.

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

Vote: The resolution was approved.

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to adopt the aforementioned Resolution No. R-47-2016 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills in the amount of \$359,957.66.*

Roll Call: Aye – Jordan, Byrne, Cook (excluding DiMeglio Septic, Kubota Leasing, Arbrisco Enterprises and Item #2 of Tedesco Engineering Invoice), Bart, Campbell  
Nay – 0

Vote: The resolution was approved

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

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

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to adopt the aforementioned Resolution No. R-49-2016.

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

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Byrne and seconded by Jordan to adopt the aforementioned Resolution Nos. R-50-2016 thru R-54-2016.

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

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to adopt the aforementioned Resolution No. R-56-2016.

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

Vote: The resolution was approved

Mayor Campbell stated there is a need to make an official record of the emergency status of a few county roadways in Downe Township. We have talked with the County many times about the conditions of their roadways. These trouble spots are on Money Island

Road, Nantuxent Creek Road, Landing Road and Maple Avenue. In order to get their attention to these issues we will be preparing an emergency declaration to make the County responsible for any situations that may occur.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Campbell stated the Lt. Governor came to Downe Township. She visited all of the beaches and asking questions. She was here for an economic development seminar with the Freeholders and I contacted her and asked her to come for a tour of Downe Township. She gave me an hour of her time. Mayor Campbell continued the Verizon issue is moving forward. The JIF Safety breakfast is April 14<sup>th</sup>. Small Business Association has declared winter storm Jonas and funding in the form of loans are now available. Congressman LoBiondo was contacted to see if Winter Storm Jonas was declared for public assistance, it has not be declared yet. We received a copy of a letter from our consultant for the Fortescue sewer project addressed to NJDEP to arrange a pre-application meeting. The CCIA is holding a hazardous waste and shredding day at the County Landfill. Downe Township will receive \$458,000 in state aid which is two-thirds of what they should be paying us. Mayor Campbell stated he spoke to the DCA Commissioner's Office and no one in his office has a clue what pilot funding is. Governor Christie is trying to take \$8-\$10M of the \$80M in corporate tax money collected and put it into the general fund to pay for fish and wildlife and forest ranger salaries. There is a battle going on about the funds. Pilot funding is not dead. We are fighting to get it back. A call was made to Scott Douglass who is in charge of the Fortescue Dredging project, thing are moving along. There has been some weather related issues but they should be on the job again tomorrow. They have been pumping sand for the last two days. My call was made to Mr. Douglass to see if we could get the sand put on our beach.

Committeeman Cook had nothing to discuss.

Committeeman Bart commented the new compactor was delivered today and should be ready to go in a few days. Why were dumpsters delivered to Wagner's Marina in Gandy's Beach? They are both full of yard trash, tv, tires, boat parts, dock debris and other trash. Mayor Campbell stated he called Mr. Wagner and he stated he spoke to Mr. Cook about a dumpster. We had already placed on at the parking lot for anyone who had debris from the Jonas storm. Wagner stated he wanted the dumpster to clean up the meadow. There is so much stuff in the dumpsters it may get rejected at the landfill. There is nothing in the dumpsters from the meadows. It all came from Wagner's marina. These dumpsters will probably cost about \$1000 in landfill fees. Mr. Cook commented that debris goes back to Hurricane Sandy. Mr. Bart stated Mr. Wagner had every opportunity after Hurricane Sandy to have as many dumpsters as he wanted. He refused at that time. Mayor Campbell stated he spoke to Mr. Wagner during the cleanup after Sandy to ask what he wanted to do. We explained that everything that was damaged during the storm could be cleaned up. He declined at that time. Mr. Bart asked what happens if the CCIA rejects the dumpsters. Mr. Jordan stated our Public Works crew should remove everything in the dumpster that may cause it to be rejected. Mr. Cook

stated we should tell Mr. Wagner to remove the stuff that could cause the load to be rejected.

Committeeman Jordan stated the Housing and Zoning Officer has sent out letters to the residents with trash and debris issues we discussed at the last meeting. There has been some progress at a couple of the locations.

Committeeman Byrne stated he attended a dredging seminar in Somers Point last week. The seminar was 3 hours long and it was very informative program. I found that dredging is a big business. Mr. Byrne spoke about the dredging project in Fortescue that he has been observing.

Mayor Campbell stated the Historic Commission will be meeting at the end of the month. He would like to have a joint commission meeting where everyone meets together to discuss the direction of each commission for 2016. Anyone interested should contact the office as we put together a list of interested volunteers. We will coordinate a date for the meeting with light refreshments in the next few weeks. Mayor Campbell mentioned an editorial in the Atlantic City Press that stated that Downe Township should be split up with half to Lawrence Township and half to Commercial Township.

A motion was made by Byrne and seconded by Jordan to adopt the aforementioned Resolution No. R-55-2016.

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

Vote: The resolution was approved

CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing to discuss.

#### NEW BUSINESS

New Security System – Mr. Bart stated we have 3 quotes. The new security system will cost \$13,716.00. The convenience center has been vandalized and we have had a few break-ins. Mr. Sayers stated he has never seen anybody at the convenience center. Mr. Bart stated we are vandalized 3 or 4 times a year.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Vote: All in favor

Kary Wilson of Newport asked if there has been any study done about the actual cost of connection to the new Fortescue Sewer System that has been talked about. What will be the cost for each resident to connect and what the monthly fee will be. I would imagine that all of the committee has had discussions on the costs to the residents of the Township. Mayor Campbell stated the cost does not come from the committee it comes

for the engineer's office. Mayor Campbell continued DEP gave the County \$100,000 to do a feasibility study and proposal. The County spent the money and came up with five different solutions. The one the County has picked is a sewer main extension from Bridgeton Sewer Plant down to Maurice River Township. Phase One of the project is for Downe Township. The costs to get to Phase One is \$35M. We asked how much it was going to cost the end user. Under their proposal it will be between \$800 - \$1200 a year. They are expecting Downe Township to get huge grants to cover the \$35M. We received a call from the Freeholder Director last week telling me that the Freeholder Board is passing a resolution to get financing for Downe Township's portion of the their sewer project. They have not contacted Downe Township about any of this. The last time we talked to the County was about 8 months ago when they presented their proposal. I informed them at that time that Downe Township was not interested. They claim that Downe Township doesn't have enough borrowing power so the County is applying for the grants for Downe Township. All of this is going on without our input. The County is proposing \$80-\$110 a month for our residents plus a connection fee. Mayor Campbell stressed when the County's project is up and running all township residents will have to pay to hook up to their system. Mayor Campbell explained Downe Township is moving forward with plans for a batch plant in Fortescue. We will conduct public meetings so all residents will be informed. Right now we are still in the planning process. If this batch plant is approved for Fortescue it will be life back into Downe Township. We are currently writing FEMA Project Worksheets for Gandy Beach and Money Island sewer issues.

Kary Wilson asked about the status of the website. Mayor Campbell stated our website is a year behind and we plan to discuss that in executive session tonight.

Bernie Sayers of Newport stated the County's plan for the sewer system is \$35M. What part of the \$35M represents Downe Township? Mayor Campbell answered all \$35M. This is absurd. Mayor Campbell stated the sewer main the County is proposing is to hook up Newport, Dividing Creek, Fortescue, and Gandy's Beach. Money Island is excluded. Mayor Campbell continued the batch plant in Fortescue is projected to cost \$9M. Three million dollars of that amount is for the discharge pipe into the bay. Mr. Sayers asked if someone at the State level is considering this proposal from the County.

Donna MacMurray of Fortescue asked for a timeline if our sewer plant is approved. Mayor Campbell stated after the pre-application meeting and we find out what the State wants we will be looking at about 24 months to be up and running.

Jesse Briggs of Money Island asked for the date of the Freeholder Meeting. Mayor Campbell answered it was held last week.

Bernie Sayers of Newport asked if a copy of the Fralinger Feasibility study is available at the Township office. Mayor Campbell stated he does not have a copy of the study. It should be available at the County.

Discussions continued on the sewer systems in Downe Township.

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

Vote: All in favor

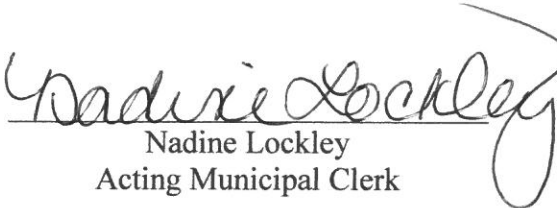
#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Monday, April 4, 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