

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 28, 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. Piteo, seconded by Ms. Engel, to adopt the agenda as amended with an addition to Continued Business - Update to the 250th Anniversary Committee and an addition to Presentations – Swearing in of New Police Officer. Voted (7-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Engel, seconded by Mr. Piteo, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Special Meeting of March 21, 2017 as written. Voted (7-0)

Presentations

Swearing in of New Police Officer

New police officer Timothy DeRoehn was sworn in by Assistant Town Clerk Bernice Bartlett. He was presented his badge by his father. Mr. DeRoehn, 23, of Bristol, CT will begin the Police Academy in April. He is a graduate of Central CT State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a double minor in Criminal Justice and Social Justice. Sgt. Brault and Office Burgin have worked tirelessly to get this position filled with a worthy candidate.

Public Remarks

Ron McCutcheon, Middle Haddam, shared photos of the Middle Haddam School and asked that the Town consider the building for adaptive re-use.

Barbara Angelico, 1 Schoolhouse Lane, shared a rendering of the Middle Haddam School and also urged the Council to consider an adaptive re-use of the building.

Margaret Faber, Schoolhouse Lane, provided another copy of a petition urging the town to acquire the Middle Haddam School and commented on the funding opportunities. The documents she provided will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Lois McCutcheon, Middle Haddam, spoke in support of the Town purchasing the Middle Haddam School.

Ben Hall, Lake Drive, commented on the proposed property for the Town Hall/Police Department including the cost, the road, pond and wetlands.

Jay Hansen, Town Historian, spoke in support of the Middle Haddam School.

Ted Barber, 50 Mott Hill Road, commented that he heard there is a 1st option to buy 124 East High Street but he owns that property.

Lisa Motto, Owners Project Manager for Town Hall/PD Project, clarified information on the Town Hall/Police department property noting that it is not on Mr. Barber's property. They do have an option to buy another property but hasn't purchased that property because that area was not ready for construction. The pond will be in the center of the project, the Town Hall would be to the right.

Ted Barber, 50 Mott Hill Road, commented on nine sailboats that don't belong to East Hampton that are at Sears Park.

Rowland Rux, 129 Wopowog Road, commented that he thought the Middle Haddam School had a great amount of structural damage. He said a study was done in the past with a former Facilities Manager.

Bids & Contracts

Community Center Energy Efficiency Lease

Mr. Maniscalco provided additional information to the Council on the Community Center energy efficiency lease. Council members had additional questions. This item will be placed on the next agenda.

Exemption for Single Source Supplier for Fire Department Purchase of Scott Packs

Town staff determined that Shipman's is the only firm authorized to sell Scott packs in Connecticut. Tyco, Scott's parent company, has created a single source supplier for Connecticut.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Piteo, to exempt bidding and award the purchase of Scott Packs to Shipman's. Voted (7-0)

Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations

None

Continued Business

Continued Discussion Regarding Exemption for Owner's Project Manager

Mr. Philhower noted his concerns that the RFP process wasn't followed as written. He has concerns that the agreement was voted on for Edgewater Hills LLC but it was signed with a different LLC name. He also asked about the change from a bid waiver to an exemption for single source provider. Mr. Hintz asked who knew of the change from a waiver to an exemption. He also commented on the costs for the Town Attorney and Robinson Cole. He asked for clarification on an item on the attorney bill related to the 8-24. Mr. Maniscalco noted that the discussion with the attorney was pertaining to when the 8-24 should be done in the process. There was also additional comments on the exemption, the LLC and the cost for the property.

Discussion Regarding Middle Haddam School

The Council members provided their thoughts on the Middle Haddam School property. Mr. Reich and Mr. Hintz will work with the Middle Haddam Association to review details on the property and what funding is available. This item will be added to a future meeting agenda.

Discussion of Meeting Location

Chairperson Anderson noted that concerns have been raised about the safety of residents attending Council meetings at the Town Hall with the lack of parking and having to cross the street. Some Council members would rather not use the T-Bell room due to the acoustics and the set-up of the room. There was also discussion of filming the meetings. The Superintendent said they would be able to assist with the filming/livestreaming of the meetings for a cost of \$175 per meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Piteo, seconded by Mr. Brown, to change future Town Council meeting locations to the Middle School Library, when available, with additional microphones and a new table set-up. Voted (5-2) Mr. Hintz and Mr. Philhower against.

Update on 250th Anniversary

Mr. Piteo provided an update on the 250th Anniversary. The week of April 3rd is Restaurant Week. A History of the Bars and Taverns of East Hampton will be held on April 3rd. The birthday/graffiti card will begin moving from school to school.

New Business

Discussion on Fracking Waste

Mr. Hintz commented that several neighboring towns are considering an ordinance prohibiting the storage, disposal or use of fracking waste in their towns. A presentation was given to the Rotary Club recently regarding this topic. A presentation will set up for the next Council meeting.

Town Manager Report

State Revenue Projections/Town Budget

Mr. Maniscalco reported that there has been very little information on the State revenues. There is an effort by COST to have the Courts say it is illegal for the State to pass along their debt to the Towns.

Update on Town Facilities Building Committee Meeting

The Town Facilities Building Committee is in the process of reviewing the RFP's for the architect firms. Four to five firms will be interviewed and a recommendation will be made to the Town Council.

Update from Town Attorney on Bid Waiver for Bus Contract

The bid waiver has been re-advertised and will be on the April 11th agenda. A memo was provided by the Town Attorney indicating that it was best to wait to re-advertise the bid waiver and vote at the next meeting.

Update on Open Positions

Police Officer

The Police Office has been hired and was sworn in at the beginning of the meeting.

Assessor

The Assessor has turned in his resignation letter. The job will be posted.

Appointments

None

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Ms. Engel, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$3,878.42. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Margaret Faber, Schoolhouse Lane, thanked the Council for considering the Middle Haddam School and working to discuss funding opportunities.

Mary Ann Dostaler, 56 William Drive, commented that it was prudent to consider the Middle Haddam school property but feels it needs to be dealt with in the budget. She also commented on appropriations that should have been budgeted.

Mary Lee, 56 Wopowog Road, commented on the cost of the High School renovations and asked where the funds for the Town Hall/Police Department will come from.

Ted Barber, 50 Mott Hill Road, commented on moving town facilities out of the center of town and buildings that could have been purchased. He also commented on town roads that don't have a good base and roads that aren't repaired properly.

Ben Hall, Lake Drive, asked why the High School was built the way it was done.

Karen Johansmeyer, Penny Corner Road, Portland, asked if the 250th anniversary time capsule was still being worked on.

Responses to Questions:

The Council responded to Mary Lee's question – the Town Hall/Police Department would be bonded with no state funding.

Mr. Philhower asked for a list of roads that were rebuilt for the next meeting.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

The Council was copied on a letter from the Board of Education to State Representative Melissa Ziobron in opposition to the legalization of marijuana in Connecticut.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Engel, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15.

Voted (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk