

**WORK SESSION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**January 27, 2015
DELRAN, NJ**

SUNSHINE STATEMENT: Be advised that proper notice has been given by the Township Council in accordance with the sunshine law in the following manner. Notice advertised in the Burlington County Times and Camden Courier Post on December 23, 2014 and posted on the bulletin board on the same date.

ROLL CALL: Mr. O'Connell, Ms. Pangia, Mr. Schwartz, Mrs. Kolodi and Mr. Catrambone were present.

ALSO, PRESENT: Mr. O'Donnell, Solicitor, Mr. Paris, Mayor, Mr. Hatcher, Administrator and Ms. Eggers, Municipal Clerk.

JUVENILE CURFEW ORDINANCE

Mr. Catrambone stated that this issue was brought to his attention by Mr. O'Connell who saw an article regarding the ACLU suing municipalities regarding their ordinance. Council has a memo from Mr. O'Donnell outlining outcome of the litigation and his recommendations for changes to our current ordinance.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that the ACLU has been suing municipalities throughout the state, even those towns with pretty broad language like the one we have. There is a court case in North Jersey that said the exceptions need to provide for the parents to allow any and all legitimate activity. He recommends that Council amend the current ordinance to eliminate any risks. This case allows the parents to determine the legitimate activity.

Mr. Schwartz stated that he would rather see the exceptions removed and the ordinance to state with parents' permission. Also, our ordinance requires that the parents provide written notice 24 hours prior to the Chief of Police for exceptions to the current ordinance.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that the court case did not address that issue. He would recommend including the court's language into the ordinance.

Mr. Paris asked if putting language into the ordinance that states at the discretion of the parents would satisfy the court.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that he believes that it would.

Chief Parente stated that this is difficult for the Police Department to determine a legitimate activity.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that it does put a strain on the police force.

Mr. Hatcher stated that the ordinance is a tool for the Police Department.

Chief Parente stated that most likely they would take the individual home and give them a warning.

Mr. Catrambone stated that we are trying to protect the Township from litigation. It seems we all agree there needs to be something in the ordinance as a tool for the Police.

Council agreed to have the ordinance state with parents' permission and not outline the type of activity.

Mr. Schwartz also asked that we look at softening the notice requirement. Maybe a simple notification would be enough or we eliminate it all together.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that they can look into the requirements.

Mr. Catrambone stated that we just want to make sure that the parents know when their children are out after curfew.

Mr. O'Donnell stated that he will have an ordinance drafted for the next work session.

GREEN TEAM PRESENTATION

Bob Wagner, Debbie Hammond and Bill Curzie were in attendance for the Green Team. Mr. Curzie stated that they are here tonight to ask Council to adopt a Resolution of support for the Sustainable Jersey grant application.

Debra Hammond stated that they plan to use the funding for help promote the Green Team, run Health & Wellness Programs and water conservation education. The grant amount is \$2,000.

After discussion, Council agreed to adopt the Resolution tonight.

TOWNSHIP OF DELRAN RESOLUTION 2015-17

Resolution of Support from the Township of Delran Authorizing the Sustainable Grant Application

WHEREAS, a sustainable community seeks to optimize quality of life for its residents by ensuring that its environmental, economic and social objectives are balanced and mutually supportive; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Delran strives to save tax collars, assure clean land, air and water, improve working and living environments; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Delran is participating in the Sustainable Jersey Program; and

WHEREAS, one of the purposes of the Sustainable Jersey Program is to provide resources to municipalities to make progress on sustainability issues, and they have created a grant program called the Sustainable Jersey Small Grants Program;

THEREFORE, the Township Council of the Township of Delran has determined that the Township of Delran should apply for the aforementioned Grant.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Township Council of the Township of Delran, State of New Jersey, authorizes the submission of the aforementioned Sustainable Jersey Grant.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. O'Connell to approve the Resolutions 2015-17.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mr. O'Connell, Ms. Pangia, Mr. Schwartz, Mrs. Kolodi and Mr. Catrambone voted aye.

Ayes: 5

Nays: None

Motion Approved

BOY'S STATE/GIRL'S STATE

Mr. Hatcher stated that a request has been made by both the Boy's State and Girl's State to sponsor a student for each program. They are requesting \$225.00 donation for Boy's State and \$220.00 for Girl's State. We have done this in the past but he is bringing this to Council because it is prior to the adoption of the budget. Council agreed.

MOSQUITO CONTROL ACTIVITY

Mr. Hatcher stated that every year Burlington County requests approval from the Township for mosquito control activities. This is done through aerial spraying.

Ms. Pangia stated that she received an e-mail from a Councilwoman in Bordentown Township and they have not approved this request the last few years. They have been trying to get the County to switch to a different type of chemical. The current chemical is toxic to our waterways, organism and honey bees. They have asked the County to use BTI spraying instead of the current chemical. Ms. Pangia asked if we wanted to table this and ask the County what chemical will be used. She can forward to Council the information she received.

