

**WORK SESSION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**March 2, 2011
DELRAN, NJ**

CALL TO ORDER

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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, 2010 and posted on the bulletin board on the same date.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Kolodi, Mr. Schwartz., Mr. Catrambone and Mr. Morrow were present. Mr. Moran was absent.

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

REQUEST FROM SOCCER CLUB

The Soccer Club has requested that they be permitted to use portable lights at the Don Deutsch Field. They stated that the lights would be out by 9 P.M. They have also received permission to use the Chester Avenue School Field but they wanted Township approval. Mr. Hatcher stated that he feels we will get complaints no matter where we permit them to place lights.

Council agreed to permit them to install the portable lights on Don Deutsch field with the condition that the lights are turned off by 9 P.M. They will address any complaints that we receive. They would also like a notice sent to the residents notifying them.

2011 BUDGET

Mr. Hatcher provided information to Council on the Sewer portion of the budget. He stated that in 2007 the Sewerage Authority received \$248,000 in connection fees which was a 46% drop over 2006. They had a rate increase of 5% that took effect in the second quarter. Their operating revenues were \$3,407,000 and their operating expenses were roughly \$2,800,000. Their interest revenue in 2007 was \$220,000. In 2008, the connection fees dropped to \$106,000. There was a 5% rate increase again in the second quarter. Their operating revenues were \$3,166,000 and operating expenses were \$3,095,000. Their interest income dropped to \$100,000. In 2009, connection fees dropped to \$52,000. There was a recommendation in the audit for a rate increase. Their operating revenues were \$3,280,000 and operating expenses were \$3,679,000, so now the expenses were greater than the revenues. Their interest income was \$9,374.52. There was less money to invest and interest rates were extremely low. There were no connection fees from January 1, 2010 to July 14, 2010. There was again a

recommendation for a rate increase. For that time period, operating revenues were \$1,612,000 and operating expenses were \$2,136,000. On July 14, 2010 when the Township assumed the Authority there was basically \$298,282 in cash. In three years, the cash went from \$3,294,000 to \$292,282. If we were to continue with the operations and anticipate the connection fee from the Golden Corral we would be looking at a \$927,451. We would have to increase the rates by that amount or decrease the operations. There are not a lot of areas in the budget that we can reduce. They are double checking the usage figures to see if they can be increased to help mitigate the increase. They originally believed they dropped by \$400,000. In order to get a balanced budget we would be looking at a 42% increase in the base residential fee from \$82.15 to \$117.00 and a commercial increase from \$143.35 to \$205.00. The excess usage fee will be reduced to an excess of 10,000 gallons. The excess fee for residential user will be charged \$5.75 and commercial to \$8.25 per 1,000 gallons. Normally, we would move a portion of salaries for work being done by the administration to the sewer budget but the budget will not support it. We will see some relief at the end of 2013 once the current debt is paid off.

Mr. Catrambone asked if everyone will be over the base rate once we reduce it to 10,000. Mr. Hatcher stated that someone living by themselves, will probably still pay the base rate.

Mr. Paris asked if Mr. Hatcher knows the rate of collections for sewer. He stated that it is lower than taxes.

Mr. Hatcher stated that we are hoping that the one connection fee will be approved and there may be one additional connection. This rate increase will not provide a surplus.

Mr. Catrambone asked how much of a decrease in debt service will there be. Mr. Hatcher stated that the debt payment is over \$1,000,000 per year. We may however need to take out additional debt for improvements.

Mr. Hatcher stated that before the rate increase we had the lowest rate. We will now be one of the highest with the new increase. Between now and next Wednesday the Auditor will continue to review the usage numbers. We will need to take \$1,000,000 of the Township money to pay the debt service to the sewer budget. One of the reasons the increase is so high is because we need to raise this over three quarters.

Mr. Catrambone asked how the municipal surplus ended 2010. Mr. Hatcher stated that our surplus increased from a little over \$4,000,000 to \$4,400,000. Our collection rate was extremely good, many towns are getting hurt with tax appeals.

Mr. Schwartz asked if the current debt could be restructured. Mr. Hatcher stated that we could look into it but we are extremely close to the end and it will not help us this year.

Mr. Hatcher asked if Council had any questions on the township budget. The state aid numbers have come in and they stayed flat from last year. He is a little scared about the amount budgeted for salt and gasoline.

We will be introducing the budget on March 9, 2011 and the public hearing will take place in April.

Pat Pomeranz asked if the increase of 2.3 cents on the budget is the same. Mr. Hatcher stated yes.

Pat asked how the usage is determined.

Mr. Hatcher stated that it is based on water usage for January, February and March from the previous year.

Pat asked if any capital items recommended by the Engineer for sewer improvements are included in this budget.

Mr. Hatcher stated that there are no capital items in the sewer budget. If Council determines that they wish to do capital projects they would need to adopt an ordinance.

There were no other comments on the budget.

REPORTS

Mr. Hatcher – Mr. Hatcher stated that we received the retirement letter from Donna Ibbetson and her retirement will take effect April 1, 2011. We currently have two part time employees filling the position of Tax Collector and Chief Financial Officer. He will report back on his recommendations and then we can move forward with the advertisement.

Mr. Catrambone – Mr. Catrambone asked if we could not fill the position of Tax Collector and Chief Financial Officer with one person would it require two full time employees. Mr. Hatcher stated that he would not recommend two full time employees. We will look at making two part time positions.

Mr. Schwartz- Mr. Schwartz stated that the AA is still looking to make a proposal to Council. He told them to reach out to Mr. Morrow when they would like to have this placed on the agenda.

Mr. Schwartz stated that a resident on Main Street had a complaint regarding the Green Acres property between Arch and Main Street. He will take a look at it and report back to Mr. Hatcher.

Mrs. Kolodi – Mrs. Kolodi stated that several teachers would like to involve students in a community garden. They have asked if the Township had any property that they would consider for this purpose.

Mr. Morrow stated that they can discuss this in the future.

Mrs. Kolodi stated that there is a third grader in the Delran School that has cancer. The high school would like to have a 5K run to raise funds for this family. She asked if that could be done.

Mr. Hatcher stated that they would need to present the route to the Chief for any input. Also, depending on who runs the event they would need insurance.

Mr. Paris – Mr. Paris stated that we are beginning to have meetings about Delran Day. They are looking to have a soccer game between Holy Cross and Delran High School. There is also the possibility of fire works.

Mr. Hatcher stated that it may be difficult to have the daytime activities at the same place as the fireworks because they need to set up well in advance.

Mr. Morrow – Mr. Morrow asked if the Township can do anything about the parking lot at the shopping center off of Fairview Street. There are no lines on the lot at all and also pot holes.

Mr. Catrambone stated that there are several pot holes also in the Heritage Square shopping center.

Mr. Morrow also stated that there is a pot hole on Chester Avenue at the entrance of Cumberland Farms.

Mr. Hatcher will report these issues to Mr. McCurley.

Mr. Morrow stated that the increases in the municipal budget were in items that were outside of our control. We were able to maintain the services and our departments continue to do a great job.

Mr. Paris – Mr. Paris stated that he is going to continue to contact the County regarding Anderson Farms. Several residents have reached out to him regarding the plans.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Catrambone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Schwartz to open the meeting to the public for comments. All were in favor, motion approved.

Pat Pomeranz, 21 Alden Avenue, stated that Alden Avenue has a crack from one side of the road to the other.

Mr. Catrambone made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Kolodi to close the public portion. All were in favor, motion approved.

ZONING BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Catrambone made a motion to make the following appointments to the Zoning Board.

Voltaire Gonzaga as a regular member for a term to expire 6/30/2012
Robert Harley as a regular member for a term to expire 6/30/2013
Marlowe Smith as Alternate 1 for a term to expire 6/30/2011

The motion was seconded by Mr. Schwartz. All were in favor, motion approved.

Mr. Catrambone made a motion, seconded by Mr. Schwartz to enter into closed session. All were in favor, motion was approved.

TOWNSHIP OF DELRAN RESOLUTION 2011-36 CLOSED MEETING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq. (Open Public Meeting Act) provides for the exclusion of the public from public meeting for certain reasons; and
WHEREAS, it is necessary to close the conference meeting of March 2, 2011 for the following reason:

1. Personnel

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the meeting is closed for the reasons above in accordance with the Open Public Meeting act.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Catrambone to adopt Resolution 2011-36 and to enter into closed session. All were in favor, motion was approved.

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

Mr. Catrambone 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