

Town of East Hampton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 23, 2021  
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 Mr. Reich, 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 9, 2021 as written. Voted (7-0)

**Public Remarks**

Lori Wilcox, 4 Hawthorne Road, commented that she is against the use of 94 Main Street for the Board of Education. To help sell the new Town Hall it was proposed the 94 Main Street building would be sold, not repurposed.

Deborah Cunningham, 40 Daly Road, is concerned about the BOE building being repurposed and not being sold as was proposed when voting occurred for the new town hall.

**Presentations**

None

**Bids & Contracts**

None

**Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation**

**Discussion and Consideration of an Amended Police Department General Order for Drug Testing**

Police Chief Dennis Woessner provided an overview of the amended Police Department General Order 4.6 for Employee Drug Testing.

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve Police Department General Order 4.6 Employee Drug Testing, as presented. Voted (7-0)

**Resolution Regarding Acceptance of a Release of Reversionary Interest in the Town Owned Property at 366 West High Street**

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the resolution for the release of the reversionary interest in the property at the Cobalt fire station. This is Town property, but it came with a condition that if the Town stopped using it for a fire house or related use, the property would revert back to the original owner or heirs. Representatives of the original owner have reached out to the Town and offered to remove the reversionary interest condition. The Council has the authority to accept the release.

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve the resolution regarding acceptance of a Release of Reversionary Interest in the Town Owned Property at 366 West High Street. Voted (7-0)

### **Continued Business**

#### **Consideration of a Motion to Appropriate a Portion of the Coronavirus Relief Funds to the Chatham Health District**

The Board of Finance reviewed the request by the Chatham Health District for a portion of the Town's Coronavirus Relief grant funds. The Board of Finance approved an allocation of \$19,368.20 as a one-time payment.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to appropriate \$19,368.20 to the Chatham Health District from unanticipated Coronavirus Relief Fund grant revenue as recommended by the Board of Finance. Voted (7-0)

### **New Business**

#### **Discussion and Possible Action Related to Use of 94 Main Street by the Board of Education**

The Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education presented a proposal to the Town Council to use the 94 Main Street building for the district's transition program and its IT Department. As a follow up to Public Remarks, it was noted there was no specific agreement when the new Town Hall was proposed that the building would be sold but it was also noted that any current use doesn't preclude a future sale. Superintendent Paul Smith noted the renovations to the building would not be major. The students using the building are between the ages of 18 and 22 and it is more of an internship program not classroom style.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve the use of 94 Main Street as outlined and approved by the Board of Education. Voted (6-1) Mr. Philhower against.

#### **Discussion and Possible Action on a Plan for 1 Watrous Street**

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the documents presented and proposed an RFP process. The RFP would receive concepts from those with an interest in the property, evaluation of future use and the potential financial relationship between the Town and the potential owner.

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Ms. Moore, to have the Town Manager prepare an RFP for the sale and development of 1 Watrous Street in consultation with a subcommittee of Council members including Mr. Johnson, Mr. Markham and Mr. Feegel. Voted (7-0)

### **Town Manager Report**

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the Town Manager's Report, which will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Mr. Cox also noted that the RFQ for the Conservation Lake Commission for the Lake Limnologist was inadvertently not brought to the Council for approval. The RFQ was recently provided to Council members for review. The final decision on the company will be brought to the Council for approval.

### **Appointments**

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to appoint Virginia Yenknier to the Brownfields Redevelopment Agency, Zachary Nelson to the Design Review Board, Eric Gibson to the Housing Authority and Kevin Reed as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Voted (7-0)

The Appointments Sub-Committee will be meeting on March 2 to interview the Conservation-Lake Commission members related to the change in appointing authority to the Town Council from the Town Manager. They will also meet again on March 9.

### **Tax Refunds**

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$7,083.08. Voted (7-0)

### **Public Remarks**

Andrew Simonow, 13 Aldens Crossing, commented that he was the individual that made an offer to purchase 1 Watrous Street. He loves the town and would like to be a partner with the Town on this property.

### **Communications, Correspondence & Announcement**

#### **January 2021 Board and Commission Summary**

Council members received the January 2021 Board and Commission Summary.

The Council recognized Melody Philhower, a paraeducator at Center School, as being named East Hampton's Paraeducator of the Year.

### **Executive Session**

#### **Town Manager Performance Evaluation**

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to enter Executive Session at 7:45pm with Town Manager David Cox invited into the session. Voted (7-0)

Executive Session ended at 8:15pm.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois  
Recording Clerk