

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
DECEMBER 12, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Office on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Michael L. Rothman, presided. Deputy Mayor Edward Bart, Committeemen Robert Campbell, and Larry Jordan were in attendance. Committeeman Steve Byrne was absent. 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, Campbell, Jordan and Rothman

Absent - Byrne

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2022      Regular Meeting

On a motion by Campbell and seconded by Jordan the minutes of the previously mentioned meeting was approved as presented.

Roll Call:            Aye – Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman

Absent – Byrne                      Abstain - Bart

Vote: Minutes Approved as submitted.

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 | November 2022 |
| • Tax Collector         | November 2022 |
| • Zoning Office         | November 2022 |

PUBLIC HEARING - Comcast Franchise Agreement Renewal - Fred DeAndrea, Senior Director of Government Affairs opened the public hearing giving the history of Comcast service in this area. He gave a brief description of the process for franchise agreement renewal. There is no action needed tonight from the governing body.

John Gilligan of Gandy Beach asked if Comcast would be servicing the Gandy Beach area. Mr. DeAndrea stated service to that area has been looked at and is one of the areas the township has requested to be included.

Mr. DeAndrea thanked the township for facilitating the Public Hearing.

MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

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

## RESOLUTIONS

- R-118-2022     *Authorizing the Payment of Bills*  
R-119-2022     *Resolution Authorizing Transfers Between Budget Appropriations*  
R-120-2022     *Resolution Authorizing the Cancellation of Property Taxes for Property Acquired  
by Downe Township*  
R-121-2022     *Resolution Authorizing New Bank Account for Sewer Operating Fund*  
R-122-2022     *Resolution Authorizing New Bank Account for Sewer Capital Fund*  
R-123-2022     *Resolution Authorizing New Bank Account for Downe Township Green Team*  
R-124-2022     *Resolution Executive Session*  
R-125-2022     *Resolution Authorizing the Redemption of Municipal Tax Sale Certificate #16-  
00030 in Installments*  
R-126-2022     *Resolution Authorizing Professional Service Agreement with Mott MacDonald  
for Engineering Work Associated with FEMA Project for Tropical Storm Isaias  
(Disaster #4574DR)*

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-118-2022 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills* in the total amount of \$364,225.94.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Campbell to adopt Resolution No. R-119-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-120-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-121-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Bart to adopt Resolution No. R-122-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-123-2022

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

Vote: All in favor

It was determined that Resolution R-124-2022 – Authorizing Executive Session was not needed. There were no executive session topics for discussion.

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-125-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Campbell to adopt Resolution No. R-126-2022.

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

Vote: All in favor

Mayor Rothman reported last month we received our TWA permit for the sewer project. We are now waiting for an ATA (authorization to advertise) from the DEP and USDA. Our trailer ordinance is now in effect. There have been conversations on what's happening in Money Island on the west side where the DEP did a project. There are pictures of cars stuck in the sand, vehicles damaging fencing, etc. The DEP who owns that section has been informed of these activities. We would like to try and recognize our residents who have been a blessing to the township. If you know of anyone or feel strongly about a resident that needs to be recognized please contact our office. On January 7<sup>th</sup> at 2pm we will hold our first Polar Bear Plunge put on by the Green Team. If there is anyone who would like to take part in this event, please contact the Green Team. The event will take place on the fishing beach. This should be a great event for Downe Township.

#### Tedesco Engineering Presentation – Stormwater Management Training

Mr. Tedesco provided handouts to the committee with information about stormwater management. Since 2004 we have had a stormwater discharge permit for all the stormwater facilities in Downe Township. We do not have any basins, but we have stormwater inlets in Fortescue. We have been monitoring our inlets and the PW department cleans the inlets. We are audited by the State DEP about every three years to make sure we are doing things properly and we are educating our governing body. This year we were moved from Tier B to Tier A. Tier A means there is more information to provide to the State, more maintenance activities and will be a cost burden to the township. Mr. Tedesco gave a brief description of the changes that may occur. There are additional ordinances that must be adopted by the township. There is mandatory tri-annual street sweeping of our township roads with inlets, roads without inlets must be swept once a year. We will need to generate a digital map of all our stormwater structures. We will need to update our website and create a stormwater management page.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

Vote: All in favor

Laurie Williams asked what are the factors that caused us to be changed from a Tier B stormwater classification to a Tier A. Mr. Tedesco answered the State looked at the nitrates, fecal issues, etc. The DEP did the research and decided to change the Tier. There was a group trying to form a coalition to fight the DEP and there wasn't enough interest. Ms. Williams commented that this hurts the taxpayers of the township. Can't we fight this? Mayor Rothman spoke about his frustration with the DEP. Mr. Tedesco spoke about the public meetings he attended where other town officials were complaining about this change of Tiers.

Meghan Wren of Fortescue reported that in November at the League of Municipalities Conference we were awarded our Bronze Certification for the next three years. Laurie Williams and John Reed put a lot into this certification process. Horseshoe Crab Festival is scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> and we are looking for food vendors and crafters. We are planning to meet on Thursday at 6:30pm in the township building to talk about taking the terracycle project to the next level.

The Plunge may become an annual event. There is a lot of interest in the event. We are looking at having our 2<sup>nd</sup> Chili & cornbread cookoff at the firehall after the plunge.

Liz Cowley stated the chili & cornbread cookoff is free. Ms. Cowley stated, as a representative of the Green Team and the Heart and Soul project, we would like to thank the entire committee and the municipal employees for all of your help this year. It is really appreciated. Mayor Rothman thanked Liz, the Green Team and the Heart and Soul group for all their efforts this year.

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

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

Vote: All in favor

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Bart reported that Clean Shore was here and did a cleanup in November. They covered 23 miles of roads. They collected 57 bags of recycling materials, 110 bags of trash and 53 tires and 30 cubic yards of wood and debris. Mr. Bart wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and be safe.

Mr. Jordan had no report.

Mr. Campbell had nothing to add.

Liz Cowley reported there will be music at 7pm at Union Hall on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. This will be a Christmas music singalong.

#### NEXT MEETING

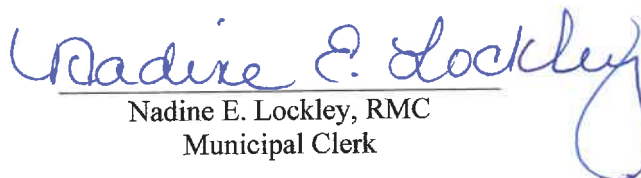
The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be the 2023 Annual Reorganization Meeting which will be held on Monday, January 2, 2023 at 10am. The regular Township Committee meeting for January will be held on January 9, 2023 at 7pm.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Vote: All in favor

  
Nadine E. Lockley, RMC  
Municipal Clerk