

**WORK SESSION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**February 22, 2022
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 January 12, 2022 and posted on the bulletin board on the same date.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Smith, Mr. Jeney, Ms. Parejo, Mr. Lyon and Mr. Burrell were present.

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Catrambone, Mayor, Ms. Fahey, Interim Solicitor, Mr. Winckowski, Municipal Engineer, Mr. Bellina, Interim Administrator and Ms. Eggers, Township Clerk.

UPDATE ON MEETING WITH ARMY CORPS – TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Mr. Winckowski discussed the project management plan (PMP) for River Drive. The federal government provides money for special program for streambank stabilization projects. Around 2016, the government asked the Army Corp. to include Delran Township in the project. The initial Federal Interest Determination Study showed that the erosion along the stream embankment met the eligibility requirements of the program and should be addressed. A project development plan has been put together. A team of professionals from different fields will study the problem and look for a solution. There is a cost share of the study which is 50% of the study cost of \$400,000. Delran Township will have to sign into an agreement and produce the \$200,000 necessary for the study.

Mr. Burrell asked Mr. Bellina whether the cost can be capitalized.

Mr. Bellina stated that in all likelihood the cost can be capitalized.

Mr. Winckowski explained that if Council decides to move forward, it would be about 18 months once all the agreements are signed. Typically, these programs take 8-10 years. Once the study is done, a design plan will be created. There is a cost share for the design plan also but there are grants available to help with that.

Mr. Burrell asked for an overview on the cost share at the final stage.

Mr. Winckowski stated that for the design and construction part of the job there is a 35% non-federal cost share. The NJ DEP has a program called the Shoreline Protection Program which funds projects like this. We are on the waiting list and because we are involved with Army Corp., we are confident that they will provide 75% of our 35% cost share.

Mr. Jeney stated that the good news for the residents is that there is a serious plan in motion to take care of this problem.

Mr. Burrell commented that he and Ms. Parejo have talked to residents and we have to keep going down this road. The township can do a patch job on this but the outcome will be far better and

more permanent if we pursue this plan with the Army Corps.

Ms. Parejo explained that this is the biggest issue in her ward. We have to protect the homes in the affected area. She declared that we have to do whatever it takes to make this happen.

Mr. Catrambone stated that Mr. Winckowski has been diligent about this project. Mr. Catrambone will talk to Mr. Bellina about including it in the budget and Council can take it from there. Mr. Catrambone asked Mr. Winckowski if there is a commitment letter or if we have to wait until the money is in the budget. Mr. Catrambone asked if there is anything that we have to do now.

Mr. Winckowski explained that the township has to enter into an agreement with the Army Corps which will include budgeting for the \$200,000 necessary to launch the study.

2022 ROAD PROGRAM

Mr. Winckowski discussed the estimate for the 2022 road projects. New Jersey American Water will be repaving Edgewood, Fordham, and Howard. Prior to that, the Township will be doing concrete work on aprons, handicapped ramps and some curbing. New Jersey American Water will also assist with the cost of the full road reconstruction of Notre Dame Drive and Court. We have two years' worth of municipal aid grants totaling \$385,000 for Haines Mill Road from Route 130 to Conrow Road. The money from the grants has to be spent in a set period of time so Haines Mill needs to be done. All of the road projects will total just under a million dollars.

Mr. Winckowski stated that for 2023/2024 we are looking at repaving Red Stone Ridge, Pine Valley Road and Drew and Randle Courts.

Mr. Burrell stated that we constantly apply for the municipal aid grant for heavily traveled roads and we seem to get them frequently.

Mr. Winckowski reported that the paving cost of Conrow Road was 95% covered by a municipal aid grant.

Mr. Burrell asked if we can ensure that we can get this done this year.

Mr. Bellina responded that it will depend on how quickly the funding becomes available. If we can get these projects out for bid by late Spring, early Summer, it's conceivable that we can achieve substantial completion by winter shut down.

Mr. Winckowski stated that they will do everything they can to be ready to go out to bid when the budget and bond ordinance are adopted.

Mr. Burrell asked Mr. Bellina and Mr. Catrambone if it looks like we will be ok with the cost of the roadwork.

Mr. Catrambone explained that the auditors just left the building and we don't have all of the final numbers yet. Everything takes a while but we are prepared to move on it as soon as we can.

Mr. Lyon asked Mr. Winckowski whether he is aware of any labor shortages that might slow down the road work.

Mr. Winckowski explained that there are more issues with materials rather than labor and if oil goes up the project will cost more.

Mr. Burrell remarked that we need to keep our infrastructure moving forward and not aging rapidly like most of the country.

Mr. Lyon asked if the county is planning to do anything with Hartford Road which needs repair.

Mr. Bellina will make an inquiry this week.

REPORTS

Mr. Bellina – Mr. Bellina reported that he spoke with Bryan Mullen, Superintendent of Public Works regarding our Spring Clean-up. The yard will be open from Wednesday, April 20th through Saturday, April 23rd from 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM. We will be advertising and getting the word out over the next few weeks.

Ms. Eggers – Ms. Eggers stated that public works and the police department will be selling some items on Municibid. The resolution will be on for the public meeting.

Mr. Catrambone – Mr. Catrambone thanked the interim solicitor, Ms. Fahey, for jumping in at a moment's notice earlier this afternoon so we could have this meeting. She will also help us get through the process of appointing the next township solicitor.

Mr. Catrambone announced that we received the Bikeway and Safe Streets to Transit grants. The Bikeway grant is for 1.2 plus million dollars and promotes bicycling as an alternative mode of transportation. It is the largest bike path grant award in Burlington County. It will connect Delran Community Park with Notre Dame Park and will cross Swedes Run. The Safe Streets to Transit grant was for \$575,000 and will cover intersections and sidewalks including areas on Chester Avenue and also Route 130 to increase safety and provide access to mass transit.

Ms. Fahey – No report

Mr. Winckowski – Mr. Winckowski stated that the two grants Mr. Catrambone mentioned are highly competitive and the amount of money Delran Township received is spectacular.

Mr. Burrell asked if the concept plan will be taken care of. Mr. Winckowski explained that it is very early but there will be a timeline within which the money will have to be spent. He will work with the mayor and administrator on the budgets and scheduling for these exciting projects.

Ms. Parejo – Ms. Parejo welcomed Ms. Fahey. She also thanked Mr. Winckowski for all he has done to get us where we are with the Army Corp. of Engineers as well as other people who were

involved in the process.

Mr. Smith – Mr. Smith welcomed and thanked Ms. Fahey. He is looking forward to conducting the meeting in person next month.

Mr. Jeney – Mr. Jeney gave an update on “We Value Our Veterans.” He reported that he spoke with Vice Commander Sean Huryn, at Post 3020, who will be working on developing ideas regarding who would be a good veteran to be honored. They anticipate having a selection for our March public meeting.

Mr. Jeney will be attending a round table discussion on March 3rd, sponsored by Governor Murphy.

Mr. Jeney was honored to observe an Eagle Scout Court of Honor with Council President Burrell which honored Delran resident Alex Lane of Troop 27. It was a very interesting, unique ceremony that he enjoyed attending.

Mr. Jeney spoke out on some issues that the township government has been facing in recent months. He explained that he is dissatisfied with the way that the issues have been handled by the mayor. Clear, succinct responses would have been better than no responses. That being said, the state, the mayor and the township attorney have all reported that there was no wrongdoing. We must move forward. Mr. Jeney discussed how disturbing it is to be escorted by police after meetings due to aggressive and threatening behavior by some individuals. Mr. Jeney reported that the false and misleading narrative was created by an individual to achieve notoriety and to possibly obtain money from the township and that the individual has done this before in other municipalities. As far as the Dunphy settlement, Mr. Jeney and Mr. Smith were advised by counsel that recusing themselves was not necessary. They went on to vote honestly and with integrity. Mr. Jeney explained the best interest of Delran is always his priority and he requests an apology from anyone stating false and malicious information.

Mr. Lyon – Mr. Lyon stated that we must do whatever we can to get a long-term solution for the stream embankment issues in ward one.

He thanked Ms. Fahey for coming in on short notice, stating that she is a very competent, smart individual.

Mr. Lyon had the pleasure of being part of the Delran Township Visioning Meeting. There was a “looking forward” theme with discussions covering sustainability and green initiatives and plans for more sidewalks, bike paths, etc. were reviewed. EV charging was also discussed. Mr. Lyon also congratulated everyone who was involved in getting the grants for the township.

Mr. Burrell – Mr. Burrell thanked Mr. Siciliano, former solicitor for his service to the township and for moving on peacefully.

Mr. Burrell met with a few residents this week and advised them on the amount of grants that CME has been able to secure for the township. He thanked Mr. Winckowski for his hard work.

Mr. Burrell also stated that he anticipates Council funding the work required to get a solution for the river issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Ms. Littleton thanked the people who worked on the grants for the township. She explained that she submits OPRA requests to validate Council and the mayor's responses. Ms. Littleton stated that she doesn't believe Council and the mayor know what transparency means. She asked the mayor if he received a response from the state ethics committee.

Mr. Catrambone explained that he did not but Mr. Duff received one for his request.

Ms. Littleton stated that the mayor has proclaimed there is a misrepresentation of facts but she feels that the mayor has misrepresented the facts. She stated that there were two separate requests that Mr. Duff made to the State Department of Community Affairs. They reported there was no violation on the first request but after Mr. Duff provided more explanation in his second request, the state pointed Mr. Duff to the source documents where he could find the answers himself. She proceeded to explain that when Mr. Duff asked for the cost of the Carli Lloyd event he received different responses. Ms. Littleton also reported that the mayor trespassed on Dunphy's property and she can prove it.

Mr. Burrell explained about the changing numbers regarding the Carli Lloyd event. The billing process is lengthy. At the end of the event, not all of the costs have been processed yet. There was no malicious intent.

Mr. Egan questioned Mr. Jeney's statement regarding police escorts to vehicles. Mr. Egan asked if there is a reason that there was a police presence at the meeting.

Mr. Jeney explained that he and Mr. Lyon were aggressively approached by Mr. Duff's posse. He and Mr. Lyon walked away but the posse followed him until Mr. Duff pulled them back. Mr. Jeney remarked that a police escort probably wasn't necessary but the chief of police stated he didn't want to see anything happen in his jurisdiction.

Mr. Egan reported that someone who has voiced their opinion in these meetings had their tires slashed and someone else received a threat of being shot in the face. Mr. Egan asked when Wendy Mitchell obtained her insurance for her communications director position.

Mr. Catrambone stated he didn't know but he could get that information.

Mr. Egan informed him that it was January 17, 2022 so she went a year as the communications director without insurance.

Mr. Catrambone explained that it wasn't requested initially but when it was requested she provided

the insurance.

Mr. Egan asked if it was Mr. Bellina's job to check up on contractors that work for the township.

Mr. Bellina stated that it was.

Mr. Egan stated that Mr. Duff requested the video for the Carli Lloyd event but was told that the faces of the minors in it would have to be redacted. He asked if that was the case, why is Wendy Mitchell posting the pictures of the minors on the Delran 2.0 website.

Mr. Catrambone explained that the only Delran government pages are the official website and the Facebook page. What Ms. Mitchell does in her own time is her own time.

Mr. Duff stated that Mr. Lyon accused him of making money from OPRA lawsuits but Mr. Duff informed that he has never made money from OPRA lawsuits. Mr. Duff also stated that Mr. Jeney accused him of presenting facts that were false. Mr. Duff explained that the facts he was presenting were from answers received from a variety of OPRA requests.

Mr. Jeney stated that Mr. Duff revealed that he earned \$7,000 from suing another township.

Mr. Duff denied that. Mr. Duff then asked for the memo that the township solicitor was going to produce explaining various issues. He also asked whether the mayor offered to buy the Dunphy property after the zoning board refused the variance. Mr. Duff informed everyone that he has filed a lawsuit against Delran Township regarding the Carli Lloyd video. Mr. Duff also wants to know why the solicitor resigned. In addition to that, he accused Delran Township of insurance fraud.

Mr. Burrell explained that the township considered buying the Dunphy property early on but was unable to do that for various reasons. After the zoning hearing there was an appeal and the township solicitor reached out to Dunphy's to get an update on the sale status. It is not uncommon for townships to do this. Sometimes properties go through the zoning process and are approved, only to ask the township if they are interested in purchasing the land because a business deal has fallen through.

Mr. Catrambone thanked Mr. Burrell for filling in the details regarding Dunphy's. He also stated that he didn't know that Mr. Siciliano, the former Delran solicitor, was going to resign prior to him doing so. He doesn't have an answer as to why he resigned but as soon as he gets an answer, he will share it.

Scott Ducko stated that last week the Council President asked the solicitor and, indirectly, the mayor, to resign. Is this still his position?

Mr. Burrell stated he is glad that the solicitor did the right thing for the township so we can move forward and he is not going to relitigate his past comments.

Mr. Ducko asked if there was a credible threat regarding Wendy Mitchell's son attending the winter festival.

Mr. Burrell stated that he doesn't speak for Ms. Mitchell.

Mr. Ducko stated that he knows Mr. Lyon was referring to him when he mentioned Mr. Duff's "lackey." He explained that he and Mr. Duff did nothing threatening in regards to the exchange between them and Mr. Jeney and Mr. Lyon. He then accused Mr. Jeney and Mr. Lyon of behaving in a threatening manner towards him. Mr. Ducko also suggested that the mayor resign.

Mr. Lyon made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting, seconded by Mr. Smith. All were in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Lyon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Jeney. All were in favor; the meeting was adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamey Eggers
Municipal Clerk