

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 14, 2023
Town Hall Council Chambers #107 and Zoom

MINUTES

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

Not Present: Eric Peterson

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 Mr. Feegel, seconded by Ms. Walck to adopt the agenda with the addition of an item under New Business for Repair of Road Entering Town Hall off Route 66. Voted (6-0)

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of February 28, 2023 as written. Voted (6-0)

Public Remarks

Russell Kaplan, Chairman of the Clean Energy Task Force, commented regarding the Middle School Roof Project. The Task Force would like the request for proposal to include wording that solar won't be precluded following installation. He also noted August is the deadline for solar project funding and that 2023 offers the best opportunity for funding support.

Presentations

None

Bids & Contracts

None

Resolution/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamations

None

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Mr. Reich reported the Middle School Roof Committee will be meeting again soon.

Discussion Regarding Further Tax Relief Programs

Mr. Goff would like the new tax relief program to be based on the current freeze program but with a single or married income limit of \$50,000, 10 years as a resident rather than 5 years and no lien on the property. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to keep the 0% interest lien on the property along with the increased income amount and the increased number of years as a

resident. This item will now go to the Board of Finance for a recommendation and then back to the Council to create the ordinance.

Discussion and Possible Action Related to Ambulance Services

Ms. Walck addressed a possible conflict of interest on this item for Councilman Brown as his wife is on the Ambulance Association Board. Mr. Brown does not feel it is a conflict of interest as there is no personal gain with the position. The Town Attorney will be contacted for a written opinion. This item will be tabled until the Attorney's decision is received.

Discussion and Consideration of Actions Regarding the Land Acquisition Proposal Made by the Conservation-Lake Commission

The Conservation-Lake Commission has proposed that the Council consider a land purchase of just over 30 acres on the northwest side of Lake Pocotopaug for the purpose of keeping the land as open space and as a protective buffer for the lake. It was indicated there was no particular source of revenue to purchase the property. The Middlesex Land Trust is not interested in purchasing the property. They tend not to get involved with properties on the public market. Some Council members felt it was bad timing for funding the purchase. Mr. Reich asked if the town could determine the actual value of the property. No action was taken on this item.

Repair of Road Entering Town Hall off Route 66

Mr. Feegel discussed the extremely poor condition of the road off of Route 66 to get to the Town Hall. The Town is paying rent for the use of the private road.

A motion was made by Mr. Feegel, seconded by Ms. Walck, to stop payment to Edgewater Hill until the road is repaired to a suitable condition. Voted (6-0)

New Business

None

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. Feegel, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$2,604.06. Voted (6-0).

Public Remarks

Chuck Yenker, 65 Spellman Point and Chairman of the Conservation-Lake Commission noted that the Conservation-Lake Commission is pursuing financing from other groups for the 30 acres of land near the lake proposed for purchase. He also commented on private road issues.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

The Council members received the February 2023 Board and Commission Summary, a Community Renewal Team Benefit Report and an Eversource Vegetation Management Program Overview.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Feegel, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm.
Voted (6-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk