

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 26, 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.

Adoption of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of October 12, 2021 as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Donald Scranton, East Hampton Ambulance Chief, read a letter into the record, which will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. It addressed COVID changes and issues and the Ambulance Association's request for an allocation of funds from the American Rescue Plan funds that are being given to the Town.

Presentations

Lake Presentation from Northeast Aquatic Research

Hilary Kenyon of Northeast Aquatic Research gave a presentation on the health of the lake. The season's monitoring activity and how that information compares to recent years were reviewed. Recommendations for future in-lake and watershed improvement projects were also reviewed. Two reports will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Presentation on the Village Center Plan

Christopher Roberts, Intern in the Land Use Department gave a presentation on the Village Center Plan that he developed with Planning & Zoning Official Jeremy DeCarli and with business and community input, which outlines current conditions and opportunities for enhancement in the Village Center area. The presentation document will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Bids & Contracts

Board of Education – Education Association Contract

Board of Education Chairman Chris Goff provided an overview of the process of completing the Board of Education – Education Association Contract. Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith

provided highlights of the new contract. The Council has three options related to the contract; vote to approve, take no action and the contract would be automatically approved in 30 days or vote to reject and it would go to arbitration.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Moore, to adopt the Board of Education – Education Association contract as presented. Voted (6-1) Mr. Philhower against. Mr. Philhower felt this item should be further reviewed for a second reading and placed on the next Council's first agenda.

Contract for Sears Park Boat Launch Replacement

The Council reviewed documents to award a contract to Butler Construction for the replacement of the boat launch at Sears Park.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve award of a contract for the Sears Park Boat Launch Replacement in the amount of \$99,870 to H.E. Butler Construction. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Ms. Moore, to appropriate \$20,000 from the Parks & Recreation Special Revenue Fund to pay for the shortage with future boat sticker fees being used to reimburse the fund until it is repaid with no interest. Voted (7-0)

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation

Proclamation for Eagle Scout

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to adopt the proclamation for Eagle Scout Jason Gardiner. Voted (7-0)

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Mr. Reich reported that the High School Athletic Fields Committee met, and the project is moving along according to schedule.

Mr. Markham reported that the American Rescue Plan Sub-Committee is obtaining additional information and clarifying the appropriate uses of the funds. They will defer any action until after the election.

Mr. Johnson reported that the Water Sub-Committee's contractor, Environmental Partners, is reviewing the project and working on developing a scope of service.

New Business

End of Year Budget Transfers for FY 202-2021

A motion was made by Mr. Markham, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve the end of year transfers in the amount of \$110,022 as presented. Voted (7-0)

Consideration of a Bid Waiver Request from the Board of Education for a 1-Year Extension of the Bus Contract

Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith reviewed a request from the Board of Education to approve a bid waiver for a 1-year extension of the bus contract. The 1-year agreement calls for a 4.85%

increase for standard bussing and a 6% increase in special education bussing. The request is being made due to the difficult situation surrounding bussing now and they would like the situation to settle. A notice would need to be posted in the newspaper notifying residents of the request for the bid waiver.

By consensus, the council agreed to publish a notice in the Rivereast regarding the bid waiver for a 1-year extension of the bus contract, which will be included on the November 9, 2021 agenda.

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. In addition to the written report, Mr. Cox noted that Trunk or Treat will be held on Thursday, October 28th at Center School from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. The municipal elections will be held on Tuesday, November 2nd at the Middle School.

Mr. Markham noted that someone mentioned to him that they were impressed by the work being done on Edgerton Street by the Department of Public Works.

Appointments

A motion was made by Ms. Moore, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to reappoint the following board and commission members: Voted (7-0)

Commission on Aging

Sue Greeno – term through December 31, 2024

Mariann Mankowski – term through December 31, 2024

Eric Rosenberg – term through December 31, 2024

Economic Development Commission

Matthew Reich – term through December 31, 2026

Fire Commission

Darius Ledas – term through November 30, 2024

Housing Authority

Beth Kelpen – term through December 31, 2026

Library Advisory Board

Jesse Alford – term through December 31, 2024

Middle Haddam Historic District Commission

Charles Roberts – term through December 31, 2026

Melissa Briere (alternate) – term through December 31, 2026

Middlesex County Cable TV Advisory Board

Gary Aubin – term through June 30, 2023

Building Code Board of Appeals

Ray Zatorski – term through December 31, 2026

Clean Energy Task Force

Kye Amtmanis – term through December 31, 2023

Lorry Belanger – term through December 31, 2023

Paul Wisniewski – term through December 31, 2023

Planning & Zoning Commission

Jim Sennett – term through December 31, 2026

Ted Hintz (alternate) – term through December 31, 2023

Michael Kowalczyk (alternate) – term through December 31, 2023

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Ms. Moore, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$428.12. Voted (7-0)

Mr. Brown recognized Board of Education Chairman Chris Goff for his many years of dedicated service on the Board of Education and Town Council. He also thanked the other dedicated Town Council member for working so well together and accomplishing many things.

Mr. Markham thanked Chairman Brown for guiding the Council and bringing us into the new Town Hall. The Town has been well served.

Public Remarks

Brian Eastman, 3 Sears Lane, commented his concerns about the lake issues. He feels the watershed area should be handled before in-lake treatment and fertilizer should be controlled. He also asked about summer water levels. He asked how long Hilary has been on this project. Mr. Philhower noted that the lake has been studied for many many years and it is an ongoing project.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcement

None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Markham, to adjourn the meeting at 8:22pm. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk