

**WORK SESSION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**February 1, 2012
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, 2011 and posted on the bulletin board on the same date.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Kolodi, Mr. Schwartz., Ms. Pomeranz, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Catrambone were present.

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

CHARGE OF ATHLETIC FIELDS

Mr. Long stated that he did some research and found that there is the ability to charge fees on Green Acres fields; however, the fees that are charged, need to be across the board. If you charge outside organizations, you must charge Delran organizations. You can not waive the fees in town organizations. Council agreed that they do not want to move forward.

RECYCLING AGREEMENT BETWEEN RIVERSIDE AND DELRAN

Mr. Hatcher stated that each municipality must have a Certified Recycling Coordinator to sign off on their Recycling Tonnage Grant. Jerry DeSanto, Public Works Superintendent is also a Certified Recycling Coordinator and Riverside has asked to enter into a shared services agreement to allow Jerry DeSanto to prepare the Annual Recycling Tonnage Report. Council agreed to adopt a resolution authorizing the shared service.

RESOLUTION 2012-28 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN RIVERSIDE TOWNSHIP AND DELRAN TOWNSHIP FOR CERTIFIED RECYCLING PROFESSIONAL (CRP) TO PREPARE ANNUAL RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT

Mr. Morrow made a motion, seconded by Ms. Pomeranz to adopt the above Resolutions.

There being no questions, the roll was called.

Mrs. Kolodi, Mr. Schwartz, Ms. Pomeranz, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Catrambone voted aye.

Ayes: 5

Nays: None

Motion Approved

CWA FLOATING HOLIDAYS

Mr. Hatcher stated that the CWA has asked for approval on the two floating holidays. They have requested May 25, 2012 and December 24, 2012. Mr. Hatcher stated that he has no problem with either day. Council approved the two floating holidays.

125 DIANE AVENUE

Mr. McCurley, Construction Official, stated that the property is in sad shape. Individuals have broken into the property and used it to throw a party. The roof is near collapse, the siding is peeling off and the exterior deck needs to be taken down.

Mr. Catrambone asked if this is a bank owned property.

Mr. Hatcher stated that there is a bank paying the mortgage.

Mr. Long stated that whenever there is a health and safety issue and we have done everything we can to notify the owner, we should have either Public Works or an outside contractor tend to the issues that pose a safety concern. Once the work is completed, we can have a lien placed on the property.

Mr. Hatcher stated that we would not have the ability to perform the work and would have to hire a contractor.

Mr. McCurley stated that we have secured the house to try and prevent people from entering the property. It has been very difficult to contact the owner of the property.

Mr. Long recommended that we put them on notice and if the concerns are not taken care of, we move to make the necessary repairs to make the property safe.

Mr. Hatcher stated that he will meet with Mr. McCurley tomorrow to start the process.

Mr. Long recommended that we send a certified letter notify them that they have thirty days to make the repairs.

SCHOOL ELECTION CHANGE

Mr. Paris stated that the School Board reached out to him to get his take on the moving the School Board Election to November. Mr. Paris stated that moving the election will save approximately \$23,000. He feels that any time we can save the residents money he would support it. Mr. Jeney, School Board, feels that the School Board will support this move. Mr. Paris feels that we should meet with the School Board on this issue.

Mr. Catrambone stated that decision needs to be made by February 17th. Mr. Catrambone stated that if the School Board feels that they will be under the 2% cap and not need to have their budget voted upon then there would be no reason not to support the move to November.

Mr. Paris asked that Mr. Hatcher reach out to Mr. Russo and schedule a meeting with himself, Mr. Catrambone and Mr. Hatcher.

PUBLIC MEETING PROCEDURES

Mr. Catrambone suggested that at the public meetings we allow each resident five minutes to speak and then once we are through everyone that wishes to speak we will allow residents to speak for an additional five minutes. It would be at the discretion of the Council if they wished to extend the time limit. He feels that we should have this policy in writing and then read it before each public session.

Ms. Pomeranz stated that she agrees as long as Council has the ability to make a motion to extend the conversation.

Mr. Long stated that he will prepare a Resolution for Council to review at the next work session and if they are okay, we can adopt the resolution at the public meeting.

Mr. Long stated that for the record this Council has had a verbal policy of five minutes. We are just reducing the policy to writing.

REPORTS

Mr. Hatcher – Mr. Hatcher stated that he received an e-mail from Mr. Goodwin from an organization Compassionate Care that supports families with children who have passed away. They are requesting use of the community room on one Friday night a month. It is a county wide organization and our current policy has been non-profit Delran organizations. Mr. Hatcher stated that we have given special permission in the past for outside organizations to use the room on a one time basis.

Mr. Catrambone asked if Council would want to change the policy for this organization. He asked if this would open the door for anyone to be able to use to the community rooms.

Mr. Hatcher stated that the group is about 10-20 people and Mr. Goodwin is a Delran resident. Mr. Hatcher stated that he does not have any concerns.

Mr. Catrambone suggested that we craft the policy to allow non-profit organizations that are headed by a Delran resident permission to use the community room. Council agreed. Mr. Hatcher stated that he will draft a policy for Council to review.

