

**WORK SESSION  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**May 18, 2011  
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, 2010 and posted on the bulletin board on the same date.

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

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

**FLOODING ISSUES ALONG RIVER DRIVE**

Carolyn Mellwig, 26 River Drive, stated that we are losing our banks along the river and feels that we should take a proactive approach to preserve the banks. She stated that there used to be three rows of trees along the banks and they are now down to one row, which is the last line of defense. During the last storm the river came right over the banks, she has never seen this happen. She feels something needs to be done to correct this issue. She understands that Riverton and also Burlington has taken steps to correct the issue. She asked that Council help her in any way they can.

Richard Grockenberger, 84 Alden Avenue, which is at the corner of Alden Avenue and River Drive, which is the lowest point in town. He has been there almost seventy years and he has never seen anything like this. One minute there was no water and the next they were surrounded. It not only came over the banks it came up through the sewers. He stated that we had this problem for years.

Mr. Catrambone asked if there is a flap in the storm sewer and is it operational.

Mr. DeSanto stated that there is a duck valve and it is operational.

Mr. Valesi stated that this is under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers. We can contact them to see if they have this on their radar. Dredging the river may help. Mr. Valesi stated that he is seeing this all over the state due to urbanization, it is a natural occurrence. Even if there is a wall, the water will find a way around that wall.

Mr. Paris asked if there is any grant money for these types of projects.

Mr. Valesi stated that if there is grant money it would be for smaller projects. He will reach out to the Army Corps of Engineers and report back.

Mrs. Kolodi asked if there is anything that the residents can do on their own properties that would help, such as plant trees.

Mr. Valesi stated that he has seen some pilot programs where residents were able to obtain stream bank stabilization measures, such as fiber logs and plantings. Things that can be placed along the stream bank which is facilitate faster and stable growth but the forces of nature sometimes overcomes that. It is expensive for the residents and sometimes it doesn't work.

Mr. Schwartz asked if the Engineer checked to see if this is on the Army Corps of Engineers radar and if it is not, how we can get it on their radar.

Mr. Valesi stated that he would have to make them aware of the problem. From there we can begin looking into the solutions. It is something that could take years. Possibly, we can get other municipalities that have the same problem involved.

Mr. Catrambone stated that this is a problem so much bigger than Delran Township. He asked Mr. Valesi to report back to them on the options that they have available.

Captain Kevin Devlin, Stewart Avenue, stated that they are affected as well. A few things we need to figure out to improve getting the water out faster. The number one thing was that we could not move the water fast enough.

Mr. Paris agreed that water recovery is a big issue; we need to look to how we can improve if this happens again.

Kevin Devlin also stated that they believed one of the storm drains had a blockage on Stewart Avenue. Fixing that could help.

Mr. DeSanto stated that he was not aware of any blockage; they did check the valve and found it working properly. Mr. DeSanto will look into the blockage. We could also plant trees to try and help with further erosion.

Mr. Paris recommended that we meet with the Fire Department and try and come up with some recovery plans.

Mr. Devlin also stated that storms such as these also cause the sewers to back up in Riverside Park. He recommended that we have a phone blast asking residents to conserve water going into the sewer system.

Mr. Williams, Director of Sewer Operations, stated that most of the man holes have dishes on them that limit the amount of water that can get into the system. Only about 5-10 gallons a day can pass through. They will check to make sure that all the dishes are in place and working properly. The treatment plant did not get that much extra water during the storm. What is causing a problem is the water is entering the vents, which are located at the end of the driveways and on the grass of residents' properties, and entering the sewer and being forced into the houses. They recommend that the residents install check valves at the lateral and that should prevent backups into the house.

Mr. Paris recommended that Mr. Hatcher meet with the proper individuals to help come up with a recovery plan.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he has video and it was an overwhelming amount of water.

22 River Drive, stated that when they first moved down there he was under the impression that the owner of Amico Sand and Gravel owned the area across the street from them and had control of the mud flaps. The owner told him that he deeded it to the Township. There also used to be another inlet into Dredge Harbor, which he is not sure if it is open or not.

Kevin Devlin stated that we need to have some way to move the water.

32 River Drive stated the drain in front of his house does work sometimes; although, during the storm of April 16<sup>th</sup> he did have water in his crawl space. His concern is that the drain be kept up. He also asked whether we received back any report of whether FEMA was going to cover the cost of the damage.

Kevin Devlin stated that Walt Bauer, Emergency Management Coordinator, notified him today that it did not qualify for FEMA money because it was not a state of emergency.

Carolyn Mellwig stated that in the 19 years she has been here she has never seen anything done to restore the banks.

Mr. DeSanto stated that with the DEP regulations it is very difficult for us to fix this problem.

Mr. Catrambone stated that Mr. Valesi will look into this issue and the Department Heads will also meet to discuss a recovery plan.

Mr. Paris stated that we may also look into buying a pump that will help get the water out.

Mr. Schwartz recommended that we start moving on this project.

Mr. Catrambone stated that we will notify the residents once we have more information. He also recommended that they sign up on the website for updates.

## **CAPITAL BUDGET**

Mr. Hatcher stated that since the municipal budget has been adopted the next step would be to approve the capital items which we provided funding for in the budget.

He provided Council with a list of previously adopted bond ordinances which have outstanding balances. He feels it would make sense to re-appropriate those balances to fund the new capital items instead of cancelling the ordinances and then issuing new debt. In the outstanding bond ordinance, prior to 2007, there is approximately \$265,000. He should be able to fund all of the equipment requested, if we wished, with the ordinances we have in place.

Mr. Hatcher listed the items which have been requested.

### Police:

Four-Wheel Drive vehicle	\$45,000
Replace Four (4) In-Car Computers	\$24,100

### Public Works:

New Parking Lot at Don Deutsch Soccer Field	\$86,000
New Chipper	\$40,000
New Pickup Truck w/Plow & Spreader	\$36,000
New Paint Liner	\$10,000
New Well at Notre Dame Park	\$26,000
Street Lines	\$12,000
Basketball Court at Ohio State Park	\$10,000
Hockey Rink at Summerhill Park	\$12,000
Replace carpet, baseboard and molding in hallways and foyer (no offices)	\$30,000

Mr. Valesi stated that at the next meeting he will be making a recommendation to replace the sludge handler at the Sewer Plant.

Mr. Hatcher stated that the total would be about \$331,100, which does not include sewer capital or the road program. If there is an agreement tonight on the items he can get the Bond Council moving on the re-appropriation ordinance.

Council went through each item and heard the reasons for the need from both the Chief and the Public Works Superintendent. Council agreed to all items

except the parking lot at Don Deutsch, Basketball Court at Ohio State and the Hockey Rink at Summerhill. The total estimated cost for those items is \$223,000.00. They would like to possibility apply for the Kostic Grant for Ohio State Park.

Mr. Hatcher asked if Council would like to authorize him to move forward with the application for the Kostic Grant to improve the Ohio State Park basketball court. Council agreed.

Mr. Valesi stated that in order to hit the season for the road project we need to make a decision on the road. Council has sufficient capital improvements fund money to authorize \$600,000 towards the road program. The road we talked about were Parry road, from Cinnaminson to Tenby Chase Drive, Third Street, from Chester Avenue to Brown Street and Swedes Run from Conrow to Patricia.

Mr. Schwartz asked that Mr. Valesi provide an estimate for the intersection of Third and Brown.

Mr. Paris asked what road we should look at as the first priority.

Mr. Valesi recommended that he do the full limits of Parry and Brown Street and then include the bid to be able to do as much of Swedes Run as possible, since we anticipate that road will need to be done in phases.

Mr. Paris asked if we could approach Simon and Schuster for any assistance in repaving the road since it deteriorates faster due to truck traffic.

Mr. Coluzzi stated that we can ask but there is no legal obligation.

Mr. Schwartz also recommended that we limit the weight of the trucks allowed on Third Street.

Mr. Valesi recommended that we ask them to cover the difference between a residential road and a road that is beefed up for truck traffic.

Mr. Paris stated that he does not want to put money into the road that is getting ruined from the truck traffic.

Mr. Coluzzi will look into our options.

Mr. Hatcher asked that Mr. Valesi provide an additional estimate for the cost to increase Third Street to a road that will handle truck traffic. They also asked that he provide an estimate for the half of block on Brown Street at the intersection of Third Street. Council agreed. Mr. Hatcher will communicate back to Council once he hears back from Mr. Valesi.

Council agreed to allow Mr. Hatcher to contact the Bond Council to begin drafting the ordinance for Parry Road, Third Street from Chester Avenue to Brown Street, and Swedes Run, from Conrow as far as the funding will go.

### **LETTER ON SEWER BILL**

Mr. Hatcher stated that a resident on Oberlin Avenue feels that his water consumption used to base his sewer bill is incorrect. The resident went to NJ American Water and they found no leaks or problems. Mr. Hatcher also checked last year's consumption and it was exactly the same. He sees no reason to make any adjustments. Council agreed to not make any adjustment.

### **GOV.DEALS.com/ANIMAL CONTROL TRUCK**

Mr. Hatcher reported that we sold a sweeper for \$3,035.00 and the old Animal Control truck for \$1998.00. The new Animal Control truck was on the site to a reserve of \$25,000 but the highest bid we received was \$14,500. We withdrew the truck and after that, we received some contact by an individual interested in the truck. It sounds like we could get about \$25,000 to \$30,000. We could either put the truck out to auction or place it back on gov.deals.com with the reserve of \$27,000. There is a 7% charge if we use gov.deals.com. Council agreed to place the truck back on gov.deals.com with a reserve of \$25,000. Mr. Hatcher stated that he will notify the two individuals interested in the truck.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion allowing Mr. Hatcher to place the Animal Control Truck on gov.deals.com with a reserve of \$25,000. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kolodi. All were in favor, motion approved.

### **REPORTS**

**Mr. Valesi** – Mr. Valesi reported that they had the pre-construction meeting for Yansick and Moreland Drive and the project will begin right after school ends and final completion should be sixty days.

He will be prepared to update Council at the next meeting on Myers Tract.

He prepared a fee estimate in February for the improvements to Conrow Road at the intersection of Hartford Road. There are some wetlands and he believes he will need DEP permits. DEP permits normally takes about six months. He asked if this project is funded.

Mr. Hatcher stated that we only funded the purchase of the necessary ground.

He prepared a cost estimate for the storm sewer pipe at 73 Janeway, he will be prepared to discuss this at the next work session.

With regards to the sewer project, they have prepared specifications for the maintenance contract and electrical. They are awaiting Attorney review. They will also be preparing an emergency contract. In terms of capital projects, he will prepare the fee estimate for the replacement of the sludge handler at the plant and also the cost to have it completely enclosed.

Mr. Hatcher stated that he will have the Bond Counsel begin working on the bond ordinance for the improvements to Conrow Road.

**Mr. DeSanto** – Mr. DeSanto, Public Works Superintendent, stated that we are having a problem with high grass. The ordinance takes too long for the Township to approve the grass cutting after the ten days have passed. He feels himself or Mr. Hatcher should be able to make the decision without having to wait until the next Council meeting.

Mr. Hatcher stated that we did talk about this before but there was no change to the ordinance. We already have twenty-nine properties on the list.

Mr. Coluzzi stated that they can review the ordinance to make a recommendation on how to make this process as fast as possible.

Mr. Hatcher asked Mr. DeSanto to get him addresses and amounts for Council to approve Tuesday at the public meeting.

**Mr. Hatcher** – Mr. Hatcher stated that we had the residents evicted from 109 Foxglove Drive, which is an Affordable Unit, owned by the Township. The property needs some work and we will need to hire someone to remove the items left behind. It will also need to be painted and have the carpets replaced. We can market the property with the NJ Housing and Finance Agency.

Mr. DeSanto asked if we are able to shut off the water in the unit.

Mr. Coluzzi stated that there is no problem shutting the water off in the unit.

**Mrs. Reed** – Mrs. Reed stated that she has no report but would like to thank Council for the support they have given her and she will do her best for the residents of Delran.

**Mr. Schwartz** – Mr. Schwartz welcomed Councilwoman Reed to Council and is looking forward to working with her.

Mr. Schwartz stated that he met with a group of residents on Ithaca about the truck parking on Third Street. Apparently, there were no parking signs which have disappeared. He is going to look into this issue. The other issue that has come up in his Ward is the deterioration of the curbs. Residents have asked them if Council has a plan for the replacement of curbs. He has also received

some concerns regarding the sewer increase. There has never been a clear indication of where those funds went. He feels that there may need to be a forensic audit performed or more fact finding. He is going to continue to talk to residents and he may bring this issue back in the future.

**Mrs. Kolodi** – Mrs. Kolodi welcomed Mrs. Reed to Council.

Mrs. Kolodi stated that a street sign on Kevin Road is missing. She stated that they are also having an issue with residents in her area putting out grass clippings and trash several days before pick-up.

Mr. DeSanto stated that she can provide him with the address and he will notify the residents.

Mr. Catrambone stated that we can also have a notice placed on the website.

**Mr. Catrambone** – Mr. Catrambone welcomed Mrs. Reed to Council and he is looking forward to working with her.

He stated that he received a call from a resident about a veteran's deduction on his sewer bill being removed.

Mr. Hatcher stated that he will double check but does not believe there is a veterans deduction on sewer.

Mr. Catrambone congratulated Jeffrey Williams on the award he received.

Mr. Catrambone stated that it was suggested by a resident that we should have put an explanation in with the sewer bills.

Mr. Hatcher stated that he will send Mr. Catrambone the information he drafted.

Mr. Catrambone stated that we are having a problem with e-mail and he is going to reach out to Network Solutions to try and work this out.

Mr. Catrambone stated that the e-mail address for Mrs. Reed will be [ginareed@delrantownship.org](mailto:ginareed@delrantownship.org).

Mr. Catrambone stated that Mr. Morrow has asked him to ask when the seal will be placed on Pancoast Blvd.

Mr. Valesi stated that they will push the Contractor on this issue and it should be this Spring.

Mr. Catrambone stated that Mr. Morrow has also asked him to ask Mrs. Reed if she knows anyone that can help with the Feral Cat program.

Mrs. Reed stated that she is working on this issue and is reaching out to a major pet food company.

**Mr. Paris** – Mr. Paris welcomed Mrs. Reed to Council.

Mr. Paris stated that he would like to be on the sub-committee for the Myers Tract. Council agreed.

Mr. Paris stated that they were asked to work at a restaurant, possibility Throwbacks, to work as bartenders for the night to help the Delran Business Association. He asked that anyone that is interested to let him know.

Mr. Paris stated that he has asked the County the status of Anderson Farms. He was told that the project is still in the works but a few years away.

Mr. Paris stated that we did receive a complaint from a resident about the pesticide spraying which blew on his trees and he was concerned they would die. The spraying took place on the county property. He did forward the complaint to the Solicitor and also provided the resident with the phone number to the County.

Mr. William also recommended that the resident reach out to Rutgers Cooperative.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

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

Dolores Cannone, 910 Hubbs Street, asked about the progress on the TAR Construction.

Mr. Coluzzi stated that he can give a general update because this is in litigation. The complaint has been filed with the courts and the funds have been placed in a trust for the acquisition.

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

Mrs. Reed made a motion to enter into closed session for a possible litigation issue and a personnel issue, seconded by Mr. Schwartz. All were in favor, motion approved.

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

Mrs. Reed made a motion to confirm the appointment of Victoria Boras as Tax Collector working 38 hours per week at a salary of \$58,000. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Kolodi.

There being no question, the roll was called.

Mrs. Kolodi, Mrs. Reed, Mr. Schwartz., Mr. Catrambone voted aye.

Ayes: 4

Nays: None

Motion Approved

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jamey Eggers, Township Clerk

