

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 26, 2019
East Hampton Town Hall

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Vice Chairman Mark Philhower, Council Members Josh Piteo, Tim Feegel, Pete Brown and Dean Markham, and Town Manager Michael Maniscalco

Not Present: Chairwoman Melissa Engel & Council Member Kevin Reich

Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chairperson Philhower called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Councilor Piteo, seconded by Councilor Brown, to adopt the agenda. Voted (5-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilor Piteo, seconded by Councilor Feegel, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting & Public Hearing of January 22, 2018. Voted (5-0).

Presentations

Senator Norm Needleman

Senator Needleman was unable to attend the meeting.

Bring Your Own Bag Initiative – Nicholas Piscatelli

Mr. Piscatelli requested that the Council adopt an ordinance to eliminate single-use plastic bags in East Hampton and hold a public hearing on the issue. He has had discussions with businesses, such as Paul's & Sandy's and The Lucky Goat, who support the idea. He has support from residents as well, and to date over 450 people have signed an online petition. 11,000 single use plastic bags are used in E. Hampton every day. Proposed legislation at the State level was discussed. Mr. Piscatelli feels that even if State legislation passes, our town should adopt an ordinance to be an environmentally friendly leader. He also noted that State legislation may not pass, and if it does it would end up being a phased levy on plastic bag use, not a ban.

Public Remarks

None

Bids & Contracts

Bid Award Library Roof

Councilor Piteo moved to award the bid to JJS Universal Construction in the amount of \$175,000. Second by Councilor Markham. Voted (5-0).

Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations

Approval of Resolutions for Fire Rescue/Pumper Fire Engine, Public Safety Radio System and Center School Heating System Improvement Appropriations/Set Town Meeting Date

Councilor Piteo moved to approve the resolutions for Fire Rescue/Pumper Fire Engine, Public Safety Radio System and Center School Heating System Improvement Appropriations and set the Town Meeting for March 11, 2019 at the High School Auditorium for 6:00 pm. Second by Councilor Brown. Voted (5-0).

Resolution for Conveyance of Wangonk Trail Extension

Councilor Piteo moved to accept the resolution to accept a portion of Wangonk Trail as a town road; seconded by Councilor Feegel. Voted (5-0).

Continued Business

None

New Business

Copper Sulfate Treatments for the Lake

Joe Carbonell of Mallard Cove, Vice Chairman of the Conservation-Lake Commission, stated that they are seeking a three-year permit that would allow copper sulfate treatments to the lake if necessary. Dr. Knoecklein of NEAR feels it is a safe treatment, and he has experience with using it successfully in other lakes such as Lower Bolton Lake. The Conservation-Lake Commission has voted to recommend this to the council. Mr. Carbonell answered questions from the council regarding the efficacy and safety of the treatment.

Councilor Markham moved to waive the second reading. This was seconded by Councilor Feegel. Voted (5-0).

Councilor Piteo moved to apply for a three-year permit for a copper sulfate treatment for the lake in the amount of \$1,240.00; second by Councilor Feegel. Voted (5-0).

Road Acceptance – Whispering Woods Subdivision

Councilor Piteo made a motion, seconded by Councilor Markham, to accept Whispering Woods Subdivision (to include Whispering Woods Road, Orchard View Lane and Town Line Drive) as town roads. Voted (5-0).

Discussion: This has been a long outstanding approval process to get the road accepted; it is advised that this developer's activity be scrutinized in the future, particularly pertaining to a possible bond increase.

Update & Discussion on TAP Funding

A federal TAP grant can be pursued for repairing and implementing drainage on Edgerton Road. The town may need to put up a match of about \$380,000 if the grant is approved. This was discussed, and the consensus among the council was that town staff should pursue the grant funding.

Set Public Hearing Date for Small Cities Grant

Councilor Markham moved to waive the second reading; second by Councilor Feegel. Voted (5-0).

Councilor Feegel moved to set the public hearing for March 26, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall. This was seconded by Councilor Piteo. Voted (5-0).

Town Manager Report**Update on Inserts for Tax Bills**

It will cost around \$3,000 to mail out the tax bill inserts. Vice Chair Philhower and Councilor Feegel asked why the information couldn't be printed on the bottom of the tax bills rather than making a separate mailing. Town Manager Maniscalco will look into this.

Building Department Seminar Series

The Building Department is holding a seminar at the Library on March 20 at 6:30 on how to hire a contractor.

Update on Tax Sale Plans

The criteria list of properties for the tax sale has been identified. The owners have until February 28 to pay or the information will be sent to the Attorney to start sale proceedings.

Update on RFP for Sale of Town Hall

The RFP is out, and an optional walkthrough was held but was not attended by any interested parties. Eversource is not interested at this time.

Update on Town Hall/PD Project

The foundation is poured, sewers in, gas and electric are in process, and the water easement is in. The steel will be up March 19th and things are running on schedule.

Update on Water

Town Manager Maniscalco will put together a letter to MDC, Aquarion, and Connecticut Water asking them to make their best offer. At this time Councilor Markham asked for a future update on the natural gas implementation.

Appointments

None

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Councilor Piteo and seconded by Councilor Brown to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$14,062.07. Voted (5-0)

Public Remarks

Karen Johannsmeyer, 16 Penny Corner Rd., Portland and member of the East Hampton Fife & Drum corps asked that the Fife & Drum be included in the

ceremony for when the new Town Hall/PD is completed. Vice Chairman Philhower asked her to bring this up again closer to that date.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

January 2019 Board and Commission Summary

Councilor Markham noted that in the summary it states that the Lake Commission members voted to write a letter regarding dam control. The consensus is that this is something that needs to be brought before the Council. Questions remain such as who is the letter going to and has it already been written or sent. Town Manager Maniscalco will look into this further.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councilor Piteo and seconded by Councilor Feegel to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza LoPresti
Recording Secretary