

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 22, 2019
Town Hall Meeting Room

MINUTES

Present: Chairperson Melissa Engel, Council Members Pete Brown, Tim Feegel, Dean Markham (arrived at 6:55pm), Josh Piteo and Kevin Reich and Town Manager Michael Maniscalco.

Not Present: Vice Chairman Mark Philhower

Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Engel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to adopt the agenda as written.
Voted (5-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of January 8, 2019 as written. Voted (5-0)

Presentations

None

Public Remarks

None

Bids & Contracts

None

Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations

Resolution for Appeal of Sewer Connection on Dogwood Drive

Mr. Maniscalco explained that the homeowner at 18 Dogwood Drive requested the WPCA take over a small private sewer system on two homes with 18 Dogwood being added. The WPCA had concern about setting a precedent and did not approve the request. Per the Town Attorney, as the Town Council is the appointing authority, the appeal of this decision could go to Town Council. The attorney also had some concerns related to the WPCA not accepting sewers because of a concern about setting a precedent when the WPCA's job is to accept sewers. Mr. Maniscalco also noted that Vincent Susco, the former Public Utilities Administrator, inspected and approved the small system. A letter from the owner of 18 Dogwood Drive will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's office.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to adopt the resolution presented to appeal the WPCA's decision on the sewer connection on Dogwood Drive. Voted (5-0)

Veteran's Tax Exemption Ordinance

A Public Hearing was held prior to the meeting with one comment in favor of the ordinance. The ordinance increases the benefit from \$10,000 to \$20,000 off of the assessed value of the low income veterans home. This is the maximum allowed by State Statute.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Brown, to adopt the ordinance presented for the Low Income Veterans Exemption from Property Taxes. Voted (5-0)

Continued Business

None

New Business

Public Library Fiber Internet Grant

Library Director Ellen Paul was present to provide an overview of the fiber internet grant. The informational document will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. The grant would provide funds to run fiber internet cable down Main Street and install it into the Library building. The fiber internet service would be provided by the CT Education Network (CEN). This service would increase the Library's service to at least 25mbps from the current 16mbps.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Brown, to waive the 2nd reading for this item. Voted (5-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Piteo, to authorize the Town Manager to sign the agreement for fiber internet service for the Public Library. Voted (5-0)

Town Manager Report

Appointment to Conservation-Lake Commission

Mr. Maniscalco appointed Eleanor Robinson as an alternate member of the Conservation-Lake Commission with a term through June 30, 2021.

Update on Water

A meeting was held on Friday, January 18th with DPH, MDC, Aquarion, CT Water, Town of Portland, Town of Hebron and Town of East Hampton. Mr. Maniscalco provided a letter, which will be included with the minutes. A meeting is scheduled for January 28th with CT Water and a 2nd meeting will be held with Aquarion in the next few weeks.

Update on RFP for Sale of Town Hall

A draft RFP to sell the Town Hall was provided to Council members. The attorney is working on Attachment B which will be included in the RFP. The Council agreed the RFP was set to be posted when the final attachment is prepared. The Town's Eversource representative also mentioned they would be bringing the information to their upper management again for consideration.

Building Department Survey Results

Approximately six months ago the Building Department implemented a satisfaction survey that was provided to every applicant for a building permit. The results from the survey were presented to the Council. The results will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Annual Report 2017-2018

By Charter, yearly the Town Manager is responsible to provide an annual report. The report was provided to Council members. Additionally, an electronic version will be posted on the Town website and a hard copy will be housed at the library.

COG Legislative Agenda

With the State legislative session starting, many organizations are compiling their legislative agenda. The Council was provided the proposed COG Legislative Agenda. It will be made final on Wednesday. If the Council has any thoughts or comments Mr. Maniscalco would be happy to bring them forward at the meeting.

COST Legislative Agenda

The Council was provided the approved final legislative agenda for the Council of Small Towns.

Update on Town Hall/PD/BOE Project

Construction is moving along just about on schedule. The final sections of the foundation are being poured and water proofing and backfilling will continue through the next week. Additionally, utility infrastructure has started to go in including: stormwater systems; sewer, natural gas, water and electrical. Steel is currently in fabrication off-site and is planned to be on site for implementation on February 19, 2019.

Back Tax Collection

Due to the late budget approval and mill rate approval, the collection of back taxes is trending off mark. There are plans for another tax sale to attempt to make up the difference.

Sewer Leak – Old Marlborough Road

A temporary pipe installation is being completed until a permanent fix can be made.

Ms. Engel asked if Dr. George came to the look at the Town Hall project site at the time of the silt runoff issues. Mr. Maniscalco noted that he did not. He also didn't believe he was there to do water testing on Sunday during the sewer line issue.

Appointments

A motion was made by Mr. Feegel, seconded by Mr. Piteo, to appoint the following:

- Denise Carnahan to the Design Review Board with a term ending June 30, 2020
- Eric Rosenberg to the Commission on Aging with a term ending December 31, 2021
- Melvin Carnahan to the Arts & Culture Commission with a term ending December 31, 2021
- Mark Laraia to the Ethics Commission with a term ending April 30, 2022

Voted (6-0)

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$13,697.52. Voted (6-0)

Public Remarks

Nick Piscatelli, Portage Trail, commented on environmental initiatives that would prohibit the distribution of plastic bags in town. He would like to do a presentation at a future Council meeting.

Dennis Jenks, 33 Meeks Point, commented that he wasn't happy with the information discussed at the last meeting and reported in the paper regarding his property. He provided information regarding his property/home. He feels Dr. George has good solutions. He commented that Baker Hill next to the new Town Hall property was an issue when being built.

Wes Jenks, 45 Meeks Point, apologized if any of his comments offended anyone. He said he wasn't vocal enough regarding the Town Hall project location. He handed out a packet of information from Dr. George. He noted all projects should strive for zero runoff on all properties.

Joe Carbonell, member of the Conservation-Lake Commission, asked how much sewage leaked on Sunday. He also noted that the Conservation-Lake Commission will be looking for the Council to approve a copper sulfate treatment. He also provided information on a Friends of the Lake workshop on February 10th.

Mr. Markham had questions on items that were complete before he arrived: He confirmed that the fiber is able to be run down Main Street to the Library and also asked if the RFP for the Town Hall sale should include other town properties? Mr. Maniscalco noted that the grant for fiber will include the fiber being run to the Library building and that 1 Watrous would not be included in the RFP as they are attempting to do a Phase I and II assessment on that property first. Mr. Markham also noted that for full disclosure the RFP should indicate that the Town Hall water is not potable. That information will be added to the RFP.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

Tri-Board Meeting

A Tri-Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 28th at 6:00pm in the High School T-Bell.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Brown, to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Voted (6-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk