



**TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM  
REORGANIZATION MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.**

**CALL TO ORDER BY TOWNSHIP CLERK**

**STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:**

Adequate notice of this meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: Notice was given to the Observer Tribune on December 10, 2018 and the Daily Record on December 11, 2018. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Offices and Notice was filed with the Township Clerk. Official action may be taken.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**INVOCATION** – Reverend Michael Howard, Brookside Community Church

**STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY CANVASSERS** – read by Township Clerk

A Statement of Determination of the Board of Canvassers, relative to an Election held in the Township of Mendham, County of Morris and State of New Jersey, for the election of certain Municipal Officers for the Municipality on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.

The said Board does determine that at the said election:

Sarah Neibart and Nick Monaghan were duly elected to the office of Township Committee for the term of three (3) years.

**SWEARINGS-IN:**

**COMMITTEEMEMBERS** – Oaths of Office were administered by Assemblyman Anthony Bucco

- Oath of Office administered to Sarah Neibart
- Oath of Office administered to Nick Monaghan

**ROLL CALL**

Mr. Diegnan Present  
Ms. Duarte Present  
Mr. Gisser Present  
Mr. Monaghan Present  
Ms. Neibart Present

**NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE OF MAYOR FOR 2019**

Ms. Coppinger called for nominations for the position of Mayor for 2019. Ms. Duarte nominated Committee member Warren Gisser to the position of Mayor and Mr. Diegnan seconded the nomination. No other nominations were presented which resulted in the election of Warren Gisser to the position of Mayor. All members present voted to approve the nomination for Mayor. Attorney Matthew Petracca administered the oath of office to Mr. Warren Gisser.

**NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2019**

Mayor Gisser called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for 2019. Mr. Monaghan nominated Committee member Sarah Neibart to the position of Deputy Mayor and Mr. Diegan seconded the nomination. Ms. Duarte explained her reasons for abstaining, which are attached hereto, to Ms. Neibart's nomination. All members present voted to approve the nomination for Deputy Mayor except for Ms. Duarte who abstained. Assemblywoman BettyLou DeCroce administered the oath of office to Ms. Sarah Neibart.

**WELCOME** – 2019 Mayor

Mayor Gisser welcomed the public and acknowledged Assemblyman Bucco, Assemblywoman DeCroce, Past Mayors Diana Orban Brown, Frank Ciopettini and Sam Tolley, Stan Witzak and Randolph Fire Chief Michael Vanadia.

**OATHS OF OFFICE TO FIRE COMPANIES AND FIRST AID SQUAD** – Oath of Offices were administered by Township Attorney Matthew Petracca

**BROOKSIDE ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1 OFFICERS:**

Chief - Nick Witzak

**OATH OF OFFICE AS A GROUP:**

Deputy Chief - TJ Jones

First Assistant Chief - Stephen Sauerman

Chief Engineer - Christian Kalweit

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF NEW MEMBERS:**

New members:

Josh Wolfson

Pat Daley

Sean Rice

Aiden Halpin

Connor Beggan

John Hoffstetter

Chief Witzak's remarks are attached hereto and made part of the minutes.

**RALSTON ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1 OFFICERS:** Mayor Gisser noted that due to illnesses and prior commitments the officers of the Ralston Engine Company were not in attendance.

**OATH OF OFFICE AS A GROUP:**

Chief - Tom Montgomery

Assistant Chief - Scott Mortensen

Captain - Jeffrey Betz

President – Joe Gomeringer

**MENDHAM TOWNSHIP FIRST AID SQUAD OFFICERS:**

**OATH OF OFFICE AS A GROUP:**

Captain - Dan Wood

Lieutenant - Kyle Wiggins

Quartermaster - George Budd

Assistant Quartermaster East - Janet Wood

Assistant Quartermaster West - Nick Petonak

President - Leslie Dunlevy

Treasurer - Ellen Tawil

Secretary - Harriet Zimmerman

Training Coordinator - Robin Johnston

Data Steward - Alex Kane

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The following resolutions were submitted to the Township Committee for review and were adopted by one motion.

Mayor Gisser opened the meeting to the committee for any questions or discussions on resolutions 2019–001 through 2019–019. Ms. Neibart commented on resolution 2019-019 noting that there is a possibility that Chester Borough might reconsider the agreement which then would require an amended resolution to include them in the agreement.

Motion to adopt resolutions 2019-001 through 2019-019 was made by Mr. Diegnan and seconded by Ms. Duarte. Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

### **RESOLUTION 2019-001**

APPOINTING TOWNSHIP PROFESSIONALS FOR 2019

### **RESOLUTION 2019-002**

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY - 2019

### **RESOLUTION 2019-003**

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES - KATHRYN L. MANTELL – NISIVOCIA LLP

### **RESOLUTION 2019-004**

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR TAX APPEAL CONSULTANT – THOMAS SATEARY, ESQ. – LINDABURY, MCCORMICK, ESTABROOK & COOPER, PC

### **RESOLUTION 2019-005**

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR 2019 LEGAL SERVICES – LABOR ATTORNEY – ART THIBAUT, ESQ – APRUZZESSE, MCDERMOTT, MASTRO & MURPHY

### **RESOLUTION 2019-006**

APPOINTING TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS FOR 2019

### **RESOLUTION 2019-007**

ESTABLISHING A NEW PETTY CASH FUND

### **RESOLUTION 2019-008**

RESCINDING PETTY CASH FUND FOR THE OFFICE OF THE TOWNSHIP CLERK AND AUTHORIZING CHANGE IN CUSTODIAN OF THE RECREATION PETTY CASH FUND

### **RESOLUTION 2019-009**

ESTABLISHING VARIOUS CHANGE FUND FOR THE YEAR 2019

### **RESOLUTION 2019-010**

APPOINTING 2019 CROSSING GUARD

### **RESOLUTION 2019-011**

APPOINTING PLUMBING SUBCODE OFFICIAL / INSPECTOR

### **RESOLUTION 2019-012**

DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS AND FIXING CHARGES FOR NOTICES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS DURING 2019

### **RESOLUTION 2019-013**

ESTABLISHING REGULAR MEETING DATES – 2019 TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

**RESOLUTION 2019-014**

ESTABLISHING 2019 OFFICE HOURS AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**RESOLUTION 2019-015**

APPROVING THE CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM

**RESOLUTION 2019-016**

ESTABLISHING INTEREST RATE-DELINQUENT TAXES AND SEWER FEES

**RESOLUTION 2019-017**

ADOPTING 2019 TEMPORARY BUDGET OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM

**RESOLUTION 2019-018**

DESIGNATING DEPOSITORY FOR TOWNSHIP FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES ON TOWNSHIP CHECKS

**RESOLUTION 2019-019**

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR SHARING EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON, THE BOROUGH OF MENDHAM AND THE TOWNSHIP OF CHESTER

Ms. Coppinger administered the oath of office to Mr. Matthew Petracca, Township Attorney.

**SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS MAY RIGHTFULLY COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

**PLANNING BOARD NOMINATIONS** - Mayor Gisser opened the nomination for Class III member (Township Committee member) to the Planning Board. Ms. Neibart nominated Mr. Monaghan to the position of Class III member and seconded by Mr. Duarte. No other nominations were presented. Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

Mayor Gisser reappointed Mr. Sante D'Emidio, Ms. Janet DeMeo and Mr. John Henri Mayer to the Planning Board. The appointments to the Planning Board, with the expectation of the Class II and Class III position, are Mayoral appointments and do not require a roll call vote by the Township Committee.

**STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR / COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Mayor Gisser's remarks are attached hereto and made a part of the minutes.

Mr. Monagan asked for a moment of silence for Mrs. Nancy White, who passed away overnight. Ms. White has been an integral part of the community for many years. Mrs. White served on the First Aid Squad since April 1969.

Ms. Neibart congratulated Committee Member Nick Monaghan and thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. Ms. Neibart thanked her colleagues for their support.

Mr. Diegnan congratulated Mr. Gisser and Ms. Neibart on their nominations. Best of Luck this year!

Ms. Duarte congratulated the new committee members and she looks forward to working with them. She congratulated the new officers of Brookside Engine Company, Ralston Engine Company and the First Aid Squad. Ms. Duarte mentioned some of her highlights which included Chairing the Ad Hoc Communications Committee and acting as Liaison for the Brookside Engine Company, Ralston Engine Company, First Aid Squad, Environmental Commission, Historic Perseveration Commission and Mendham TV. Ms. Duarte looks forward to working in these roles in 2019. She also expressed that she will decline taking a salary, she believes the committee member role is a form of community service. Ms. Duarte mentioned an incident that took place in Mendham Township and she suggested the Township Committee revisit a welcoming resolution to support diversity.

Mr. Monaghan expressed that it is a humbling experience to sit on the Township Committee and thanked everyone for their support.

**HEARING PERSONS PRESENT**

Mayor Diegnan opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no hands and hearing no voices, Mayor Gisser closed the meeting to the public.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Diegnan made a motion. Second by Ms. Duarte

Roll call vote: All members present voted to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Ms. Duarte's remarks
2. Chief Witzak's remarks
3. Mayor Gisser's remarks

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Coppinger, Township Clerk

Distributed: 02/08/2019

Approved: 02/11/2019

**Township Committee meeting 1/4/19**

**Remarks by Committeewoman Duarte regarding abstention on vote for Deputy Mayor**

I want to take a minute to explain my vote to residents. I am reluctant to start off the year dissenting, but I strongly believe it is important to speak out, as an elected official, if you do not agree with a decision. And, I do not believe this decision is in the best interests of our community.

The Deputy Mayor position should be filled by a Committee member with a track record of volunteer service and an understanding of our community. Even though I am starting my second year on the Committee, I wasn't surprised to be passed over to serve as deputy mayor because I am the sole Democrat on the Committee.

However, I was very surprised at this decision by my colleagues. Committeeman Nick Monaghan has lived in town for 20 years; served as Captain of the First Aid Squad; and has been attending Township Committee meetings for years. I would have supported his nomination. I do not want to vote against my fellow Committee member, but I also cannot support this motion. So for those reasons, I will be abstaining.

**Attachment #2**

**Chief Witczak's remarks 1/4/19**

Good Evening,

I want to take a moment to thank the township committee and our township administration for this opportunity and your support of our fire company and all that you do for our community.

To our fire company members, thank you for this opportunity and your all-in dedication. We will certainly continue to make strides in 2019 in providing the best service that we can to our community. I would like to thank Ex-chief Eric Cooper for his dedicated leadership over the past several years. Last year we had a very busy year, the 3<sup>rd</sup> busiest in department history. In 2018 our fire company answered 316 calls for service with an average response time of 12 minutes which is 2 minutes faster than the NFPA national standard for a community of our size. Our dedicated members volunteered 2,391 hours of their time in 2018 to help serve our community. As the Fire Chief, I look forward to working with our new and current township officials, our fellow municipal services leaders and fellow emergency services leaders.

To our residents, I want to extend a thank you to you as well and let you know that the members of our fire company will continue to provide the best service that we can to you. Our doors are always open, we encourage citizens to stop by when you see us at the firehouse, say hello and please do consider volunteering and give back to our wonderful community.

Thank you.

Mayor's Address – 2019

Good evening and welcome! I am honored to have my colleagues on the Township Committee ask me to serve as Mayor of Mendham Township.

It is great to see a full chamber this evening with so many family, friends, and neighbors here to join us for our reorganization meeting. Having you here today allows you to participate in government, and I hope you will join us for future meetings...even when “refreshments” are not on the agenda!

2019 marks the 270<sup>th</sup> year for Mendham Township, which was founded in 1749...so we have a lot of history...and you need to be careful with that history! As a member of the fire department, we often operate under the slogan of “100 years of tradition, unimpeded by progress”, there is often a bias towards doing what we have always done in the past, but I am hopeful that this Township Committee can strike a balance between respecting the past, while embracing the future. One of the many factors that I believe will foster a forward looking agenda is the fact that all five Township Committee members are serving in their first term to elected office. I have not gone back through the past 270 years to research this, but I believe it has been a long time since this has occurred. As a group we bring a broad spectrum of experience and knowledge with a fresh perspective.

I also want to remind everyone that we are a committee of equals. We are a team charged with the responsibility of serving the community together. Our primary role is to establish high-level forward-looking priorities and then ensure that we have the resources, both human and financial, in place to ensure success. Our success as a Committee should be measured by having the right people, doing the right job, with the resources needed. To that end, I am pleased to report that we have the finest professional team, led by our administrator, Debbie Bonanno in place. The level of professionalism and collaboration that exists in town hall today is a direct reflection her leadership and I want to thank her publically for all she has done for Mendham Township.

It is worth noting...No one notices when everything is going right...only when things go wrong...so...in an ironic twist, the more that gets done well, the less people tend to notice...(Feel free to stop by town hall...even just to say hello...)

Priorities – Continue the path set by Mayor Diegnan on getting “closure” on outstanding/legacy issues...it was a busy year... we addressed the Ralston playground, Pitney, sewer east, land



use issues, just to name a few...we continue to work on our budget, with a focus on debt reduction and capital expenditure discipline.

We will continue to look for opportunities to partner up with our neighboring communities to create efficiencies...a process that is ongoing and was part of today's consent agenda

Our tax levy is highly dependent on our aggregate assessed value, which we need to stabilize and grow. We are challenged by our dependence on a nearly 100% residential tax base (I should mention...the kings shopping plaza is not in the Township...you would be surprised how many people don't know that...BUT we do have a growing retail district with the addition of Harmony Brookside...if you haven't visited it yet, please do!) We have taken some steps to broaden our tax base through recent approvals for development on Shores Road and in the Pitney subdivision, and we continue to look forward to a specific application on the Hillandale Project/Sister's Property off Mosle. I also plan to bring professionals before this committee to advise us on what today's home buyer is looking for. This will help us make informed decisions on where to spend our resources in an effort to attract new home buyers. We know that the quality of our schools "opens the door", but it falls upon us to "close the deal".

Police - This committee will bring forward a specific option/course of action to address the well documented issues our Police Department face with respect to their facility. I think it is worth noting that in a recent meeting we had a member of the public comment that as a community we have chosen to do many things (equipment purchases, playgrounds, etc)...so it is a matter of choice to address our Police Department's aging infrastructure. I agree, and the time is now to make this choice...I believe we owe it to both the Police Department and the residents of the Township to bring forward a specific plan, so as to establish a "yard stick" by which we evaluate all of our options.

So...How do we accomplish our goals...through trust...we must demonstrate to the community that we are making the best decision we can based upon the facts available to us. I ask that we engage in fact-driven debate...let's first agree to the facts before we form an opinion. The community needs to know and TRUST, that even if they are not in agreement with our decision on an issue, they can count on us making decisions based upon all of the facts that are available to us.

We (the five of us) are your neighbor and friend. Our children share classrooms and playing fields. We see each other when we out shopping...this is local government. Please know that when we make a decision, we know the people it impacts personally. Doing this job well

requires a willingness to make difficult decisions...As past mayor Diane Orban-Brown said in her mayoral address...be courageous!

Before I conclude...I need to say a special word to a few people who are most important to me...so please indulge me...

To my parents and in-laws who are here tonight...thank you for your support and interest...you were here for the candidates' forum, which feels like a lifetime ago...to my son and daughter, you make me smile every day and I promise I will make up the time we miss together...

To my wife Christie...what can I say...everyone in this room should know you personally stuffed, addressed, and stamped over 2000 envelopes back in 2016 during the campaign...so it's all your fault! Literally and figuratively I could not do any of this without you...you are my friend, my partner, my rock!

It is my esteemed honor to serve as Mayor of Mendham Township...I promise I will put all I can into serving this community along with my colleagues on the Township Committee to make 2019 a success!