

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 10, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Office on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 7:00p.m. Mayor Michael L. Rothman, presided. Deputy Mayor Edward Bart, Committeeman Robert Campbell Steve Byrne and Larry Jordan 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, Jordan, and Rothman

Absent - 0

Mayor Rothman recognized the two new County Commissioners in attendance. Mayor Rothman welcomed Commissioner Romero and Commissioner Silas. Mayor Rothman also welcomed Mr. Charles Lupton, Downe Township OEM Coordinator to the meeting.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mayor Rothman read the Tax Collector and Chief Finance Officer Reports. The Zoning report will be included in next month's meeting. The Township Committee acknowledged the receipt of the following report:

- Chief Finance Officer                      December 2021
- Tax Collector                                      December 2021

PRESENTATION: SOUTH JERSEY GAS COMPANY – New expansion to Fortescue  
Representatives from South Jersey Gas gave a presentation on the new service expansion for Fortescue. Information was given on the installation process. Representatives answered question from the residents and assisted with the application process.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2022-1 *An Ordinance Establishing Salaries and Wages for the Officers and Employees of the Township of Downe for the Year 2022*

Motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to introduce Ordinance 2022-1.

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

Nay – 0

Vote:    All in favor

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 2021-12 *An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #2020-4 Concerning the Acquisition of Block 13 Lot 10.*

Motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2021-12.

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

Nay – 0

Abstain - Jordan

Vote:    All in favor

There being no comments from the public, a motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to close the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2021-12.

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

#### ORDINANCE FINAL ADOPTION

Ordinance 2021-12 *An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #2020-4 Concerning the Acquisition of Block 13 Lot 10.*

Motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Ordinance 2021-12.  
Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Campbell, and Rothman  
Nay – 0  
Abstain - Jordan  
Vote: All in favor

#### ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 2021-13 *An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Property Known as 266 Cove Road (Block 1 Lot 51) on the Tax Map of the Township of Downe.*

Motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2021-13.  
Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman  
Nay – 0  
Vote: All in favor

There being no other comments from the public, a motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Bart to close the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2021-13.

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

#### ORDINANCE FINAL ADOPTION

Ordinance 2021-13 *An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Property Known as 266 Cove Road (Block 1 Lot 51) on the Tax Map of the Township of Downe.*

Motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Jordan to adopt Ordinance 2021-13.  
Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman  
Nay – 0  
Vote: All in favor

#### MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Bertram presented her report which consisted of information and updates on matters that should be discussed in Executive Session.

#### RESOLUTIONS

R-27-2022 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills*  
R-28-2022 *Authorizing Shared Service Agreement for Fire Inspection Shared Services with the City of Bridgeton*  
R-29-2022 *Authorizing a Change Fund for \$100 for the Tax Collectors' Office*  
R-30-2022 *Authorizing a Change Fund for \$200 for the Clerk/Public Works Dept.*

R-31-2022      *Authorizing Dog Account Change Fund of \$100 for Municipal Clerk's Office*  
R-32-2022      *Authorizing Cancellation of Small Tax Balances of \$10 or Less for 2021*  
R-33-2022      *Resolution Appointing Members of the Combined Planning Board*  
R-34-2022      *Designating Primary Care Providers for EMS Services*  
R-35-2022      *Authorizing Executive Session*  
R-36-2022      *Authorizing Transfers Between Budget Appropriations*

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-27-2022 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills* in the total amount of \$201,351.79.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-28-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-29-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-30-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-31-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-32-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Bart to adopt Resolution No. R-33-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-34-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-35-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-36-2022.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

Jamie Warner of Dividing Creek stated we are in Phase two of the Heart and Soul project. Phase two consist of interviewing the residents of Downe Township to talk about the needs, and what the residents would like to see happening in Downe Township. We have established office hours of Monday from 3pm to 8pm at the OEM building. Ms. Warner stated the Recreation and Historic Commission are in need of volunteers to get them up and running.

Laurie Williams thanked the road crew for the awesome job they did with the snow removal. She also thanked all the volunteers who came out to help with the road cleanup project.

Megan Wren of Fortescue stated the calendars will be out soon and will be distributed at the convenience center. She thanked the road department for all of their help with the Green Team road cleanup projects. On February 13<sup>th</sup> we will be doing a nature walk at 2pm. She asked that we do some coordinating with the South Jersey Gas Company installation and the Horseshoe Crab Festival so that the roadways will be clean for the event.

Sean Pignatelli asked if the school playground open to be used by township residents even when the school is closed. He asked if the committee would entertain putting in a few parks in the township. Mayor Rothman comments discussions have taken place regarding this issue. The biggest problem is AT THIS POINT THERE IS AN ISSUE WITH THE RECORDING.

Liz Cowley commented that a lot of the comments she has been receiving has been about small recreational areas needed throughout the township possibly one in each village. Mr. Pignatelli commented that we are starting to get a lot of drug activity in Fortescue. Mayor Rothman stated there are a groups of law enforcement officers in this area who will take some action. He named a couple of agencies and stated he can provide contact information if needed. This is a countywide issue. Mr. Campbell stated if you see something say something. Mr. Pignatelli asked if it is possible to have a substation in this area because they are so far away. Mayor Rothman stated that one of the things we all would like to see is more of an enforcement presence in this township.

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

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

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Rothman stated please be safe with this new COVID presence and if you are feeling bad stay home and take care of yourself. The dredging projects are getting ready to start.

Mr. Bart had nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Byrne reported the Union Hall will be opening soon with some music events happening and we will keep you posted.

Mr. Jordan had nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Campbell reported the sewer project is one track. We are experiencing some minor issues with the NJDEP but we will work through them.

Commissioner Silas congratulated the township on the hard task of getting South Jersey Gas in the area. You are doing a great job also on bring the sewer in this area. As commissioners we are making a very strong commitment to you in this area. There are a lot of good things coming here. This is a jewel you have here. It is a pleasure to see the Bayshore area grow. We want to know what you residents want in this area. We are here to assist you. Commissioner Romero thanked everyone for their support during the elections. He is very proud to be a part of our community. We will make sure you have a voice. We are happy to work together with you and very proud of what we are doing here. The Commissioners asked for a copy of the township calendar. They spoke about a county parks and recreation system that is supported by the Sheriff's office.

THERE IS AN ISSUE WITH THE RECORDING – THE REMAINDER OF THE MINUTES WERE PREPARED FROM NOTES TAKEN BY THE CLERK

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Monday, February 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Campbell and seconded by Byrne, 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, Byrne, Jordan, Rothman, and Campbell  
Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

On a motion by Jordan and seconded by Byrne, the Executive Session portion was closed.

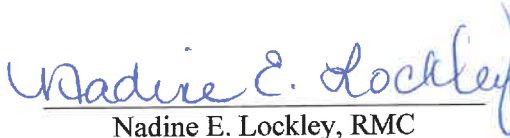
Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Jordan, Rothman, and Campbell  
Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: All in favor

  
Nadine E. Lockley, RMC  
Municipal Clerk