

- R-81-2024 *Resolution Authorizing the Appointment of Members to the Historic Preservation Advisory Commission*
- R-82-2024 *Resolution Accepting and Authorizing the Proposal and Agreement of LEW Environmental Services, LLC for Professional Services for Dust Wipe Sampling of Rental Units to Comply with N.J.A.C. 5:28A*
- R-83-2024 *Resolution Authorizing Increase of Fees for the Disposal of Tires and Other /Certain Items at the Convenience Center*
- R-84-2024 *Resolution Authorizing Executive Session*
- R-85-2024 *Resolution Authorizing Approval of 2024 Coastal Engineering Rate Schedule for Mott MacDonald – THIS RESOLUTION WAS TABLED FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION*
- R-86-2024 *Resolution Authorizing Water and Waste System Grant Agreement with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service*
- R-87-2024 *Resolution Authorizing Approval of Loan Resolution with United States Department of Agriculture*

A motion was made by Bart and seconded by Campbell to adopt Resolution No. R-79-2024 *Authorizing the Payment of Bills* in the total amount of \$286,640.12.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Byrne and seconded by Jordan to adopt Resolution No. R-80-2024.

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

Vote: All in favor

A motion was made by Byrne and seconded by Bart to adopt Resolution No. R-81-2024.

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-82-2024.

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-83-2024.

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-84-2024.

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

Vote: All in favor

Resolution R-85-2024 was tabled for further discussion

A motion was made by Campbell and seconded by Byrne to adopt Resolution No. R-86-2024.

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-87-2024.

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

Vote: All in favor

Mayor Rothman reported we awarded two contracts for the sewer system on May 23, 2024. One contract with Agate Construction to build the treatment plant and one contract with South State, Inc. to install all of the infrastructure in Fortescue. We will be awarding the other two contracts in July. You should start seeing some activity in Fortescue soon. The treatment plant will start first and then the infrastructure. If you or someone you know has not signed the easement for the sewer project, please tell them to get in touch with us. We are going to try to make one more application to the DEP. We are doing what we can to get all properties included who are not included. The DEP will soon be instituting the new NJ PACT regulations. Once NJ PACT is in place it will be extremely difficult to get permits at the DEP.

The bulkhead in Gandy's Beach is finished. The paving was completed last week. They are currently installing the streetlights and that will complete the project.

Lastly, yes, Fortescue Road is a little bumpy. That is a county road and they do not plan to repave that road until the sewer project is completed. They will be patching some of the bad spots. We have over \$2M in NJDOT grants to repave all of the roads in Fortescue and Gandy Beach after the sewer is complete.

PUBLIC COMMENT

On a motion by Campbell and seconded by Bart, 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 stated she looked at the public notice for the special meeting and it said the meeting was held on Monday, May 23rd. When was the meeting actually held because Monday was not May 23rd? Miss Lockley answered that the meeting was held on Thursday, May 23rd. Mrs. Wilson continued she didn't know if the meeting was going to be held on Monday or Thursday. Mrs. Wilson stated she was reading the resolution from the May 23rd meeting and the resolution stated the sealed bids were opened and read on March 30th. That date is not correct. On March 30th the bid opening was cancelled and rescheduled. Miss Lockley stated at this moment she cannot answer that question. Mr. Van Embden stated we will look into this; it is more than likely a typo. Mrs. Wilson continued Pierson apparently was not able to sustain his bid so I guess not all of the contractors were able to hold their bids but you stated everybody kept their bids. Mayor Rothman commented that Pierson decided to pull out everyone else has held their bid.

Mrs. Wilson asked what are the names and positions of the new members for the Recreation Committee and the Historic Commission (R-80-2024 & R-81-2024)? Mayor Rothman answered Mr. Bart, Shelia Levine and Benjamin Pignatelli. The members for the Historic Commission are Cindy Sanza – Class A, Sally Blizzard-Class A/B, Mary Chance–Alternate Class C, Mary Ann Casper-Alternate Class C. Current members are Larry Jordan-Class A, Sharon Chaplin-Class A/B, Kathleen Gandy-Class B, and Sharon Bart-Class B. Mrs. Wilson stated that information is good to know in case we need to reach out to one of them. Regarding Resolution R-83-2024, what other certain items are we going to be charging fees for. Mayor Rothman stated only the tire

fee has changed. Mr. Van Embden stated that the other item would be appliances with freon. We also added tractor tires and oversized tires.

Mrs. Wilson asked what are the topics for the executive session? Mayor Rothman answered personnel issues. Mrs. Wilson asked if the Township Committee has any future plans to change the Zoning Ordinance? Mayor Rothman stated there has been no discussion on that. Mrs. Wilson asked how many days of the week the Zoning Office is open. Mayor Rothman stated the Zoning Officer is here 5 days a week. Mrs. Wilson asked what are the hours of the enforcement officer? Mayor Rothman stated Mr. Loteck works 4 hours a week and there is no set day.

Sybol of Charlesworth Restaurant in Fortescue stated to the township committee, thank you all for your service. Sybol continued it had come to his attention this past weekend a few people came to his restaurant and said that a camera was installed in the tax office and was recording personal information, and this is something that is not supposed to be there. Is this information true? Mayor Rothman answered yes, and we addressed it immediately. Mayor Rothman asked Mr. Van Embden if he had anything to add. Mayor Rothman stated we cannot go too far with this because it is a matter that is currently being looked into. Mr. Van Embden commented to Sybol that everything that was just said is accurate. Mr. Van Embden continued everything the Mayor said about immediate response is also accurate. Sybol continued he doesn't really get involved with rumors but likes to go to the source to get answers so he can give out the right information.

Doc of South Cove Road asked is there any possibility to get someone to take a look at the bulkhead that is starting to cave in along different spots on South Cove Road. Can it be patched? Mayor Rothman stated there was a discussion recently with the Public Works department on how to fix the area. There is a FEMA project to permanently fix this which is in excess of \$2M that is currently being reviewed so it can be obligated. Mr. Campbell stated this is another FEMA project from Hurricane Sandy. We are currently waiting for their approval for a steel bulkhead. We are aware there are some sinkholes that need to be patched.

Laura Williams of Fortescue stated she would like to thank Mr. Loteck for the work he is doing. We reported a wing of a bulkhead that had come loose and given the right storm probably would have become a floating bomb. The owner has moved the section of the bulkhead and removed all of the old riprap in front of the building. It is appreciated.

Liz Cowley of Fortescue stated if there is anyone interested in fresh vegetables, the Fortescue Garden is now up and running. Lettuce is ready, you just missed radishes and we have some sugar snap peas that are ready. Everyone is welcome, just help yourself, pick a fruit and pick a weed is our motto. There is a brochure that just came out from the state OEM and it is probably one of the easiest reading on how to prepare yourself for some kind of a hurricane or tropical storm. It is New Jersey specific and is really a simple read. It talks about how to make a plan now. We as residents should know what we are going to do if we are told to evacuate or to prepare for a storm. We will have some available near the bulletin board in the hallway. At the last meeting we spoke about the Heart and Soul updates that are coming out in the different communities. Our first town hall is this Friday and we are presenting to the Seniors. The Seniors are a group that we went to initially and asked for their input on what is important to them. We are going to now give them feedback on what we found and what we heard. Keep watching because every village is going to have a town hall meeting presented by Heart and Soul and there will be food involved.

Mayor Rothman thanked Liz for all of the things she is putting together in this township.

Sean Pignatelli of Fortescue stated he doesn't have anything as exciting as a community garden. But we actually just received a grant for \$67,000 to put a park in Dividing Creek. He stated he would like to thank the committee and the CFO for doing such an awesome job getting the funding. We have about 18 months to use the funds and we will have a new park. Mr. Van Embden asked is there going to be food? Sean answered maybe at the grand opening. Mayor Rothman commented on the grant Mr. Pignatelli is referring to. We applied for \$100,000 and we were awarded \$67,000 for the recreation committee. We are going to do this project in Dividing Creek in an effort to rejuvenate the basketball court area and add playground equipment also. Mr. Pignatelli commented that a lot of ideas are being talked about and if there is anyone interested in sharing their ideas feel free to contact the recreation committee.

Kary Wilson stated she is aware that the township purchased a surveillance system a few years ago for the convenience center. There is a camera in the lobby area. How many locations did that surveillance system cover? Miss Lockley stated there are about 8 cameras throughout the area. Mrs. Wilson asked if they are operational. Mayor Rothman answered yes. Mrs. Wilson asked if the CD and everything is stored. Is there a timeframe? Do you keep an archive? Mayor Rothman stated we cannot discuss a lot of that it is for the security of the building. Yes, is it archived.

Doc of South Cove Road stated there is a white Chevy station wagon patrolling back and forth down Gandy's Beach, very suspicious, riding around at 2am. Recently a 4-wheeler was stolen in Newport. Early hours of the morning we see these headlights go by. Mayor Rothman stated State Police Sargeant Hider is in attendance and you can give him that information. The State Police have been aggressive in this area. You have asked for their presence, and they are out there and some of our residents have received tickets because of their presence.

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

Mayor Rothman reported that the Downe Township School 8th Grade Graduation is scheduled for Wednesday at 6pm. The school is graduating 22 students.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Bart stated next Wednesday, June 19th is a holiday, the offices will be closed but the convenience center will be open.

Mr. Jordan had nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Campbell had nothing to report at this time.

Mr. Byrne reported that music at Union Hall is scheduled for June 22nd at 7pm with Buckshutem Country performing and don't forget June 23rd music gathering from 1pm – 4pm. Also, watch out for the turtles.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Downe Township Committee will be held on Monday, July 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

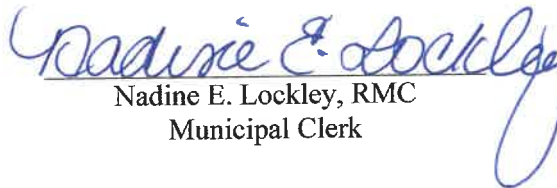
Roll Call: Aye – Bart, Byrne, Jordan, Rothman, and Campbell
Nay – 0

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