

Town of East Hampton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 10, 2020  
Town Hall Meeting Room

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Pete Brown, Vice Chairman Dean Markham, Council Members Tim Feegel, Derek Johnson, Barbara Moore, Mark Philhower, and Kevin Reich and Town Manager David Cox.

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Brown 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. Moore, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to adopt the agenda as written. Voted (7-0).

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of February 25, 2020 as written. Voted (7-0).

**Public Remarks**

Ann McLaughlin asked the council to consider having the name leading to the new Town Hall named McKinney Road to commemorate Robert ‘Red’ McKinney.

Amy Moroca, Meeks Point Road, asked if she could send the members information on the new 5G wireless roll out. There have been lots of health concerns pertaining to 5G wireless. The information will be sent to the Town Manager to pass along to the council members.

Judy Isele, Wangonk Trail, asked the council members to take the aeration system into consideration.

**Presentations**

**Update on Seniors Meals**

Joann Ewing, Senior Services Coordinator, presented to the council members. The meals are served on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are 36 people served between the two days. With the positive advertising of the program more people are showing up. The program is looking to gain a nutritionist and administrative assistants to help the program move forward. The program would have to shut down during the summer to hire someone to re-organize the program. The program needs to have a certain amount of meals provided to the people. The proposed budget is for 3 days and a café manager. The grant will provide the rest of the money for 2 days. This will increase the program to 5 days. CRT put caps on how many meals can be served. Some people couldn’t get a meal because there weren’t enough, this lost attendance for the program. The Meals on Wheels program is being discussed to gain more help. Planning to implement a 5-day meal delivery. The next fiscal year budget will include the funds to serve meals for 5 days.

### **Building Department Update**

Glen LeConche, Building Official, presented the updates on the Building Department to the council members. The current status of trending permits has increased 34% in activity from 2015. The state made code changes in 2008 and again in 2018. These changes made it difficult for permitting and training to give permits. A spreadsheet of the permits from January 1, 2020 to date has been provided to the members. The application process for obtaining permits should be revised to have a quick turned around. The permits should not be dating back one to two months. The permitting system needs to be reorganized and determine how to prioritize the permits and applicants.

### **Coronavirus Update**

The Town Manager, David Cox, gave an update on the coronavirus to the council members. Material will be used from the state and use information from the CDC. There will be a limit to the number of large occupancy gatherings. People coming into the Town Hall sick will be separated. There will be frequent cleaning of the more used, highly touched areas. The first responders and emergency personnel held a meeting about protocols for the coronavirus or potential coronavirus. In the Town Hall and other departments employees capable of working from home are encouraged to work from home. There was a meeting between the school officials and the Town Hall officials to figure out if activities will be canceled and which activities to have. The town wants to take a measured and appropriate response to the virus. Protecting the community and town from contracting the virus. The Governor declared a State of Emergency earlier in the day.

### **Bids & Contracts**

#### **Bid Award for Lake Aeration Project**

Everblue Lakes was the chosen bidder. This will be a lease plan with a 5-year contract, with an option to back out after 2 years. The first anticipated cost would be \$173,725 for the first year. The fiscal year for 2020 should fund the money from water quality line item. The project should offset the cost, so the taxpayer's money doesn't need to be used. The leftover money from the line items from the budget. Asking to use the funds from the sale of the existing Town Hall to fund the project.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to authorize the agreement with Everblue Lakes for inland treatments based on a lease plan to authorize the release of funds through the water quality infrastructure improvement account. Voted (7-0).

### **Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation**

#### **Resolution for Small Cities Grant for the Housing Authority**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to approve of all 3 resolutions for the Small Cities Grant for the Housing Authority. Voted (7-0).

#### **Resolution for Extension of Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services Prevention Grant Extension**

Sensors in the bathrooms to detect vaping were installed. Take Back Day to help remove unused prescription drugs in homes and community.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to recommend approval of the resolution for Extension of Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services Prevention Grant. Voted (7-0).

### **Continued Business**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Consideration Related to Authorization to Seek a Federal Drug Free Communities Grant**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to authorize the application for a Federal Drug Free Communities Grant. Voted (7-0).

#### **Action Related to Recognition for Robert “Red” McKinney at New Town Hall**

A plaque in recognition of Robert McKinney at the new Town Hall will be placed in the lobby.

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve of the recognition plaque in the new Town Hall lobby for Robert McKinney. Voted (7-0).

### **Town Manager Report**

A new cell tower was proposed to go up by the cemetery by Lake View Drive. The solar installation on Skinner Drive has been making progress. Updates to the Lake Pocotopaug zoning and zoning code changes have been made and placed into effect. The Parks & Rec and Conservation Lake Commission are working for additional grant funding. Projects are in finalizing and waiting for approvals. Youth and family services are working with schools for truancy and traumas caused by changing schools as students transition in their school years. The Town Hall project is a little behind schedule, but it's still on track to move in during Easter weekend. The opening ceremony will be held on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. The building will be open for viewing tours. The 1 Watrous project has completed its phase 1 and evaluation. For the phase 2 of the project; they're looking for contractors and hazardous materials removal.

### **Appointments**

None

### **Tax Refunds**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Markham, to approve of tax refunds in the amount of \$641.94. Voted (7-0).

### **Public Remarks**

Bob Hinman, informed the members that the school trips have been canceled over the coronavirus. Family and students are waiting to hear back whether they will be getting a refund.

Amy Ordonez, Main Street, stated that the superintendent of the school canceled the trips with the vendors. The Town of East Hampton has been a very reliable customer with the trip vendor. The families will have to wait to hear about their refund.

Judy Isele, Wangonk Trail, expressed her frustrations about dealing with the building department. The association she takes part in had a few blight problems they were trying to complete. It took the building department from December 2018 to March 2020 to complete one of the blight problems. The other blight issues have yet to be addressed or completed. Regulation 3.1 the watershed should be the focus not the waterfront. Contractors working in the watershed should become certified. There needs to be a program that educates people and contractors within the watershed area.

Ted Turner, Hog Hill Road, asked the members whether there was an update on water coming into town.

Donna Benito, West Street, asked the members where the two compressors for the aeration system will be placed. The members stated that it is anticipated to be on private property due to easements through the Town Hall. There is no specified location for the compressors.

Cat Egan of Friends of the Lake announced that the annual Clean the Lake Day is on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. The Old Home Day theme is 'Paint the Town Red' in honor of Robert McKinney.

Wes Jenks, Meeks Point, asked the members where the best location for the aeration compressors would be and the need for approval of the property owners. He also brought up the world litigating the roll out of 5G wireless. He asked whether town municipality has a say where the tower will go and how many will be installed. Mr. Jenks asked if there was more interest on the Christopher Brook property. He urged the Council to purchase the land.

### **Communications, Correspondence & Announcements**

The members received the February Board and Commission Summary in the provided packets.

### **Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to go into executive session at 8:27 p.m. Voted (7-0).

Executive Session ended at 8:32pm

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Ms. Moore, for the Town Manager to negotiate the purchase of the Christopher property including Christopher pond on Christopher Road. Voted (7-0)

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Katrina Aligata  
Recording Clerk