

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 10, 2021
Town Hall Council Chambers and Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Pete Brown, Vice Chairman Dean Markham, Council Members Tim Feegel, Derek Johnson (via Zoom), 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. in the Town Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Ms. Moore, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voted (7-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of July 27, 2021 as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Donald Scranton, East Hampton Ambulance Chief, read a letter indicating the Ambulance Association is still interested in receiving funding from the American Rescue Plan from the Town. The letter will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Danielle Bissell, 16 Fernwood Drive, commented that masks in school should not be the go to safety measure. She spoke about speech and language needs relying on facial cues.

Tom Donnelly, Deputy Chief of the Ambulance Association, 15 Fernwood Drive, spoke about the difficulty to get and keep EMT's and volunteers for the ambulance and the need for American Rescue Plan funds for the Ambulance Association.

Vice Chairman Markham noted that the American Rescue Plan Sub-Committee will be meeting to discuss how the funds will be utilized. He also asked if salaries could be reimbursable from insurance. Mr. Donnelly noted they are not reimbursable. Mr. Philhower asked about regionalization. Mr. Scranton noted that the other towns are not interested in regionalization and a complaint was filed with the State when the Ambulance staff had a meeting regarding regionalization. Mr. Philhower also asked how much money the Ambulance Association currently has. Mr. Scranton indicated they have approximately \$700,000 to \$800,000 which they would need to use for a new ambulance and other equipment.

Sal Nucifora, 147 Colchester Avenue, asked that masks not be required for the school children. He would also like the Planning & Zoning Commission to re-open the Plan of Conservation and Development to add spot zoning to some areas in town.

Michael Buck, 15 Valli Drive, would not like the children to have to wear masks in school.

Amy Mrowka, 45 Meeks Point Road, spoke regarding unmasking the children for school and allow parents to make the choice. She discussed various studies on masking.

Christine Aloia, 82 Viola Drive, commented that she strongly opposes the mask mandate and asked that once the State mask mandate expires to let the parents decide if they want their child to wear a mask.

Presentations

Town Facilities Building Committee Presentation of Building Project Closeout

Town Facilities Building Committee Chairman Glenn Gollenberg provided a closeout report on the Town Hall/Police Department building project. The Town Facilities Building Committee was formed in February 2017 and the completed project was accepted and the building committee disbanded on July 22, 2021. Staff moved into the offices in May 2020. A total of \$42,710 remains from the project total. He thanked the members of the building committee for the amount of time and effort they put into the process of completing this project. He also thanked Stephen and Lisa Motto, the Owner's Program Managers, for an outstanding job on the project, providing a level of service above and beyond what you would normally see on such a project. The town was lucky to have completed this project before the escalation in the price of building materials.

Chairman Brown, on behalf of the Council, thanked the committee for the years of work they put in to see this project to completion.

Bids & Contracts

Contract for High School Athletic Facility Improvement Project

Kevin Fuselier of SLR Consulting provided an overview of the bid information received for the RFP. Four bids were received. Mountainview Landscape and Lawncare, Inc. was the low bidder and based on a scope review and experience with the company, SLR recommends Mountainview.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to award a contract to Mountainview Landscapes & Lawncare, Inc. of Chicopee, MA in the amount of \$1,094,750 for the High School Athletic Facility Improvement Project. Voted (7-0)

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation

None

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

None

New Business

None

Town Manager Report

Mr. Cox provided an overview of his written report which will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. He also noted that in March 2021, the Town Council conditionally approved the Skyline Estates roads based on the developer completing a punch list. The Public Works Director and Planning & Zoning Official did a final walkthrough of the roads and deemed

the punch list complete. The deeds will be recorded this week. The school can now run buses into the Skyline development.

The swim area at Sears Park was closed last Thursday. Two good consecutive observances need to be made prior to reopening.

The Town has had several bad weeks for COVID. Masks are encouraged in Town buildings but there will be no mandate for masks in private businesses.

Mr. Philhower asked about the water testing in the Village Center. Mr. Cox noted the DPH/DEEP initiated and paid for the testing. He also asked who repaired the Center School clock and how much did it cost. He asked about the TIF account for the Village Center and noted maybe those funds could be used to do repairs on the Center School stone wall. Mr. Jylkka noted there is approximately \$3,100 in the account.

Mr. Cox reported that the stone wall on Summit and Lakeview Streets is the town's responsibility. The wall just past the cemetery is going to be taken down and the lawn regraded. There are no plans to take down the wall near Center School and the church. Mr. Markham asked if there is anything in the deeds from the Bevin family requiring the stone wall to remain in perpetuity.

Mr. Feegel commented that he heard there is going to be a fence with razor wire put around 13 Summit Street. He does not want the razor wire in the Village Center area.

Appointments

None

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$94.72. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Update from Superintendent Paul Smith on the 2021-2022 School Year

Superintendent Paul Smith was not available due to another meeting, but Mr. Cox noted that per the Governor's Executive Orders still in place, masks will be required in schools until September 30th unless the order is lifted prior.

Kayla Commesso, 7 Sherry Drive, commented that she does not want masks in school or on the bus due to the heat and no air conditioning on the bus. She also spoke about the kids having anxiety.

Sal Nucifora, 147 Colchester Avenue, commented that he is disappointed that the kids will need to wear masks for school per the Governor's Order. He feels the Town has the authority to defy the Governor. He encouraged the Town Council to make a statement before school starts and threaten a lawsuit against masks.

Mr. Markham noted that he doesn't find the comments from the previous speaker well taken. He does not agree in engaging in litigation with the State of Connecticut on this matter. Mr. Philhower doesn't feel the masks are healthy. Mr. Johnson noted that the public officials are concerned about the health and safety of the children.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcement

July 2021 Board and Commission Summary

Council members received the July 2021 Board and Commission Summary.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm.

Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk