

**Town of East Hampton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, December 12, 2023  
Town Hall Council Chambers and Zoom**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman Dean Markham, Vice Chairperson Karen Wanat, Council Members Deborah Cunningham, Brandon Goff, Richard Knotek, Jack Solomon, and Jordan Werme and Town Manager David Cox.

**Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Markham 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. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Werme, to adopt the revised agenda as submitted. Voted (7-0).

**Approval of Minutes**

**Regular Meeting of November 28, 2023**

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of November 28, 2023 as submitted. Voted (7-0).

**Public Remarks**

None

**Presentations**

**Presentation from the Clean Energy Task Force**

Russell Kaplan, Chairman of the Clean Energy Task Force provided a presentation to the Town Council about the goals for their commission including Community Solar; Shared Clean Energy Facilities Program (SCEF), Expanded EV Charging in Town; and Sustainability. The overview document will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. Two additional events sponsored by the Clean Energy Task Force are the Clean Energy Fair and the EV Car Show. They are hoping to dovetail with other town events next year for a better turnout.

**Bids & Contacts**

None

**Resolutions/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamations**

Proclamation for Public Utilities Administrator Scott Clayton

Ms. Wanat read the proclamation for Public Utilities Administrator Scott Clayton, who is retiring. Everyone wished him well.

**Continued Business**

**Sub-Committee Reports & Updates**

Mr. Cox reported that the Water Committee, staff and Environmental Partners met with representatives from DPH and DEEP. Updates were provided on the project and questions were answered regarding the grants that have been given for this project.

Mr. Knotek noted the Appointments Sub-Committee has received the updated list of Board and Commission members noting a lot of openings on the boards. The sub-committee will meet before the January Council meeting to discuss ways to get residents interested in volunteering for board positions.

Mr. Goff thanked the Ambulance Association for the Open House.

### **New Business**

#### **Consideration of a motion to encourage residents to become participants in the Eversource Shared Clean Energy Facility Program**

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Werme, that East Hampton encourages residents, businesses and others to participate in the Shared Clean Energy Facility Opportunity by signing up on the Eversource website in order to lower their electrical costs and encourage the use of Clean Energy. The benefit to participants selected by Eversource is \$.025/kwhr for 20 years. Voted (7-0)

#### **Consideration of a motion to urge the State to make available to residents a solar power program similar to the Net Metering program used by the Town to reduce its electric costs**

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, that East Hampton asks the State to pass a law allowing individual residents, small and large businesses and others to receive clean energy supply in the way that East Hampton gets its solar power. The power is provided by a large solar facility and individual meters at the use points (homeowners, businesses, renters, etc.) receive credit for the power provided. The Town Council will encourage our State Senator and Representative to support this position in order to reduce the electrical costs of our residents. Voted (7-0).

#### **Consideration of a motion to approve Amendment 2023-2 for the Town's Pension and Retirement Plan document**

Finance Director Jeff Jylkka provided an overview of proposed changes to the Town's pension plan. The two changes include an amendment in the way Police Officer pensions are calculated based on the most recently approved Collective Bargaining Agreement. The second reinserts language that was erroneously omitted during the previous amendment. The amended document will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Werme, to approve the amendments to the Town's Pension Plan as presented. Voted (7-0).

#### **Discussion of Implementation of Statutory Requirements for Board of Education Quarterly Financial Reporting**

Mr. Cox reported that the Board of Education is required by Statute to post quarterly financials and projections on the website and to report to the legislative body. The Superintendent and Business Manager will be invited to the January 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting to report the next quarter's figures. After that the item will be included on the agenda as Correspondence each quarter going forward.

Another solution will be to hold a quarterly Tri-Board Meeting where the information can be presented.

### **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. Mr. Cox also reported the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of tax bills are out and are due January 1<sup>st</sup> with a delinquent date of February 1<sup>st</sup>. He thanked the Rotary Club, Public Works, Paul's & Sandy's and other staff for assisting with the replacement of the bow and arrow sign near the lake. Also, the Santa Run has started for the season.

Also, the Council received a confidential listing of pending attorney cases. Mr. Goff congratulated Officer Cavanaugh for completing the Drug Recognition Expert Course. Mr. Werme noted we are lucky to have the real Santa!

### **Appointments**

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Mr. Goff, to appoint John Greeno and Austin Kelly to the Clean Energy Task Force. Voted (7-0).

### **Tax Refunds**

A motion was made by Mr. Goff, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$659.28. Voted (7-0).

### **Public Remarks**

None

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

#### **November 2023 Board and Commission Summary**

Council members received the November 2023 Board and Commission Summary.

Mr. Markham wished everyone a wonderful holiday season.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ms. Wanat, seconded by Mr. Goff, to adjourn the meeting at 7:26pm. Voted (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois  
Recording Clerk