Mr. Hatcher handed out the 2012 municipal budget book to Council for their review. Mr. Hatcher explained the different sections of the book for Council. Our first work session on the budget will be held February 8th. Mr. Hatcher stated that we are still waiting for the revenue information. The budget must be introduced prior to March 9th. Mr. Hatcher stated that there are two issues that he sees with the budget. First, we are going to have to make things really clear in explaining to the residents the affect of the reassessment because with the assessments going down the rate will go up. Second, we needed to use approximately \$500,000 from the Township surplus for cash flow in the Sewer Utility Fund to pay bills and make their payroll. The Township has yet to be able to recoup those funds but we will have to set something up in the sewer budget this year to return those funds to Township. Mr. Hatcher stated that from an appropriation standpoint the budget is down from last year's budget. We will also need to adjust the reserve for uncollected taxes once we have the School, Fire District and County budgets numbers. Mr. Hatcher stated that he does not see any problem with the caps.

Mr. Morrow stated that everyone has done a great job to get us where we are today.

Mr. Hatcher stated that we will begin going over the line items next week and as they begin to go through the budget, they can reach out to him with any questions.

Mr. Catrambone asked that Council take the weekend to go over the budget and absorb the information.

Mr. Long – Mr. Long stated that he wanted to go over Council's role and the role of the School Board and how they should remain separate. He feels that the rule of thumb should be to stay out of School Board issues as a Council Member. We need to be careful to not get involved with budgetary issues when Council may end up having to review their budget. We want to make sure there are no conflicts or the perception of a conflict. Council also should not get involved in policy decisions for the School Board.

Ms. Pomeranz stated that her role of the committee, which the school set up, is the state of the community. At this point, it is a fact finding committee. The state of the schools is a whole other issue, which she is not involved. Ms. Pomeranz asked if Mr. Long feels that there may be a conflict with her being on that committee.

Mr. Long stated that if the finding of the committee may ultimately change the policy of the school she should remove herself from the committee. If they are just using it for statistical information then there should be no issues.

Mr. Catrambone stated that they may perceive that she is on the committee representing Council and not as a resident.

Ms. Pomeranz – Ms. Pomeranz provided Council with a copy of the deed from a resident along Swedes Lake. She asked if that would permit them to rope off the fifty foot area in the water that belongs to the homeowner.

Mr. Long stated that we are going to have to have the Engineer look into this issue. He needs to read the description on the deeds to get a better understanding.

Ms. Pomeranz provided Council information on The Patch, which is an on-line newspaper, to see if we are interested in having a Delran Patch. She would like to pursue additional information.

Ms. Pomeranz would like to place a box in the lobby on the day of the public meeting for individuals to drop flags in that they would like to be disposed. This would just be another avenue for residents to drop off the flags and then she would take the box home and drop the flags off to the VFW.

Mr. Catrambone recommended that we do this on a trial basis to see if it is useful to the residents. Council agreed.

Ms. Pomeranz stated that she received a call from a resident that would like to put together a food drive for Easter and they asked how they can find out names of the individuals in need.

Mr. Catrambone recommended that they reach out to community organizations and churches.

Ms. Pomeranz provided each member of Council and the Mayor with a name tag to be worn at community events.

Mr. Morrow – Mr. Morrow asked if Public Works was working today on Faunce Street Park.

Mr. Hatcher stated yes they are working on Faunce Street Park and also Lake Lonnie.

Mr. Morrow stated that we sent information on a bikeway grant to our Engineer and also the Mayor and they will look into this for the Myers Tract.

Mr. Morrow asked when we are going to get moving on Roland Street.

Mr. Hatcher stated that he will reach out to the Engineer.

Mr. Schwartz – Mr. Schwartz stated he received calls from residents regarding the clean-up of Lake Lonnie.

Mr. Schwartz stated that himself, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Paris were at the truck dedication at the Chester Avenue Station this past weekend.

Mrs. Kolodi – Mrs. Kolodi stated that she would like to discuss the Citizen of the Year Award sometime in March at the work session. She is beginning to prepare the information.

Mrs. Kolodi asked if there is a park on Creek Road.

Mr. Paris stated that there are two parks on Creek, Anderson Farms and Boundary Creek. Boundary Creek is in Moorestown. Mr. Paris stated that he is pushing the Council to have something done with Anderson Farms.

Mr. Catrambone – Mr. Catrambone stated that we have all the minutes now posted on the website. There are still issues with the site and we have provided funds in the budget for a new website.

Mr. Catrambone thanked Council and everyone that advised us to do a reassessment. We have protected the Township for appeals.

Mr. Paris stated that he has asked that Mr. Davis, Tax Assessor, be available at the public meeting to address any questions.

Mr. Paris – Mr. Paris thanked Mr. Morrow and Mr. Schwartz for attending the truck dedication at the Chester Avenue Station for two fallen soldiers.

Mr. Paris stated that the owner of the McDonald's in Delran passed away about a year ago and the Director of Operations would like to donate money to refurbish a field and have a memorial. If Council agrees, he would like to reach out to them and let him know where we would like to use the funds.

Mr. Hatcher stated the Director at McDonalds would like the money to be used on a softball field which fits in with the improvements at Leon Avenue Field. We could look at combining these funds with the Kostic Grant if we were able to obtain that grant.

Mr. Paris stated that they are having preliminary meetings regarding Delran Day. He would like Council to participate and be involved with Delran Day. He will provide Council with an update once he has more information.

PUBLIC PORTION

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

Bernadette Lang, 135 Jacqueline Avenue, asked if we have an estimated completion date for the water tank.

Mr. Hatcher stated that he can reach out to NJ American Water Company but it is his understanding that they would be working on the outside in the spring.

Mr. Morrow made a motion to end the public portion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pomeranz. All were in favor, motion approved.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jamey Eggers, Township Clerk