

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 14, 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 & Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Council asked for a moment of silence in honor of 9/11.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Reich, to adopt the agenda as presented. 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 August 10, 2021 as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Karen R. Johansmeyer, 16 Penny Corner Road, Portland, thanked the Council for having a moment of silence for 9/11.

Presentations

Board of Education Update on Start of 2021-2022 School Year

Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith provided an overview of the documents provided to the Town Council. The documents will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. He noted that athletics will have a full slate of games. Some restrictions were pulled back on band and chorus. They are trying to create as normal a school year as possible. There is no remote learning. About 38 students are being home schooled. There are no bus driver shortages at this point.

Clean Energy Task Force Presentation on Electric Car Show

Russ Kaplan and Paul Wisniewski of the Clean Energy Task Force were present to provide information on the East Hampton/Portland Electric Car Show being held on Saturday, September 25th from 12pm to 3pm at the East Hampton High School. They have 7 dealerships, 15 vehicle owners and 2 renewable energy vendors attending. This show coincides with the National Drive Electric Campaign. Mr. Kaplan thanked Dave Cox and his staff, Katrina Aligata, Parks & Rec staff, the High School principal and Andy Bauer from the Portland Clean Energy Task for all their help with the show.

Presentation on Long Range Road Maintenance Planning

Public Works Director Matt Walsh presented information on the Pavement Management Program that is being used to assist in the long-range road maintenance planning. The full documents will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Presentation on Police Camera Purchases

Police Chief Dennis Woessner presented information on the evaluation of the body worn and in car cameras for the Police Department. The full document will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. The Chief has chosen the company AXON to supply the cameras for a 5-year contract price of \$146,446.73. AXON is covered under a Sourcewell cooperative purchasing bid program. There is a 30% reimbursement available for the first-year costs.

Bids & Contracts

None

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation

Review & Set Public Hearing for an Ordinance Amending Article III of Chapter 130 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Board of Finance Term Limits

Mr. Cox noted that it was recently found that an individual who currently serves on the Board of Finance was planning to run for another term. It was determined that this person had been appointed to serve more than half of a vacant term and then was elected to a term of their own. The Code indicates the limitation to serve no more than two terms. The Town Attorney interpretation indicated this person should not be permitted to be a candidate. He felt the language is ambiguous and should be clarified. When the Board of Finance ordinance added language for term limits, language was added regarding the Board of Education indicating no member shall be ELECTED to no more than two consecutive terms. The Council discussed options for the ordinance and determined that the wording and term limits for both boards should be the same. A Public Hearing could be held, and the Council could vote on clarifying the language.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to set a Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 6:15pm to hear comments on Ordinance option B. Voted (7-0)

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

American Rescue Plan Sub-Committee held their first meeting. The Police and Ambulance staff provided information on their requests.

New Business

- a. Request for Support of Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) Grant Application from the Middlesex Land Trust

Tom Heidel, 39 Middle Haddam Road, representing the Middlesex Land Trust, noted that they are seeking a letter of support from the Town Council to support the Land Trust's efforts to receive a grant through the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition program to purchase property on the northwest side of East Hampton adjacent to State-owned lands.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Reich, to provide a letter of support to the Middlesex Land Trust in support of the grant. Voted (7-0)

- b. Review & Possible Approval of Board of Education Capital Transfer for Middle School Emergency Lighting & Lighted Exit Signs

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to approve the capital transfer from HVAC project 93228 to School Lighting 93070. Voted (7-0)

- c. Review & Possible Approval of Engineering Firm for Water System Evaluation & Design

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the proposals that were received through the RFQ. Through interviews and investigation of references, the sub-committee recommends Environmental Partners of Middletown.

A motion was made by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Reich, to contract with Environmental Partners of Middletown and authorize the subcommittee to develop a final scope of services and attempt to negotiate an appropriate fee for the first phase of work. Voted (7-0)

- d. Review & Possible Approval of Police Department General Order

- 1) General Order 3.1 Use of Force
- 2) General Order 3.2 Conducted Electrical Weapon
- 3) General Order 3.3 Use of Chemical Agents
- 4) General Order 3.4 Impact Weapons
- 5) General Order 3.5 Reporting & Investigating Force
- 6) General Order 5.23 Use of Body Worn and Dashboard Cameras

Police Chief Dennis Woessner provided an overview of the General Orders listed and answered questions regarding the Use of Force order.

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve General Orders 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5 and 5.23 as listed above. Voted (7-0)

- e. Review & Possible Approval of Public Works Job Descriptions

- 1) Crew Leader Building Maintenance
- 2) Chief Mechanic
- 3) Mechanic/Maintainer III
- 4) Mechanic's Aide/Maintainer II

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the job descriptions presented.

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Johnson, to table this item until the next meeting. Voted (4-3) Ms. Moore, Mr. Reich, Mr. Johnson and Mr. Philhower in favor; Mr. Brown, Mr. Markham and Mr. Feegel against.

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 reported that the Town Council and Planning & Zoning will hold a workshop on marijuana regulations on Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 6:30pm.

The Board of Education recognized Chief Woessner and the Police Department as Friends of Education at their meeting on September 13.

Jeff Jylkka and the Finance Department were again issued a Certificate of Achievement for Financial Reporting for FY 2020 by the GFOA.

Questions were asked of the Chief about the Narcan reporting statistics that were included in the Town Manager's Report.

Appointments

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Philhower to make the following appointments and reappointments:

Reappointment:

- Mark Barmasse, Mike Filanda and John Suprono - Water & Sewer Commission.

Appointment

- Patricia Calderone – Commission on Aging
- Darin Aloia – Clean Energy Task Force
- Jaime Krasnitski – Library Advisory Board
- Darlene Raffanello – Brownfields Redevelopment Agency
- Cheryl Lobo – Conservation-Lake Commission

Voted (7-0)

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$13,665.57. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

None

Communications, Correspondence & Announcement

August 2021 Board and Commission Summary

Council members received the August 2021 Board and Commission Summary.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Ms. Moore, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm.

Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk