

Town of East Hampton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, April 23, 2019  
Town Hall Meeting Room

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairperson Melissa Engel, Vice Chairman Mark Philhower, Council Members Pete Brown, Tim Feegel, Dean Markham, Josh Piteo and Kevin Reich and Town Manager Michael Maniscalco.

**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. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Reich to adopt the agenda as written. Voted (7-0)

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Special Meeting of April 4, 2019 as written. Voted (6-0-1) Mr. Philhower abstained.

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of April 9, 2019 as written. Voted (7-0)

**Presentations**

None

**Public Remarks**

Nick Piscatelli, 7 Portage Trail, commented that he would like the town to have a Bring Your Own Bag/Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance. Some other towns have adopted ordinances. He doesn't want to wait for the State to move on it. He would like to see a public hearing on the topic. Chair Engel said she will contact Nick to talk about the topic.

Dan Pellegrino, 6 Nutmeg Lane, supports Mr. Piscatelli's initiative. He asked if an ordinance would affect all businesses. The Council noted it would affect all businesses in town.

Richard Brown, 78 William Drive, comments that he supports reusable bags but noted that reusable bags have to be used over 10,000 times to make up for the manufacturing process.

June Simons, 23 Wildwood Lane, commented that she has seen more and more garbage on the sides of the road.

Amanda Pizzoferrto, 367 West High Street, Sleepy Rooster Café, commented that many of her customers do not want plastic bags for their orders.

Jarrett Debowsky, 27 Abbey Road, commented that Airline Cycles is moving away from using plastic bags. He supports Nick's initiative.

Elaine Pellegrino, 6 Nutmeg Lane, commented that once people start using reusable bags it becomes a habit.

Debby Field, 18 Oak Knoll Road, would like to see the budget put forth to the voters as presented by the Board of Finance.

George Coshow, Shipyard Road, commented on high taxes and fees and that the budget should be reduced. He would also like to see a No Tolls resolution.

Tania Sones, 17 Curry Lane, supports the current Board of Education budget. She said the education population is stable not decreasing like other towns. She asked about off budget appropriations.

Kim Piscatelli, 7 Portage Trail, is in favor of the bring your own bag initiative. She noted that 11,000 plastic bags are used/brought into town from stores every day. The town could be environment leaders if this initiative is put in place.

### **Bids & Contracts**

None

### **Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations**

None

### **Continued Business**

#### **201B West High Street Tax Abatement**

Mr. Philhower recused himself for this item.

Council members reviewed a draft amendment to the agreement for 201 West High Street drafted by the Town Attorney.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve the tax abatement agreement for Building 2 at 201 West High Street with a change in paragraph 4 to two years and the addition of construction costs. Voted (4-2) Ms. Engel, Mr. Feegel, Mr. Piteo and Mr. Brown in favor; Mr. Markham and Mr. Reich voted against.

Mr. Philhower rejoined the meeting.

### **New Business**

#### **Discussion & Possible Recommendation on the 2019-2020 Town Operations and Board of Education Budgets/Set Town Meeting & Referendum Dates**

Council members provided their thoughts on the Town and Board of Education budgets submitted by the Board of Finance.

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Piteo, to waive the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on this item. Voted (4-3). Ms. Engel, Mr. Philhower, Mr. Feegel and Mr. Piteo in favor; Mr. Brown, Mr. Markham and Mr. Reich against.

A motion was made by Mr. Piteo, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to accept the Board of Finance's recommended budget with the following amendments:

- The removal of \$300,000 from the Board of Education Technology Capital budget
- The removal of \$52,560 for salary and benefits for the mid-year police officer position
- The removal of \$50,000 from the Fire Department sinking fund in the Capital budget
- The removal of \$40,000 from the Department of Public Works sinking fund in the Capital budget

For a total budget decrease of \$442,560 or an increase of 1.34 mills.

The above motion was amended by Mr. Piteo, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to allow the Board of Education to determine where to cut the \$300,000 in their Capital items.

Voted (4-3) Ms. Engel, Mr. Philhower, Mr. Feegel and Mr. Piteo in favor; Mr. Brown, Mr. Markham and Mr. Reich against.

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to set the Town Meeting date of Monday, May 13, 2019 and the Referendum date of Tuesday, May 21, 2019. Voted (4-3) Ms. Engel, Mr. Philhower, Mr. Feegel and Mr. Piteo in favor; Mr. Brown, Mr. Markham and Mr. Reich against.

### **Discussion of Questions on the Ballot**

Council members discussed whether the Too High/Too Low/Just Right questions should be included on the referendum ballot. By consensus it was agreed to have the questions on the ballot.

### **Reverse 911 – Joe Carbonell**

Joe Carbonell of the Friends of the Lake and the Conservation-Lake Commission requested that high levels of algae in the lake in the summer be considered an emergency and be added to the Emergency Alert System policy as an acceptable use of the system. Mr. Maniscalco noted that Mr. Carbonell should speak with the Chatham Health District as they have access to the emergency alert system. They also are the agency that receives the notification from the laboratory of the algae level.

### **Town Manager Report**

#### **Update on Library Roof Project**

The Town signed the agreement and work has begun on the Library roof. Due to safety concerns the back parking lot will need to be closed during construction.

#### **Update on Town Hall/PD/BOE Project**

All of the concrete is poured for the Police department and all of the steel on the main portions of the building are complete.

#### **Update on Water/MDC Letter**

The Town received a letter from MDC regarding their inability to respond to our request for proposal. The letter will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's office.

#### **Update on Public Works Director Search**

The position posting has closed and the Town received 31 applications. The top 8 qualified applicants will be interviewed on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The panel will narrow the applicants down to the top 2-3.

## **Other**

Employee harassment training started today.

The Neighborhood Assistance Act application process is now open and the Town Council will need to hold a public hearing in June to allow input on the applications. The Council will then vote to send the applications to the State.

## **Appointments**

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Reich, to appoint Kara Pedersen as a full member of the Middle Haddam Historic District Commission with a term through December 31, 2023 and to reappoint Gary Aubin to the Northern Middlesex County Cable TV Advisory Council with a term through June 30, 2021. Voted (7-0)

## **Tax Refunds**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$5,155.73. Voted (7-0)

## **Public Remarks**

Ted Turner, 223 Hog Hill Road, confirmed that the Council is not waiting one week to approve the budget. This information is correct.

Tania Sones, 17 Curry Lane, confirmed that \$300,000 was removed from Board of Education capital and that the \$151,000 for teacher pensions is in the town budget. This information is correct.

Karen Johansmeyer, Penny Corner Road, Portland, commented that a fife and drum corps muster would bring business to town.

Ted Turner, 223 Hog Hill Road, commented on the possibility of multiple referendums. He was disappointed that the police officer position was cut.

## **Communications, Correspondence & Announcements**

The Council is invited to the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at noon in the Village Center Gazebo.

## **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Sirois  
Recording Clerk