

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 28, 2023
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. Feegel to adopt the agenda as presented. Voted (7-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Walck, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of February 14, 2023 as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Hearing on an Amendment to Chapter 278 – Taxation of the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Providing Additional Tax Relief Programs

Eric Rosenberg, 15 Bay Road and Chairman of the Commission on Aging, noted that on the Commission on Aging survey, 20% of older adults noted they cannot afford to continue to live in town and their issues were affordable housing and unaffordable taxes. If there are additional tax abatements for older adults, he would like the information communicated to the older adults using multiple means of communication and information on how to apply for the abatements.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Reich, to close the Public Hearing at 7:40pm. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Chuck Yenknor, Spellman Point Road and Chairman of the Conservation-Lake Commission provided a letter to the Council with a request from the Conservation-Lake Commission to consider the purchase of property off Lakewood Drive. Town acquisition of the properties will maintain the health of the ecosystem by protecting the watershed and ensuring a healthy lake.

Presentations

None

Bids & Contracts

Consideration of Bid for Police Towing, Maintenance and Repair of Police Vehicles

Police Chief Dennis Woessner provided an overview of the two bids received for the Police towing, maintenance, and repair of vehicles from Belltown Motors in East Hampton and Monaco Ford of Glastonbury.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to award the bid for Police towing, maintenance, and repair of Police vehicles to Belltown Auto, East Hampton. Voted (7-0)

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamations

Consideration of a Motion to Approve an Amendment to Chapter 278 – Taxation of the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Providing Additional Tax Relief Programs

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve the Amendment to Chapter 278 – Taxation of the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Providing Additional Tax Relief Programs with the changes as presented. Voted (7-0)

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Additional Tax Relief Committee

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the resolution establishing a committee to consider tax relief programs through Section 12-129n of the CT General Statutes. The Council members discussed having the Town Council be the membership for the committee. Mr. Goff noted that he would like to see a tax relief program similar to the tax freeze program with the income limits increased.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Ms. Walck, to approve the resolution to form a committee with the Town Council as the members to create and adopt a tax relief program through Section 12-129N of the CT State Statutes. Voted (7-0)

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Mr. Cox reported that the Water Sub-Committee met and discussed the initial steps of system modeling. The public information meetings will be extended out a few months.

Mr. Goff reported the Fire Department Exploratory Committee will hold their initial meeting on Thursday.

Mr. Goff reported the Bevin Monument Committee has chosen a bench style monument.

Mr. Reich reported the Middle School Roof Committee met on Monday. The Department of Administrative Services accepted the application and there will be a 53.57% reimbursement. The next steps include the architect finishing the specs, review by the committee, send to State for acceptance and then can be put out to a Request for Proposal once approved.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action on Follow-Up Requests Regarding Ambulance Association Operations

Bob Holdsworth from the Holdsworth Group was in attendance to answer questions from the Town Council regarding the Ambulance Association. Council member received the answers to the questions they provided the Ambulance Association after their last meeting, as well as a budget request for \$173,000 and a portion of the Local Emergency Medical Services Plan from January 2021. The \$173,000 budget request will be for per diem staff, wages and administrative costs. Donald Scranton was hired as the full-time chief and is part of the 2nd crew on days.

Mr. Goff noted that the Local Emergency Medical Services Plan needs to be reviewed and questioned whether it should go through Council.

Mr. Philhower is concerned about the need for additional funds increasing year over year. There was discussion of Middlesex Ambulance. Mr. Holdsworth talked about Primary Service Areas and that in order to replace service the Town would need to petition the State.

New Business

Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Paving Portions of Unimproved Roads

Public Works Director Matt Walsh provided an overview of a memo to utilize a portion of the funds in the Unimproved Roads account to cover the cost of paving two small sections of gravel roads that are reoccurring maintenance issues on Old Clark Hill Road and Bear Swamp Road. It was noted that the small amount of distance being paved will not change the reimbursement for Unimproved Roads.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve paving portions of Old Clark Hill Road and Bear Swamp Road as presented. Voted (7-0)

Consideration and Possible Action Regarding Police Department Policies/General Orders

- 1) General Order 1.3 – Written Policy System**
- 2) General Order 2.7 – Line and Staff Inspections**
- 3) General Order 6.6 – Youth Investigations**

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve General Orders 1.3, 2.7 and 6.6 as presented. Voted (7-0)

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Cox provided his written report for the Council members which will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Appointments

None

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1,354.19. Voted (7-0).

Public Remarks

None

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Brown, to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk