

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Adoption of Agenda:

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to add item 9C – Budget Calendar to the agenda. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to adopt the agenda as amended. Voted (7-0).

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of April 28, 2020 as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

None

Presentations

Route 66 Corridor Study Presentation

Sam Gold and Rob Haramut from the Lower CT River Valley Council of Governments and Chris Granatini from Tighe and Bond attended the meeting to provide an overview of the East Hampton/Portland Route 66 Corridor Study that studied long term improvements to the Route 66 Corridor in both communities. The documents and slide show will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Bids & Contracts

Bid Award for Lake Pocotopaug Watershed Improvements

The Conservation-Lake Commission has met and is recommending a contract for watershed improvements. Proposals were sought for eight watershed locations consisting of Sears Park, Wangonk South and North Beaches, Sears Place, Seven Hills, Skyline Estates, Mott Hill, Clark Hill and Hawthorne. Contractors were asked to identify a cost per site and the total cost of all sites was used to formulate the cost for the entire job. Butler Construction is the low bidder and is recommended in the amount of \$320,000. The funding for this project is \$182,000 in grant funds and \$138,000 from the Watershed Improvements line in the Capital Reserve Fund.

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to award the bid for Lake Pocotopaug Watershed Improvements to Butler Construction in the amount of \$320,000 as noted above for Lake Pocotopaug Watershed Improvements. Voted (7-0)

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation

Limited Duty Policy

The Limited Duty Policy outlines the availability of limited duty (light duty) assignments for Officers who are recuperating from injuries and are not able to return to normal duties due to lifting or endurance restrictions or other limitation but who are able to perform some police department related duties. The policy makes limited duty available at the Town's discretion, outlines eligibility for work and non-work-related injuries as well as the required information needed from the attending physician.

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve General Order 8.9 Light Duty as presented. Voted (7-0)

Continued Business

None

New Business

Discussion of Municipal Salaries

Mr. Philhower and Mr. Feegel requested the discussion of municipal salaries related to the 2021 budget. Mr. Philhower thanked Mr. Cox for removing his pay raise from the budget. Mr. Philhower and Mr. Feegel would like a pay freeze on all town and Board of Education employees, union and non-union. Mr. Cox noted there is no executive order on union agreements, but he indicated the unions are willing to discuss. Ms. Moore noted this should be discussed during budget deliberations. Mr. Cox was asked to reach out to the unions and the Board of Education/Superintendent.

Review of WPCA Water Budget

Scott Clayton, Public Utilities Administrator, was present to provide an overview of the WPCA Water Budget. There is no rate increase. In early June the WPCA will hold a public hearing then the budget will go back to the Town Council on June 9th for approval. The proposed budget will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Budget Calendar

Mr. Markham recommended a special budget calendar prior to the Town Council approving the budget.

- Special Meeting Workshop - Thursday, May 21st
- Regular Meeting – Tuesday, May 26th
- Possible Special Meeting – Tuesday, June 2nd
- Regular Meeting – Tuesday, June 9th

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Ms. Moore, to revise the budget calendar to include the meetings listed above. Voted (7-0)

Town Manager Report

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the Town Manager Report. He also reported that the Board of Finance approved the draft budget and it has been emailed to the Town Council and is available on the town website. He reported that as of today approximately 13% of the East Hampton workforce has filed initial unemployment claims. This is lower than the national average. East Hampton tends to run behind the State figures. The move to the new Town Hall occurred over the weekend and staff has begun working out of the new building as of Monday.

Mr. Feegel would like a report on building permits and CO's for each meeting. He also noted an issue regarding Public Works employees.

Mr. Johnson asked for clarification on the police officer position and if this position should be filled. Mr. Cox noted the ½ year position was approved in last year's budget.

Mr. Markham asked if there is a Certificate of Occupancy on the new Town Hall. Mr. Cox noted there is a Temporary CO due to code issues that are now resolved. Mr. Brown would like a list of the issues, when they arose and how they were addressed.

Appointments

None

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$459.24. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

None

Communications, Correspondence & Announcement

None

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk