

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 11, 2017
Middle School Library

MINUTES

Present: Chairperson Patience Anderson, Vice Chairman Ted Hintz, Jr. (via speakerphone), Council Members Pete Brown, Mark Philhower, Josh Piteo and Kevin Reich and Town Manager Michael Maniscalco

Not Present: Melissa Engel

Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School Library.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Piteo, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voted (6-0)

Executive Session

- a. Attorney Client Privilege Communication – Board of Education v. Town of East Hampton Litigation**
- b. Potential Purchase of Property Contiguous to Town Property**

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Reich, to enter executive session at 6:32 p.m. for the above listed items with Town Manager Michael Maniscalco invited into the session. Voted (6-0)

Attorney Morris Borea entered executive session at 6:40 p.m. for Attorney Client Privilege Communication – Board of Education v. Town of East Hampton Litigation.

Executive Session ended at 7:10 p.m.

Possible Action on Executive Session Item

No action

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of June 27, 2017 as written. Voted (6-0)

Presentations

None

Public Remarks

Karen Johansmeyer, 16 Penny Corner Road, Portland, read a poem by Robert O'Brien on the ancient muster.

Bids & Contracts

None

Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations

None

Continued Business

Discussion of Certified Local Government Process

Mr. Maniscalco reviewed a memo from Planning & Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli on the pros and cons of becoming a certified local government. The memo will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. Mr. Maniscalco noted his concerns regarding staffing required for this process. Mr. Hintz asked that the Town of Colchester be contacted regarding their process for becoming certified. There were questions regarding the impact of the private ownership of historic property. This item will be tabled until staff has time to complete the research on this process.

Update on 250th Anniversary

Mr. Piteo provided a review of the Old Home Day 250th Anniversary events. The birthday cards were displayed at Old Home Day. He thanked the Public Works department for their help in creating stands for the cards. New t-shirts are available. Many events are coming up through the remainder of the year and are listed on the 250th anniversary website.

New Business

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Letter to Fire Commission

A draft letter was prepared for the Fire Commission regarding questions pertaining to the Fire Marshal's Office after the fire at St. Clements Marina. Several Council members asked to start a conversation with the supervising group for the Fire Marshal. Mr. Hintz voiced his concern that this is a personnel matter where the Council has no jurisdiction. Mr. Brown indicated that he had concerns after the fire and was one of the members that requested the meeting with the Fire Commission but also wants information from the Health Department and the Building Department regarding St. Clements. Mr. Brown and Mr. Philhower will meet with the Town Manager to revise the letter and it will be brought back to the next meeting.

Recommendation for Public Library to Re-join Online Consortium

Library Director Ellen Paul was in attendance to review the recommendation that the Library re-join the Libraries Online (LION) library consortium in Middletown. The Library

was a member of the consortium from 1983 through approximately 2005. Joining LION would mean a larger selection of materials for patrons; less staff time spent troubleshooting computer issues and would help them keep up with changing technology. The fee is the same amount as the products now utilized individually with a \$5,000 startup fee. The funds will be reallocated from the existing library budget.

Town Manager Report

State Revenue Projections

Mr. Maniscalco reported that the next legislative session begins around July 18th. At the RiverCOG executive meeting it was reported that a budget may not be completed until September or October. They also mentioned a possible financial means test for funding teacher pensions. The Council discussed having a meeting with the Board of Education to look at ways to absorb some of the loss of revenue. A special meeting date will be reviewed.

Appointments – Conservation-Lake Commission

Mr. Maniscalco appointed Anita Guerin as an alternate on the Conservation-Lake Commission with a term through June 30, 2018.

Update on RFP for Engineer

Ten responses were received for the Engineer RFP. They will interview 5 or 6. Chairwoman Anderson and Mr. Brown will be on the interview panel.

Update on Town Hall/Police Department Schedule

The current schedule for the Town Hall/Police Department project was reviewed. A memo from Planning & Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli was emailed to Council member explaining the 8-24 process.

Update on 2016 Vehicle List

The 2016 vehicle listing was provided to Council members. The list is being updated for the current year for insurance purposes.

Update on Middletown Area Transit

Mr. Maniscalco reported that the Director and Finance Director of Middletown Area Transit resigned. An Emergency Manager will be appointed and a forensic audit will be conducted. A meeting is scheduled for July 14th in Middletown to gain more information before the current year contract is signed.

Award from CRCOG for Dispatch

The Town of East Hampton and Glastonbury were recognized by the Capitol Region Council of Governments for our regional dispatch project.

Update on Board of Education Computer Lease

In the current capital budget is funding for computer leases for the Board of Education. The information is being gathered from the Board of Education to present at the next meeting.

Mr. Maniscalco also reported that the Fire Department's old ladder truck was sold for \$12,000.

Mr. Philhower asked for a breakdown of the contingency funds for the Town Hall/Police Department project. This will be available for the August meeting.

Appointments

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Brown, to reappoint the following:

Josh Wilson, Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency, term through June 1, 2020

David Boule, Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency, term through June 1, 2020

Robert Talbot, Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency, term through June 1, 2020

Ralph Nesci, Water & Sewer Commission, term through June 30, 2022

Voted (6-0)

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$6,423.45. Voted (6-0)

Public Remarks

Ann McLaughlin, 85 North Main Street, commented that the Middletown Area Transit is important to the seniors in the community.

Karen Johansmeyer, 16 Penny Corner Lane, Portland, commented in support of library growth and the history of the town.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Reich, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Voted (6-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk