

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON
SEPTEMBER 14, 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, September 14, 2020 at 7:00p.m. Mayor Robert G. Campbell presided. Committee members present at Township Complex were Edward Bart, Michael Rothman and Steve Burt. Committeemen Byrne in attendance via teleconference. Municipal Solicitor, Rebecca Bertram, 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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Campbell read the Zoning Office, Chief Finance Officer and Tax Collector Reports. The Township Committee acknowledged the receipt of the following report:

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|-------------------------|-------------|
| • Zoning Officer | August 2020 |
| • Chief Finance Officer | August 2020 |
| • Tax Collector | August 2020 |

MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Bertram stated there is nothing new to report on the solar project. There is an ordinance tonight regarding the sewer project. The deed for Ms. Hamilton has been recorded. The next issue is potential litigation that will be discussed during executive session. The tax court has finally started with local hearings and our assessor has resolved all but five outstanding complaints. They are listed for tomorrow night. We may be appearing for a TEAMS meeting to address those tax appeals.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2020-12 *An Ordinance Requiring Mandatory Sewer Connections for the Downe Township Sewer Project.*

Mayor Campbell stated this ordinance will be part of our wastewater treatment system in Fortescue and Gandy Beach. It is an ordinance requiring mandatory sewer connections for the project.

Motion was made by Bart and seconded by Rothman to introduce Ordinance 2020-12.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Rothman and Campbell
 Nay - 0
 Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTIONS

- R-84-2020 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills*
- R-85-2020 *Resolution Providing for the Insertion of Items of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 Chapter 159, P.L. 1048) USDA Community Facility Grant for \$27,800*
- R-86-2020 *Resolution Providing for the Insertion of Items of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 Chapter 159, P.L. 1048) USDA Community Facility Grant for \$28,100*
- R-87-2020 *Resolution Providing for the Insertion of Items of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 Chapter 159, P.L. 1048) DCA Small Cities CDBG Grant for \$112,700*
- R-88-2020 *Resolution Providing for the Insertion of Items of Revenue in the Budget Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 Chapter 159, P.L. 1048) NJ Clean Communities \$8,031.41*
- R-89-2020 *Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the FY 2020 FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program*
- R-90-2020 *Resolution Authorizing the Refund of Property Taxes*
- R-91-2020 *Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes for Property Acquired by Downe Township*
- R-92-2020 *Resolution Related to In Rem Foreclosures*
- R-93-2020 *Resolution Approving Housing Rehabilitation Grant Management Plan*
- R-94-2020 *Resolution Adopting Housing Rehabilitation Policies and Procedures Manual*
- R-95-2020 *Resolution Adoption of State Model Citizen Participation Plan for DCA Small Cities Program*
- R-96-2020 *Resolution Authorizing the Submission of a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for Home Rehabilitation FY 2020*
- R-97-2020 *Resolution Identifying Small Cities Fair Housing Officer*
- R-98-2020 *Authorizing Executive Session*
- R-99-2020 *Resolution Accepting Sale Contract Entered Into Between the Buyer and Downe Township with Regard to the Public Sale of Land Known as Block 11 Lot 22 Held at the Downe Township Municipal Building Pursuant to Advertisement Under the Municipal Land Sale Law of N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13 Et Seq on September 14, 2020 at 6:30pm*

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Rothman to adopt Resolution No. R-84-2020 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills* in the total amount of \$342,511.53.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Rothman and Campbell
Nay - 0
Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Rothman to adopt Resolution Nos. R-85-2020 to R-88-2020.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Rothman and Campbell
Nay - 0
Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Burt and seconded by Bart to adopt Resolution No. R-89-2020.

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

Nay - 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Rothman to adopt Resolution No. R-90-2020.

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

Nay - 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Burt to adopt Resolution No. R-91-2020.

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-92-2020.

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

Nay - 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Burt to adopt Resolution No. R-93-2020 to R-96-2020.

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

Nay - 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Burt to adopt Resolution No. R-97-2020.

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

Nay - 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Burt to adopt Resolution No. R-98-2020.

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-99-2020.

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

Nay - 0

Vote: All in favor

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Kary Wilson of Newport stated she did not hear the solicitors report. She asked what's on the agenda for executive session. Mrs. Bertram answered two potential litigations. She asked for the parties involved. Mayor Campbell answered Tamara McGinley. Mrs. Wilson thanked everyone that came out to the blood drive. It was a great success. We had several first-time donors show up and we exceeded our goal. She thanked Steve Burt for the fan. Our next blood drive is October 8th from 2-7pm. Our last blood drive is December 9th from 2-7pm. There will be flyers and emails going out shortly. She thanked Ed Bart after calling him to have a deer removed that was hit near her property. She asked if there were appraisals done on the properties the township is interested in purchasing. The Baptist Road property which is the train station property. Mayor Campbell answered yes an appraisal was done on the property. She asked for the amount of the appraisals. Mayor Campbell stated he does not have the amount in front of him. Mrs. Wilson continued that particular property has had ground water contamination for a number of years and it is under remediation. Mayor Campbell stated we are aware and it is being addressed. Mrs. Wilson asked about the Landing Road property owned by Larry Jordan. Mayor Campbell stated the appraisal has not been received yet. Mrs. Wilson stated that piece of property was sold to Larry Jordan by Mr. Campbell for \$1. The property is appraised at \$3,400 and is not a buildable lot. Mayor Campbell stated it is a buildable lot and it was sold to Larry Jordan 15 years ago. Mrs. Wilson continued that Larry Jordan is an employee of the township and also holds a township position – Deputy OEM Coordinator. She asked Mrs. Bertram if this is a conflict of interest situation. Mrs. Bertram stated she has no knowledge of this situation. Mayor Campbell answered he and Mrs. Bertram will look into this situation for Mrs. Wilson. Mrs. Wilson asked what is the townships interest in Mary Hamilton's property. Mayor Campbell stated the township has no use for this property at this time. Mrs. Wilson asked about the townships interest in Bock 54 Lot 22. Mayor Campbell stated there are no specific plans for that property either. Mrs. Wilson commented these properties will come off the tax roles if the township takes over these properties. Mrs. Wilson also commented it would be nice if these township meetings were better advertised. There was no notice on the front bulletin board announcing tonight's meeting. There is no notice that the planning board meeting is cancelled. She was at the office on Friday and there was nothing on the bulletin board.

Mayor Campbell asked Mrs. Wilson when the donors will receive the antibody test results. Mrs. Wilson stated she does not have that information.

Meghan Wren stated she downloaded the app and received her antibody testing results online. Mrs. Wren gave a Green Team update. She thanked everyone for the Bounty of the Bay participation. They served 214 dinners and exceeded their goals. We have unofficial notice that we will be receiving a grant that was applied from Sustainable Jersey for the Raybins Beach project. On September 30th there will be a Facebook live stream. There is a video being prepared and a quote is needed from the Mayor. Mrs. Wren stated one of our Green Team members passed away about a week ago. Mr. Lemmerman was very active with the committee and his passing is a big loss for the community. He was a spark plug for the Dividing Creek community. We are looking to have the Dividing Creek community garden project as an Eagle Scout project with the

help of Conner Carr. We are excited about this project for the township. We are continuing to work on the Community Heart and Soul project. Mrs. Wren continued to speak about the Community Heart and Soul process. Mrs. Wren spoke about getting the Dividing Creek Community Garden started this Fall. Mrs. Wren stated there are plans for the Fortescue Horseshoe Crab Festival to be held in May of 2021 and a 2nd Bounty of the Bay in 2021.

A motion was made by Burt and seconded by Rothman to adopt Resolution No. R-92-2020.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Rothman and Campbell
Nay - 0
Vote: All in favor

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 reported the wastewater sewer service area has been approved by the NJDEP and should be published in the NJ Registrar in the next week or two. This is a final approval. The plans have been revised recently and are being reviewed by the NJDEP. We are working on getting our plans ready to go out to bid. This is an exciting time.

Mr. Bart mentioned the Community Shred Day and Yard Sale will be held on September 26th from 9am-2pm. Mayor Campbell stated spaces are available for \$5. Contact the office for more information.

Mr. Burt stated he would like to meet with the committee to see what we can and can not do on the townships Dividing Creek property that is being looked at for the Dividing Creek Community Garden. There have been several complaints about grass clippings in the roadway. When mowing, please don't do this because it is very dangerous especially for motorcycles. The Recreation Committee will be meeting soon to get back up and running.

Mr. Byrne stated he is waiting for this Covid issue to be over so we can have some music down at Union Hall.

Mr. Rothman has nothing to report.

Mayor Campbell stated the Streetscape project for Landing Road, Baptist Road and part of Fortescue Road is in design with the State engineering office. We opted to have their office handle the design free of charge which leaves more money in the budget for the actual project itself. Part of the interest in the corner lot in Newport that Kary Wilson

was referring to is to enable the re-design of that intersection for safety, traffic flow and speed. The re-configuration of that intersection would benefit the design. The township owns the lot on the other corner and if we owned both corner lots it would benefit the design. The other corner lot is owned by Larry Jordan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Rothman and seconded by Burt, the meeting was opened to Executive Session.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Rothman and Campbell
Nay - 0
Vote: All in favor

On a motion by Burt and seconded by Rothman the Executive Session was closed.

Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Rothman and Campbell
Nay - 0
Vote: All in favor

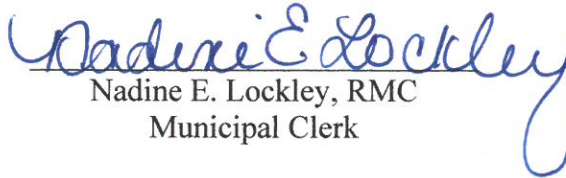
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Monday, October 12, 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 Rothman and seconded by Burt.

Vote: All in favor


Nadine E. Lockley, RMC
Municipal Clerk