

**WORK SESSION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2014
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 Courier Post on December 26, 2013 and posted on the bulletin board on the same date.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Pangia; Mrs. Kolodi; Mr. Schwartz, Mr. Morrow were present. Mr. Catrambone was absent.

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

SEWER ADJUSTMENT

Mr. Hatcher advised that this was submitted timely but unfortunately it was misplaced and when the resident followed up with her request, it was determined that Council never voted on it. The items are that this is a rental property and when the renter left they found a leak in the crawl space and they cannot provide previous water bills for that time period because they went to the tenant. It was a rental during the time that the leak took place and essentially in checking their past sewer bills, they were always the minimum bill and this bill was rather significantly higher at \$162.75. The owner provided some written documents and a quote which is only a proposal but nothing else was provided. All we have is the quote and we do not have proof that the leak was fixed. Council asked they notify the owner that we need proof that the work was completed and then they would not have a problem with adjusting the bill and also check that the water usage actually went down. Ms. Pangia asked to check if the owner registered the tenant as a renter. After Council has the information they will make a decision.

VERIZON

Mr. Hatcher advised that these notices have been going out to towns over the past four years and it seems that they are now hitting Burlington County because Verizon was the main provider for telephone service in this area they had to pay a special tax for personal property for use in business and it has been running about \$60,000 per year and as Verizon loses the majority of service in that town, they have taken the position that they no longer have to pay that tax. Two towns did take this to court and lost the case and the League of Municipalities took it up on appeal and so far they have not won the appeal. Tom Davis recommends that we file an appeal on the equipment and also contact other Tax Assessors in Burlington County to let them know what is going on. This will only hold our ability to appeal and if it got turned over, we would have a right to reopen it. However, there is real possibility that we will lose the \$60,000 per year. Mayor Paris asked how did Verizon come up with 51%. The solicitor said that the State Statue says 51% and the municipalities can do an annual assessment every year to determine this number. The Solicitor stated that Council should go along with Mr. Hatcher's and the Tax Assessor's

recommendation and keep all avenues open for appeal. Mt. Hatcher said he would keep Council posted on the outcome.

GRASS CUTTING

We have some properties that Superintendent of PW Jerry DeSanto asked Council for permission to cut the grass. Council agreed to have the grass cut at 67 Alden Avenue and 19 Frech Avenue.

Council decided to authorize Resolution 2014-117 approving the various grass cuttings this evening so these properties can get cut.

TOWNSHIP OF DELRAN RESOLUTION 2014-117

AUTHORIZING VARIOUS GRASS CUTTINGS

Mr. Schwartz made a motion to approve Resolution 2014-117 which was seconded by Mrs. Kolodi.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Pangia; Mrs. Kolodi; Mr. Schwartz and Mr. Morrow voted aye.

Ayes: 4

Nays: 0

SELECTION OF GRANT PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Mr. Winckowski stated that DOT has advised that applications for open again this year for Municipal Aid, Safe Streets to Transit and the Bikeway program. The next road slated for Municipal Aid is Hartford Road and Mr. Winckowski if Council had any other ideas. For Safe Streets to Transit, Mr. Winckowski recommended to apply for Phase 2 to finish Fairview Street and also do sidewalks on Route 130. Over the years, we have been putting an application together for Bridgeboro Road at the stream crossing and we have not been successful but it is a very competitive program. Council thought that Municipal Aid for Hartford should be a priority and also an application for Safe Streets to Transit for Route 130 sidewalks. Mr. Morrow asked about applying for a pedestrian crossing signal at the crosswalk on Fairview Street. Mr. Winckowski stated that they could apply for the LED light for the crosswalk and also for finishing the sidewalk project and sidewalks on Route 130. Mr. Winckowski is waiting to hear from the County about an additional crosswalk at Moreland Drive. This additional crosswalk would need signage and handicapped ramps installed also. Mr. Winckowski asked Council to petition the Freeholders to let them know what the Master Plan is and see how they can help.

It was suggested that since there is a new Superintendent at the Delran schools, to petition the school to put in additional bus stops at Bridgeboro Road as there are safety concerns for the school children having to walk. Mayor and Mrs. Kolodi will reach out to the new superintendent.

TRIBORO NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Hatcher said this is just for Council's information. There is nothing definite to report as yet.

MUNICIPAL COURT REPORT

Mr. Hatcher said this is the annual notice of visitation by the Superior Court to visit our Court and we have always had good reviews. The new person hired seems to be working out very well.

REPORTS

Mr. Hatcher – Mr. Hatcher stated that we had a request from an autistic artist who would like to take part in Delran Day but cannot get insurance. He would like to show his paintings and auction off one of his paintings and that money would be donated to Jake's Place. Mr. Hatcher said he does not see much of an issue here in terms of liability and if it was authorized by Council, it would be fine. All of Council agreed to allow this to take place at Delran Day.

Mr. Hatcher stated that we have been trying to iron out an issue with the Summerhill Townhouse Association Street Lighting and one of the things is that Miller's Run which was supposed to go under the Township has not happened. Mr. Hatcher explained that the Township pays a certain amount of money for their decorative lights that would be equivalent to a township street light every 200 feet. Miller's Run has regular street lights so we should take them over. Mr. Hatcher said if Council agreed he would write a letter to PSE&G that we will be responsible for those street lights. Council agreed since it is our obligation to pay for those street lights.

The boiler bids went out but we cancelled the bids as there was an issue with prevailing rate that we should have included in the packet. Mr. Hatcher asked Council to re-authorize the bid for the boiler repairs. Council agreed to re-bid the boiler repair.

Mr. Hatcher advised that Construction Code fees are down slightly from last year and court fees are down fairly significantly from previous years and some of it is as a result of the type of winter and the length of the winter caused tickets to be down. The overtime issue and shortage of manpower with the police will be on the next work session agenda.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Mr. Winckowski reported that the Township has to send a jurisdiction determination to NJDEP to confirm that Swedes Lake is not a dam based on the height so we can proceed through normal permitting process to replace the outfall. The threshold for a dam is 5' and Swedes Lake is just a little under 5'. Mr. Winckowski said that it could still be determined to be a dam and then it will trigger a whole new issue or permit and construction requirements. The answer should come back in a couple of weeks and then Council will be advised of DEP's determination of Swedes Lake and then we can move forward.

The grant applications recommendations were discussed. We are still waiting on the Park Grant and still working on the Rutgers grant.

Simon and Shuster are doing improvements and a meeting is scheduled to discuss a plan to resolve the parking issue on Front Street. Anyone that wants to be involved from Council can attend the meeting.

Mr. Winckowski asked if anyone had any questions and Mr. Morrow said he had a question on the Fairview Street property. Mr. Morrow asked are we still waiting to hear from Green Acres on the appraisal and are we still going through the inventory of our Green Acres property. Mr. Winckowski said to the best of his knowledge we are waiting for Green Acres to respond. Green Acres may ask the Township to proceed with Phase I or get the environmental issues out of the way. Mr. Morrow asked Mr. Winckowski to find out why Green Acres has not responded.

Mr. Schwartz asked regarding the flooding at Riverside Park and the fact that our Sewer Plant is down there, are there other avenues that the Township could look into. Mr. Winckowski answered that the Sewer Plant is not in the flood plan. Mr. Schwartz thought that perhaps since the Sewer Plant was in that vicinity perhaps something could be done concerning the flooding in the area. Mr. Winckowski answered that he does not know of any grants or consideration that would be given due to the fact that the Sewer Plant is in the vicinity. However, being that the plant is there does give merit to our applications as part of the cost benefit analysis as the plant is one of the resources that we are trying to protect.

Mr. Winckowski reported that we are getting \$112,000 more for the HMGP for Conrow embankment stabilization.

Assemblyman Troy Singleton is going to be involved in talking to the DEP in trying to get the grant for the berm stabilization for Shore Line protection and Coastal engineering.

Solicitor Tim O'Donnell – Mr. O'Donnell reported that he wanted to bring to Council's attention a new state statute that was passed concerning maintenance of abandoned properties for foreclosure. The statute allows the Township to hold the responsible party to maintain the property as far as any violations against their property maintenance code. If a property is in foreclosure and it becomes abandoned, the Township can notify the responsible party that the violation needs to be corrected.

Councilwoman Pangia – Ms. Pangia reported that Trunk or Treat is having a planning meeting and if anyone wants to attend they are welcome.

Councilman Schwartz – Mr. Schwartz stated that he gave a letter to the Township Clerk to distribute to Council regarding the fence height discrepancy and he would like it discussed at the next work session.

Mr. Schwartz asked if the November meeting date was set up because of Election Day. Ms. Eggers said that the public meeting was moved to November 11 so as not to interfere

with Election Day. There is also a work session set for December 23 which is open for discussion. To cancel or change the December 23 work session will be discussed at the next work session.

Councilwoman Patty Kolodi – Mrs. Kolodi asked if our Police carry Narcan because they have found that it does save lives. Mr. Hatcher answered that they do.

Mrs. Kolodi said they will bring brochures regarding the Veteran Day ceremony of Delran Day. Since the Delran Business Association has taken over the Citizen of the Year award, they will be handling the brochures. Mrs. Kolodi asked if Council had any ideas on Citizen of the Year is there anything they we should change or add? Mr. Morrow said that since time is of the essence if anyone has any thoughts they can send an e-mail to Mrs. Kolodi. The brochures for Citizen of the Year can be put at the Council table and also the Business Association table at Delran Day. Mrs. Kolodi will discuss this with Mr. Anderson of the Business Association.

Mr. Morrow – Mr. Morrow reported that he talked to Council President Gary Catrambone about possibly adding new link to the Township web site something like “What’s New”. Mr. Morrow thought perhaps they could reach out to the High School to see if there was a young photographer to take pictures of something that is being done in the town such as capital improvements. If we could get a volunteer then we could post those pictures on the web site. Mr. Morrow would like the residents to be able to click on that link and know what is going on. If everyone is in agreement then Mr. Morrow would like Mrs. Kolodi to reach out to the school to see if we can get a volunteer.

Mrs. Kolodi said she would but wanted to add that at last night’s Board of Education meeting, they approved the night school. Delran will have an adult education program starting October 15. There will be eight classes running through November. If these classes go well, then maybe it will be expanded for next semester.

Mr. Morrow reported that the Shopping Center on Fairview Street is really looking good and is an improvement to the area.

Mayor Paris – Mr. Paris reported that the Vornado property has finally sold. Council is anxious to see what will be proposed for that site.

Mayor Paris wants Paul Heynas put on the next agenda as a member of the Green Team.

Mayor Paris reported that the County is doing some work on storm drains and there are two laterals that pass through the existing storm sewer pipe and the County may have to make some modifications and they are looking for some support from the Township. However, Mayor Paris said that nothing was presented to him to date and when and if it does, it will bring it to Council.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mr. Morrow asked for a motion to go into the public session. Mrs. Kolodi made the motion which was seconded by Ms. Pangia. All were in favor, motion approved.

The meeting was then opened to the public.

Joe Parento, Chairman of the RAC – 25 S. Bridgeboro Street reported that September 27 is the town wide yard sale. It will be advertised in the paper the week prior to the yard sale. Mr. Parento asked if we could reserve the date of December 5 for the Chorus from the High School to be here for the Tree Lighting ceremony. Mrs. Kolodi said she would call the school.

Tony Egan 108 Shelly Lane asked at the last meeting, there was discussion about eliminating the island at Fairview Blvd. and asked why would they want to eliminate it? Mr. Morrow feels that the way the island juts out, traffic backs up and cars can't get over to go south on Route 130.

Mr. Egan asked about money for sidewalks for the High School students. Mr. Egan feels that safety should be a priority. Mr. Egan was told that was a county road and we need county approval to do anything along that road. The stream along Bridgeboro Road is also a big hindrance to putting in sidewalks. Mr. Morrow also said that the school should have some responsibility for the safety of the children.

Mr. Egan asked about sidewalks along the Holy Cross side of Chester Avenue down to Route 130. Mr. Winckowski said that at one time the Diocese of Trenton talked about using some of their land for a cemetery and then they would have put in sidewalks but they are not going ahead with that project. The Township applied for a Safe Streets to School grant which is pending.

Mr. Egan asked what is involved with putting street lights in the Township. Mr. Hatcher asked if we were to add lights, we would have to pay for it. Mr. Egan asked about Route 130 and he was told that would be the state and he would have to contact the state.

Mr. Egan asked how will we pay for the remainder of Delran Community Park such as bathrooms and lighting of the fields. Mayor Paris answered grants and/or bonding money. Mrs. Kolodi said that the Township will start raising funds for a handicapped accessible playground known as Jake's Place.

Mr. Egan what criteria does the Engineer have as to what streets get paved in the Township. Mr. Winckowski said that observation of the roads, discussion with the DPW Director and discussion with Council and then evaluate the roads in the worst condition. Mr. Egan asked why did Brown Street get paved. Council answered that Brown Street was in very bad shape and the recommendation came from the DPW Superintendent and Engineer. Mayor and Council know that there are many roads in town that need to be done and they are all taken into consideration and the selection is made on usage and condition. Mr. Egan did not feel that Brown Street needed to be paved. Mr. Winckowski stated it definitely needed to be repaved because there were trenches that were settling all over, alligator cracking all over, and is a heavily traveled road.

Bob Gilbert 75 Stewart Avenue asked about the list of contact names sent to him and asked if there is someone over them that oversees the grant. Mr. Gilbert was told that he had all the names necessary to contact.

Mr. Gilbert asked Mrs. Kolodi about the adult classes and what would it cost. Mrs. Kolodi said \$40 a class. Cooking and woodworking would have some additional charges. Anyone should register by October 1.

A motion was made by Mr. Schwartz seconded by Mrs. Kolodi to come out of public. All were in favor, motion approved.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jamey Eggers, Township Clerk