

**MINUTES OF THE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
UPPER DEERFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, HELD ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2013, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
HIGHWAY 77, SEABROOK, NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO NOTICE**

Present were: James Crilley, John Daddario, John T. O'Neill, Sr., Bruce Peterson and Scott Smith all being members of the Township Committee. Also present were: Rocco Tedesco, Solicitor; Roy Spoltore, Township Administrator/Clerk; Teresa Warburton, Recording Secretary, Brian Murphy, Township Engineer, David J. Rogers, Streets and Recreation Supervisor, Amy Colaneri, Treasurer and Chad Ott, Chief of EMS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Crilley and he read the following public meeting announcement.

“This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of March 7, 2013 was included in a list of meetings notice sent to The South Jersey Times and the Press, Cumberland County Edition and advertised in said newspapers on January 15, 2013, posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building on January 4, 2013 and has remained continuously posted as the required notices under the Statue. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk. In compliance with the State Fire Safety Statutes, Chairman Crilley instructed those present how to exit the room in an emergency.

James Crilley gave an invocation followed by the flag salute led by John T. O'Neill, Sr.

James Crilley made presentation of Resolutions Honoring Alex Pipitone – for helping his neighbors the Losowski's whose home and possessions were destroyed in a December 7, 2012 fire, Wayne Paollili, Jr. – for 2012 “Officer of the Year” for Seabrook Fire and Rescue, Lou Stoms – for 65 years of service as an active member of Upper Deerfield Township Fire Company #1, Nick Loew – for 2012 “ Fireman of the Year” for Upper Deerfield Township Fire Company #2, Khristian Gates – for 2012 “ Fireman of the Year” for Upper Deerfield Township Fire Company #3, and Ericka Pitsker – for 2012 Upper Deerfield EMS “EMT of the Year”.

There being no public comments, James Crilley, Chairman called for the approval of minutes for the Meeting of February 21, 2013. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by Scott Smith, to dispense with the reading of the minutes, unanimously carried. On motion of John T. O'Neill, Sr., seconded by John Daddario to accept the minutes as received, unanimously approved 5-0.

James Crilley, Chairman called for a public hearing on an ordinance entitled, Bond Ordinance providing for Various Improvements to the Water System in and by the Township of Upper Deerfield, in the County of Cumberland, New Jersey, Appropriating \$200,000.00 there for and Authorizing the issuance of \$200,000.00 Bonds or Notes of the Township for Financing the cost thereof. The Clerk read the proposed Ordinance by title. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by John T. O'Neill, Sr. to open the meeting for a public hearing on the proposed ordinance, and unanimously carried. The Chairman instructed the Clerk to distribute copies to those present. There being no public comments, on motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by John Daddario to close the public hearing and unanimously carried. On motion of Scott Smith, seconded by John T. O'Neill, Sr. to approve and adopt proposed ordinance, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Amending Contract with T & W Construction Co., LLC for the East Loop Water Main Extension - #1. The Clerk read the resolution by title. Brian Murphy explained that the change order covers various issues that arose in the Deerfield Drive area and it allows for the water extension loop from Old Deerfield Pike to West Sunset Pine Drive. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by John T. O'Neill, Sr. to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Amending Sewer Contract with Ricky Slade Construction Co., for the Seabrook Village Phase IV Sanitary Sewer, Storm Sewer, and Sidewalk Project - #1. The Clerk read the resolution by title. Brian Murphy explained that the change order will allow Olde Road, School Lane and East Parsonage Road to be repaved. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by John T. O'Neill, Sr., to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Authorizing Award of contract for Colonial Terrace Drainage to Perna Construction. LLC. The Clerk read the resolution by title. Brian Murphy explained that Perna Construction LLC was the lowest bidder of eight proposals. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by John T. O'Neill, Sr., to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Approval of Change Order #2 Small Cities – Godfrey. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of John T. O'Neill, Sr., seconded by John Daddario, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Authorizing Coin Drop for Upper Deerfield Cumberland Midget Football League. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of John Daddario, seconded by Scott Smith, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Payment of Bills in the amount of \$336,355.23. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by Scott Smith to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

John Daddario did not have a report this evening.

Scott Smith asked Brian Murphy when will the Colonial Terrace drainage project start? Brian Murphy reported that the project should start soon and the completion deadline is set for May 15, 2013. Scott Smith, John Daddario and Brian Murphy will meet to review the Township Road report and report back to the Committee their long range plan and goals.

Bruce Peterson reported that he, Mayor James Crilley and Roy Spoltore met with representatives who oversee a TNVR program for feral cats to get information on the program. Bruce Peterson will be meeting with Brian Murphy and John Karkocha regarding short term and long range plans at the convenience center.

John T. O'Neill, Sr. asked if the Committee members would allow the Environmental Commission to oversee a Boy Scout project that would place bird houses on the former Munyon Property off Old Burlington Road. On motion of John T. O'Neill, Sr., seconded by John Daddario and unanimously carried, the Committee allowed bird houses to be placed on the former Munyon Property which is currently being utilized as a Nature Preserve. On motion of John T. O'Neill, Sr., seconded by Scott Smith to allow Jeryl Goff to attend CEU's classes in Atlantic City, NJ, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

Mayor Crilley reported that the finance committee has been meeting with CFO Ruth Moynihan and Roy Spoltore working on this year's budget. Roy Spoltore will provide an overview in his report. Mr. Crilley added that due to a reduction in State Aid over the years and the loss of tax abatement revenues, the Township over a period of time will need to have a local purpose tax in the vicinity of 7 cents. The Township continues to look at expenditures and where savings may be realized including combining department budgets going into the future. The budget should be introduced March 21st.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Roy Spoltore informed the Committee that the Clean Energy Program representative stated that funds for replacing the Seabrook Fire and Rescue heating units has been obtained but the systems will need to remain as propane for a period of one year. A utility subcommittee meeting is set for March 19, 2013 at 11am with representatives from the Cumberland County Utilities Authority. A request from Fire Company #3 has been received to authorize a coin drop on March 30, 2013 at Park Drive and Old Deerfield Pike. On a motion of John Daddario, seconded by Bruce Peterson, to approve the coin drop for Fire Company #3 on March 30, 2013, and unanimously approved.

INSERT RESOLUTION

The County Health Department will have a rabies clinic in Deerfield Township on March 16, 2013 from 9-11 AM, there will not be a clinic in Upper Deerfield Township this year. Roy Spoltore gave an overview of the draft budget for 2013. Mr. Spoltore explained how the finance committee reviewed the past years expenditures and reserves and how they have affected the Township's surplus.

Future budget projections and their potential impact on surplus were discussed. Capital improvements have been reduced in the 2013 budget so that the surplus can be maintained. There has been a loss of over one million dollars in revenue between a reduction in state aid and tax abatements. The loss of revenue has been accounted for initially by making substantial budget cuts in 2011 and the need to gradually implement a small local purpose tax. The Committee expressed concerns that there needs to be a road repaving program in place due to the condition of a number of roads in the Township. The Committee also was concerned with FEMA raising the threshold number before they could provide financial assistance from catastrophic storms, which will require all communities to establish a trust fund to fund catastrophic events. The Committee also decided to introduce a COLA ordinance at the next meeting that will allow the Committee to cap bank future appropriations. Recent NJLM Alerts were placed in the evening's packet for review.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Brian Murphy reported that the East Loop line has been completed, the contractor will need to pressure test the lines, relocate some of the fire hydrants and make connections at Vilms and Pearson. The East Loop should be up and running in a couple of weeks. Mr. O'Neill, Sr., asked if the check valve on Centerton Road would be kept in place. Mr. Murphy replied that it would be left in place and the contractor will be installing a check valve on Foster Road that will allow the Seabrook Water Tower to be full and operating everyday. Ricky Slade Construction has started work on the storm water, sewer lines and sidewalks in School Village. Colonial Terrace drainage should begin as soon as the contract has been signed by both parties. The EMS site plans have been sent to the architect, the architect has submitted bid documents to be reviewed by the Township attorney and should be out to bid in approximately 30 days.

At this time James Crilley, Chairman opened the meeting for additional public comments.

Eileen Clark of Old Deerfield Pike reported that the concerned citizen's budget update meeting is set for April 17th at 7 pm. Doug Long and Joe Derella have said they will attend to discuss the 2013 County budget. Representatives from the schools have also been contacted to attend. Freeholder Director Bill Whelan and the County Prosecutor would like the concerned citizens to hold another meeting in May to discuss crime issues.

Dean Hawk of Merritt Avenue stated that the County has added approximately \$600,000 to the budget by not awarding contracts to the lowest bidders. Mr. Hawk asked why Committee members do not attend freeholders meetings to voice their concerns over the expenditures. The Committee stated that if other elected officials show up, the discussion tends to become political rather than issue oriented.

Nancy Ridgway of Irving Avenue asked if the budget was going to have a three cent tax increase? Ms. Ridgway was informed that the draft budget calls for a 1.5 cent increase. Ms. Ridgway asked the solicitor if Planning Board's are required to publish their findings in the newspaper. Mr. Tedesco replied that legal notices are required to be published by state law, because the appeal process does not start until the notice has been published.

With no other public comments, James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Authorizing Closed Session to update the Committee on a personnel matter. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by Scott Smith, to approve and adopt resolution, unanimously carried 5-0.

INSERT RESOLUTION

The Committee reopened the public portion of the meeting on a motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by John Daddario and unanimously carried.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by John Daddario to adjourn, unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa L. Warburton
Recording Secretary

Roy J. Spoltore
Township Clerk