

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
October 3, 2016

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex on Monday, October 3, 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, Bart, Byrne, Campbell, Cook

Absent – 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 11, 2016 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Byrne to approve the minutes as listed above.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: The minutes were approved

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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

Zoning Office  
Tax Collector

September 2016  
August 2016

MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Carr presented his report which consisted of information and updates on the following matters: Municipal Land Sale process and correspondence for the month.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2016-11 - Declaring Certain Parcels of Real Property Owned by the Township of Downe No Longer Needed for Public Use and Authorizing Public Sale of Same

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Jordan to introduce Ordinance 2016-11.

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

Nay – 0

## 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-103-2016 *Authorizing the Execution of a Contract Renewing Membership in the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund*
- R-106-2016 *Authorizing Payment of Bills*
- R-107-2016 *Authorizing the Adoption of the Mitigation Plan for Four New Jersey Counties*
- R-108-2016 *Resolution Relating to Enforcement of Ordinance 2.02 Concerning Regulations of Weeds and Trash Clean up*
- R-109-2016 *Resolution Relating to Enforcement of Ordinance 2.02 Concerning Regulations of Weeds and Trash Clean up*
- R-110-2016 *Resolution Relating to Enforcement of Ordinance 2.02 Concerning Regulations of Weeds and Trash Clean up*
- R-111-2016 *Authorizing the Refund of Property Taxes*
- R-112-2016 *Authorizing the Sale of Tax Sale Certificates 11-00002, 11-00003, 11-00004, 11-00005, 11-00009, 11-00010, 11-00011, 11-00012, 11-00013, 11-00014, 11-00018, 11-00019, 11-00021, and 11-00022*
- R-113-2016 *Resolution Adopting the Township of Downe Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual*
- R-114-2106 *Authorizing Executive Session*

Kary Wilson of Newport asked about Resolutions 108, 109 & 110 is there a change in Ordinance 2.02. Mr. Carr stated the ordinance is about property maintenance and the ability to enforce. We send out a letter regular and certified mail informing the property owner of the violation. If the property owner does not comply the township has the authority to remediate the situation and attach a bill for the work done on the property owner in the form of a lien.

Mrs. Wilson asked why there is a resolution for the personnel manual. Mayor Campbell answered there is a personnel manual that has been in place for years. There have been changes made to the manual during the Union Contract discussions. As a member of the JIF our personnel manual has to be adopted when changes are made. This also allows discounts on our premiums with the JIF.

Bernie Sayers of Newport asked about the Tax Sale Certificate resolution. Mr. Carr answered this is the process when looking to foreclose some tax sale certificates owned by the Township. A party was identified who is in foreclosure on some properties. They were entitled to buy the tax sale certificates at any time, either before their foreclosure or after. They decided to buy the tax certificates from the township and then they can move forward with their foreclosure. Mr. Sayers asked where the properties are located. Mr. Carr answered they are all related to the Money Island Marina. Mr. Sayers asked what will be discussed in Executive Session. Mr. Carr answered Township In Rem Tax Sale Foreclosures, a litigation issue related to Michael Oates and another litigation issue regarding a letter received from private counsel.

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

Vote: All in favor

## RESOLUTIONS

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-103-2016.

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

Nay – 0

Abstain - Cook

Vote: The resolution was approved.

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-106-2016 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills* in the total amount of \$144,923.12.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: The resolution was approved.

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-107-2016.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: The resolution was approved.

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-108-2016.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: The resolution was approved.

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-109-2016.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-110-2016.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Cook to adopt Resolution No. R-111-2016.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Cook and seconded by Bart to adopt Resolution No. R-112-2016.

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

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-113-2016.

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

Vote: The resolution was approved

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Cook to adopt Resolution No. R-114-2016.

