

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 26, 2017
Town Hall Meeting Room

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 Town Hall Meeting Room.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Engel, seconded by Mr. Brown, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voted (7-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Brown, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of September 12, 2017 as written. Voted (7-0)

Presentations

Commission on Aging Presentation of Survey Results

Ann McLaughlin, Chairperson for the Commission on Aging, introduced the Commission on Aging members that were in attendance; Robert Atherton, Sue Greeno, Mary Jo Shafer and Deborah McDonald, as well as Senior Center Director JoAnn Ewing. She provided an overview of the many town groups they have worked with and the many projects they have accomplished through the year.

Deborah McDonald reviewed the PowerPoint presentation results of the survey and answered questions from Council members. The presentation document will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's office.

Public Remarks

Karen Johansmeyer, 16 Penny Corner Lane, Portland, thanked the older citizens that kept the corps going. She read a poem "Ancient Muster is a Gathering Thing".

Shawn Piercey, 483 Moodus Road, asked if it is known how much municipal aid will be cut by the State.

Bids & Contracts

None

Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations

Resolution for Sole Source Exemption for Northeast Aquatic

The Conservation-Lake Commission would like to re-contract with Northeast Aquatic to do lake water quality testing and data evaluation for the coming year. In order to do that without bidding they are looking for the Town Council to approve the purchase of services under the Sole Source Exemption Section 4(a) of the Purchasing Ordinance. A resolution was provided by the Conservation-Lake Commission. The following was included in the resolution: *Dr. Knoecklien is one of a very few lake limnologists' in the state. He has vast experience work on and near Lake Pocotopaug over the past years. To replace him would cause a huge setback to the town both in start-up time for a new limnologist to get up to speed and financially to recreate and verify current data that has already been provided to the Town. We see the need for Dr. Knoecklien's services to the Town to be continuous year after year into the foreseeable future, until the Lake Commission feels it is not necessary to continue with NEAR services. This will create continuity with the Lake assessment and clean-up program currently underway.*

The Council members noted their concern that this is an open-ended contract. They would like to see the scope and the cost for the services before approving a sole source exemption or in determining whether this contract should go out to bid. This item will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Continued Business

Update on 250th Anniversary

Mr. Piteo provided an overview of the upcoming events for the 250th Anniversary including Trivia Night on October 2nd, the Fall Festival on October 7th and the Gala on November 5th.

New Business

Discussion of Board of Finance Resignation

The Republican Town Committee provided a letter recommending Layne (Bridget) McLellan to fill the open position on the Board of Finance, vacated by Steve Richie who resigned.

A motion was made by Ms. Engel, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to add an item to the agenda under Appointments for Discussion and Possible Appointment to Board of Finance. Voted (7-0)

Town Manager Report

State Revenue Projections

The Legislature has passed a budget proposal that was put forward by the Republican party. While the plan garnered bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, the Governor has said he will veto it. That is expected to happen in the next couple of weeks. In the event he does veto the budget the legislature has the ability to override his veto.

Unfortunately, there is no answer for the question from Public Remarks about funding. There is no plan at this time for a supplemental tax bill. Mr. Maniscalco provided an overview of the things that have been done at this time to conserve funding until a budget

is in place such as a freeze on capital spending and a hiring freeze. It was recommended that he put in writing the steps the town is taking to conserve funding and share it with the Board of Education to see what they could possible do as well.

Update on Tax Sale

Town staff have had a number of meetings with individuals whose names are on the list. In a couple of instances there has been movement toward making payments.

Update on Line Striping

Department of Public Works staff have been working with a private contractor to stripe roads in Town.

Update on Polling Location

With the completion of the High School, the Registrars have expressed their desire to move the referendum back to the High School. The Board of Education has been very helpful in this process and should be recognized.

Update on 1 Watrous Street

The Town was finally able to get a dumpster dropped off on location. Prior to the dumpster being dropped off approximately 6 vehicles were removed from the interior of the building and a couple of larger vehicles were removed from the exterior. Once the building is cleaned out it would be recommended to release an RFP for reuse so that the Town can get the property back on the tax rolls.

Update on Permit Turnaround Time

A report was provided to Council members from the Building, Planning, Zoning department outlining the permit turnaround time. This document will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's office.

Credentialed Manager Candidate

Mr. Maniscalco informed the Council that he was recently announced as a candidate for Credentialed Manager status. In order to gain this designation there are educational and experience requirements. Additionally, a skills assessment was required and a continued learning plan developed. There are only 13 credentialed managers in the State of CT.

Mr. Hintz asked if there was any truth to the rumor that proceeds from the sale of the current Town Hall building would go to the Middle Haddam school or the lake. Mr. Maniscalco noted there were no plans from the Council as of yet.

Appointments

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Hintz, to reappoint Ann McLaughlin to the Commission on Aging with a term through December 31, 2020; to move Angelus Tammaro from an Alternate to a Full member on the Planning and Zoning Commission with a term through December 31, 2020; and to reappoint Scott Hill to the Design Review Board with a term through June 30, 2019. Voted (7-0)

Discussion and Possible Appointment to Board of Finance

A motion was made by Ms. Engel, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to appoint Layne McLellan to the Board of Finance to replace Steve Ritchie, who resigned, to complete his term through November, 2019.

Tax Refunds

None

Public Remarks

None

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

A thank you card was received from the Old Home Day Committee for the Council's participation in Old Home Day.

A Save the Date letter was received from the Town of Portland for the ground breaking for the Portland Airline Trail.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Hintz, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk