

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 11, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Office on Monday, July 11, 2022 at 7:00p.m. Mayor Michael L. Rothman, presided. Deputy Mayor Edward Bart was absent, Committeeman Robert Campbell, Larry Jordan 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 – Byrne, Campbell, Jordan and Rothman

Absent - Bart

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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

- Chief Finance Officer June 2022
- Tax Collector June 2022
- Zoning Office June 2022

MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Bertram stated a report was prepared for the committee. The report references topics that should only be discussed in Executive Session. Mrs. Bertram asked if the committee had any questions about the report. There were no questions from the committee.

RESOLUTIONS

- R-71-2022 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills*
R-72-2022 *Resolution Approving Execution of Professional Services Agreement for a Preservation Plan Regarding Union Hall*
R-73-2022 *Resolution Appointing Code Enforcement Officer*
R-74-2022 *Authorizing Executive Session*
R-75-2022 *Resolution Authorizing Execution of the Discharge or Cancellation of Mortgage*

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-71-2022 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills* in the total amount of \$208,958.89.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-72-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Byrne and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-73-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-74-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-75-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

Mayor Rothman reported that work is still ongoing on the Fortescue Road patching. We are still in discussions to come up with an ordinance for bulkheads. South Jersey Gas has installed a traffic light for the bridge area in Fortescue. Had a meeting today with the County Engineer and Road Dept regarding Maple Avenue. We have come up with a plan that includes fencing and signs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

Vote: All in favor

Liz Cowley of Fortescue gave an update for the Green Team and the Heart & Soul project. She reported the newest adventure for the Green Team is recycling. We are looking at a couple of recycling projects. We are recycling products that our convenience center can not take. The company is Terra Cycle. Some major corporations are paying you to send them the items. For instance, Colgate will pay you to send in used toothpaste tubes. There are a lot of different organizations who are using this program. This is simply a mitigation program for the large corporations so they can show they are recycling. There will be a collection location here in the senior center. Bounty on the Bay is a fundraiser for the Green Team and the Heart & Soul Endowment Fund and is scheduled for August 13th in the Fortescue Firehall from 12noon to 5pm. The Heart & Soul team will be canvassing the township to continue interviewing residents on what they would like to see, change or do in Downe Township.

Sean Pignatelli of Fortescue stated we are getting people at the south end bridge in Fortescue that do not speak English and I don't think they are aware of the size of crabs to take. They are poaching. They are also the same individuals that are up by the Fortescue Inlet just littering up the whole area. Can we contact the State Police or Fish and Game to let them know that this has been an ongoing problem and could they periodically check this area.

Mr. Pignatelli asked if we could start asking residents to register their cats and collar them. People are not taking care of their cats and we have way too many feral ones in the area. Downe

Avenue has lots of work that needs to be done because South Jersey Gas has been working in the area. Mayor Rothman stated South Jersey Gas is working on the road repairs and they are about two weeks behind in their schedule. Fish and Game are in the area more than you know and they are aware of what's going on. Mr. Pignatelli commented as far as his request goes, the township will make money by having people register their cats. By having them collared we will know which cats are pets and which are feral. Mayor Rothman stated the biggest issue with that is getting people to comply. Mr. Pignatelli commented that people have to register their dogs so why not cats. Mr. Campbell stated we tried before, but there is a difference between registering cats and registering dogs. People come to this area and drop off a box of cats every day. It is a big problem all over the county. Mr. Campbell commented bring them all to his house because he loves cats.

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

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

Vote: All in favor

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Campbell reported the sewer project is moving ahead. We are waiting for a public comment period to expire and we are waiting on one approval. The Fortescue Cap project engineer was just awarded a contract to complete the design drawings. South Cove Road is getting a new bulkhead which was also just approved by FEMA. On North Cove Road we just received the go ahead to move forward with the steel bulkhead repair and the 200ft extension. The Cumberland County fairground have been updated and it looks fabulous. It is understood that there will be a lot more events held there in the future.

Mr. Jordan had no report.

Mr. Byrne reported on July 16th at Union Hall Mr. Dickie Sheppard will be playing. He is a fantastic guitar player. There is also a musical gathering scheduled for July 17th at Union Hall from 1pm-4pm.

Mrs. Bertram stated tonight's executive session will consist of discussion on a matter related to litigation/municipal court, and possible litigation associated with campgrounds.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Monday, August 8, 2022 at 7pm.

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 – Byrne, Rothman, Jordan and Campbell
Absent – Bart
Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

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

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

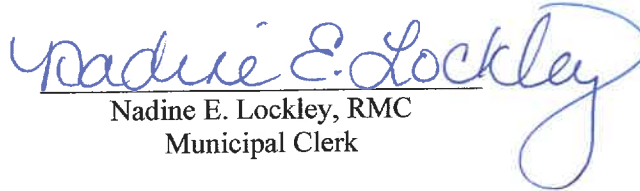
Vote: All in favor

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Vote: All in favor


Nadine E. Lockley, RMC
Municipal Clerk