

DOWNE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 10, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.

The Downe Township Committee met in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Office on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Michael L. Rothman, presided. Deputy Mayor Larry Jordan, Committeemen Robert Campbell, Steve Byrne, and Edward Bart were in attendance. Municipal Solicitor Rebecca Bertram was also present and Nancy Sbrolla, Auditor was 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 – Jordan, Bart, Byrne, Campbell, and Rothman

Absent - 0

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- March 13, 2023 Regular Meeting
- March 13, 2023 Executive Session

On a motion by Campbell and seconded by Byrne, the previously mentioned meeting minutes were approved as presented.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

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

- Chief Finance Officer March 2023
- Tax Collector March 2023
- Zoning Office March 2023

MUNICIPAL SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Solicitor Bertram presented her report which consisted of information and updates on matters that should be discussed in the Executive Session. There is one issue to discuss tonight. Silvi is requesting another extension to their renewal application. They stated there are no changes to their operation. They are not mining in the area associated with the license. The Committee had no objections to the extension of time.

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 2023-2 Calendar Year 2023 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (NJSA 40A:4-45.14)

A Motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Jordan to open Public Hearing for Ordinance 2023-2.

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

Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

There being no comments on a motion by Campbell and seconded by Byrne the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE FINAL ADOPTION

Ordinance 2023-2 *Calendar Year 2023 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a CAP Bank (NJSA 40A:4-45.14)*

A Motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Ordinance 2023-2.

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

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 2023-3 *An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Property Known as 16 Princeton Avenue (Block 69, Lot 22) on the Tax Map of the Township of Downe*

A Motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Byrne to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance 2023-3.

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

There being no comments on a motion by Campbell and seconded by Bart the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE FINAL ADOPTION

Ordinance 2023-3 *An Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of Property Known as 16 Princeton Avenue (Block 69 Lot 22) on the Tax Map of the Township of Downe*

A Motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Ordinance 2023-3.

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

ORDINANCE PUBLIC HEARING

Ordinance 2023-4 *An Ordinance Declaring Certain Parcels of Property Owned by Downe Township Situate in Cumberland County No Longer Needed for Public Use and Authorizing Public Sale*

A Motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Campbell to open Public Hearing for Ordinance 2023-4.

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

There being no comments on a motion by Byrne and seconded by Campbell the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE FINAL ADOPTION

Ordinance 2023-4 *An Ordinance Declaring Certain Parcels of Property Owned by Downe Township Situate in Cumberland County No Longer Needed for Public Use and Authorizing Public Sale*

Motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Ordinance 2023-4.

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

RESOLUTIONS

- R-44-2023 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills*
- R-45-2023 *2023 Annual Budget Introduction*
- R-46-2023 *Authorizing Shared Service Agreement to Provide Services of Certified Recycling Coordinator as Review and Certification Agent Regarding Annual Recycling Tonnage Report*
- R-47-2023 *A Resolution Authorizing Execution of the Discharge or Cancellation of Mortgage*
- R-48-2023 *Authorizing Executive Session*
- R-49-2023 *Authorizing the Sale of Tax Sale Certificate No. 23-00064*
- R-50-2023 *Authorizing the Sale of Tax Sale Certificate No. 23-00065*
- R-51-2023 *Authorizing the Sale of Tax Sale Certificate No. 23-00066*
- R-52-2023 *Resolution Authorizing Professional Service Agreement wit Mott MacDonald for Engineering Work for Fortescue Concrete Cap Design*

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-44-2023 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills* in the total amount of \$199,674.16.

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-45-2023.

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-46-2023.

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

A motion was made by Jordan and seconded by Campbell to adopt Resolution No. R-47-2023.

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-48-2023.

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-49-2023.

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-50-2023.

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-51-2023.

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-52-2023.

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

Vote: All in favor

Mayor Rothman gave the following updates. There has been some movement with the paving repairs on Fortescue Road. Maple Avenue is still being discussed with the County. There has been some positive progress with code enforcement violation notices for property cleanups. The Horseshoe Crab Festival is scheduled for May 13th. Lastly the budget will have a 4.4 cent increase. We have worked very hard to keep this number low. All of the municipalities in the State are facing an increase. There has been a large increase in the State Pension program and also the State Health Benefits Program. There is an increase in the cost of just about everything in this world.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

Vote: All in favor

Kary Wilson of Newport asked what dollar amount is needed to justify the increase you spoke about. Mrs. Sbrolla answered the amount is about \$250,000. Is Downe Township providing shared services or receiving shared services. Miss Lockley answered we are in a contract with the Borough of Shiloh. What is the discharge and cancellation of mortgage resolution for? Miss Lockley answered this is a Home Rehab Program grant that is being paid back because the house is being sold.

Bob Pignatelli of Fortescue asked for an update on the Fortescue Sewer Project. Mayor Rothman announced an update will be given during the Committee Reports.

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

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

Vote: All in favor

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Rothman reported the sewer project is moving forward. There is a mandate that when you borrow federal funds you must now “Buy America Build America” (BABA). Originally, we were told we would receive a waiver for BABA. We have now been told the federal government has rescinded our waiver for BABA. This made us have to amend our original specs to include BABA and go out for bids at a later date. Addendums must be issued for the changes in the bid specifications. All of this has just changed the bid opening dates for the project. The project is still moving forward.

Mr. Pignatelli asked how long before we have a serious issue due to all of these delays. Mayor Rothman stated the delays move the project back, but we are also restricted from starting any construction projects until August because of the eagles and osprey.

Mrs. Wilson of Newport commented that since the bid opening date has been moved, does that allow other bidders to submit. Mayor Rothman commented yes.

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

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

Mr. Byrne stated music will be at Union Hall this Saturday night at 7pm and the Austin Brothers will be performing. Last month there was standing room only. The parking lots were full for the Fiddle Club of Linwood. Don’t forget our one Sunday April 15th for our monthly music session from 1pm-4pm. There is also great music planned for the Horseshoe Crab Festival on May 13th.

Mr. Campbell stated he had nothing to report.

Lastly Mayor Rothman thanked everyone for showing up month after month to see what’s going on in your community.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Jordan 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. A personnel issue will be discussed.

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

Vote: All in favor

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

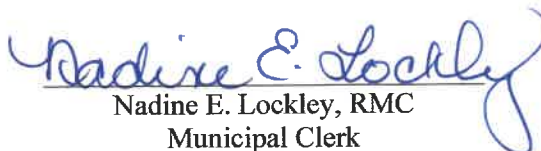
Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Campbell, Jordan, and Rothman
Nay – 0

Vote: All in favor

ADJOURNMENT

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

Vote: All in favor


Nadine E. Lockley, RMC
Municipal Clerk