

Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 24, 2019
Town Hall Meeting Room

MINUTES

Present: Chairperson Melissa Engel, Vice Chairman Mark Philhower, Council Members Pete Brown, Tim Feegel, Dean Markham, Josh Piteo and Kevin Reich and Town Manager David Cox

Call to order & Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Engel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Piteo, 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 Mr. Piteo, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Special and Regular Meetings of September 10, 2019 as written. Voted (7-0)

Presentations

None

Public Remarks

Dave Bengston, 82 Spellman Point Road, commented on the overflow of sediment at Christopher Brook due to the rain on Wednesday evening. He noted it was due to the paving project on North Main Street. He would like a response by the end of the week to the following questions: 1) why aren't silt fences or hay bales required to contain the overflow; 2) he feels this is a permanent impact on the lake – how can the Town get the money back. He would hold the contractor responsible and hold their bond; 3) why wasn't the Conservation-Lake Commission asked to provide input?

Roger Abraham, Clark Hill Road, noted that he had asked questions at the recent lake meeting regarding the integrity of the sewer system. Can the system be checked for possible problems and leaks or has the system been checked? He will follow up with WPCA.

Chris Goff, Chairman of the Board of Education, commented that the Board of Education unanimously voted to participate in the Citrine solar program. He also commented on a possible future use for the current Board of Education building at 94 Main Street. There is a possibility that they will receive a grant for a Birth to 3 program and could use the building as office space for staff for that program. There is also a possibility of other towns being included in the program and the Town could see funds coming in from the other towns.

Mr. Cox provided a reply to Mr. Bengston regarding North Main Street. The contractor has provided silt covers on the existing inlets in the roadway to collect and filter water runoff. They were inspected Tuesday morning and were not damaged. They were installed pursuant to their contractual obligation. This project would not have been required to go to the Conservation-Lake

Commission or Inland Wetlands. There is also another project in that area. The WPCA lift station is being done and that project also has protections in place for runoff.

Ms. Engel noted that the sewer testing should be referred to the WPCA and the Council could request that a test be done if needed.

Bids & Contracts

None

Resolutions/Ordinances/Policies/Proclamations

Proclamation for Housing Authority

A proclamation was prepared for Judie Bobbi from the Housing Authority who is retiring after 36 years.

Proclamation for USS Dorado

A proclamation was prepared for an Eagle Scout project by Kyle Burnham related to the USS Dorado.

Continued Business

Discussion & Consideration Regarding Distribution of a Letter to Waterfront Residents

Council members reviewed a revised draft letter for Lake Pocotopaug watershed residents. Mr. Markham would like the words “no cost” to be put in bold.

A motion was made by Mr. Piteo, seconded by Mr. Philhower, to send out the letter as amended. Voted (7-0)

Presentation & Consideration Regarding A Solar Energy “Net Metering” Agreement

After presenting to the Council last month, Cela Sinay-Birnie from Citrine Energy provided presentations to the Board of Education and Board of Finance on the solar net metering project. They were well received, and the Board of Education voted unanimously to participate. Questions were asked by Council members about taxes, snow issues and vandalism. Ms. Sinay-Birnie indicated that the panels are tax exempt under the program agreement, but the real estate is taxable. If there are issues with very heavy snow, there would be no charge if there is no energy production. There is only a charge on what is produced. Under normal snow conditions they have not needed to manually clear snow. They haven’t had issues with vandalism. Signs are posted along with a fence noting “danger – electric power plant”. There are also cameras in place.

A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Markham, to authorize the Town Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with Citrine Power, LLC for solar energy net metering. Voted (7-0)

New Business

Approval of Police Department General Order 3.4

The original order included the word “pepper spray” – it should have read “impact weapon”.

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Piteo, to waive the 2nd reading for this item. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Piteo, to approve Police Department General Order 3.4 Impact Weapons, as presented. Voted (7-0)

Appointments

None

Town Manager Report

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the Town Manager report provided to Council members. The full report will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

Also, the Public Works Director is getting a quote to repair the stairs to the Building Department.

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Philhower, seconded by Mr. Brown, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$2,599.04. Voted (7-0)

Public Remarks

None

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

August Board and Commission Summary

The Council received the August Board and Commission Summary.

There will be a celebration for Judie Bobbi's retirement at Chatham Acres on Saturday, October 5th from 11am to 1pm.

The car show for wounded warriors at Markham Meadows was very successful.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reich, seconded by Mr. Markham, to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Voted (7-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk