

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
EMERGENCY MEETING – DUE TO COVID-19 SITUATION
MUNICIPAL OFFICE CLOSED TO PUBLIC
APRIL 13, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. VIA TELECONFERENCE

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room and via Teleconference at the Municipal Complex on Monday, April 13, 2020 at 7:00p.m. Mayor Robert G. Campbell presided. Committee members present at Township Complex were Michael Rothman (Deputy Mayor), and Steve Burt. Committeemen participating via teleconference include Stephen Byrne, 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 – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Rothman and Campbell

Absent - 0

RESOLUTIONS

R-52-2020 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills*

R-53-2020 *Approval to Submit a Grant Application LAIF-Downe Township-00050
and Execute Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of
Transportation*

R-54-2020 *Resolution Authorizing the Township of Downe to Submit an Application
for a Rural Business Development Grant to the United States Department
of Agriculture for the Delaware Bayshore Science and Research Center*

A motion was made by Burt and seconded by Bart to adopt Resolution No. R-52-2020 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills* in the total amount of \$493,237.10.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Rothman and Campbell

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Rothman and seconded by Burt to adopt Resolution No. R-53-2020.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Rothman and Campbell

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Burt and seconded by Rothman to adopt Resolution No. R-54-2020.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Rothman and Campbell

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

Solicitor Carr stated because of the pandemic and the updated notice requirements and because the notice did not make it on the website stated the meeting would be held NJSA 10:4-9b requests that a vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ of the members present of the public body to hold the emergency meeting for matter that are necessary to be done urgently in accordance with the public good and that is for matters that were not advertised and the electronic portion of the meeting. I recommend a motion of the agreement of three quarters of the public body would be appropriate.

A motion was made by Rothman and seconded by Burt to hold emergency meeting.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Rothman and Campbell

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Rothman and Campbell

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

Kary Wilson of Newport asked for an explanation of R-54-2020. Mayor Campbell stated this is a USDA grant that will fund a planner and engineer for the conceptual and feasibility study of actually doing a science center at the Money Island Marina location. This is not to fund the construction of the facility this is just a grant to do preliminary feasibility and conceptual design work for a project of this size. There is no match on this grant. This is setting the stage for a group of stakeholders to be involved in the project. Mrs. Wilson asked what is the benefit for the township. Mayor Campbell stated the benefit would be about 20-40 permanent full-time jobs and enhance the oyster industry and create ratables for the township.

Mrs. Wilson stated the Bond Ordinance for the \$15M for the sewer project was scheduled to be heard tonight, will that be rescheduled. Mayor Campbell stated everything that was scheduled for tonight will be re-scheduled for the May 11, 2020 meeting. Mrs. Wilson asked if that meeting will be noticed. Mayor Campbell answered yes. Mrs. Wilson continued she noticed at the last meeting there was an ordinance to purchase the corner of Fortescue Road and Baptist Road belonging to Larry Jordan. What does the township have in mind for that piece of property? Mayor Campbell answered the township already owns the opposite corner and because of our Streetscape project this property would be used to help reconfigure the intersection to help with the traffic flow. Lastly will the bill list be posted on the website. Miss Lockley stated she would mail a copy of Mrs. Wilson.

Joseph Cerone of Dividing Creek asked if the \$15M bond would be used to assume the already outstanding debt that the community has accrued or will we be paying them all separately. Mayor Campbell stated the township does not have \$15M of debt. The bond is for the sewer plant which is mostly funded with grant money. There questions can be addressed at the May 11, 2020 meeting when the public hearing for the bond ordinance

will be held. Mr. Cerone continued to repeat his question. Mayor Campbell repeated the bond is for the sewer plant only.

Beth Morrissey of Fortescue asked if and when the Mayor received her email which was sent to the Clerk and the Zoning office on April 7, 2020. Mrs. Morrissey stated the email was about a door to door salesman coming through Fortescue during this pandemic and a statewide stay at home order with non-essential domestic travel prohibited and she is wondering if these people have a vendor license from Downe Township to sell asphalt driveways and stating they do not need a permit. Mr. Burt answered that Mrs. Morrissey's neighbors had their driveways paved. Mrs. Morrissey's stated these gentlemen knocked on her door three times. She wanted nothing to do with them. She is afraid that companies are coming here to scam a very vulnerable population down here. She asked the gentlemen if he needed a permit to do this work and he stated no. She stated she never received a response from the township. Mayor Campbell stated he did not see the email. These are called paving gypsy. The guys have been around forever. They are usually not honest people and you are right not to deal with them. There is not licensing that gives them permission to do this. Mrs. Morrissey asked if there is a township vendor license to allow people to come in town to go door to door. Mayor Campbell stated what Township vendor licenses are for. He informed Mrs. Morrissey to contact the Sherriff depart or the State Police. Mrs. Morrissey stated she called the State Police and they did not come out and did not know if they were on the non-essential list. Mrs. Morrissey stated no one responded to her email and this is a terrible situation. These people could possibly bring the virus to this small community. Mayor Campbell stated he look for the email. Mrs. Morrissey asked what happens to any resident who deals with this company and there are no permits applied for. Mayor Campbell stated there is not requirement to obtain a permit to resurface your driveway. Mrs. Morrissey stated our website stated a permit is required to do impervious materials. Mayor Campbell stated there are size requirement and the project has to be over a certain amount to require permits. Mrs. Morrissey asked what will be done if there is a violation. Mayor Campbell and Mrs. Morrissey continued to speak back and forth about the issue.

Bernie Sayers of Newport commented on how cool the teleconference meeting is he would just like to see the volume increased on the Mayor's microphone. Mayor Campbell stated we will work on getting a better system.

There being no further comments, the public comment portion was closed on a motion by Burt and seconded by Rothman.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Rothman and Campbell
Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Campbell stated all Committee Reports will be postponed until the next meeting of the Township Committee

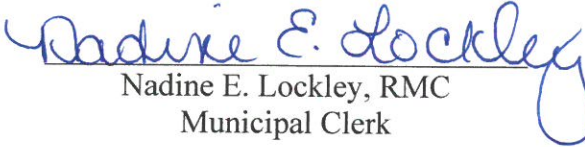
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Monday, May 11, 2020 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 Burt and seconded by Rothman.

Vote: All in favor


Nadine E. Lockley, RMC
Municipal Clerk