TOWNSHIP OF DENVILLE  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
October 8, 2019

The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Council President Gabel. The Salute to the Flag was recited. Deputy Municipal Clerk Suzanne Walsh read the Notice of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act and noted that this is a non-smoking facility. The Deputy Clerk requested that all electronics be silenced at this time.

ROLL CALL:  
Present:  Buie, Witte, Murphy, Lyden, Borowiec, President Gabel  
Absent:  Bergen  

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:  
Thomas W. Andes, Mayor; Steven Ward, Administrator

OPEN PUBLIC PORTION  
No one wished to be heard.  
CLOSE PUBLIC PORTION

PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS  
Discussion on renovations to the Third Union Schoolhouse.  
Judy McBride, President of the Denville Historical Society, thanked President Doug Gabel and the Council for the opportunity to restore the two room schoolhouse to the way it was in 1908. Judge Vito Blanco, Vice-President of the Denville Historical Society, reviewed the history of the Third Union Schoolhouse. He then explained the phases of the proposed renovation - having architectural drawings done, of which the Council has copies which are attached to the end of minutes, and the demolition of the interior of the schoolhouse at a cost of approximately $16-17,000. He explained the Historical Society’s goal is to preserve the integrity of the schoolhouse and to restore it to the way it was in 1908. He added that even though there were changes made to the building in the 1940’s, a lot of the original structure is still intact. He stated that because of this, the Historical Society was able to obtain a letter from the State of New Jersey confirming the site is eligible for historical designation.

Chuck Femminella, a Director of the Denville Historical Society, referenced the architectural plans and reviewed in detail the current condition of the schoolhouse and the proposed revisions. Councilwoman Lyden asked about the condition of the foundation, to which Mr. Femminella replied that the foundation of the schoolhouse is made of stone and concrete and in good shape. Councilwoman Witte inquired about the water and mold problem in the basement of the schoolhouse. Mr. Femminella stated that one reason that there is a mold issue is due to the organic materials in the basement, which have been removed. He explained that the basement now consists of only the concrete wall and the steel and the wooden posts. He stated that they were able to grade everything away from the building and reroute the leader pipes and gutters to help prevent water infiltration.

Councilman Buie asked about the condition of the roof, and what type of shingles they plan to use. Mr. Femminella explained that it was difficult to determine what type of shingles were originally used on the schoolhouse, but he stated that he believed that they were either wood batten or wood shakes and were not asbestos shingles. Mr. Femminella further added that a decision on what type of roof shingles would be used is yet to be determined, but that the roof should be low maintenance and have longevity. Councilman Buie inquired about a slate roof and Mr. Femminella stated a slate roof is something that may be used as there are synthetic slate products that are long lasting.
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Council President Gabel inquired about the plumbing and wiring of the schoolhouse, to which Mr. Femminella explained that a lot of the wiring was anchored on top of the walls, not behind the walls, and that wires found behind the walls were left intact but wiring on the surface was removed. He stated that it was his opinion that the whole building will have to be rewired.

Council President Gabel then asked about the cost and the time frame for completion of this project, to which Ms. McBride replied that the original time frame for the renovation was 10 years and right now they are at the 3-year point. She stated that the Historical Society has used a well-known historic architect and does not have a cost to date, but will be able to provide the Council with a plan of action in the next few months.

Mr. Femminella added the Historical Society is planning on applying for a construction permit shortly.

Mayor Andes expressed that it has been a pleasure working with the Denville Historical Society on this project.

Update of Garbage/Recycling Bid
Administrator Ward explained that the Township entered into a 5-year agreement in 2014 with Gaeta Recycling Co., Inc. for garbage collection and is currently using the Morris County MUA (MCMUA) for its recycling collection. He explained that the Township specifically coordinated the contracts for garbage and recycling so that they would expire at the same time and allow for bidding of both services together. Administrator Ward explained that there was a bid opening on October 1st for both garbage and recycling together. Mr. Ward distributed to the Council a breakdown of the proposed costs for garbage and recycling based upon the sole bid received and then reviewed various options. A copy of the handout may be found at the end of these minutes.

Mr. Ward reported that Gaeta Recycling Co., Inc. was the only bidder, despite seven other local waste haulers having requested the specifications. He stated that, after making some inquiries, this seems to be a trend and that he will be notifying the NJ Department of Environmental Protection of the situation for their records. Councilman Bui asked about the brush and debris collections, to which Mr. Ward explained that the Township currently does the brush and debris collection. He explained that the DPW has a dedicated truck which systematically goes through town to pick up the brush and that, once the route is complete, they start all over again.

Councilman Bui then asked if the MCMUA does all the recycling for the county, to which Mr. Ward responded that they do only a few municipalities. He stated that some municipalities do recycling in-house, some municipalities use private carriers, and some use the MCMUA. Councilman Bui asked if the MCMUA would expand into garbage disposal, to which Mr. Ward stated that the MCMUA did submit a bid for garbage collection in another municipality and added that representatives were present at Denville’s bid opening as observers only.

Councilman Bui stated that he likes weekly single-stream recycling, but also likes the cost savings of the dual-stream recycling. He stated that he is concerned about repercussions and/or penalties that may occur if there was a change in the way recycling is done in the Township. Mayor Andes explained that they are currently working on a plan to get information to the public. Mr. Ward added that the Township plans to make is easy for the residents - for example every 1st and 3rd Wednesday glass, plastic and aluminum would be picked up and every 2nd and 4th cardboard and paper would be picked up. He stated that any 5th Wednesdays would most likely involve the collection of glass, plastic and aluminum as that is the greater need.

Councilwoman Witte added that the public needs to know that more money is made by recycling cardboard and paper products than glass and plastic. She noted that glass, plastic and aluminum should be cleaned in order to make it possible for recycling of those materials to be profitable. Mayor Andes stated that the Township would need to inform the public of the increased cost of continuing with the current recycling method. Mr. Ward noted that not only is dual-stream recycling more cost effective but it is the “greener” way to go as more of the products being recycled are actually being used, which is why the rate is much more competitive.

Councilman Murphy asked if the Township is required to recycle to which Mr. Ward responded yes.
Discussion ensued regarding the different costs per ton for recycling and the factors which may or may not occur over the next few years which could affect those costs; the different risks involved should the Township choose to rebid the contract to see if other bids are received at lower rates and the pros and cons of the Township awarding a 1-, 3- or 5-year contract. There was further discussion on whether the MCMUA would provide the Township with dual-stream recycling, to which Mr. Ward responded that the MCMUA only does single-stream recycling.

President Gabel asked when the resolution awarding the contract will be placed on a Council agenda. Mr. Ward replied that it would likely be on the November 12th meeting agenda with Administration recommending the award of a 5-year contract to Gaeta Recycling Co., Inc. with the dual-stream recycling option.

Councilman Murphy asked when the Township would have to potentially increase the garbage rates. Administrator Ward replied he did not believe that there would be a need to increase the rate in 2020 based upon the current proposals and that assuming the garbage tonnage remains exactly the same, 2022 would likely be the first year that the Township would have to seriously contemplate a rate increase.

MOTION TO ADJOURN
MOVED BY MEMBER WITTE, SECONDED BY MEMBER BUIE

AYES: UNANIMOUS
NAYS: NONE
ABSENT: Bergen

The Meeting adjourned at 8:33 P.M.

Suzanne V. Walsh
Deputy Municipal Clerk