

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 23, 2017
Middle School Library

MINUTES

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

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. Reich, seconded by Ms. Engel, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voted (7-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Engel, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Special and Regular Meetings of May 9, 2017 as written. Voted (7-0)

Presentations

None

Public Remarks

Ted Barber, 50 Mott Hill Road, commented on misuse of Sears Park stickers, questioning the sailboats and campground passes.

Barbara Angelico, 1 Schoolhouse Lane, commented on behalf of the Middle Haddam Association. She thanked the Council members for meeting with them. She suggested the town apply for a Certified Local Government status. She note Mike Sorano from Friar came out and reassessed the school building noting it is structurally sound. They also have documents confirming the building is free of environmental hazards.

Chuck Roberts, 119 Middle Haddam Road and member of the Middle Haddam Association, commented that there are grants available to replace the roof and there are other grant opportunities.

Margaret Faber, 45 Schoolhouse Lane, commented on a \$755,000 grant available on July 1st and there are tax credit opportunities available. She would like to see the Middle Haddam School preserved.

The following residents spoke in favor of the budget as presented by the Board of Finance and that the budget be put to referendum before July 1st: Steve Jones, 3 Jacobson Farm Road; Manda Heltke, 2 Julia Terrace; Carol Levendusky, 45 Spice Hill Drive; Bob Hine, Birchwood Road; Kristin Flannery, 8 Flannery Row; Chris Briggs, 19 Barton Hill; Kathy Conklin, 3rd Grade Teacher at Memorial School; Harper Carlson, 6th Grade Student; Ellen Nosal, 152 Main Street; Carleen Brooks, Chestnut Hill Road; Carla Corea, 23 Tarragon Drive; Stuart Winquist, South Main Street; Elizabeth Kelpen, 11 Oak Knoll Road.

Letters were received from Nancy Kohler, Derek Rurka, Emily Cronen in support of the education budget going to referendum with no cuts.

Bids & Contracts

None

Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations

Resolutions for Eagle Scouts

Mr. Reich read resolutions for Eagle Scouts Hunter Brazal and Tim Mele.

Continued Business

Discussion and Possible Action on 2017/2018 Budget

Chairperson Anderson began the discussion noting that by delaying the referendum it would provide time to receive more information from the State. The Council members discussed the budget and what should be put forth to the voters. They discussed the loss of state revenue and what the mill rate could be set at after a budget passes. There will almost definitely be a supplemental tax bill in January reflecting the loss in State Revenue.

A motion was made by Mr. Hintz, seconded by Ms. Engel, to approve the Town and Board of Education budgets with total expenditures of \$44,260,719 to be sent to the taxpayers. Voted (6-1) Mr. Philhower against.

Set Town Meeting (6/5) and Referendum Date (6/13)

A motion was made by Mr. Hintz, seconded by Ms. Engel, to set the Town Meeting date of June 5th and the Referendum date of June 13th. Voted (7-0)

Update on Middle Haddam School

Mr. Hintz reported that he and Mr. Reich met with the Middle Haddam Association and the State Preservation group regarding the Middle Haddam School building. The Association recommends the Town look into becoming a Certified Local Government. That could assist property owners in getting grants for historic property. The Association is hoping to be able to come up with approximately \$15,000 - \$18,000 to pay for the upkeep, mortgage and insurance for one year as the town decides if they are interested in the property for town use. Mr. Reich read a letter from Friar Associates from 2006 indicating at that time they could not find a suitable use group that would benefit being located there. The remote location, rural character of the neighborhood and size of the building and site

suggest that the property be sold to a specialized user group or private developer. No action was taken.

Town Hall/Police Department Facilities Programming

The Town Council was provided an order of magnitude programming review completed by Amenta Emma Architects and recommended by the Town Facilities Building Committee. Glenn Gollenberg, Chairman of the Town Facilities Building Committee, reviewed the programming which showed the base costs and the cost for the add-on programs of the Board of Education, Chatham Health and Probate Court. The Committee is looking to the Council for guidance to determine the complete program so the architects and the committee can move forward with the pre-referendum design and pricing.

A motion was made by Ms. Engel, seconded by Mr. Hintz, to direct the Building Committee to proceed with the inclusion of the Board of Education in the Town Hall/Police Department project. Motion rescinded.

A motion was made by Ms. Engel, seconded by Mr. Piteo, to direct the Building Committee to include the Town Hall and Police Department only in the new facilities programming. Voted (5-2) Mr. Hintz and Mr. Philhower against.

Update on 250th Anniversary

Mr. Piteo provided an update on the 250th Anniversary plans including the birthday cards that are at various locations in town for residents to sign and the Old Home Day parade where the public is invited to dress as characters from East Hampton's past.

New Business

Set Public Hearing for Epoch Arts Neighborhood Assistance Act Project

Epoch Arts is planning to apply for the Neighborhood Assistance Tax Credit program and apply for \$150,000. Their plan is to use the funds for energy efficiency upgrades in their building. The goal is to create Maker Space where entrepreneurs can attempt to get their business ideas and experiments off the ground. In order to apply for this program Epoch Arts needs the approval of the Town Council after a public hearing is held and for the Town Manager to appoint a municipal agent. Council members had additional questions on the program. This item will be included on the next agenda.

Town Manager Report

State Revenue Projections/Legislative Update

With the release of the Governor's second budget, revenues to the Towns as well as multiple other agencies have been recommended for further reduction. A document showing all the state aid to or on behalf of local governments was provided and will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Tax Increment Financing

Documents were provided to Council members regarding Tax Increment Financing districts. The documents will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Update on Fracking Waste Ordinance

A revised draft ordinance will be provided to Council members at the next meeting.

Update on Christopher Brook

The paving is complete and stonework is being completed. The plaque should be in place in time for the dedication.

Ordinance Recommendation from Board of Finance

The Board of Finance made a recommendation to the Town Council to consider ordinances to allow the Tax Collector discretion in waiving small dollar amounts either owed to the Town to a resident. Draft ordinances from other towns were provided as examples.

Update on Open Positions/Hiring Freeze

The final candidate for the Assessor position is in the final stages of hiring.

With the release of the Governor's budget a hiring freeze had been put in place in February for all positions in the town that are funded through the annual operating budget. Recently there were some positions that were vacated due to resignations that are essential for the continued delivery of service to residents. These positions, the Assistant Tax Collector and a part time employee at the Library, will be filled. Outside of these positions the hiring freeze will remain in place for a position at Public Works and a part time position in the Building Department.

DOT Milling of Route 16

A press release was provided from the State Department of Transportation regarding the milling and paving of Route 16 from Colchester through East Hampton in June and July.

Also catch basin cleaning will be done on June 19th.

The Town Manager's evaluation will begin at a special meeting on May 30th.

Appointments

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Hintz, to make the following appointments:

Reappoint Kate Morris to the Chatham Health District Board through March, 2020

Appoint Richard Sheehan to the Housing Authority through December 31, 2021

Appoint Melinda Jones to the Library Board through December 31, 2019

Voted (7-0)

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Hintz, seconded by Ms. Engel, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1,022.28. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Donna Goodspeed, Long Crossing Road, commented on the budget and asked for a copy of the Amenta Emma programming document.

Ted Barber, 50 Mott Hill Road, asked why solar is not placed on the school buildings. The Council responded that an evaluation of the buildings was done and it was not feasible to do solar on the schools. The only school that would have been possible was Memorial but placing solar on their new roof would have invalidated the warranty.

George Pfaffenbach, Hyde Farm Terrace, commented that the decision to eliminate the Board of Education from the new Town Hall/Police Department is a mistake.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

April Board and Commission Summary

The April Board and Commission Summary was provided to Council members.

The Memorial Day Parade is Monday, May 29th at 9am beginning at the High School.

A resignation letter was received from Ken Barber from the Board of Education.

Executive Session

Strategy & Negotiation Regarding Collective Bargaining

A motion was made by Ms. Engel, seconded by Mr. Hintz, to enter Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss strategy and negotiations regarding collective bargaining with an invitation to Town Manager Michael Maniscalco and Police Chief Sean Cox. Voted (7-0)

Executive Session ended at 9:15 p.m.

Possible Action on Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for Officer Hardie Burgin related to Worker's Compensation. Voted (7-0)

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Ms. Engel, to adjourn the meeting at 9:16p.m. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk