

**VOORHEES TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE WORK SESSION MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 11, 2008**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Mignogna, Mr. DiNatale, Mr. Lovallo, Mr. Platt,  
Mr. Mazurek; Mr. Spellman, Township Administrator;  
Mr. Long, Township Solicitor; Mr. Ciminera, CFO;

**ABSENT:** None

**SUBJECT: OPEN SPACE LAND SALE NEGOTIATIONS**

Ms. Cindy Roberts, representative from the Trust for Public Land (TPL) addressed Committee regarding the status of her negotiations with the owners of Medi-Build, a corporation which owns a parcel of land adjacent to the Stafford Farm. Committee is considering purchasing this parcel of land to keep as open space.

Ms. Roberts advised Committee that the owners of Medi-Build were reluctant to abide by some of the terms required by TPL. For this reason, Ms. Roberts stated that she did not think she would be able to see the contract negotiation to fruition. However, this would not prevent the Township from moving forward with the negotiations on its own.

Mr. DiNatale stated that he is not sure that this is the property the Township should buy. He would like to explore other properties and perhaps find a seller who is willing to work with TPL. Mr. DiNatale stated that he was aware of two property owners in town who are interested in selling their land, namely John Aducat and Vince DeLuca.

Mr. Mazurek and Mr. Platt both stated that until now they were not aware that either of these persons is interested in selling land.

A discussion ensued regarding whether the Township should continue to pursue the Medi-Build site or explore the purchase of other sites. Mr. DiNatale and Mr. Platt disagreed on the manner in which Medi-Build was being pursued. Mr. DiNatale also expressed disappointment that Medi-Build had received a copy of the appraisal of their site.

At this point, Mr. DiNatale left the meeting.

Discussion will continue at a future meeting.

Committee authorized the Township Solicitor to obtain a second appraisal on the Medi-Build site and also to continue working on drafting an agreement and all other items necessary to obtain the necessary funding.

**SUBJECT:           POLICE APPOINTMENTS**

Voorhees Police Chief Keith Hummel addressed Committee regarding police appointments. Chief Hummel advised Committee that among the three top names on the civil service list, there were problems with the application and/or interview of two of the candidates; therefore, he recommended that Committee appoint the third candidate, William Walsh to the police force.

Chief Hummel also advised Committee that Deputy Chief Prettyman has announced that he will retire in March of 2009. When this happens, Chief Hummel would like to retire the position of Deputy Chief and replace it with two Captain positions.

Chief Hummel would also like to implement a "Watch Commander" program. However, doing this would require the Lieutenant in Charge to work a 4-12 shift every three weeks, which could result in some salary issues for the Township.

**CASE NUMBER:** 08-4917  
**OF-NUMBER** 08-309-OF  
**INCIDENT:** Simple Assault, Harassment  
**LOCATION:** 620 Berlin Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043  
**VICTIM:** Committeeman Harry Platt  
**ACTOR:** Deputy Mayor Mario DiNatale  
**DATE:** February 11, 2008

On February 11, 2008, this officer went to the Voorhees Township Public Meeting, which was being held at 620 Berlin Road, Voorhees, New Jersey. The public meeting ended at approximately 8:22 PM and the Committee left the auditorium and moved to a conference room located within the Municipal Building. The Committee had scheduled an executive session to discuss Township Business and the meeting was closed to the public. The executive session convened at approximately 8:40 PM. The below listed persons were present:

Persons Present at Executive Session:

Mayor Michael Mignogna  
Deputy Mayor Mario DiNatale  
Committeeman Dean Mazurek  
Committeeman Harry Platt  
Committeeman Joseph Lovallo  
Township Administrator Lawrence Spellman  
Township Solicitor Howard Long  
Township Clerk Jeannette Schelberg  
Chief Financial Officer Dean Ciminera  
Trust For Public Land Consultant Cindy Roberts  
Chief Keith Hummel

Summary of Events:

