

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2021
AT 7:00 P.M.

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Office and via teleconference on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7:00p.m. Mayor Michael L. Rothman, presided. Deputy Mayor Edward Bart, Committeeman Robert G. Campbell Steve Byrne and Steve Burt were in attendance. Municipal Solicitor Rebecca Bertram was also present.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / STATEMENT
REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Mayor Rothman called the meeting to order; led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement.

ROLL CALL

Present – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Campbell and Rothman

Absent - 0

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2021 Annual Reorganization Meeting

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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

- Zoning Officer December 2020
- Chief Finance Officer December 2020
- Tax Collector December 2020

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 2020-14 An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing that Block 17 Lot 14 Owned by Chester Riland, III Located Within the Township of Downe, County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey be acquired by Eminent Domain, Purchase or Gift

Motion was made by Bart and seconded by Byrne to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2020-14.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

Kary Wilson of Newport wanted to know why there were two appraisals needed. If the person selling the property was not satisfied they should arrange their own appraisal which wouldn't be an expense to the township. Mayor Rothman asked Mr. Campbell if he would respond to the question. Mr. Campbell stated it appropriate to get more than one appraisal in this situation. This property is being funded by Green Acres and also by

the County Open Space program. The County has allocated \$37,500 towards the purchase. The two appraisals were for transparency. The balance will be paid by Green Acres funds. Mrs. Wilson stated the seller gets what he is asking for even when the appraisals are different. Mrs. Wilson commented some properties are not worth what is being asked for them. Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Campbell debated about being economical in purchasing with taxpayers money. Mrs. Wilson asked about the groundwater contamination in the area. Mr. Campbell answered the contamination is a not an issue point because it is involved in the state NJDEP process of being corrected.

There being no further comments a motion was made by Bart and seconded by Burt to close the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2020-14.

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

ORDINANCE FINAL ADOPTION

Ordinance 2020-14 An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing that Block 17 Lot 14 Owned by Chester Riland, III Located Within the Township of Downe, County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey be acquired by Eminent Domain, Purchase or Gift

Motion was made by Bart and seconded by Burt to adopt Ordinance 2020-14.
Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Campbell and Rothman
Nay – 0
Vote: All in favor

Mayor Rothman announced Ordinance 2020-15 is being tabled tonight. Mr. Campbell asked why its being removed. Mayor Rothman answered we were contacted by Mr. Carpino and he stated at this time his is going to pursue some other avenues.

TAPED RECORDING ERROR STARTED

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 2020-15 An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing that Block 74 Lots 41, 42, & 43 Owned by Frank Carpino & Heritage Hills Estates, LLC, Locate Within the Township of Downe, County of Cumberland and State of New Jersey be Acquired by Purchase or Gift

This Ordinance was tabled at this time.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2021-1 An Ordinance Establishing Salaries and Wages for the Officers and Employees of the Township of Downe for the Year 2021

Motion was made by Bart and seconded by Campbell to introduce Ordinance 2021-1.

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

Nay – 0
Vote: All in favor

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2021-2 An Ordinance Establishing Stormwater Management control for the Township of Downe

Motion was made by Burt and seconded by Bart to introduce Ordinance 2021-2.
Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Campbell and Rothman
Nay – 0
Vote: All in favor

MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Bertram presented her report which consisted of information and updates on the following matters: Liquor license referendum is for 5 years.

RESOLUTIONS

- R-27-2021 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills*
- R-10-2021 *Resolution Appointing Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Deputy Coordinator of the Township of Downe*
- R-20-2021 *Resolution Appoint Municipal Joint Insurance Fund Commissioner for the Township of Downe*
- R-25-2021 *Resolution Appointing Alternate Fund Commissioner to the Atlantic County Municipal Joint Insurance Fund for the Township of Downe*
- R-28-2021 *Authorizing Shared Service Agreement for Fire Inspection Shared Services with the City of Bridgeton*
- R-29-2021 *Authorizing a Change fund of \$200 for the Tax Collectors Office*
- R-30-2021 *Authorizing a Change Fund of \$200 for the Clerk/Public Works Dept*
- R-31-2021 *Authorizing Dog Account Change Fund for \$100 for Municipal Clerks Office*
- R-32-2021 *Authorizing the Cancellation of Small Tax Balances of \$10 or Less for 2019*
- R-33-2021 *Resolution Appointing Members of the Combined Planning Board*
- R-34-2021 *Designating Primary Care Providers for EMS Services*
- R-35-2021 *Resolution Granting Final Approval of the Bart Application to Sell Development Easement*
- R-36-2021 *Awarding South State, Inc., the Contract for the Paving of Delaware Ave.*
- R-37-2021 *Authorizing Executive Session*

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Campbell to adopt Resolution No. R-27-2021 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills* in the total amount of \$204,884.31.

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

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution Nos. R-10-2021 thru R-34-2021.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Bart to adopt Resolution No. R-36-2021.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Bart to adopt Resolution Nos R-37-2021.

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

Vote: All in favor

TAPED RECORDING RESUMED

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

Vote: All in favor

Kary Wilson of Newport asked a question about R-10-2021, who is the Deputy Coordinator. Mayor Rothman answered the person is the same, Larry Jordan. She asked if that person has to be sworn in. Mayor Rothman answered not as Deputy Coordinator. Mrs. Wilson asked why there isn't a resolution for the OEM Coordinator. Mayor Rothman answered the OEM Coordinator is sworn in. Mr. Burt is under a 3 year term. Mrs. Wilson asked who the JIF Fund Commissioner. Mayor Rothman answered Bob Campbell. Mrs. Wilson asked where the bid openings held for the awarding of Delaware Avenue. Miss Lockley answered the bid opening was held at the township office on January 7th at 11am.

Meghan Wren of Fortescue asked if she could give an update on the Green Team. She reported there was an impromptu Rabins Beach cleanup last weekend. The calendars are almost done. She thanked a number of people for their help. The calendars will be distributed at the convenience center and a number will be mailed to our seasonal residents. There is a 2nd walk scheduled for February. The Heart and Soul process is continuing. We signed our contract with the CCIA. If there is anyone who would like to be part of our projects, just contact the Green Team.

Mayor Rothman thank Meghan and told her to the Green Team is doing a great job, keep up the good work.

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

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

Vote: All in favor

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Rothman stated Mayor Campbell has been going through a little something. A lot of people have been asking about him. An update about him; he has been feeling better every day. He is going through a little bit of an health scare. He can fill you in as he is in attendance on this call tonight. He will continue to be involved in what goes on in the township. In case you didn't already know, I, Mike Rothman am Mayor and Ed Bart is the Deputy Mayor. We will do everything we have to do in our power to keep everything right.

Mr. Campbell thanked everyone in the township for all of the calls and reaching out and check up on him. He stated he got sick with COVID-19 pretty bad for the last four or five weeks. HE is one the mend and is still experiencing some issues. He thanked everyone for stepping up and doing the right things as he progresses and recovers.

Mayor Rothman stated he and Mr. Campbell have been attending the meeting for the wastewater treatment center for some time. We have Army Corp approval, the TWA-1 has been submitted, we are working on easements that need to be done for further permit submittal. It is under DEP review. We are working on South Jersey Gas coming to Fortescue. We are working on the next town hall meeting for the water treatment facility. We have to work within the current Covid 19 restrictions. We are looking into a different teleconferencing program. We are not sure what it is but hopefully it will be a better service with optional video capabilities.

Mr. Bart reported that we will be holding Amnesty Month in April. Dates for curbside pickup will be announced. We received the bids of Delaware Avenue Paving project. South State was the lowest bidder at \$134,162.50. We also received a new grant for \$246,000 to cover the paving of the streets of Fortescue. The streets are Louisiana Avenue, Vassar Avenue, Bayview, Budney, and Adeline Avenues.

Mr. Burt had nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Byrne reported that due to Covid 19 we can not do anything at Union Hall. It will be great when we can but not yet.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Bart and seconded by Burt, the meeting was closed to the public and the Executive Session was opened with no action to be taken after 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 Byrne, the Executive Session portion was closed.

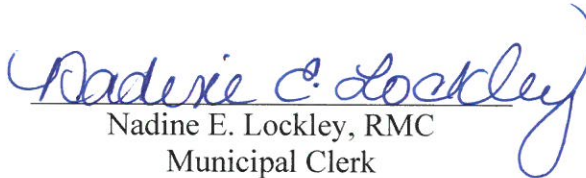
Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Burt, Byrne, Rothman, and Campbell
Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bart and seconded by Campbell.

Vote: All in favor


Nadine E. Lockley, RMC
Municipal Clerk