

**Town of East Hampton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, October 24, 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. Peterson, 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 Special Meeting and Regular Meeting of October 10, 2023 as written. Voted (7-0)

**Public Remarks**

Barbara Moore, 7 Overlook Road, thanked the Council members for their service on the Town Council and wished them the best.

Sal Nucifora, 147 Colchester Avenue, commented that the senior tennis club is not able to use the High School tennis courts during the day and the Sears Park courts are in bad shape. He asked if the Sears Park courts could be repaired and have pickleball added to the courts.

Russ Kaplan, Chairman of the Clean Energy Task Force, invited the Council members and the residents to the Energy Fair at the High School on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm. Vendors will be on hand to help residents save money on energy. This year they are also working with the Commission on Aging who will have an East Hampton Community Cares booth at the fair. They will also have the Energy in Action mobile exhibit outside the school.

Town Manager Cox provided information regarding Sears Park Tennis Courts. ARPA funds will be used to replace the tennis courts, basketball court and pickleball will be added at Sears Park.

**Presentations**

None

**Bids & Contracts**

None

**Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations**

None

## **Continued Business**

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

Mr. Reich asked for an update on the High School Tennis Courts. Mr. Cox reported that they are working with the contractor to get them done before the end of the paving season.

Mr. Goff asked if the Ambulance Association signed the agreement. Mr. Cox noted that it is signed.

### **Discussion on Policy Regarding Closing of Athletic Fields**

Mr. Cox reported that the Middle School athletic field was used over the weekend for Hawks football. The fields weren't damaged but the areas where there was spectator traffic had more damage. Staff members are looking to see what changes can be made to mitigate damage in the future. It was noted the town does own property near the Middle School field out to Route 66 and there is property behind Memorial School. Maybe there could be options in the future to create a new field. Mr. Cox noted the building/field use policies for the Board of Education and the Town need to be reviewed.

## **New Business**

### **Discussion and Possible Approval of FY23 End of Year Transfers**

Finance Director Jeff Jylkka provided an overview of the budget transfers associated with the completion of the Town's last fiscal year, FY 2023. The Board of Finance approved the end of year transfers at their meeting on October 16, 2023.

A motion was made by Ms. Walek, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve the FY23 end of year budget transfers as presented. Voted (7-0)

### **Discussion and Possible Approval of FY23 Additional Appropriation – Board of Education**

Mr. Jylkka provided an overview of the additional appropriation for the Board of Education in the amount of \$330,763. The Board of Finance approved the additional appropriation at their meeting on October 16, 2023. Mr. Brown indicated that he was not happy with the budget deficit. Mr. Reich indicated that it is difficult to anticipate additional special education students.

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Reich, to approve the additional appropriation for the Board of Education from unanticipated revenue as presented. Voted (6-1) Mr. Peterson 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 responses were received for the Brownfields RFQ for Licensed Environmental professionals for assistance with grants. Seven responses were received. They will be reviewed, and interviews will be conducted with a recommendation in December or January.

Mr. Cox acknowledged the Town Council members that are not running for reelection: Tim Feegel, Eric Peterson, Pete Brown, Mark Philhower and Kevin Reich. He noted that these members have served a combined 94 years of service to the Town of East Hampton with 42 of those years being on Town Council. The remaining years include the Board of Finance, Planning & Zoning, Zoning Board of Appeals, Cemetery Board and others. He thanked all of the members for their service on the Town Council.

### **Appointments**

None

### **Tax Refunds**

A motion was made by Ms. Walck, seconded by Mr. Goff, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$1,109.95. Voted (7-0)

### **Public Remarks**

Dave Johnson, 159 Bear Swamp Road and President of the Hawks Football, thanked the Town Council for listening to the issues regarding field use. He noted that everyone wants the same thing for the kids.

Paul Smith, Superintendent of Schools, thanked the Town Council members for their service. He spoke about the Board of Education deficit and the five additional special education students that came into the system this year. He was told in past years to budget for the number of students that are known at budget time.

Sal Nucifora, 147 Colchester Avenue, thanked the Council members for their service noting Mr. Brown, Mr. Reich and Mr. Philhower. He also noted that the new incoming special education students cannot be anticipated.

### **Communications, Correspondence & Announcements**

Mr. Reich wished everyone running for office good luck and thanked all of the Town Council members, Mr. Cox, Ms. Sirois and all of the department heads who have been very helpful to him over the years.

Mr. Brown thanked everyone and noted there have been battles but the battles are worth it for the Town.

Mr. Goff thanked everyone and noted he has learned a lot.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Ms. Walck, to adjourn the meeting at 7:22pm. Voted (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois  
Recording Clerk