During the executive session the Committee, the Solicitor, and Ms. Cindy Roberts a consultant from the "Trust for Public Land" discussed the purchase of open space within the Township. The focus of the discussion was a tract of land located next to Stafford Farm. The discussion about purchasing the property continued. Deputy Mayor DiNatale then raised a concern he had about how the owners of the property had found out about the option to sell the property to the Township as open space. Deputy Mayor DiNatale advised Committee that there were other properties available. Committeeman Platt responded by asking if he was referring to him. Deputy Mayor DiNatale then made a comment something to the affect that Committeeman Platt knew

someone who owned the land that was being considered for purchase. Committeeman Platt denied any involvement. Deputy Mayor DiNatale pursued the argument and the exchange continued. Deputy Mayor DiNatale's voice became louder and it was obvious that he was agitated with Committeeman Platt. Committeeman Platt responded and he raised his voice in response to Deputy Mayor DiNatale's accusations. Committeeman Platt was obviously upset about the allegations that were being made by Deputy Mayor DiNatale. At this point, it was evident to this officer that this was no longer a discussion, but an argument. I was unable to hear the exact words that were being exchanged because they were speaking over one another with loud voices, but allegations and denials were exchanged. Committeeman Platt then stated to Deputy Mayor DiNatale, "Fuck you." Deputy Mayor DiNatale then stood up and stated; "let's take this outside and settle it," Committeeman Platt responded by stating, "No, sit down and let's settle it here." Deputy Mayor DiNatale then moved from the end of the table to the side of table where Committeeman Platt was sitting. Deputy Mayor DiNatale then placed his hands on Committeeman Platt's throat as if he was attempting to choke him. CFO Dean Ciminera was sitting near the end of the table by the Deputy Mayor. When the Deputy Mayor confronted Committeeman Platt, CFO Ciminera stood up and moved towards Deputy Mayor DiNatale from behind and immediately pulled the Deputy Mayor back away from Committeeman Platt. I was sitting at the other end of the table between Mayor Michael Mignogna and Solicitor Howard Long. I stood up and moved towards Deputy Mayor DiNatale when he moved in front of Committeeman Platt and placed his hand on his throat. (See Attached Diagram KFH#18 - Case Number 08-4917). I then intervened by placing my left hand on Deputy Mayor DiNatale's right shoulder and moved in between the two parties. Committeeman Platt remained seated during the incident. Committeeman Platt was upset and told this officer that he wanted the Deputy Mayor arrested and that he would sign complaints. I advised Deputy Mayor DiNatale that he had just assaulted Committeeman Platt in my presence and that he left me no choice but to take him into custody and arrest him for the assault. I took these actions to protect the well being of the parties present and to restore order in the room. Deputy Mayor DiNatale then stated to this officer, "Do what you have to do, arrest me." Deputy Mayor DiNatale then questioned this officer about Committeeman Platt's language and that the words he used were wrong, stating; "he can't talk to me like that." I then escorted Deputy Mayor DiNatale from the conference room and advised him in the hallway that Committeeman Platt's language may not have been the best choice of words,

but you can't assault him for his language. Deputy Mayor DiNatale advised this officer that he wanted to sign a complaint against Committeeman Platt for harassment. I advised him that he had that right and that we would take his complaint.

I asked Deputy Mayor DiNatale to come to police headquarters with me for processing. Deputy Mayor DiNatale cooperated with this officer and asked if needed an attorney. I advised Deputy Mayor DiNatale that he was welcome to contact his attorney, but that we were not going to ask him any questions about the incident. I then advised Deputy Mayor DiNatale that he had the right to remain silent and that he should invoke that right at this time and not make any statements until he spoke with his attorney.

I escorted Deputy Mayor DiNatale to headquarters, while in headquarters I stopped at the Communications Center and asked Dispatcher Heidi Sievers to call in the shift supervisor and send him to my office. Deputy Mayor DiNatale and I then went into my office and waited for the Shift Supervisor, Sergeant Gerard Slack. While in my office, Deputy Mayor DiNatale called his attorney Stuart Platt. Deputy Mayor DiNatale gave this officer his phone and I spoke with Mr. Stuart Platt. I advised Mr. Stuart Platt that Deputy Mayor DiNatale had been arrested for assaulting Committeeman Platt. I gave Deputy Mayor DiNatale his phone back and he continued to speak with his attorney.

