



**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
January 9, 2019
Regular Session 7:30 PM**

1. ROLL CALL:

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

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

3. 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 and Daily Record on December 28, 2018. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Offices and notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

4. PROCLAMATION

Historic Preservation Committee – Mayor Gisser presented a proclamation to Mr. Raymond Nadaskay for his talents and expertise that he shared while serving on the Historic Perseveration Committee.

Ms. Vanessa Brown of the Historic Preservation Committee presented Mr. Nadaskay with a plaque. Mr. Nadaskay thanked the fire department, Historic Preservation Committee, the all volunteers who dedicate their time at the Ralston Cider Mill. He thanked his wife for all of her support.

5. OATHS OF OFFICE – OFFICERS OF THE RALSTON ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1

Mr. Petracca administered the oaths of office to Chief Tom Montgomery, Assistant Chief Scott Mortensen and Captain Jeffrey Betz.

6. ANNOUNCEMENT:

Mayor Gisser and Ms. Duarte announced several events that are taking place during the upcoming weeks.

7. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Motion to open the public comment session

Ms. Neibart moved. Ms. Duarte seconded.

All members presented voted to open the public comment session

Diana Orban Brown – Ironia Road – Mr. Nadaskay was not only a member of the Open Space Committee but was also an integral part of the committee.

Bob Wock – 12 Cooper Road – Recognized the Township Committee for the tremendous job that they did last year and acknowledged Mr. Diegnan for keeping everyone on track. He asked the committee to give consideration and investigate the pros and cons of changing the form of government where the Mayor is elected. He noted that even though many tasks were completed last year, having a Mayor elected instead of switching them out every year, could make things easier when you have projects that

expand over a year. He suggested an Ad Hoc Committee be established so the pros and cons could be investigated.

Eric Mauriello – 6 Woodland Terrace – He wanted to know the plans to have the recreation director’s position filled. He brought to the committee’s attention, that there is no ordinance on file regarding the replacement of trees when trees are taken down. He would like to know why there is no ordinance on file.

Motion to close the public comment session

Mr. Monaghan moved. Ms. Neibart seconded.

All members presented voted to open the public comment session

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Special Meeting of September 14, 2018

Ms. Duarte moved. Ms. Neibart seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve, except for Mr. Monaghan who abstained.

Regular Meeting of November 12, 2018

Ms. Duarte moved. Ms. Neibart seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve, except for Mr. Monaghan who abstained.

9. RESOLUTIONS

2019-021 Resolution for the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Payment of Bills

Ms. Neibart moved. Mr. Monaghan seconded.

Mayor Gisser noted that Mr. Diegnan and Ms. Neibart will review and initial the bills.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

2019-022 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing Discussion without the Presence of the Public – Discussion on Appointments for the year 2019 to Boards, Commission, Committees and Township Officials positions

Ms. Duarte moved. Ms. Neibart seconded.

Mayor Gisser noted that the Township Committee will enter into executive session to have a discussion on public safety and contracts.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

10. DISCUSSION

Mayor Gisser responded to Mr. Mauriello’s question noting that it is the intention of the Township Committee to put a new director in place. However, there are some housekeeping items that need to take place prior to having a director in place.

Mr. Diegnan reminded the committee that the (potential) Land Use Board Ordinance and the Pitney Seven Acres Task Force (2nd phase) need to be addressed in 2019.

Mayor Gisser expressed that he will sit down with the Township Administrator to review the open items that need to be addressed.

Ms. Duarte concurred with the statements regarding addressing the open item and noted that recreation department has a lot that needs to continue moving forward. She would like the Township Committee to revisit the idea of forming a Communication Advisory Committee, to also look at having a Master Plan Review and to continue bring new ideas to the Stigma Free Task Force. In light of the current event that took place in Mendham Township, Ms. Duarte would like the Township Committee to adopt a “Welcoming Resolution” and also suggested that the Township Committee host a pot luck dinner to celebrate diversity.

Mayor Gisser expressed that the residents of Mendham Township have demonstrated through their actions that we are a welcoming community and it brings him great pride to know that the township professionals and residents handled the recent events in the appropriate manner.

Ms. Neibart provided an update on the Shared Services Ad Hoc Committee noting that several municipalities adopted the Department of Public Works shared service resolution and agreement. The Shared Service Committee discussed the following items: Washington Township possibly getting involved with Randolph Township Animal Control Services which could potentially save Mendham Township money; Partnering with other municipalities to share a Fire Code Official. Ms. Neibart noted that the Recreation Director's position could possibly be a discussion for the Shared Services Ad Hoc Committee to explore. Additionally, there were discussions on a dog park which could cost approximately \$8,000. Ms. Neibart is aware that everything has to be prioritized in the budgetary process but she is hopeful that the funds could be raised by fundraising. Ms. Neibart noted that residents are highly encouraged to replace the trees that are taken down and she would be happy to bring Mr. Mauriello's question to the Tree Committee Chairman, Brian Hays. Ms. Neibart wanted to know the status of the Ralston Playground since the Recreation Director's position is open. It was noted that Phase I of the Ralston Playground was complete and a Grand Opening of the playground would take place during warmer weather. Ms. Bonanno commented that the Township is in the process of purchasing additional playground equipment.

Mr. Monaghan expressed that he appreciates the Mayor's comments on having a working session to discuss ordinances prior to them being introduced for first reading. Ms. Monaghan has been involved with some meetings on the siren issue that has been brought up by residents and follow up meeting will take place with the fire and EMS officials.

11. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Ms. Duarte moved to open to the public. Ms. Neibart seconded.
All members present voted to approve**

Eric Mauriello – 6 Woodland Terrace – He asked that the recreation director's email be monitored for the short term matters, like field assignments. He expressed that the website and the Mendham Matters Newsletter is really nice and very well-organized and asked the Township Committee to continue with those efforts. He suggested the Township Committee look into a Welcome Wagon idea and suggested working together with the Library since they have been looking into a similar idea.

Bob Wock – 12 Cooper Road – He asked the Township Committee to look into the Master Plan Review and it should not be removed from the budget for the sake of convenience.

**Ms. Duarte moved to close the public session. Ms. Neibart seconded.
All members present voted to approve**

Mr. Monaghan moved to close the public meeting and enter into executive session which was seconded by Ms. Neibart. All members present voted to approve.

Township Committee entered into Executive Session at 8:25PM.

Township Committee returned from Executive Session at 9:35PM.

12. ADJOURN

**Ms. Duarte moved to adjourn at 9:37PM. Ms. Neibart seconded.
All members present voted to approve**

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Coppinger, Township Clerk

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