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

Vote: The resolution was approved

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Campbell stated we received a second grant award from the USDA for the Fortescue Sewer Project. Mayor Campbell reported the Township did very well on the Best Practices Worksheet from the State in reference to State Funding. The DEP has inspected the Money Island Bulkhead project and the results are we are 100% in compliance. We received correspondence from Mr. Baker who is the lead attorney for the Verizon Landline System. Verizon has put together their final maintenance plan and have submitted it to the BPU. There was a meeting today in reference to all the beach projects that are ongoing. The meeting was attended by 21 people representing all the state agencies involved in the projects in order to coordinate the projects and update the status of each project.

Committeeman Cook reported on the Verizon efforts. Mr. Baker has coordinated and represents the Township in the Verizon efforts. Mr. Baker has put out a call to action to all concerned residents about the landline telephone services. Mr. Cook continued to read the correspondence from Mr. Baker. Verizon is asking that the petition submitted by Mr. Baker be dismissed because they have addressed the existing problems and there is no need for further inquiries. Mr. Baker commented we strongly disagree with the statement from Verizon. In turn, Mr. Baker will be filing a response with the Board of Public Utilities. He also asked that residents continue to document whether problems continue to exist or are improved. Mr. Doug Cook has been a leader in the efforts of the Township. Our seniors have been outstanding in their support. Mr. Cook also asked the Township Committee to consider installing automatic doors on the office building for better access for our senior population.

Committeeman Bart had nothing to report.

Committeeman Jordan had nothing to report.

Committeeman Byrne stated everything is calm, cool and collected.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Vote: All in favor

Mayor Campbell announced the official date for Trick or Treat is October 31<sup>st</sup> from 4pm-7pm.

Bernie Sayers of Newport asked if the meeting Mr. Cook was speaking about regarding Verizon is the same as the meeting he attended in Estell Manor. Mr. Cook answered the Estell Manor meeting was attended by Verizon representatives and residents were given the opportunity to testify but the next meeting will be attended by the Board of Public Utilities.

Joe Cerone of Dividing Creek stated he has been experiencing these same issues for the last 15 years. He has made numerous calls to Verizon and the issues have not been resolved. He asked Mr. Cook for more information on the upcoming meeting.

Discussion continued about the lack of service in this area and the need for an additional cell tower.

Mary Ann Casper of Newport stated she has not attended a meeting in over a year. In October of last year she asked if there are two registered junk yards in the Township. She was told there are no registered junk yards and the Committee would be addressing the current junk yard issues. In one year, there has been no improvement. Secondly she would like to know why three committeemen did not make a report at this meeting. She would like to know what those three committeemen have done in the past two months to improve or for the betterment of this township. Mayor Campbell stated there may not have been any events during the month that involved the departments they are responsible for. Mrs. Casper continued, as a taxpayer of Downe Township for the last 65 years she is disgusted with the way the Township looks as soon as you enter it. There is a welcome sign by an old dilapidated building with the doors wide open and a dilapidated car under a tarp with four flat tires. This is a disgrace. There are ordinances about junk yards and old cars and the committee has done nothing about these nuisances. Mayor Campbell stated we are working on those issues.

Joe Cerone of Dividing Creek stated at the last meeting three committeemen voted to pass a resolution which essentially screwed the taxpayers out of approximately \$18,000 in taxes owed to this community by the Mayor. You should all sit down and discuss how to repeal that action. The taxpayers deserve that \$18,000.

Bernie Sayers of Newport stated he would like to second Mr. Cerone's comments. He also mentioned the Convenience Center gate is constantly left open.

Kary Wilson of Newport stated she would like to follow what Mr. Cerone stated. She was really surprised when she heard it. She agrees the resolution should be rescinded.

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

Vote: All in favor

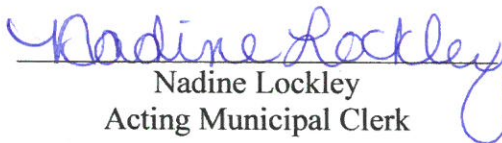
#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Monday, November 14, 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 Bart and seconded by Cook.

Vote: All in favor

  
Nadine Lockley  
Acting Municipal Clerk