



TOWN OF DOVER
MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
April 9, 2013 7:00 PM

The Caucus Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen was held in council chambers, 37 N. Sussex Street, Dover, New Jersey.

Mayor Dodd called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Aldermen Visioli, Picciallo, Romaine, Blackman, Rutan, Noriega, Yzarnotegui and Mayor Dodd

Absent: Alderman Downs

Also present were Attorney Mason, Administrator Close and Municipal Clerk Verga

Clerk Verga stated adequate notice was given to the official newspaper.

MUNICIPAL CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Resolution from the Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills re: Opposing Assembly Bill 1196 and Senate Bill 1778 as they pertain to Workers' Compensation for Public Safety Workers
2. Letter from Senator Bucco, on behalf of the DeShazo family, inviting the Mayor & Board of Aldermen to a ceremony honoring Dover's first fallen police officer, Thomas E. DeShazo, on Saturday, May 11, 2013 at 10:00am. (Dedication to rename the Rt. 46 bridge the "Officer Thomas E. DeShazo Memorial Bridge")
3. Notice of Public Hearing – Township of Randolph's Planning Board – 140 Route 10, Randolph
4. Notice of Public Hearing – Township of Randolph's Board of Adjustment – 18 Arthur Lane, Randolph
5. Email from NJDEP re: Christie Administration files rule package establishing new elevation standard for NJ
6. March 2013 Legislative Bulletin from NJLM

Mayor Dodd encouraged the public to attend the dedication to rename the Route 46 Bridge, honoring Dover's first fallen police officer, Thomas E. DeShazo.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Resolution Approving Mayor & Board of Aldermen Meeting Minutes –March 12, 2013 & March 26, 2013
2. Resolution Approving Tax Redemption for 311 E. Blackwell St.

AGENDA ITEMS:

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution Approving Bills List
2. Resolution Supporting S-1896/A-1503 Sharing the burden of property assessment appeal refunds
3. Resolution Appointing Special Police Officer - Gregory Lis
4. Resolution Approving Execution of a Grant Agreement for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response SAFER Grant Program

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 9, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen was held in council chambers, 37 N. Sussex Street, Dover, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dodd at 7:05 pm

ROLL CALL

Present: Aldermen Visioli, Picciallo, Romaine, Blackman, Rutan, Noriega, Yzarnotegui and Mayor Dodd
Absent: Alderman Downs

Also present were Attorney Mason, Administrator Close and Clerk Verga

Clerk Verga stated adequate notice was given to the official newspaper.

Mayor Dodd opened the meeting to the public.

Seeing no hands and hearing no voices, Mayor Dodd closed the meeting to the public.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Dodd is pleased to announce that new playground equipment has been installed at the Waterworks Park. He also noted that two new sheds for baseball & football were installed at the King Field Complex and one shed for soccer was installed at Crescent Field. The Town of Dover received a SAFER grant through Homeland Security in the amount of \$120,000 for the hiring a new firefighter. He commended Mr. Ed Farmer from Millennium Strategies (grant consultant) and the Town of Dover staff for working on the grant together. Mayor Dodd commended the fire & police departments for their efforts at today's fire at 32 Trenton Street. He noted that it was a three-alarm blaze and mutual aid was provided by surrounding municipalities. He announced that on May 12th there will be a ceremony to rename River Street to Reverend Dimas Quiles Street. He noted that opening day of Little League will be held on Saturday.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – No report

PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR – Mr. Richard Rosell commented that last month the police department solved a graffiti ring that created about \$40,000 of damage in town. The police department arrested two people on a total of 30 counts. It's a great job by the police department but unfortunately there's another graffiti ring back in town. He commented that the special police officer, that's on the agenda for approval, will be assisting with quality of life issues like graffiti enforcement and taxi cab & limousine compliance. He noted that the accreditation for the police department is ongoing and moving a lot quicker than they thought. He provided background information on the accreditation program. He noted that the police department became aware that they were the subject of an ACLU inquiry that was directed at the manner in which police departments handle internal affairs complaints. He noted that statewide most department failed however the Dover Police department passed the ACLU test on how they handled internal affairs complaints.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN
OF THE TOWN OF DOVER FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WHEREAS, In accordance with the provisions set forth in the Open Public Meeting Law, annual notice has been provided for all Mayor and Board of Aldermen meetings; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Dover held their Public Meetings, and minutes of those meetings were transcribed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Dover, County of Morris and State of New Jersey for approval the minutes for the following meetings:

March 12, 2013 – Caucus & Regular
March 26, 2013 – Caucus & Regular

Alderwoman Romaine has moved the foregoing resolution be adopted and duly seconded by Alderman Picciallo and passed by the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: Aldermen Visioli, Picciallo, Romaine, Blackman, Rutan, Noriega, Yzarnotegui and Mayor Dodd
Nays: None Absent: Alderman Downs Abstained: None**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, at the Municipal Tax Sale held on December 18, 2008, a lien was sold on Block 2316 Lot 12 also known as 311 E Blackwell Street, Dover, New Jersey for delinquent 2007 taxes; and,

WHEREAS, this lien, known as Tax Sale Certificate 07-00017 was sold to Plymouth Park Tax Services, LLC; and,

WHEREAS, redemption fees for Certificate No.07-00017 were received in full.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, Town of Dover, County of Morris, State of New Jersey that the Treasurer be authorized to issue a check in the amount of \$119,195.16 for redemption payment and premium made at time of sale, payable to Plymouth Park Tax Services LLC, P.O. Box 2288, Morristown, New Jersey, 07962.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that two certified copies of this resolution be returned to the Tax Collector.

Alderwoman Romaine has moved the foregoing resolution be adopted and duly seconded by Alderman Picciallo and passed by the following roll call vote.

**Ayes: Aldermen Visioli, Picciallo, Romaine, Blackman, Rutan, Noriega, Yzarnotegui and Mayor Dodd
Nays: None Absent: Alderman Downs Abstained: None**

RESOLUTIONS

BILLS LIST

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Dover have examined all bills presented for payment; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that there are sufficient funds in the account(s) to which respective bills have been charged.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Dover do hereby approve the bills as listed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper officials are hereby authorized to sign the checks for payment of same.

RESERVE ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$697.38
CURRENT ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$352,145.66
GENERAL CAPITAL ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$0.00
WATER UTILITY ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$60,059.16
WATER UTILITY RESERVE ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$245.99
WATER CAPITAL ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$0.00
PARKING UTILITY ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$2,545.51
PARKING UTILITY RESERVE ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$0.00
PARKING CAPITAL ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$0.00
ANIMAL CONTROL TRUST ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$82.80
EVIDENCE TRUST ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$0.00
RECYCLING TRUST ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$146.25
COUNTY FORFEITED ASSETS TRUST ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$0.00
FEDERAL FORFEITED ASSETS ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$0.00
TRUST/OTHER ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$695.00
COAH TRUST Acct claims in the amount of:	\$0.00

TOTAL CLAIMS TO BE PAID	\$416,617.75
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following claims have been paid prior to the Bill List Resolution in the following amounts:	
CURRENT ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$309,849.06
WATER UTILITY ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$23,290.21
PARKING UTILITY ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$2,543.16
PAYROLL AGENCY ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$88,094.97
UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST ACCT claims in the amount of:	\$186.74
TOTAL CLAIMS PAID	\$423,964.14
TOTAL BILL LIST RESOLUTION	\$840,581.89

Alderswoman Romaine has moved the foregoing resolution be adopted and duly seconded by Alderman Picciallo and passed by the following roll call vote.

Ayes: Aldermen Visioli, Picciallo, Romaine, Blackman, Rutan, Noriega and Yzarnotegui
Nays: None Absent: Alderman Downs Abstained: Mayor Dodd

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING S-1896/A-1503 SHARING THE BURDEN OF PROPERTY ASSESSMENT APPEAL REFUNDS

WHEREAS, when County Tax Board appeals are granted the municipality must reimburse the property taxpayer 100% of the appealed tax levy, which includes the municipal, school, county and any special districts tax; and

WHEREAS, the municipal tax collector makes the adjustment from the appeal as a credit on the 4th quarter tax bill resulting in the municipality’s fund balance for the preceding year to diminished , if not completely depleted; and

WHEREAS, a League of Municipalities’ survey measured the extent to which residents have filed and won tax appeals in 2010; and

WHEREAS, one hundred fifty (150) municipalities, representing both large and small municipalities in all 21 counties, that participated in the survey reported property value declines of more than \$87,900,000, which resulted from 19,788 tax appeals filed in 2010; and

WHEREAS, those responding to the survey indicated that 13,760 appeals were filed in 2009, compared to 19,788 in 2010, representing an increase of 43.7%; and

WHEREAS, a municipality often experiences an increase in tax appeals because it has conducted a revaluation, however, only 5 of the 150 municipalities, which participated in our survey, indicated that their 2010 appeals resulted from revaluations; and

WHEREAS, as a way of comparison, 23 of the participating municipalities conducted revaluations in 2009, when fewer tax appeals were presented to the County Tax Boards; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 spike in appeals should be attributed to the economic down-turn, which lowered property values and placed increased stress on the income of homeowners, all around our Garden State; and

WHEREAS, the survey also indicated that in 2010 the various County Tax Boards have granted average property value reductions of close to \$5,000, per appeal; and

WHEREAS, fifty-six percent of those responding indicated that the successful tax appeals would have an impact on fund balances and place additional pressures on local officials during 2011; and

WHEREAS, the reductions, which were granted by County Tax Boards in 2010, likely had a multiplier in subsequent years when neighbors learned of their neighbor’s tax reduction; and

WHEREAS, successful tax appeals have a three-fold negative impact on municipal budgets. First, the municipality, as the collector of taxes for the School district, county and special districts, must fund the full cost of the legal defense of the assessment. Second, since State law guarantees to the county and the school district 100% of their levies, the

municipality bears the full cost of any re-imbursements resulting from the appeal (as well as the full burden for any uncollected taxes). Third, the end result will be a further decline in the property tax base used to support Municipalities, County governments and School systems; and

WHEREAS, in light of the revenue limitations that have been placed on all levels of local government by the Legislature (2% cap), such declining values will compound and add additional stress to local public officials, as they grapple with the issues confronting the taxpaying public; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bucco, Assemblyman Carroll and Assemblyman Bucco have recently introduced S-1896/A-1503, which requires fire districts, school districts, and county governments to share in burden of property assessment appeal refunds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Dover hereby urge the swift passage and signing of S-1896/A-1503; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to New Jersey Governor Christopher Christie, to Senate President Stephen Sweeney, to Assembly Speaker Sheila Oliver, to our State Senator, to our two Representatives in the General Assembly, and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

Alderman Blackman has moved the foregoing resolution be adopted and duly seconded by Alderman Picciallo and passed by the following roll call vote.

Ayes: Aldermen Visioli, Picciallo, Romaine, Blackman, Rutan, Noriega, Yzarnotegui and Mayor Dodd
Nays: None Absent: Alderman Downs Abstained: None

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF DOVER
APPOINTING SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Dover that the following be and hereby appointed **SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER** for the Town of Dover for a term of one (1) year commencing January 1, 2013, pending successful completion of a background investigation.

CLASS II: Gregory Lis

Alderman Visioli has moved the foregoing resolution be adopted and duly seconded by Alderman Rutan and passed by the following roll call vote.

Ayes: Aldermen Visioli, Picciallo, Romaine, Blackman, Rutan, Noriega, Yzarnotegui and Mayor Dodd
Nays: None Absent: Alderman Downs Abstained: None

APPROVAL TO EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY'S (FEMA) GRANT PROGRAMS FOR ADEQUATE
FIRE AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE SAFER GRANT PROGRAM

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Dover formally accepts the grant for the above stated project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to accept the grant identified as EMW-2012-FH-00966 to restore local Fire Department's staffing and deployment capabilities in the amount of \$120,601.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Town of Dover and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

Alderman Romaine has moved the foregoing resolution be adopted and duly seconded by Alderman Picciallo and passed by the following roll call vote.

Ayes: Aldermen Visioli, Picciallo, Romaine, Blackman, Rutan, Noriega, Yzarnotegui and Mayor Dodd
Nays: None Absent: Alderman Downs Abstained: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments from the public

**Motion to adjourn made by Alderwoman Romaine at 7:19 pm,
and duly seconded by Alderman Rutan passed by the following voice vote.**

Ayes: Aldermen Visioli, Picciallo, Romaine, Blackman, Rutan, Noriega, Yzarnotegui and Mayor Dodd
Nays: None Absent: Alderman Downs Abstained: None

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret J. Verga, Municipal Clerk