

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 25, 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. Reich, seconded by Mr. Philhower to adopt the agenda as written. Voted (7-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of June 11, 2019 as written. Voted (7-0)

Presentations

Introduction of New Public Works Director

The Town Council welcomed the new Public Works Director Matthew Walsh.

Presentation from Lori Mathieu of the Department of Public Health Drinking Water Division

Lori Mathieu and Eric McPhee of the Department of Public Health Drinking Water Division provided a presentation related to water/water systems in East Hampton. Ms. Mathieu presented three handouts; a listing of public water systems in East Hampton and two maps indicating the location of the systems. Public forums could be held to share information on treatments to all of the water systems in town. She spoke about the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Program (DWSRF). The town could apply for a loan to fund an alternatives analysis on the two proposals received for water systems. The next legislative session is February 2020 and it would be good to have a proposal ready for that session. Ms. Mathieu noted that East Hampton is #1 on the State's water needs listing.

Public Remarks

Martin Swan, West High Street, provided a copy of legislation related to tax abatements for first responders. He noted that it includes a statement that the town's ordinance can authorize interlocal agreements for providing tax relief to certain active and retired volunteers who live in one municipality but volunteer their services in another municipality.

Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations

None

Continued Business

Discussion of Tax Abatement for Ambulance Personnel

Mr. Maniscalco did some research regarding the tax abatement. His suggestion to best serve and incentivize both the Fire Department and Ambulance Association members who live both in and out of Town is to provide them with an annual stipend. The idea would be for the members to meet the eligibility requirements first and then the Town would pay those members a set dollar amount. A stipend would allow all members who meet eligibility to receive the same benefit no matter what their personal circumstances are, it should help with recruitment of volunteers from outside of Town and it will be less of an administrative burden on Town staff to implement. The implementation of a stipend would cost the Town an additional \$15,000 which is most likely already budgeted. Council members discussed the lifetime benefit.

By consensus the Council agreed to have the Town Manager to draft an amendment to the ordinance to go to a stipend program, including qualifications and the lifetime benefit details.

Plastic Bag Initiative

Chairperson Engel reviewed the current legislation which puts a 10cent fee for each single use checkout bag from August 1, 2019 to June 30, 2021. Beginning July 1, 2021, the bill prohibits the use of single use bags. There was discussion on whether the Council wanted to go with the current State legislation or enact an ordinance that does not wait the two years to ban single use plastic bags. Ordinances from other towns will be provided to Council members. When an ordinance is created, Ms. Engel would like a sunset clause, so the ordinance ends when the State law takes effect to ban the bags.

New Business

Police Department General Order 3.2 – Conducted Electrical Weapon

Police Chief Dennis Woessner provided an overview of the revised General Order 3.2 – Conducted Electrical Weapon

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to waive the 2nd reading for this item. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve Police Department General Order 3.2 – Conducted Electrical Weapon. Voted (7-0)

Bids & Contracts

Approval of Purchase of Fire Truck Through Purchasing Council

After working with the Fire Truck Building Committee, Chief Voelker has recommended the Town purchase the new engine from a purchasing council called HGAC BUY. This will allow the Town to quickly purchase the vehicle while meeting the requirements of our purchasing ordinance. The total purchase cost is \$655,000 but we will be getting an additional discount since we will not be financing the purchase with Pierce making the total purchase price \$632,000.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Piteo, to approve the purchase of a Pierce Enforcer Custom Pumper from the HGAC Buy Purchasing Council in the amount of \$632,000. Voted (7-0)

Approval of Bid for 2019 Road Improvement Project – North Main Street

The Town received three bids for paving North Main Street from Route 66 to Clark Hill. The recommended and low bidder is B&W Paving and Landscaping in the amount of \$495,836. The Town has funds in excess of \$550,000 to do this project.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to award the bid to B&W Paving in the amount of \$495,836 for the paving of North Main Street. Voted (7-0)

Approval of Bid for Police Watercraft

After considerable research, the Police Department has decided that the best course of action for replacing the police boat is to purchase two jet skis. This will easily allow first responders to attend to people in the water with endangering them with propellers as well as being more cost efficient and portable to operate. After putting out an RFP, the Police Department received one response from G&R Marine Unlimited, LLC in the amount of \$27,643. The Town has sufficient funds for this purchase in the PD Boat replacement fund.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Reich, to award the bid to G&R Marine Unlimited, LLC in the amount of \$27,643.00. Voted (7-0)

Town Manager Report

Update on Library Roof Project

The Library Roof is almost complete. There was an ordering error on the part of the contractor and there was not enough paint ordered to paint the rest of the trim on the Library.

Update on Police Radios

The Chief has been working with the consultants to get a contract and price for the Council to approve.

Update on Town Hall/PD/BOE Project

The project is progressing on schedule. The exterior walls on the front and back of the Town Hall are up. The concrete stairs for the PD are framed and ready for a concrete pour and the buried tank for fire suppression is in the process of implementation. The portable generator is being used for power until the Eversource easement is complete. Once the weather clears they will work on topsoil and grass seed to stabilize the site further.

Discussion of Employee Assistance Program for Ambulance Personnel

The Town is already providing and paying for the EAP services for the Ambulance personnel.

FOI Decision – 2017 Ballots

A Notice of Final Decision was received from the Freedom of Information Commission regarding the complaint from Elizabeth Regan and Rivereast News Bulletin on the 2017 ballots. The decision was made in the Town's favor. The full letter will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Tax Sale

The Tax Sale was held today with a net value of \$466,000.

Appointments**Library Advisory Board**

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Philhower, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to appoint Jesse Alford to the Library Advisory Board with a term through December 31, 2021. Voted (7-0)

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Philhower, seconded by Mr. Markham, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$96.12. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

None

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

None

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk