

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2021  
AT 7:00 P.M.

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Office and via teleconference on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Michael L. Rothman, presided. Deputy Mayor Edward Bart, Committeeman Robert G. Campbell, Steve Burt and Steve Byrne 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, Byrne, Campbell, Burt and Rothman

Absent - 0

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

March 8, 2021            Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Bart to approve the March 8, 2021 meeting minutes.

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

                  Nay – 0

                  Vote: All in favor

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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

- Zoning Officer                            March 2021
- Chief Finance Officer                    March 2021
- Tax Collector                              March 2021

MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Solicitor Bertram presented her report which consisted of information and updates on the following matters: landfill solar project, Fortescue Sewer Project; the virtual notary system we development worked week; vacation of Surf Avenue, waiting on title work for Fortescue/Landing Road (Jordan) project, the title work has been ordered for the Riland property; the streetlight upgrade for resident on Turkey Point Road; there is a property clean up issue that is ongoing; the Cannabis ordinance is on the agenda tonight.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2021-3 - *Ordinance of the Township of Downe Authorizing the Vacation of Surf Avenue*

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Bart to introduce Ordinance 2021-3.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

*Ordinance 2021-4 - Ordinance by Downe Township in Cumberland County, New Jersey Prohibiting the Operation of Certain Classes of Cannabis Businesses within its Geographical Boundaries and Amending the Township of Downe Municipal Code*

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Burt to table Ordinance 2021-4 until the next meeting.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

*Ordinance 2021-5 - An Ordinance of the Township of Downe, County of Cumberland, State of New Jersey Adopting a Redevelopment Plan for Block 27 Lot 3, Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et seq*

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Bart to introduce Ordinance 2021-5.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

*Ordinance 2021-6 - Calendar Year 2021 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank*

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Burt to introduce Ordinance 2021-6.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

## RESOLUTIONS

R-56-2021 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills*

R-57-2021 *2021 Municipal Budget Notice*

R-58-2021 *Resolution Authorizing Execution of Agreements with Verizon and Atlantic City Electric for Certain Improvements Necessary for the Construction and Operation of the Township of Downe Sewer Treatment Facility*

R-59-2021 *Authorizing Executive Session*

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Burt to adopt Resolution No. R-56-2021 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills* in the total amount of \$227,829.62.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Burt to adopt Resolution No. R-57-2021.

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-58-2021.

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-59-2021.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-60-2021.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

On a motion by Campbell and seconded by Burt, 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 Fortescue Road asked what would be discussed during Executive Session. Mrs. Bertram replied the items for Executive Session are personnel and potential litigation related to the sewer system. Mrs. Wilson asked for the name of the person appointed to the Planning Board. Mayor Rothman answered Kevin Nocon.

Tony Novak of Money Island stated he forwarded a request to the Township Committee to vacate Ordinance 2019-16 because the Township has made no effort to approach the property owner with the specific plan of acquisition. Other stakeholders have been put on hold. At this point the property owner is making the request to vacate the ordinance so other options can be investigated.

Mr. Novak continued he has made no progress on the terminal end liability of the Bayview Road bulkhead. We were making progress with the prior engineering a few years ago and now there is no time to deal with it. This needs to be investigated because the erosion is continuing.

Mr. Novak stated Baysave may receive a grant to address the trash and human waste on the island. Mr. Novak is asking for guidance from the community. There are several people coming to Money Island and there are no facilities for them, so they do their business any and every where on the island and this needs to stop.

Mayor Rothman stated the township is willing to discuss with “Baysave” a solution to the lack of facilities in Money Island. There are only two bulkheads in Money Island. One belongs to the County and the other is the new bulkhead we installed a couple of years ago. Mr. Novak answered there was discussion regarding a breakwater to slow down the water that is now running around the corner that use to run up on the beach. Mr. Novak stated the project involves

his property. Mr. Campbell instructed Mr. Novak to contact the State Fish and Game Office because they are responsible for taking care of the lands in Money Island that were taken by Blue Acres. The township is not responsible for that area any longer. Mr. Novak stated he has contacted Fish and Game numerous time and all he gets is “we will look into it”. Nothing ever happens. Mayor Rothman stated he will contact the Fish and Game Office to see if they can patrol the area more often.

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 there will be a Town Hall meeting after we receive final approvals from the NJDEP. Be careful riding around and pay attention to motorcyclists and animals in the area. For all Fortescue residents please be sure to get your easement documents in. To date we have received 150 easements which puts us about halfway. Please help us get the word out. South Jersey Gas is still planning on extending service to Fortescue.

Mr. Bart stated this is Amnesty Month and a good time to get rid of old tires and junk laying around on your property. Please don't forget to stop by the office to pick up your new permit.

Mr. Burt stated he has nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Byrne reported we are still working on getting some music at Union Hall. The Horseshoe Crab Festival is moving forward very nicely. We have been informed that the Channel 6 weatherman, Chris Sowers, as the master of ceremonies on May 15, 2021.

Mr. Campbell reported all applications are in for the sewer project and we should expect public comment period is coming up for 60 days. Everything is moving along.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Campbell and seconded by Bart, 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

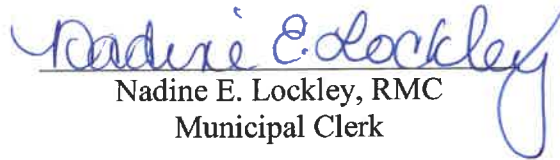
On a motion by Burt and seconded by Bart, the Executive Session portion was closed.

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 Campbell and seconded by Bart.

Vote: All in favor.

  
Nadine E. Lockley, RMC  
Municipal Clerk