

The Town of Laurel
Mayor and Council Meeting
September 4, 2018

A Mayor and Council meeting was held in the Mayor and Council Chambers of the Laurel Town Hall Tuesday, September 4, 2018 beginning at 7:01. The following persons were in attendance: Mayor John Shwed, President of the Council Chris Calio, Council Members: Randy Lee, Cheryl Martin, Jonathan Kellam, and Robin Fisher-Cornish. Also, in attendance was Chief Dan Wright and Town Manager Jamie Smith. It was noted that Councilman Jeff Hill was absent.

Mr. Gary Johnson and Ms. Clara Martinez of Telamon Corporation of Delaware were also in attendance. Ms. Martinez thanked Mayor and Council for inviting them and allowing to give a presentation regarding Telamon. The Telamon program has been in existence for over 50 years and provide services in over 12 states. Mrs. Clara stated Telamon's mission "Is to provide education services that lead to better jobs, better lives, and better communities."

Ms. Martinez gave a Power-Point presentation in regard to the Telamon Corporation of Delaware. In Delaware Telamon focuses on childhood and family support services. In Delaware Telamon offers an Early Head Start Program, Early Head Start Home-Based Parenting Education and Head Start. An Early Head Start Program consists of infants and toddler care for children up to age 3 and pregnant women. The Early Head Start Home-Based Parenting Education includes in-home education program for child and parent or pregnant women. The Head Start program is for preschool education for children from ages 3 to 5 years. Ms. Martinez explained Center-Based Services is for each child to receive a personalized educational program at the Head Start centers based on their specific strengths and needs. Ms. Martinez advised Home-Based Services are weekly 90-minute home visits. They consist of two play group activities per month for parents and children and home visits are completed at the parent's house. Telamon provides services in both Kent and Sussex County, which totals 13 centers. Ms. Martinez advised the funded enrollment is for 822 children and the federal funding is in the amount of \$7,037,335. The Telamon program is required to provide the Non-Federal Share (IN-KIND) in the amount of \$1,759,334. The state provides grants in the amount of \$818,340. The total funding received is \$7,885,675. Ms. Martinez advised the funds are based on the number of children that attend the program. In-Kind services, 20% the program is required to contribute of funds, which comes in the following forms: cash, donated or reduced cost services, donated or reduced cost materials, space costs, and the program must return funds to OHS if 20% In-Kind is not met at end of program year. Ms. Martinez stated the Program Challenge has 54 under served children in Sussex County. They have been unable to secure a suitable facility due to identified facilities didn't meet space requirements, lease negotiations were not successful due to cost, and high lease agreement would cause a hardship. Telamon's current goal is to meet the funded enrollment in 2018-2019. To meet the current goal would be to secure a lease agreement to serve 54 eligible preschool Head Start children in the Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary School. Ms. Martinez stated the proposed services includes three Head Start Classrooms, 170 days per year, Monday to Friday, 6 hours per day at no cost to families, offer transportation services, and relocate Home Based Program from Georgetown. Ms. Martinez advised the benefits of a partnership with Telamon include the following: renovating the school at no expense to the town,

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installation of a new fence around the school, new playground equipment with pour'n play surface, employment opportunities for residents of Laurel and the surrounding community, partnering with a non-profit organization that has been in existence for over 50 years, Telamon has budgeted over \$294,000 towards renovation costs and materials, initiate renovations immediately to begin services to children within the current school year 2018-2019, and engagement with other community agencies to enhance services to families and children of Laurel.

Mr. Johnson of Telamon advised he and Ms. Martinez have been working with Telamon for 19 years. Mr. Johnson stated the playground will cost \$94,000 due to bringing it to code standards and applying the pour and play. They are still waiting on the price of the fence and intend to install the fence around the entire building. Mr. Johnson advised when they walked through Dunbar everything looked good, but once the furniture was removed they noticed more things needed to be done. He advised there should be enough money to complete the renovations and if they can't use funds then they would have to give back.

Councilwoman Martin questioned about the fence around the playground. Mr. Johnson advised yes, a fence is required around the playground and they would install a fence around the entire property.

Mr. Johnson advised the cafeteria is an ideal area to hold parent meetings.

Mayor Shwed inquired when surveying the rooms did the school leave any tables. Mr. Johnson advised tables were not needed because Telamon will supply what is needed.

Mayor Shwed questioned if all children attend for free. Mr. Johnson advised yes, all services are free. Mayor Shwed inquired if income levels increase. Mr. Johnson stated Telamon serves low income and 10% can be over income. If they can't get the proper amount of low income they could get a waiver. Mayor Shwed questioned if Dunbar meets your needs. Mr. Johnson advised yes, wished there was central air and will need a few minor renovations completed.

Chief Wright inquired if Mr. Johnson sees an area for growing or need for additional space at Dunbar. Ms. Martinez can apply for additional funds and can expand program with additional funds to utilize additional space based on funding.

President of Council Calio inquired how many children are in Laurel now. Ms. Martinez advised there 60 children.

Mayor Shwed questioned what will Telamon do with their current building. Mr. Johnson advised it will remain open. Mr. Johnson stated if they can get bus drivers they would like to expand their services to Delmar. Ms. Martinez advised they don't for see any issues with finding and serving additional children.

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Councilman Kellam inquired if Telamon solicits for children. Mr. Johnson advised Telamon attends festivals and functions to share information and receive referrals from families.

Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish questioned how this will benefit our community for children to be better prepared. Mr. Johnson advised they work with school districts closely as there are children with EIP's and not equipped to handle, so Telamon partners with schools. He advised Telamon can't compete with schools but must work with them.

Mayor Shwed thanked Ms. Martinez and Mr. Johnson for their presentation and their information provided.

Councilman Kellam inquired about the length of a lease. Mr. Johnson advised per government regulations leases are required to be a minimum of 15 years. He advised when doing the lease, it will have a termination clause. Mr. Johnson explained some leases increase the percentages of rent over the years.

Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish inquired about the federal budget contract. Mr. Johnson advised they are year to year.

President of Council Calio made a motion to hold a closed session to discuss contractual matters. Councilwoman Fisher-Cornish seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilman Hill absent.

Regular Session Recessed at 8:02 p.m.

Regular Session Reconvened at 9:02 p.m.

Councilwoman Martin made a motion to accept a 15- year lease to Telamon for use of a portion of Dunbar rent free for the 1st to 6 years due to the fact Telamon has agreed to invest \$294,000 into the building. The town will begin negotiations with Telamon in year six to begin charging a rental fee in year 7 of the lease for an amount to be fair to Telamon and the town and it will include the in-kind needs of Telamon. The lease includes the requirements of Telamon to pay all utilities, taxes, and insurance among other general lease requirements. Councilman Kellam seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilman Hill absent.

With there being no further business to discuss, Councilwoman Martin Made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Lee seconded the motion. Vote was 6-0, with Councilman Hill absent.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

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Mayor

President of Council

Town Manager