

**MINUTES OF THE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
UPPER DEERFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, HELD ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 2018, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
HIGHWAY 77, SEABROOK, NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO NOTICE**

Present were: 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; Chad Ott, Public Works Supervisor, Brian Murphy, Township Engineer; Teresa Warburton, Recording Secretary, and Amy Colaneri, CFO. James Crilley and John Daddario were unable to attend the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman John T. O'Neill, Sr. and he read the following public meeting announcement.

"This meeting is being held in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act." Notice of the meeting has been provided and published as required by law in the Daily Journal and The Press, Cumberland County Edition. Notice has also been posted in the Municipal Building. The Clerk shall enter this statement in the minutes of this meeting. In compliance with State Fire Safety Statues the Chairman instructs those present how to exit the room in an emergency.

John T. O'Neill, Sr. asked for a moment of silence followed by the flag salute led by Bruce Peterson.

At this time Vice Chairman John T. O'Neill, Sr. opened the meeting for public comment.

There being no public comments Vice Chairman John T. O'Neill, Sr. called for the approval of minutes for the meeting of February 15, 2018. On a motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by Scott Smith, to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and to accept the minutes as received, unanimously approved, 3-0.

Vice Chairman John T. O'Neill, Sr. called for a resolution entitled Amending Professional Service Contract to Mark Blauer – DBA/Blauer Associates. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by Scott Smith, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 3-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Vice Chairman John T. O'Neill, Sr. called for a resolution entitled Authorizing Expenditure of CS Regional Municipal Court Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Funds. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by Scott Smith, to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 3-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

Vice Chairman John T. O'Neill, Sr. called for a resolution entitled Payment of Bills in the amount of \$127,614.37. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by Scott Smith to approve and adopt said resolution, unanimously carried 3-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Scott Smith reported that public works has been cleaning storm drains and preparing the recreation fields for the upcoming season.

Bruce Peterson provided a brief overview of the draft budget. The finance committee is recommending a 4 cent increase which will generate approximately \$252,000.00. Bruce Peterson and Roy Spoltore explained that the Township has depleted its surplus the past six years by 2 million dollars. The reasons for the reduction was a reduction in revenue as State aid was reduced by \$360,000 in 2010 and the Township tax abatement revenue decreased by \$650,000 in 2012. The loss of revenue necessitated the Township to introduce a local tax and make operational cuts. Surplus has been reduced by \$250,000 the past two years, which is why the 4 cent increase has been recommended to cover the operational loss. By State statute a municipality can only increase the local tax by 2% once the local tax exceeds 10 cents. With the Township's local tax at 9.7 cents, the Township would need to increase the tax rate to cover its future operational expenses. The budget also includes reductions from last year's mid-year layoffs and retirements. Capital improvement funds enable the paving of phase 2 of the Sunset Lake roads

Roy Spoltore provided an overview of the utility budget. It was explained that the utility surplus increased. The utility budget is similar to last year's budget but \$50,000 that was included to pay off a utility capital bond is being added to capital improvements.

John T. O'Neill, Sr. asked the status on well #3 at Love Lane. Brian Murphy stated that he spoke with AC Schultes and the plan is to dig a pilot well to see what the preliminary water test results will be before moving forward.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Roy Spoltore informed the Committee that Winchester and Western Railroad received a \$1,232,000 grant for phase 5 to weld railroad replacement upgrades. Cumberland Regional High School music boosters asked for approval for Bingo, 50/50 on site drawing on April 21st at the school. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by Scott Smith to approve the approval for CRHS music boosters, unanimously approved 3-0 on a roll call vote.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Brian Murphy stated that the Cumberland County Utilities Authority is having issues with the contractor that was replacing the pump station behind the convenience center. The CCUA is in the process of pulling of the contractors bond. The slip lining specs are ready for the Seabrook project and will be sent to Mark Blauer for his review. The WRT contract will expire this year and the Township may need to replace the radionuclide material this year.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Rocco Tedesco asked Brian Murphy about the status of Thoroughbred Court. Mr. Murphy stated the paving contractor has been paid but the developer has not completed the landscaping. Mr. Tedesco had items for closed session.

At this time Vice Chairman John T. O'Neill, Sr., opened the meeting for additional public comments.

Nancy Ridgway stated that the bonding company did not like the price the CUA provided to complete the project. Dean Hawk stated that the new paving on Love Lane is terrible, very lumpy.

With no other public comments and no further business to come before the Vice Chairman John T. O'Neill, Sr., called for a resolution Authorizing Closed Session to update the Committee on Pending Litigation, Contracts and other matters requiring attorney client privileged confidential communications. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by Scott Smith to approve and adopt resolution, unanimously carried 3-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

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

There being no comments or further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by Scott Smith to adjourn, unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa L. Warburton
Recording Secretary

Roy J. Spoltore
Township Clerk