

**Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 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 (arrived at 6:32pm) 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.

A Moment of Silence was held for Hartford Police Officer Robert Garten who was killed in the line of duty and East Hampton Fire Fighter David Romanchik who passed away over the weekend.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to adopt the agenda as presented. 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 August 8, 2023 as written. Voted (6-0)

Public Hearing

Amendment to Article V of Chapter 278 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Stipend for Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Personnel and Civil Preparedness Director

Amendment to Chapter 96 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding the Parks & Recreation Department

Mr. Cox provided an update on the change that was made to the Stipend document that will include Ambulance volunteers that do not receive other incentives.

No members of the public provided comments.

Public Remarks

Karen Wanat, 35 Long Crossing Road, commented that there is historical significance to some residents for the Middle Haddam School. She thought it would be nice for the town to do something to maintain that significance.

Presentations

None

Bids & Contracts

Review and Possible Approval of the Purchase of a Street Sweeper

Director of Public Works Matt Walsh provided an overview of the bids received for the street sweeper. Based on the proposals submitted he recommends the bid be awarded to Nescon LLC in

the amount of \$323,850. This piece of equipment meets and exceeds the required specifications and stands out above the other submittals in overall value and features. It is also requested to allocate \$23,850 from the Expanded Bottle Bill Funds to fund the additional cost over what was allocated in the Capital fund.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Walck, to award the bid for the street sweeper to Nescon LLC in the amount of \$323,850 and to allocate \$23,850 from the Expanded Bottle Bill Funds for the purchase. Voted (7-0)

Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations

Proclamation for Fire Department 100 Year Anniversary

This year the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department celebrates its 100th Anniversary. Vice Chairman Tim Feegel read a proclamation for the Fire Department from the Town Council. Chairman Mark Philhower read a citation from the State of CT initiated by Senator Norm Needleman and State Representative Irene Haines.

Review and Possible Approval of Amendment to Article V of Chapter 278 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding Stipend for Volunteer Fire and Ambulance Personnel and Civil Preparedness Director

A Public Hearing was held at the start of the meeting. There were no comments from residents.

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to adopt the amendment to Article V of Chapter 278 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton regarding a stipend for volunteer fire and ambulance personnel and Civil Preparedness Director as presented. Voted (7-0)

Review and Possible Approval of Amendment to Chapter 96 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton Regarding the Parks & Recreation Department

A Public Hearing was held at the start of the meeting. There were no comments from residents.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Brown, to adopt the amendment to Chapter 96 of the Code of the Town of East Hampton regarding the Parks & Recreation Department as presented. Voted (7-0)

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Mr. Reich noted that the Middle School Roof is complete with just a bit of fine tuning to be completed. The 2nd payment was made to the contractor with some money held back until final approval is done. The project was done under budget.

The Water Sub-Committee will be doing a presentation for the Town Council at the September 26th meeting.

Update, Discussion and Possible Action on Acquisition of 11 Skinner Street Property

Mr. Philhower recused himself from the meeting for this item.

Mr. Cox reported that he did a walk through of 11 Skinner Street with the owner. He feels it would be a good location for a fire house. The Fire Chief also noted that he and other members of the fire department have done a walk through, and they agree it is a good fit and location. The owner of the building now needs information on how the building should be built out for a fire station such as kitchen, bath, bunks, lockers etc. Mr. Cox will work with the Fire Department on these details.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Reich, to direct the Town Manager to work with the Town Attorney and the Fire Department to move forward with the possible acquisition of the 11 Skinner Street property for a fire station. Voted (6-0)

Mr. Philhower returned to the meeting.

Continued Discussion of an Amendment to the Agreement for Edgewater Related to Town Maintenance of Edgewater Circle

The Town Council continued their discussions on whether they should pursue an amendment to the agreement with the Edgewater developers to turn the private road, Edgewater Circle, to a public road, maintained by the Town and the Town would no longer pay the annual maintenance fee for maintenance of roads and property. The Town Attorney has reviewed the document and finds no legal problem with the Town pursuing this change. He does have some suggestions for modifications to the agreement. Council members discussed the costs and other issues if the road remained private. Mr. Philhower noted he was insistent that the documents be reviewed by the Attorney.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Reich, to table this item to the next meeting. Voted (7-0)

New Business

Discussion Regarding Ambulance Association Lease for 4 Middletown Avenue

The Town Council reviewed the draft lease that was never finalized and executed related to the Ambulance Association being housed at 4 Middletown Avenue. Council members discussed whether they felt a lease agreement was necessary. Mr. Philhower noted that the Ambulance Association is a private organization, and a lease protects both parties. The members will make whatever changes they feel are needed to the agreement and bring them to the next meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action on Request for the Town to Purchase the Middle Haddam School

This item will be put on hold until November after the next Town Council election.

Town Manager 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. He also noted at the next meeting there will be changes to the Road Standards, then possible changes to the Subdivision Ordinance by the Planning & Zoning Commission based on the preference for public roads in new subdivisions rather than private roads. He also noted that a plow truck has become available due to another municipality cancelling their order so we may be able to take ownership in approximately one week for a new plow truck.

Appointments

Reappointments

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Reich to reappoint the following individuals:

Jack Solomon - Conservation-Lake Commission through June 30, 2027

Victor Rodriguez - Conservation-Lake Commission through June 30, 2027

Kevin Burnham – Design Review Board through June 30, 2025

Glenn Curtin - Design Review Board through June 30, 2025

Scott Hill - Design Review Board through June 30, 2025
Josh Wilson – Inland Wetlands Watercourses Agency through June 1, 2026
Gary Aubin – Northern Middlesex County Cable TV Advisory Board through June 30, 2025
Teresa Latimer – Town Cemetery Board through April 30, 2028
Anthony Desimone – Water & Sewer through June 30, 2028
Peter Villa – Water & Sewer through June 30, 2028

Voted (7-0)

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$2,919.49. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Dean Markham, 1 Fairlawn Avenue, commented that the Town should look at a possible property swap with the owner of 11 Skinner Street for the fire houses on Barton Hill and in Cobalt. He also noted that Middle Haddam School has potential long term benefits for the Town and suggests a purchase similar to 11 Skinner where the owner would build out to the Town specifications before purchase. Regarding the Ambulance building lease he wondered if there is any information in the purchase documentation related to the lease.

Karen Wanat, 35 Long Crossing Road, commented that legally for the Town and the Ambulance having a lease in place protects both parties.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

August 2023 Board and Commission Summary

Council members received the August 2023 Board and Commission Summary

Connecticut Water Letter and Fact Sheet

A letter from Connecticut Water with notification of a possible rate increase and a fact sheet were included for Council members.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Goff, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30pm. Voted (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk