

**MINUTES OF THE OF THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
UPPER DEERFIELD, IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, HELD ON
THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2018, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING,
HIGHWAY 77, SEABROOK, NEW JERSEY, PURSUANT TO NOTICE**

Present were: James Crilley, Bruce Peterson, John T. O'Neill, Sr., John Daddario and Scott Smith all being members of the Township Committee. Also present were: Rocco Tedesco, Solicitor; Roy Spoltore, Township Administrator/Clerk; Amy Colaneri, Treasurer, and Teresa Warburton, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Committeeman James Crilley 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."

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

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

Joseph Lacotte of Centerton Road reported that the Environmental Commission has a workshop coming up called "Plant Wars" with the presentation by Pat Sutton if anyone would like to attend. Representatives from ANJEC and Rutgers did a fall clean-up of the Rain Garden. There was a two year commitment from these groups to maintain the garden, after that the Township will be responsible for the maintenance of the garden. Mr. Lacotte added that Rutgers and ANJEC are looking for another project to do in the Township and they will be making a presentation to the Environmental Commission about the possibility of a cistern system to gather rain water off of the roof at the rear of the Senior Center.

There being no other public comments James Crilley, Chairman called for the approval of minutes for the meeting of March 1, 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, and unanimously approved 3-0 with John Daddario & James Crilley abstaining.

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Introduction of 2018 Municipal Budget and 2018 Utility Budget. The Clerk read the resolution by title.

Nick Petroni, Auditor gave an overview of the budget. The auditor explained that when a municipality is under a 10 cent local tax they are not subjected to a 2% levy cap, once the municipality exceeds 10 cents they are subject to the 2% levy cap going forward. Mr. Petroni stated that the Township will be exceeding the 10 cent local tax and the Committee will have one opportunity to make sure that they are establishing the tax base going forward. Bruce Peterson added that by staying under the cap the past two years the Township has depleted its surplus by \$500,000. Roy Spoltore, Administrator, provided an overview of how the surplus was reduced the past six years by two million dollar due to an annual loss of state aid in the amount of \$500,000 and a loss of \$650,000 in tax abatements beginning in 2012. Mayor Crilley stated that the Committee had to look at long term budgeting for the Township. John T. O'Neill, Sr. noted that the Township had to start planning accordingly. John Daddario added that cuts have been made everywhere the past few years, the next

cuts would be from quality of life issues. Bruce Peterson explained that the growth of brick and mortar commercial development will be minimized in the future due to online shopping. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by John Daddario to approve and adopt said resolution, based on the recommendation of the finance committee, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a public hearing on an ordinance entitled, Amending Attachment Section 405-4, 405-5, Attachment 2 and Attachment 4 of the Code of the Township of Upper Deerfield. The Clerk read the proposed Ordinance by title. On motion of John T. O'Neill, Sr. seconded by Scott Smith 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. Roy Spoltore gave an overview of the new B-3 zone which will permit alcoholic beverage licenses, modifications to reflect land usage in the Deerfield Street area, extending the Town Center zone to Love Lane and changing the Sunset Lake development area to a public zone. The proposed ordinance amendment has been recommended as part of the Master Plan Reexamination that was adopted by the Planning Board in 2017 and the Planning Board has provided a resolution deeming this ordinance to be consistent with the Township Master Plan. There being no public comments, on motion of John T. O'Neill, Sr., seconded by Scott Smith to close the public hearing and unanimously carried. On motion of Scott Smith, seconded by John Daddario, to approve and adopt proposed ordinance, unanimously carried 4-0 on a roll call vote with Bruce Peterson abstaining. Mr. Peterson has not been involved in any discussions to the proposed zoning changes recommended by the Master Plan re-examination.

INSERT ORDINANCE

James Crilley, Chairman called for a public hearing on an ordinance entitled, Amending Section 405-12 of the Code of the Township of Upper Deerfield. On motion of Scott Smith, seconded by John Daddario and unanimously carried, the public hearing for this ordinance will be re-noticed to be held on April 5, 2018.

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Authorizing the Tax Collector to Adjust Taxes for a State Agency Acquired Property. The Clerk read the resolution by title. 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

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Tax Payments to be refunded. The Clerk read the resolution by title. 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 Appointing Township Construction Code Official and Certifying Salary. 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 on a roll call vote.

INSERT RESOLUTION

James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution entitled Payment of Bills, in the amount of \$1,338,220.58. 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

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

John Daddario reported that trees along South Burlington Road have been cut back and trash, debris and small appliances are visible. He requested the zoning officer send a letter to the property owner to get it cleaned up. Sport fields are getting ready for the leagues, public works redid the tile floors and painted in their building. With the recent upgrading of the public work vehicle fleet and accessories allows the Township save money by doing the work themselves. The new truck should be coming in very soon.

Scott Smith did not have report this evening.

Bruce Peterson reported that the convenience center needed to close early on a Saturday due to a power outage and all of the open top containers being filled.

John T. O'Neill presented a CEU request for Marion Higbee and Patty Turkali in the amount of \$75. On motion of John T. O'Neill, Sr., seconded by Bruce Peterson to approve the CEU request, unanimously carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

Mayor Crilley reported that the Cumberland Regional High School Board President Tom Davis called informing him that they are looking for a new board member from Upper Deerfield as a current member has just resigned. The Township continues to monitor animal sheltering, there are still hurdles to overcome.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Roy Spoltore, Administrator stated that the Upper Deerfield Township School has asked for a waiver of the rental registration for the Board of Education Office. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by Scott Smith, unanimously approved 5-0 on a roll call vote. Spring Cleanup will be held on April 21, 2018. Departmental reports for February are included in the packets for review. Dante Rieti has shown interest in being a member of the Recreation Committee. On motion of John Daddario, seconded by Scott Smith to appoint Dante Rieti to the Recreation Committee as Alternate #2, unanimously approved 5-0. Carmen Pino will take the regular member place of John Rogers who resigned and Nick D'Agostino will become Alternate #1.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The solicitor had a couple of items for closed session.

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

Nancy Ridgway of Irving Avenue reported that the new appointment CUA from the Township has not shown up to their meeting.

With no other public comments and no further business to come before the Committee James Crilley, Chairman called for a resolution Authorizing Closed Session to for a resolution Authorizing Closed Session to update the Committee on Pending Litigation and other matters requiring attorney

client privileged confidential communications. The Clerk read the resolution by title. On motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by John Daddario 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.

With no public comments and no further business to come before the Committee, on a motion of Bruce Peterson, seconded by Scott Smith to adjourn the meeting, and unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa L. Warburton, Recording Secretary

Roy J. Spoltore, Township Clerk