

**Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 10, 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. Goff, 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 September 26, 2023 as written. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Chuck Yenknor, 65 Spellman Point Road, notified the Town Council that the invasive plant hydrilla was discovered in the lake by the new limnologist and also noted it has possibly been there for two years. This will be discussed at the next Conservation-Lake Commission meeting.

Sean Paddock, 98 Comstock Trail, commented on the cancellation of the Hawks Football games on October 1st due to the Middle School fields being deemed too wet. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the call of the Public Works Director to close the fields.

Dave Johnson, 159 Bear Swamp Road, President of Hawks Football, asked if any there are any other fields to use in town besides the Middle School. They have reached out to the High School to try to work with them but have received no response. He would like more support from the Town.

Presentations

Presentation from the Aquarion Water Company

This presentation has been postponed to a future meeting.

Bids & Contracts

Review and Possible Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of East Hampton and the East Hampton Police Union, Local #2407, Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO – July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026

The Town Council held an Executive Session with the Labor Attorney prior to the Regular Meeting to review the changes in the updated contract.

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of East Hampton and the East Hampton Police Union, Local #2407, Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO – July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 as presented. Voted (7-0)

Review and Possible Award of Bid for Library Siding

Steve Fontanella, Director of Facilities provided an overview of the bids received for the Library siding project. Two bids were received. One bid from AHOVA Home Improvement LLC for a total of \$270,700 and DiGiorgi Roofing and Siding, Inc. for a total of \$250,134. Both firms included a cost of \$4 per square foot for any plywood replacement. Mr. Fontanella recommended the low bid from DiGiorgi Roofing and Siding, Inc.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Walck, to award the bid for Library Siding to DiGiorgi Roofing and Siding, Inc. in the amount of \$250,134 and \$4 per square foot for any plywood replacement. Voted (7-0)

Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations

None

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Ms. Walck reported that the garden around the gazebo has been planted in honor of Garden Club member Sue LePage who passed away.

Discussion and Possible Action on an Amendment to the Street Standards for Private Roads

The current revisions allow for private roads based on current requirements but specifically require the traveled portion of the roadway to be fully constructed to the Street Standards with no exceptions for surface course thickness. The Planning & Zoning Commission will also be asked to consider parallel updates to the applicable zoning and subdivision regulations.

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Brown, to approve the amendments to the Town of East Hampton Street Standards as presented. Voted (7-0)

New Business

Discussion on Policy Regarding Closing of Athletic Fields

Following the closure of the athletic field at the Middle School on October 1st due to wet fields, the Council is asked to review the practices and standards that led to staff closing the fields and to determine whether the proper staff were involved in those decisions and whether the standard or policy should be different than it currently is. With the assignment of grounds maintenance to Public Works, the decision is made by the Director of Public Works in consultation with others. Currently staff operate with a standard that calls for balancing the interests of a specific user to use a field against the interests of other users who may be impacted by the use of a field that is water saturated or otherwise compromised.

Council members voiced their opinions on the issue and Director of Public Works Matt Walsh provided an overview of the situation from October 1st. In the end it was decided to lean on the side of play and the issue will be brought back to the next Council meeting for further discussion and review of responsibilities and the agreements for field use.

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Peterson, to have the Public Works Director lean on the side of play and leave the safety aspect to the teams and bring this item back to the next meeting to discuss responsibilities and agreements. Voted (5-2) Mr. Reich and Ms. Walck against.

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. Mr. Cox also reported that the Ambulance Association received the final version of the agreement and will formally approve that at their next meeting. Due to the vacancy of our Planning & Zoning Official, Tyche Planning Group will assist with office hours and meeting assistance. The Building Official will be the temporary Zoning Enforcement Officer. Also, Christine Cachuela, who has been the Interim Library Director has been named the Library Director.

Appointments

None

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1,961.84. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

Dave Johnson, 159 Bear Swamp Road, commented that he has good communication with Matt Walsh and with Middle School Athletic Director Mike Mercaldi. He has not heard back from the High School Athletic Director regarding the use of the fields at the High School. He noted the Hawks are very accommodating and always need to move soccer equipment out of the way and at the end move it all back. He also noted they do have insurance. Saturday, October 21st is their "Senior Night" and want to be sure there are no issues with field use that night.

Sean Paddock, 98 Comstock Trail, thanked the Council members for their discussion. He commented on using the fields rather than keeping them looking nice and questions who should be making the final decision on field use.

Rich Milton, 3 Melburn Avenue, commented that he feels there is a huge lack of support from the administration and down. He also noted wet fields are the safest fields to play on. He feels there is a lack of support.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

September 2023 Board and Commission Summary

The members received the September 2023 Board and Commission Summary.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Walck, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Voted (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk