

Town of East Hampton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022  
Town Hall Council Chambers and Zoom

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Mark Philhower, Vice Chairman Tim Feegel, Council Members Pete Brown, Brandon Goff, Eric Peterson, Kevin Reich and Alison Walck and Town Manager David Cox

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Philhower 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 Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Reich, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voted (7-0)

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Ms. Walck, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of January 25, 2022, as written. Voted (7-0)

**Public Remarks**

Kim Danaher, East Hampton Ambulance, commented her concern after attending an ARP meeting where funding for pickleball courts was proposed and feels they are being treated with more importance than the ambulance. She feels the ARP funds should be allocated to the first responders.

Donald Scranton, East Hampton Ambulance Chief, commented that the danger to the town still exists for ambulance response. The Middle School roof funding was the first approved for ARP funding and he feels that shows the roof is more important than first responders and feels it is disrespectful to first responders.

Tom Donnelly, 15 Fernwood Drive and East Hampton Ambulance Deputy Chief, commented that it is the job of the town to provide ambulance service and the ambulance is losing volunteers. He is asking for funding from the ARP funds for the ambulance and first responders and that the funds should be for COVID expenses.

James McKinney, 10 Oak Knoll Road, commented that he has been a firefighter for 50 years and the volunteers serving the town are going down. He asked that the funds be put in the right place. People are more important than a basketball court.

Kevin Scranton, 17 Flatbrook Road, commented that he is a career firefighter and a volunteer firefighter. He knows that the ARP funds can be used for municipal uses such as a roof but feels the first responders should be taken care of with the funds since they responded during COVID.

**Presentations**

None

## **Bids & Contracts**

None

## **Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamation**

### **Resolution for the Initial Allocation of American Rescue Plan Funds**

The Council considered a resolution to allocate \$816,000 of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received by East Hampton to fund the Town's portion of the planned roofing project at the East Hampton Middle School scheduled for the 2024 fiscal year. The roof project is estimated at \$1.7 million and is expected to be eligible for State reimbursement in the amount of \$884,000 (52%). The Town will receive a total of \$3,788,168 in ARPA funds. If funds are allocated to the roof project, the Town will have approximately \$2.9 million left to allocate.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Ms. Walck, to adopt the resolution allocating American Rescue Plan Funds Number 1 as written. Voted (6-1) Ms. Walck against.

## **Continued Business**

### **Sub-Committee Reports & Updates**

Mr. Brown reported that the Water Sub-Committee met, and Environmental Partners hopes to have their report done by the end of March. The testing of wells will also be done.

Mr. Goff reported the Appointments Sub-Committee received one application for Brownfields Redevelopment and will have some reappointments for an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Reich reported the High School Athletic Fields Committee will meet again soon to prepare for spring work.

### **Update and Discussion on Accepting the Private Road Fern Lane into Town Ownership**

Mr. Cox reported this item is still being reviewed. Staff is reviewing land records. Fern Lane is two parcels, the front portion appears to be owned by a single property owner with all others having easements to cross the property. The rear portion is in a separate parcel jointly owned by the abutting property owners. Mr. Cox's comments will be included on a separate document that will be filed with the minutes in the Town Clerk's Office. This item will remain on the agenda.

## **New Business**

### **Discussion of Proposed 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the MIRA Agreement for Waste Disposal**

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the current situation with the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA). East Hampton has an agreement for disposal of solid waste and recyclables generated in Town. The current agreement requires all solid waste and recyclable material generated in East Hampton be delivered to MIRA. This also includes collections by other haulers such as All Waste. The MIRA system uses the waste to energy plan in Hartford. The city and State have made the decision not to support an overhaul of that facility and will cause the waste to be shipped to other facilities, which is at a higher cost. The Agreement with MIRA has an Opt Out clause which outlines the maximum rate MIRA can charge for disposal. If that rate is exceeded, municipalities have the option to leave the agreement and deliver the municipal waste to another location. Staff is continuing to review options for disposal of solid waste and recyclables and is not recommending action by the Council at this time. A decision has been requested by the end of March.

### **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.

### **Appointments**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Brown, to appoint Edward "Ted" Turner to the open Democratic seat on the Board of Finance. Voted (7-0)

### **Tax Refunds**

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$3,087.22. Voted (7-0)

### **Public Remarks**

Donald Scranton, East Hampton Ambulance Chief, commented that the first thing the Town of Cromwell did with their ARP funds was to give every first responder a bonus.

Kate Tchelidze, East Hampton, commented on the allocation of ARP funds to the Middle School roof and that the first responders didn't receive anything. She noted her concern that the roof was the first priority over the first responders.

Timothy Kelly, EMT and a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne in Tennessee, feels the ARP funding allocation is a disturbing situation. COVID hit hard and it is hard to get volunteers. He feels the ARP funds should go to the first responders.

Barbara Moore, Overlook Road, commented on behalf of the Ambulance Association. The Town Council and Ambulance should work together to figure out how to support the first responders.

Dante Petruzzello, Flatbrook Road and a member of the Ambulance, commented that COVID hit the ambulance hard. He appreciates the importance of the Middle School roof to the town, but feels the first responders should be getting the funds.

Pam Hatfield, 37 Fern Lane, thanked the Town Council and Town Manager for the update on Fern Lane and thank you for the consideration in accepting Fern Lane and looks forward to the resolution of the issue.

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

#### **January 2022 Board and Commission Summary**

Town Council members received the January 2022 Board and Commission Summary.

### **Executive Session**

#### **Motion to Recess to Executive Session to Discuss Matters Concerning Security Strategy or Deployment of Security Devices Regarding Cybersecurity**

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to enter Executive Session at 7:27pm with Town Manager David Cox, Finance Director Jeff Jylkka, Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith, Chairperson of the Board of Education Christina Tammara-Dzagan and Board of Education Technology Director Rich Fielding invited into the session. Voted (7-0)

Council member Walck did not attend the Executive Session.

Executive Session ended at 8:06pm.

**Adjournment** – No action will be taken following Executive Session – Council will adjourn immediately after the session.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06pm. Voted (6-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois  
Recording Clerk