

**WORK SESSION  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**December 14, 2021  
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 7, 2021 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, Mr. Siciliano, Solicitor, Mr. Winckowski, Engineer and Ms. Eggers, Township Clerk.

**2022 REORGANIZATION MEETING**

Council discussed the date for the annual reorganization meeting which will be held on January 4, 2022. Ms. Eggers provided Mayor and Council with a list of the current Board members/positions that will require appointment at the Reorganization Meeting. Council also discussed the 2022 meeting calendar which will remain on the same schedule as 2021. A Resolution will be adopted at the Reorganization Meeting setting the 2022 meeting dates. Mayor and Council also discussed presenting proclamation to the Golden Regiment Band and the Delran Soccer Team at the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**CYBER SECURITY UPDATE**

Mr. Catrambone reported that the information in the agenda included a review of the current protection and the MEL's involvement in cyber risk. Mr. Catrambone stated that he was in contact with All Covered and have a meeting set up for December 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Burrell stated that this is important coverage that is needed and we will stay on top of the issues.

**REVIEW RFP COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR AND INTERIM BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/RECRUITMENT SERVICES**

Mr. Burrell stated that draft copies of the RFP were provided for Council to review and approve for advertisement.

After discussion, Council agreed to advertise both RFP's. Notices will be advertised this week.

**SPECIAL MEETING – AWARD POLICE UNIFORM CONTRACT**

Mr. Burrell stated that he received a call from the Police Chief regarding the need to purchase uniforms for the Department. The process couldn't be completed in time to award tonight and in order to complete the process by year end, we are looking to have a special meeting next week to award the contract. After discussion, Council agreed to hold the Special Meeting via Zoom on

12/23 at 1:00 P.M. Notice will be advertised as required.

## **REPORTS**

**Ms. Eggers** – Ms. Eggers reported that tomorrow is the last day that residents can put leaves at the curb. Public Works will be making one final round of collection.

**Mr. Catrambone** – Mr. Catrambone reported that with the weird weather, leaves are falling later. Please remember to have leaves out to the curb by tomorrow.

Mr. Catrambone reported that the Winter Festival was a great night. Mr. Catrambone thanked the Township Council and the RAC for another tremendous event. Mr. Catrambone also thanked the Delran Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Squad, Public Works Green Team, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Delran AA and the business that donated food for the volunteers including Pizza Armore and Dunkin Donuts. The children and parents had a wonderful time.

Mr. Catrambone wished everyone a safe and healthy holiday.

**Mr. Siciliano** – No report.

**Mr. Winckowski** – Mr. Winckowski updated Council on the Road Programs. Creek Road, a portion of Brown Street and Front Street have been paved this week as well as Baylor and Eighth. PSE&G paved Fifth, Juniata and Ithaca. In the Spring, NJAW will be paving Colby, Colby Court, remainder of Brown and Ithaca as well as Linfield and Notre Dame. PSE&G will also be paving Chester Avenue in the Spring.

Mr. Winckowski reported that he met with the Army Corps along with Mr. Hatcher to get on update on that project. We are waiting on them to us a Project Management Plan which we should receive by the end of the year. That plan will outline the feasibility study which is the next step. The study will develop conceptual plans to address the issues. The Township will need to budget a 50% cost share for this phase.

Mr. Winckowski reported that early next year, they will have the list prepared for the next Road Program.

**Ms. Parejo** – Ms. Parejo stated that she is very happy to see the roads completed in Ward 1. The residents are very happy with the results.

Ms. Parejo congratulated the RAC on a successful Winter Festival.

**Mr. Smith** – Mr. Smith stated that they attended the Delran Seniors Holiday Party last week. It was a fantastic night and a great opportunity to interact with the residents.

Mr. Smith wish everyone a safe holiday and happy new year.

**Mr. Jeney** – Mr. Jeney echoed the prior comments on the Winter Festival.

Mr. Jeney wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

**Mr. Lyon** – Mr. Lyon reminded residents to put their leaves out to the curb by tomorrow.

Mr. Lyon stated that the senior dinner was a nice event and the Winter Festival was a great time. Mr. Lyon stated that he appreciates all the work that goes into the event.

Mr. Lyon wished everyone a safe and healthy holiday and new year.

**Mr. Burrell** – Mr. Burrell echoed the comments from Mayor and Council regarding the Winter Festival and thanked everyone that helped put it together. This is one of the best events of the year.

Mr. Burrell wished everyone a safe and healthy holiday and new year.

### **PUBLIC PORTION**

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

Mr. Burrell read the rules of decorum.

Barb Littleton, 317 Chestnut Street, stated that at the least few meeting they have asked the Council for a definition of bid splitting and they did not receive an answer. Ms. Littleton read a definition from the NJ Local Public Contracts Law and Regulations Reference Manual for contracts not to be divided. Ms. Littleton stated that in her opinion, when the Council received the proposals which included everything and then approved separate contracts it violated the regulation.

Ms. Littleton asked who has oversight of the Township Council.

Mr. Burrell stated that Council is the governing body. Our authority is granted by state statute. The Township operate under the Faulkner Act. The Department of Community Affairs promulgates rules that the Township is governed by.

Ms. Littleton asked if they send in someone to oversee what the Township does.

Mr. Burrell stated that the Township does submit a budget every year to the DCA and every few years the budget is reviewed in further detail. The Township also has an annual audit completed each year and those reports are online.

Ms. Littleton asked whether the annual audit goes to the level of making sure regulations are followed.

Mr. Burrell stated he believes the answer is yes, it is a very detailed report. Obviously, they are not reviewing every contract line by line.

Ms. Eggers reported that they are doing both. They review purchase order and for certain contracts will seek copies of advertisements, bid process and payroll certifications.

Ms. Littleton asked if there is a way that they can find out how much the Mayor, Council and Solicitor make from the Township.

Ms. Eggers stated that there is an ordinance that sets the salary for Mayor and Council and asked that Ms. Littleton send an email and we will provide the information.

Patrick Duff, Haddon Heights resident, stated that he first came here in October when there was a message put on the website by the Mayor regarding the Carli Lloyd event stating that a non-resident was claiming there was bribery and coercion regarding a variance. Mr. Duff asked who is the non-resident that the Mayor is referring to in the message.

Mr. Catrambone stated that it was a non-resident and he doesn't like to use names.

Mr. Duff asked if the Mayor was referring to him in the message.

Mr. Catrambone asked if that matters.

Mr. Duff stated that it does and it matters to his attorney for the defamation suit the Township is about to get hit with. Mr. Duff stated that in the message the Mayor claimed it was some kind of crime to question the Board. Mr. Duff read the counts made against the Township, for which the Township paid out \$300,000 to Dunphy's Landscaping, because the Planning Board denied their application. The counts included civil rights, Ricoh violations, trespassing, unlawful taking, interference with quiet enjoyment, harassment, defamation, retaliation and abuse of power which are only half of the claims. Mr. Duff read a statement from Jim Dunphy which was entered into the record in the appeal to Superior Court for the Zoning Board decision. Mr. Duff stated that the statement is disturbing and stated that if the Mayor asked to step down, this town is in trouble. The statement claims that the Mayor elect showed up on his property on December 9, 2020. Mr. Duff asked if this true.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he did not go on the property.

Mr. Duff asked if he took pictures and why.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he did.

Mr. Duff stated that in the statement it reads that Mr. Catrambone was taking pictures at the request of the Zoning Board Attorney, which was Mr. Siciliano.

Mr. Duff asked Mr. Catrambone if he ever told Kitty Newman that Dunphy's would never be able to get a permit and would never receive a variance.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he doesn't remember saying those words but may have stated that the property was not zoned for the landscaping business.

Mr. Duff stated that the property is zoned for landscaping.

Mr. Catrambone stated that it is not.

Mr. Duff asked if there are other landscaping companies operating in the A-1 zone.

Mr. Catrambone stated yes.

Mr. Duff asked is the Township had an interest in purchasing the property for the Delran Historical Society.

Mr. Catrambone stated no, the Township did attempt to purchase the property to preserve the land. The Historical Society did have an interest in making the house a museum.

Mr. Duff stated that the \$300,000 settlement amount was not included in the Resolution approved.

Mr. Burrell stated that he read into the record that included in the amount that was paid. He does not recall what the Resolution stated.

Mr. Duff asked if the law requires the Resolution to include the settlement amount.

Mr. Burrell stated that he is sure that the Resolution was drafted in compliance with the law. There was a public settlement and a statement read into the record.

Mr. Duff stated that at the least meeting Mr. Burrell stated that he wasn't aware if Mr. Catrambone was involved in Go Events or Center Stage Entertainment, is that correct?

Mr. Burrell stated that is correct.

Mr. Duff asked if Mr. Burrell has been working with Mr. Catrambone as a DJ since he was thirteen years old.

Mr. Burrell stated that it has been well established that is how he met Mr. Catrambone. He was never employed by Mr. Catrambone and has no bearing on his ability to govern.