Mr. Paris stated that he has concerns not approving this if the County indicates they will not be using BTI and we have a bad mosquito season.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he would like information on the current chemical and the BTI.

Mr. Hatcher will reach out to the County and determine the product they will be using and the reasons and report back at the next work session.

JIF WAIVER

Mr. Hatcher stated that he has provided a copy of a Resolution that waives the appointment of a Risk Management Consultant and indemnifies and holds harmless the BCJIF. This saves us approximately \$30,000. We have done this every year and he would like this adopted at the next public meeting. Council agreed.

NEW OWNERS/SEWER

Mr. Catrambone stated that we have new owners and our regulations provide for an adjustment to the minimum sewer billing. The properties are:

35 Conrow Road
104 Chestnut Street
343 Huntington Drive

Mr. Hatcher stated that we would like Council to acknowledge the adjustments with a motion.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kolodi to acknowledge the adjustments. All were in favor by voice vote. Motion approved.

ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Mr. Hatcher stated that about a month ago he mentioned to Council that this program was coming. Essentially, due to the loss in taxable values that have occurred over the last several years, the County would come in and do reassessments every year. We have been doing this in Delran for the last fifteen years. They would do approximately 20% of our assessed properties each year. Our Tax Assessor, Tom Davis, is an Assessor in Monmouth County where they have undertaken a similar program. He has reservations regarding how that project is working. Burlington County is modeling their program after the Monmouth County program. They will be holding a meeting on January 29th to discuss the project. They intend to start the program this year but Mr. Hatcher does not believe that will happen because of timing and most likely would take effect in 2016. One positive item within this program is the timing on when appeals can be filed. All assessment would be in place prior to the adoption of the municipal budget and all entities would share in the adjustment if an appeal is granted. There are still significant factors that need to be worked out. One is whether the program is inside or outside of cap.

Mrs. Kolodi asked if the program is mandatory.

Mr. Hatcher stated that this is another issue. Beverly passed a Resolution asking that the program be voluntary. Mr. Hatcher stated that he will not know that answer until after the meeting.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he would like to know if we opted out of the program would we still be able to take advantage of the tax appeal date changes.

Mr. Hatcher stated that he will get the answers on Thursday.

Mr. Catrambone asked that Mr. Hatcher provide Council with the information and cost of our reassessment program.

PROCUREMENT CARDS

Mr. Catrambone stated that there were some concerns among Council regarding control of the cards. He asked Mr. Hatcher to touch base on what items could be purchased, who would have access, what controls would be put in place and how this would help save administrative time and money.

Mr. Hatcher stated that procurement cards were approved by the state last year. Municipalities do not have the ability to use credit cards. In the last few months, we have met with TD Bank and they have a good program in place. Council would need to adopt a Resolution approving the cards and have that Resolution approved by the State. We would have to indicate the individuals that were permitted to use the cards. They would essentially be credit cards through TD Bank. The account would be set up so that Mr. Hatcher and Linda Lewis, our CFO, would review the accounts. There would be four departments heads that he would recommend be authorized to utilize the cards. TD Bank can set the cards up to several safeguards. The reason that the procurements cards are needed is that there have been a number of times that the Public Works Department could have saved money by making a purchase at a place like Home Depot but because they will not take a purchase order, we cannot make a purchase there. They will accept a procurement card. The same purchase for making purchases would remain in place. We would place a dollar amount with each vendor for a maximum purchase amount before we would need to sign off on additional purchases.

After discussion, Council agreed that they would like to move forward with the procurement cards through TD Bank. They also agreed that they would like to see the least amount of cards issued to Department Heads.

Mr. Hatcher stated that the next step would be to adopt a Resolution outlining the program and have that Resolution approved by the state. Then we can reach out to TD Bank to order the cards.

RESIDENT LETTER – CHESTER AVENUE

Mr. Catrambone stated that Mr. Hatcher received a letter from a resident regarding concerns on Chester Avenue. All the issues do not appear to be under the jurisdiction of the Township but we need to determine if we want to investigate the issues.

Mr. Hatcher addressed some of the highlights in the letter. There are issues with the requests because we are dealing with both a State of County road. There is also joint jurisdiction between Delran and Riverside on Chester Avenue.

Mr. Schwartz stated that he had an opportunity to speak with the resident and she is fully aware that these issues really are not under the Township jurisdiction. He asked if there is a better approach to contacting the State, County and Riverside indicating the concerns and ask them for help and solutions.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he agrees with Mr. Schwartz. He asked what the best road is to take.

Mr. Hatcher recommended that we reach out to the Department of Transportation addressing the general safety concerns. Council agreed.

2014 NOTIFICATION OF FORECLOSURES

Mr. Hatcher stated Council adopted the property maintenance ordinance that allows us to hold the creditor responsible if the property is going through foreclosure. He went through the foreclosure file and gave the information to Mr. McCurley, the Property Maintenance Office, and he has begun inspecting these properties. Mr. Hatcher asked that if Mayor and Council are aware of additional properties that are not on this list to please let him know. We will begin with 2014 properties and then go back to 2013 and 2012. If any violations are found they will be given a notice to correct the problem within thirty days. If the problems are not addressed, we can begin issuing fines.

REPORTS

Ms. Eggers – No report.

Mr. Hatcher – No report.

Mr. O'Donnell – No report.

Ms. Pangia – Ms. Pangia reported that blood drives are still running every fifty-seven days. The Red Cross had been running all the drives.

Ms. Pangia asked if Council would like to include the cost for the eye care van in the budget. The cost is approximately \$200.00. Council agreed

Ms. Pangia reported that the next Jake's Place event is April 26th so mark your calendars.

Ms. Pangia reported that the new company that handles the mammogram van does not like that we are so far away so we have not been able to get them to come back.

Mr. Schwartz – Mr. Schwartz reported that he met with the management at Hunter's Glen yesterday. It was a round table discussion on Delran as a community and their willingness to be involved. He will provide Council with additional information once he has it compiled.

Mr. Schwartz stated that he wanted to reiterate an issue that was brought to the table some time back. We have some ordinances that are on the books that have become stale over the years and every time we get the professionals involved there is a cost. It has always been our policy to bring those issues to Council prior to getting the professionals involved and he would like to see that continue.

Mr. O'Connell – Mr. O'Connell stated that there was an article in the paper regarding the Best Practices Checklist and in the article it indicated that all towns in Burlington County passed. They provided a list of the top towns and Mr. O'Connell asked where Delran came out.

Mr. Hatcher stated that he believes we were forty-three or forty-four out of fifty checklist items. Which is about the same position as last year.

Mr. O'Connell thanked Mr. Hatcher for setting up the tour of the Sewer Plant last Friday.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he attended a municipal budget seminar sponsored by our Auditor and found it to be very interesting.

Mrs. Kolodi – Mrs. Kolodi asked if the lock on Delran Community Park has been replaced.

Mr. Hatcher stated that it had been replaced.

Mr. Kolodi stated that she spoke with Mr. Kennedy, Delran AA, regarding the opening of the park and she will discuss this with Mr. Winckowski at the next meeting. The Delran AA is working on purchasing items for the park such as a tractor and a shed.

Mr. Catrambone – Mr. Catrambone stated that he would like to thank Mrs. Kolodi for jumping into the role of Vice President of Council and facilitating the conversations that need to happen between Council regarding the agenda. That allows us all to be better prepared for the meetings.

Mr. Paris – Mr. Paris stated that he received an e-mail from Mr. Nark regarding geese on Notre Dame. He is bringing this to the attention of Council.

Mr. Catrambone stated that his work location has a serious geese problem and they use the rotating silhouettes. They work 90% of the time; however, sometimes there is a flock of geese on the property too large to count. Council may want to consider purchasing the silhouettes.

Mr. Paris stated that the only issue will be if we put them in one area, residents will want them in other areas.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he will look at the silhouettes at his work and see how they are anchored.

Mr. Paris stated that he met with the Superintendent of Schools last week and they were discussing cost savings opportunities. The School District is looking to replace the roof at the Middle School and Mr. Paris would like to look at having the Township, the School and the Fire District go out to bid all together to try and save money. He asked Mr. Hatcher to reach out to both entities to get an idea of where they stand with their projects.

Mr. Hatcher stated that it will probably come down to a timing issue because we will have to wait until the budget is adopted and then pass an ordinance. He will reach out to them to discuss a possible combined project.

Mr. Schwartz recommended that Council discuss at the next meeting whether the roof is a priority and whether Council is leaning towards replacing the roof in the capital budget.

Mr. Hatcher stated that he does not have all the background information but will try and get together as much information as possible in order for Council to discuss replacement of the municipal building roof. In the meantime, he will reach out to determine timing.

Mr. Paris suggested that Council have a sub-committee in regards to Delran Community

Park. He would like to work with Ms. Pangia and Mrs. Kolodi on the sub-committee since they have been very active with the park. He would like to begin discussions on the Opening Day plans. Council agreed.

Ms. Pangia – Ms. Pangia asked Mr. Hatcher to reach out to Camden County and asked for the cost of the concession/bathroom facilities they recently installed at Cooper River Park.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mrs. Kolodi made a motion open the meeting to the public. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schwartz. All were in favor, motion approved.

There were no comments.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion to end the public portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kolodi. All were in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kolodi to enter into closed session to discuss the Grande Condominium lawsuit and potential litigation. All were in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion to end closed session and reopen the meeting to the public. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kolodi. All were in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Kolodi. All were in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamey Eggers, Township Clerk