

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 24, 2017
East Hampton Town Hall Meeting Room

MINUTES

Present: Chairperson Patience Anderson, Council Members Pete Brown, Melissa Engel, Mark Philhower, Josh Piteo, Kevin Reich and Town Manager Michael Maniscalco

Not Present: Vice Chairperson Ted Hintz

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 Councilor Engel, seconded by Councilor Reich, to adopt the agenda. Voted (6-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilor Brown, seconded by Councilor Reich, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of January 10, 2017. Voted (6-0) in favor.

Presentations

Presentation of Citation and Flag from Congressman Courtney's Office:

Congressman Courtney's aide, Corey Giesemann, read the statement that the Congressman entered into Congressional record on January 24, 2017, recognizing the Town of East Hampton's 250th Anniversary. A copy of this will be filed with these minutes in the Town Clerk's office. He also presented the Council with a flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol along with a certificate certifying this to be so. Councilor Piteo asked Town Manager Maniscalco to write a thank you letter to Congressman Courtney.

Presentation of Proposed Survey from Commission on Aging:

Bob Atherton, Vice Chair of the Commission on Aging and members Deb McDonald, Sue Greeno and Joann Ewing presented a survey that the Commission would like to send out asking about services for seniors such as housing affordability and access, transportation, health care and more. The survey is revised with permission from the AARP 2015 Community Survey. It will be distributed at the Library, Senior Center, Stop & Shop, Town Hall and through the Rivereast. Chairperson Anderson stated that the Council will look at the survey and action will be taken at their next meeting.

Update from Water Development Task Force:

Mark Barmasse, Chair of the Water Development Task Force, stated that an RFP had been issued for a water supply study. Five proposals were received, and from that three firms have been

short listed for a request for detailed proposals. They expect to receive the proposals and review them at their March 9 regular meeting. The Council thanked Mr. Barmasse and the other Task Force members and look forward to hearing more from them in April.

Public Remarks

Mary Ann Dostaler, 56 William Drive, asked the Council to move their meetings to a location with adequate parking, especially as it is dark early and it is raining. The TBell at the high school is available. She had to park across the street, and it is not safe.

Joanne Barmasse, 6 Tiffany Court, agreed with Ms. Dostaler and asked why not use the TBell area of the high school?

Bids & Contracts

Award Contract for Consultant for Small Cities Grant

A motion was made by Councilor Reich, seconded by Councilor Engel, to award the contract for consultant for the Small Cities Grant to L. Wagner Associates. Voted (6-0).

Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations:

Resolution for Center School Boiler Project Appropriation

A resolution was unanimously recommended by the Board of Finance to transfer funds of \$91,000 to design and engineer a new heating system for Center School. Don Harwood was present to discuss and clarify the resolution and associated costs. The Council and Mr. Harwood discussed other possible options, as they were opposed to spending \$91,000 on engineering and design costs alone, though the Council did agree the boiler needs replacing. The discussion centered on having a contractor that can present a design-build option, meaning that the engineering and design costs would be built into the total costs associated with replacing the boiler and that the same contractor would design, engineer and perform the actual work. Spending an estimated \$30,000 now to fix and replace parts while the design-build option is explored was discussed; particularly as the boiler would most likely not be able to be replaced until the summer of 2018. Finance Director Jylkka and Town Manager Maniscalco will work on a mechanism to obtain the \$30,000 for repairs but the design-build option will have to go before the Board of Finance.

A motion was made by Councilor Engel, seconded by Councilor Philhower, to table this recommendation from the Board of Finance until the next meeting. Voted (6-0).

Discussion: Councilor Reich asked Mr. Harwood to get a firm figure for repair costs. Mr. Harwood stated that the \$30,000 estimate was a good one as he was basing it on known parts costs, the only wild card is the labor cost.

Resolution for Fuel Station Construction and Underground Fuel Storage Tank Removal Project Appropriation and Set Town Meeting Date

As of June 1, 2018 the current fuel island needs to be shut down and the tanks need to be removed per the State. If the Town is non-compliant, town vehicles

will have to be fueled at a local gas station. A new fuel station will be constructed at Gildersleeve Drive. The estimated cost is \$475,000, with hope of return to the town. Councilors asked if it was possible to obtain extensions from the State and if there was a state fund for tank removal, to which Mr. Maniscalco replied that the town is not eligible for an extension due to the location and age, and that there used to be a fund, but the town did not act in time to use it.

A motion was made by Councilor Reich, seconded by Councilor Philhower, to approve the resolution for the Fuel Station Construction and Underground Fuel Storage Tank Removal Project, and to set a Town Meeting regarding the resolution for February 6, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. at the Middle School Media Center. Voted (6-0)

Resolution for Jim Morris Memorial Bridge

Chairperson Anderson read the resolution for the John “Jim” Morris Memorial Bridge. Kate Morris and family were present and thanked the Council. She stated that Mr. Morris was happy in East Hampton and was determined to do all he could for the town. Mr. Maniscalco noted that a ceremony will occur when the bridge is named, and a plaque will be affixed.

Continued Business

Update on 250th Anniversary

Councilor Piteo noted that a 3 minute music video of the Town is now up on www.eh250.org. Baseball hats are now available for sale, along with other memorabilia at the site under the merchandise tab. Banners for the Village Center will be going up soon in accordance with the weather. A fundraising workshop will be held by the Committee on January 30th and the next regular Committee meeting is February 2nd. The time capsule will be put into place at the High School in September. More businesses and groups are linking their sites to the 250th site as well.

Appointment to Open Position on Committee: Councilor Piteo moved to appoint Melissa Pionzio to the 250th Anniversary Committee. Second by Councilor Philhower. Voted (6-0)

Update on Chatham Health District Budget

Don Mitchell, Director of the Chatham Health District, was present to discuss their proposed budget. He highlighted changes. There was then a discussion regarding possible combining of health districts in the State, in which Mr. Mitchell answered Councilor’s questions. Mr. Maniscalco stated that at the Council of Small Towns meeting, it was made clear to the legislative panel that the towns were not in favor of this regionalization.

Discussion and Possible Action on Waiver/Reimbursement of Building & Zoning Fees to Secure a Water Source

Mr. Maniscalco pointed out the section added to the letter in red, and the radius for wells and sewer lines was discussed.

A motion was made by Councilor Engel to approve the letter, with the intent to send it and get a conversation started. Second by Councilor Philhower. Voted (6-0).

Discussion: It was asked if the Council was agreeing to this so that the plan can be reconfigured, to which Mr. Maniscalco replied in the affirmative. Councilor Reich asked if the recipient was aware, and Mr. Maniscalco stated that there have been preliminary conversations about moving the lines.

New Business

Memorandum of Understanding for Clean Energy Communities Program

The Town is eligible for a reimbursement of \$13,500 which will be used to put solar lights on multiple flagpoles in town. This is funded through a grant. Mr. Maniscalco will ask the Council to approve the memorandum at the next meeting for signature.

Town Manager Report

State Revenue Projections

Mr. Maniscalco asked the Council to keep in mind that if the State government is not able to secure union concessions and identify additional revenue municipal aid is slated to be cut by 75% (as the worst case scenario). Governor Malloy will make his budget presentation the 8th or 9th of February. Discussion occurred with the Council noting that the State budget calendar does not work for the Town.

Update on Sports on 66 Tax Abatement

Town staff have been working with Mr. Cutler to set up a date to meet with him about his tax abatement, but it has not yet been scheduled. Mr. Maniscalco also noted that Mr. Rand has gone beyond his allotted tax abatement time at 205 West High St., and the town will work to put together a proposal for an extension or some other solution.

Police Department Flooring Replacement

Because of a sewage back up/flood, sections of the floor in the PD have been ripped out. To replace, administrative operations will have to cease for about a week; this includes review of pistol permits and fingerprinting services. Operations will be moving from the building to an RV provided by the State that is outfitted with a jail cell, breathalyzer, etc., so PD operations can continue during the flooring replacement.

Update on Open Positions

Police Officer: This position has been re-opened

Library Director: They are down to final candidates for this position and hope to announce a finalist in the next two weeks.

Prevention Coordinator: An offer has been made and accepted by the final candidate.

Other

Due to the rain, there has been flooding in the PD. Thankfully there is no floor now, but the roof is like Swiss cheese. This is causing significant problems.

The town is six months out from having to figure out the lease on the Town Hall annex building. They may have to negotiate on other properties depending on what is happening with a possible new building. There was discussion on terms and a timeline. Councilors Philhower and Engel request an RFP for this as they feel the town pays too much for that space.

Appointments

A motion was made by Councilor Philhower, seconded by Councilor Engel, to appoint Linda Nadeau to the Housing Authority as tenant commissioner, with a term expiring 12/31/19 and to appoint Edwin Yocher to the Arts & Cultural Commission with a term expiring 12/31/18. Voted (6-0).

A motion was made by Councilor Philhower, seconded by Councilor Engel, to reappoint Mindy Maynard to the Arts & Cultural Commission. Voted (6-0)

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Councilor Brown and seconded by Councilor Reich to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$19.50. Voted (6-0)

Public Remarks None

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilor Engel and seconded by Councilor Brown to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti
Recording Secretary