Mr. Duff again asked if he was the non-resident that included in the Mayor's message.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he is not going to mention the name.

Mr. Duff stated that 25% of Delran residents have to sign recall petitions. He recommended that if they are not willing to answer questions, residents should recall them all.

Mr. Duff stated that he was the non-resident Mr. Catrambone referred to in his website post. Mr. Duff stated that he wanted to put it on record the details of the settlement.

Mr. Burrell stated that before we continue with public comment he wanted to make some clarifications. When the Resolution was adopted for the settlement with Dunphy's Landscaping there was a full-page statement read into the record. Mr. Burrell stated that he commented that the agreement did not bring any joy to the Council to have to make those decisions. There were month long conversations on the issue and it came down to a cost benefit analysis. Second, the settlement was \$300,000, with \$75,000 of that amount being paid by through our insurance. Third, the claims alleged in the complaint were all allegations and that does not mean they would have held up in court.

Mark Oberg, 112 Pelham Road, stated that everyone here took an oath to uphold the Constitution and the laws of New Jersey. They have allegations coming at the Mayor and Solicitor of inappropriate behavior. Mr. Oberg asked how many members of Council have asked if this was legal. If they care about the residents of this town, they need to do some research to find out what is going on. Mr. Oberg suggested they seek outside counsel to make sure things were done appropriately.

Mr. Burrell stated that we take our oath seriously. He has had multiple conversations with Mr. Siciliano to make sure things are done appropriately. Our job is to keep the town moving forward. We understand the concerns being raised, we listen and learn from them and take a step forward. That doesn't mean, we ignore what happens.

Mr. Oberg stated that they are taking the advice of someone that is being accused of advising the RAC to split the bid.

Mr. Burrell stated that we have Special Counsel and if Council wanted, they could have them review the details but the questions is at what cost.

Mr. Catrambone stated that nothing illegal or unethical was done in preparation and execution of the Carli Lloyd celebration event. Just because someone says it did, doesn't make it true. There is a lot of misconception being presented.

Pam Geary, 9 Astor Court, stated she just started attending the meetings and wanted to understand how things work. Ms. Geary stated that they keep saying we hired the Solicitor but asked who that refers to.

Mr. Burrell stated that the Mayor appoints the Solicitor with consent of Council.

Ms. Geary asked who pays the Solicitor.

Mr. Burrell stated the Township.

Ms. Geary asked if they have the total cost of the legal fees for the Dunphy settlement.

Mr. Burrell stated that there were legal fees but he doesn't have the number tonight. We can provide that information.

Ms. Geary asked that we provide the information at the next meeting. Ms. Geary stated that she feels we are paying someone to work against us.

Mr. Burrell stated that Council believed it was the most prudent decision to settle. Everyone lost and we ended up moving on and in the long stopped the exposure of additional costs.

Scott Ducko, 3 Glen Forest Road, Mt. Laurel Road, stated that at the last meeting Council discussed the need to hire an ethics attorney.

Mr. Burrell stated that it was brought up but not discussed.

Mr. Ducko asked if before these issues were brought up, did anyone think an ethics attorney was need based on the amount of the settlement with Dunphy's.

Mr. Burrell stated that Township's are sued frequently and ethic attorney are not normally the first avenue.

Mr. Ducko asked what the insurance deductible was for the settlement.

Mr. Burrell stated that he doesn't have that information but he can get it.

Mr. Ducko asked if it a normal process for the Mayor Elect to trespass on resident's property.

Mr. Catrambone stated that he was not on the property, he was on a public roadway.

Mr. Ducko stated that since Colin Rafferty is in attendance tonight, would he be willing to answer the question as to whether Mr. Siciliano directed him to split the bids.

Mr. Burrell stated that he respects the question but this is not a cross examination. It has been asked and answered multiple times that everything was done in consultation with the Solicitor.

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At this time, Mr. Burrell asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2021-197 authorizing the executive session.

**TOWNSHIP OF DELRAN  
RESOLUTION 2021-197**

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:  
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS – DELRAN PATROLMAN’S ASSOCIATION  
CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF OF POLICE CONTRACT**

**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 work session meeting of December 14, 2021 for the following reason:

1. Contract Negotiations – Delran Patrolman’s Association
2. Contract Negotiations – Chief of Police Contract

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

Mr. Smith made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jeney to adopt Resolution 2021-197.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mr. Smith, Mr. Jeney, Ms. Parejo and Mr. Burrell voted aye

Ayes: 4

Nays: None

Motion Approved

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

There was no action taken after executive session.

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, Township Clerk

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jamey Eggers, Township Clerk

