

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Office on Monday, August 8, 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 July 2022
- Tax Collector July 2022
- Zoning Office July 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.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTION

Ordinance 2022-04 *An Ordinance Providing for the Use of Capital Funds for the Purchase of New, Additional or Replacement Public Works and General Office Equipment and Improvements for Municipal Buildings and Structures, and to appropriate the Sum of \$56,700.00 to Pay the Cost Thereof*

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to introduce Ordinance 2022-04.

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

Absent – Bart

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

Ordinance 2022-05 *A Bond Ordinance Providing for Improvements by the Township of Downe, in the County of Cumberland, New Jersey Appropriating Funds Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of Funds of the Township*

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to introduce Ordinance 2022-05.

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

Absent – Bart

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

RESOLUTIONS

- R-77-2022 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills*
- R-78-2022 *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 Grant - \$8,270.59*
- R-79-2022 *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) Cumberland County Cultural & Heritage Grant - \$4,230.00*
- R-80-2022 *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) NJDEP Green Acres Grant - \$12,500.00*
- R-81-2022 *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) NJDOT - \$500,000.00*
- R-82-2022 *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) NJDCA Small Cities CDBG Grant - \$163,000.00*
- R-83-2022 *Resolution Authorizing the Redemption of Municipal Tax Sale Certificate 16-00053*
- R-84-2022 *Resolution Authorizing Executive Session*
- R-85-2022 *Resolution Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with Craig Test Boring Company, Inc., for Test Boring Work in Connection with the FEMA Project at North Cove Road, Gandy Beach*
- R-86-2022 *Resolution Authorizing Professional Service Agreement with Mott MacDonald for Engineering Work for Fortescue Concrete Cap Design*

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Campbell to adopt Resolution No. R-77-2022 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills* in the total amount of \$683,349.33.

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-78-2022.

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-79-2022.

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-80-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Campbell to adopt Resolution No. R-81-2022.

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-82-2022.

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 Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-83-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Campbell to adopt Resolution No. R-84-2022.

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-85-2022.

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-86-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

Mayor Rothman reported there has been some improvement on the Fortescue Road patching. There are two different companies working on the repairs. We along with the county, have come up with a design to make Maple Avenue a little safer. We are still looking at what we can do about the feral cat situation. The dredging of Fortescue Creek is complete for this year. Funds have been obligated by the State to complete another dredging project in this area in 2023. Don't forget the Bounty on the Bay fundraiser at the Fortescue Firehall.

Mayor Rothman introduced Mr. Anthony Loteck as the new enforcement officer for Downe Township. Mr. Loteck introduced himself and gave some detailed information about himself. He thanked the committee and the residents for welcoming him here. He looks forward to this opportunity.

PUBLIC COMMENT

On a motion by Campbell 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

Meghan Wren of Fortescue invited all to the Bounty on the Bay on Saturday which is a crab dinner to take out or eat in. There are awesome raffle baskets and the buck a shuck oysters. Come out eat and have some fun. On September 14th we are holding an event that is a deck party. A new couple in town is hosting a fundraiser with music and food. It's a goodwill donation fundraiser event with the proceeds going to the Downe Township Green Team. There is a new program started with a company that recycles different products then we usual do. The company is Terra Cycle and you should see flyers around illustrating the items to collect. There is a collection box in the Senior Center Hall. It's a points system where we will be paid for the items collected. Liz, Laurie and Maureen who are our champion cleanup crew, have been cleaning the beach area and collecting cigarette butts and they have even found a company that recycles them. This township is so lucky to have these three individuals. We received a complaint regarding pet waste and it is nice to see the new pet waste collection stations. Is it possible to add a few more. Would like to see a few more in the residential areas of Fortescue. (trailer park area and fisherman beach parking lot). Back Home Day is scheduled for October 15th at the school. There have been talks about a possible Downe Township Polar Bear Plunge on January 7th. Looking for interested participants and volunteers for the event. The talks are also about meeting at the firehall after the plunge for the 2nd Chilli cookoff & hot chocolate. Mrs. Wren asked about the adoption of the two resolutions and two ordinances she provided to the committee at the last meeting for the Sustainable Jersey certification. Are there any issues we can discuss? Hoping they would be on tonight's agenda but they are not. Mayor Rothman stated there are a few issues that need to be discussed. He explained a deadly situation that happened in the county regarding electric vehicles. That ordinance needs more discussion and research before the committee will adopt it. The water conservation ordinance needs more discussion regarding the language in the ordinance. This needs further discussion and research also. Heart and Soul interviews for input from township individuals is continuing and we are making progress and getting close to where we can start sharing some of the things we are learning.

Laurie Williams of Fortescue stated a part of the Sustainable Jersey certification process has brought to our attention that we under utilize our township website. Ms. Lockley has been awesome in adding little pieces of information onto our website so our residents can be more informed. There is information on the website regarding the State's registry for Special Needs persons. We need as many special needs people in our township to register so in the event of an emergency where OEM is involved in rescuing people, they need to know where these special needs (disabled) residents live. There is also a new Cumberland County Special Needs registry which is not associated with the OEM. The County registry is run by the County Prosecutors Office. This registry which identifies special needs people in the township would be used in the event of a house fire, break in, or car accident. In these everyday situations a police, firemen or first responders will need this kind of information when they arrive on the scene. The county program issues a decal that can be placed at your location which will signify a special needs person lives at that location. The information about the Terra Cycle program is on the website. Laurie thanked Nadine and Nicole for all of their assistance with putting things up on the website. We found out that Downe Township residents can sign up for the food bank that is held in Lawrence township. There are income requirements to register for the monthly commodities. The flyer that was included with your tax bills was prepared by Nadine and it also contains a lot of this information.

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

Mayor Rothman stated with the heat wave we are experiencing, please check on your neighbors. We are continuing discussions with Lawrence Township to coordinate the planting of the Salem Oak Tree sapling.

Mr. Jordan stated he was contacted by the Green Team to see if there was ever a memorandum of agreement between Downe Township and Lawrence Township for use of the food bank. We reached out to the previous clerk to see if she could locate any agreement. We are waiting for a response.

Mr. Byrne reported there will be a musical treasure at Union Hall on August 20th featuring Dan Godbey and on September 17th the Vineland Villager Gospel Choir will be performing.

Mr. Campbell reported we are waiting for one permit still for the sewer project. Once we receive this permit, we can go out to bid. The North Cove Road project is moving forward. The South Cove Road project is also moving forward. The Fortescue Cap project is moving forward. Mayor Rothman added the South Jersey Gas install is moving forward in Fortescue also. Mr. Campbell spoke about how the DEP stopped the gas line installation around the bridge area because of the sighting of an eagle within 1000 feet of the area. The project was started again after the hiring of a person to watch/monitor the movement of the eagle. Mayor Rothman expressed his frustration in dealing with the final approval needed from the DEP.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Monday, September 12, 2022 at 7pm.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

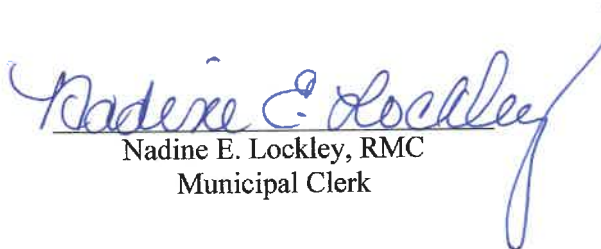
It was determined there were no topics for discussion. Therefore, Resolution R-84-2022 Resolution Authorizing Executive Session was vacated and not needed as it was determined there was no need for an Executive Session meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Vote: All in favor


Nadine E. Lockley, RMC
Municipal Clerk