



Founded 1749

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
October 10, 2017
Regular Session 7:30 PM**

ROLL CALL

Mr. Baumann	Present
Mr. Cioppettini	Present
Mr. Diegnan	Present by phone
Mr. Gisser	Present
Mayor Orban Brown	Present

Also Present: John M. Mills, III, Esq., Township Attorney
Debbie Bonanno, Administrator
Mary Beth Zichelli, Township Clerk

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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 Daily Record, Observer Tribune and the Star Ledger on January 7, 2017. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Offices and Notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Best practices Questionnaire –Ms. Zichelli explained that the DCA and Local Government Services put out a 25 question questionnaire to all municipalities and was implemented to encourage towns to do the right thing concerning finances, health and all aspects of municipal government. The more Yes's or N/A the better your score and you are allowed up to 9 No's before you lose state aid. According to Karen Fornaro, our CFO, we had two (2) no's. This gives us a 92% rating. One concerns longevity in our collective bargaining agreement, which can't be changed and the other is in regards to repeat audit findings, which will be a "yes" for next year. The questionnaire is available on our website.

New fire engine – The Mayor noted that the new fire engine purchased for Brookside Engine Company is beautiful and should service the town for at least ten years. She thanked the Chief and volunteers for making this happen.

Candidate's debate – Mr. Cioppettini inquired about a debate between the two candidates and asked both of them, Ms. Duarte and Mr. Blood, who were in the audience to help find a date.

Movie Night- Mr. Gisser thanked the new rec director for a successful movie night at Ralston Playground and noted there were over 70 people in attendance.

Fire Prevention Month- Mr. Gisser noted that October is Fire Prevention Month and Brookside Engine Company will be holding a Community Fire Prevention Day, Sunday, October 29th from 10:30-1 PM.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Orban Brown read a proclamation honoring Sue Piscitello for her twenty-one years of service to Mendham Township.

CORRESPONDENCE

The 911 contract from the county has been renewed, but there will be no increase to the contract in 2018.

The Library Board and staff thanked the Committee for their new glass door and their support of the library's capital improvements.

The Mayor received a letter from a resident concerned about the speeding on Tingley Rd, especially during rush hour. He guesses the average speed to be about 40-45 miles per hour and it is posted at 30 mph.

A resident wrote a letter to the Mayor asking about having a tree cut down in her right of way. It is actually on her property, but the Mayor noted that an ordinance will soon be on the agenda requiring residents to be responsible for the maintenance of trees in the right of way.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 26, 2017, regular session

Mayor Orban Brown called for a motion. Mr. Cioppettini moved. Mr. Gisser seconded. All members present voted to approve.

September 26, 2017, executive session

Mayor Orban Brown called for a motion. Mr. Cioppettini moved. Mr. Gisser seconded. Mr. Baumann abstained. All other members present voted to approve.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2017-155

EXTENDING THE CONTRACT BETWEEN WICKLOW AND LAURANO LANDSCAPING, LLC AND THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM FOR THE 2015-2016 SNOW PLOWING SEASON FOR A ONE YEAR PERIOD NOVEMBER 1, 2017 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2018

Mayor Orban Brown called for a motion. Mr. Baumann moved. Mr. Cioppettini seconded. Mr. Cioppettini commented that this service has been very beneficial to the Town and to the DPW. All members present voted to approve.

RESOLUTION 2017-156

TO APPROVE SETTLEMENTS OF REAL PROPERTY TAX APPEALS

Mayor Orban Brown called for a motion. Mr. Gisser moved. Mr. Baumann seconded. All members present voted to approve.

RESOLUTION 2017-157

APPOINTING RYAN GUTHRIE TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Mayor Orban Brown called for a motion. Mr. Baumann moved. Mr. Cioppettini seconded. The Mayor and Mr. Cioppettini praised Mr. Guthrie and expressed their excitement for young, new faces on the Board of Adjustment. All members present voted to approve.

RESOLUTION 2017-158

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mayor Orban Brown called for a motion. Mr. Baumann moved. Mr. Gisser seconded. All members present voted to approve.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

Dick Nelson, 19 Schoolhouse Lane, inquired about the completion of paving on Schoolhouse Road. Ms. Bonanno stated that Tilcon would be completing it the next day, weather permitting.

Rick Blood, 32 Tingley Road, commented that that ramping the road at each driveway opening if the paving was not going to get done on Schoolhouse Lane soon was a suggestion he had made to Dave Read.

Patricia Zimmerman, 3 West Main Street, asked again for the Committee to purchase a podium for residents to speak from, complimented Wicklo and Laurano and Co. for the beautiful landscaping in front of Town Hall, and inquired about the trees in the right of way and the Pitney property to be used for public use.

Peter Dumovic, 3 Shelton Road, also expressed his appreciation for the new glass door in the library and thanked the Committee for supporting the library. He also asked for all to attend the fundraiser on October 27th for the 70th anniversary of the library at the Community Club; dance, light refreshments, BYOB, 7-10 PM, no charge, but donations welcome.

Amalia Duarte, 22 Brockton Drive, has also experienced speeders on Tingley and hopes it can be addressed and thanked the new rec director, Steve Eisenstein for a great movie night event.

DISCUSSION

Verizon – The Mayor stated that the Historic Preservation Commission sent a letter to Verizon concerning the placement of the poles. She asked Mr. Baumann to discuss his tour of the pole locations and what he had learned. He explained that to a certain extent Verizon can move some locations, but the locations are contingent on other towns and the placement of their poles. The Mayor noted that the Committee would do everything they can to be cognizant and respectful of residents front yards and historical roads, but the law is on Verizon's side. It is a federal law and there are many residents with spotty cellular service who are anxious to get it improved. Mr. Cioppettini stated that he would hope Verizon would be a good neighbor and work with the Township by removing old poles and removing whatever becomes obsolete. The Mayor said that should be in the resolution.

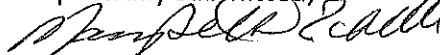
Pitney – The Mayor announced that it is the hope of the Committee to begin the process of selling the Pitney property at the November 9th Board of Adjustment meeting. There are 12 acres; 7 reserved in perpetuity because it is open space, 1 ½ acres reserved for municipal purposes where the Friends of Pitney have proposed to take over the historic farmstead and turning it into low impact gathering place and the rest (3 ½ acres) made available for a developer for possibly three homes. The Committee hopes to have the plan in place by the end of the year.

Mr. Gisser wanted to clarify that the Finance Committee will put together the best budget they can, but ultimately it is the Township Committee that approves it. Mr. Cioppettini commented that the Committee will have to prioritize and may not satisfy everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

The Township Committee adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Beth Zichelli

Township Clerk