Sergeant Gerard Slack came into my office and I briefed him on the events that had transpired. I asked Sergeant Slack to make arrangements to begin processing Deputy Mayor DiNatale for a complaint. I further advised Sergeant Slack that I was going to speak with Committeeman Platt to see if he would agree to a harassment charge. I advised Sergeant Slack that he could process the Deputy Mayor in the processing room or in the Sergeant's Office, it was his choice. Sergeant Slack then escorted Deputy Mayor DiNatale from my office. I returned to the Township Building and asked Solicitor Long and Committeeman Platt to speak with me in Mr. Spellman's office. Solicitor Long immediately advised this officer that he was conflicted out of the matter and that he could not offer legal advice. I spoke with Committeeman Platt and advised him of his options; he could sign a complaint immediately, or he could sign a complaint at a later date. I advised Committeeman Platt that he may want to speak with someone about the matter prior to signing

any complaints. Committeeman Platt advised this officer that he wanted to speak with his people before making a decision.

Committeeman Platt and Solicitor Long then left the room. I asked Mayor Mignogna if he would meet with me in Mr. Lawrence Spellman's Office. Mayor Mignogna met with this officer and I advised him that Committeeman Platt had decided to wait on signing complaints. I then asked Mayor Mignogna to go over to police headquarters with me to speak with Deputy Mayor DiNatale. I advised Mayor Mignogna that I was going to release Deputy Mayor DiNatale, but that I was going to tell him not to return to the Committee Meeting. Mayor Mignogna agreed to accompany me and we went to police headquarters. We entered Police headquarters through the side door. While in headquarters, Officer Robert Hamburg advised this officer that Deputy Mayor DiNatale was in the processing room. Prior to entering the Processing Room, I unholstered my weapon and placed it in the security safe located on the wall across from the cell block entrance. Mayor Mignogna and I entered the Processing Room and I asked Deputy Mayor DiNatale to come with me, so that we could meet in my office. Mayor Mignogna, Deputy Mayor DiNatale and I then proceeded to my office where we met and discussed the situation. I advised Deputy Mayor DiNatale that Committeeman Platt had decided not to press charges tonight. I did advise Deputy Mayor DiNatale that Committeeman Platt could press charges in the future. I advised Deputy Mayor DiNatale that if charges were filed that I would contact him and ask him to come into headquarters for processing. I advised Deputy Mayor DiNatale that it may not be within my authority, but that I did not want him to return to the Committee Meeting due to what had transpired in the conference room. Deputy Mayor DiNatale agreed not to return to the meeting. Deputy Mayor DiNatale was released and he left police headquarters with Mayor Mignogna. I retrieved my duty weapon from the wall safe in headquarters and returned to the Committee Meeting. I did not discuss the incident with Committee during the remainder of the meeting.

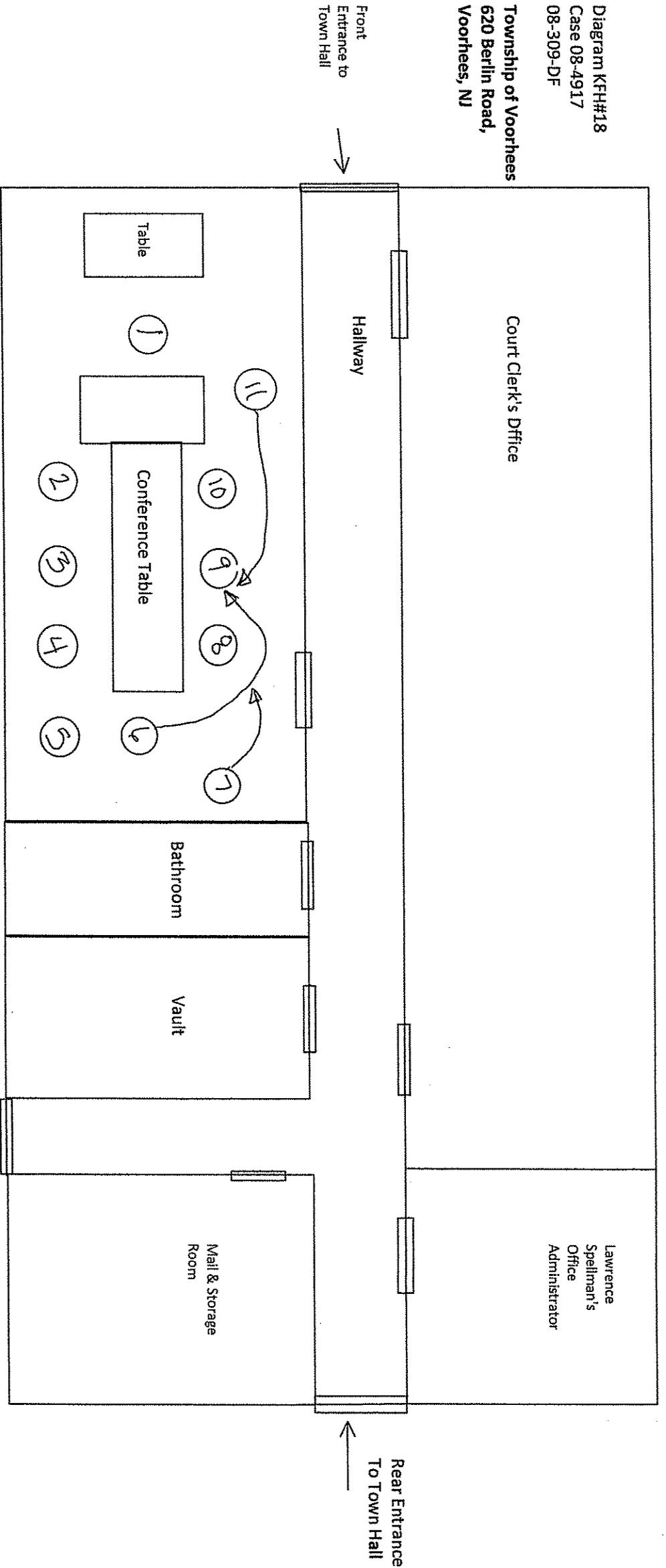
Chief Keith F. Hummel #18

2-13-08

Chief Keith F. Hummel #18

Date:

Township of Voorhees  
 620 Berlin Road,  
 Voorhees, NJ

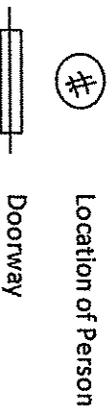


1. Mayor M. Mignogna
2. Lawrence Spellman
3. Committeeman D. Mazurek
4. Committeeman J. Lovallo
5. Cindy Roberts
6. Deputy Mayor M. DiNatale
7. CFO Dean Cimniera
8. Township Clerk J. Schelberg
9. Committeeman H. Platt
10. Solicitor H. Long
11. Chief K. Hummel

NOT TO SCALE

Prepared by:

*Philip Kitchin, Esq.*



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SPECIAL DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL  
Acting Camden County Prosecutor



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**MICHAEL H. KANTNER**  
Acting Chief of Investigators

February 21, 2008

Chief Keith Hummel  
Voorhees Police Department  
1180 White Horse Road  
Voorhees, New Jersey 08043

RE: Investigation of Voorhees Deputy Mayor Mario DiNatale

Dear Chief Hummel:

The Camden County Prosecutor's Office received your investigative report and diagram concerning the dispute between Deputy Mayor Mario DiNatale and Committeeman Harry Platt on February 11, 2008. We have reviewed the matter and decline to pursue to indictable charges.

If there are any questions, please contact me at 856-225-8408.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie B. Dicker".

Leslie B. Dicker  
Special Deputy Attorney General  
Acting Assistant Prosecutor  
Section Chief  
Special Prosecutions Unit