



**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
October 23, 2018
Minutes of Regular Session 6:00 PM**

1. ROLL CALL:

Mr. Cioppettini
Ms. Duarte
Mr. Gisser
Ms. Neibart
Mayor Diegnan

Also present:

John Mills, Attorney
Debbie Bonanno, Township Administrator
Maria Coppinger, Township Clerk

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 January 4, 2018. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Offices and Notice was filed with the Township Clerk. Notice of time change was given on October 11, 2018.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

Mayor Diegnan announced several upcoming events: National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on October 27th, West Morris Chainbreakers on November 4th, Mendham Township Rabies Clinic on November 3rd and reminded the public to register their cats and dogs for the new year.

Mayor Diegnan met with the four Mayors, Superintendent and the Principal of the West Morris Regional High School to speak about the programs at the high school and to see the new lights (Friday Night Lights).

Mr. Cioppettini encouraged the public to vote in the November 6th election.

Ms. Duarte announced several upcoming events: PTO meeting will be held to meet the new leadership at the high school on October 23rd, high school play is scheduled for next week and there is a new "Hike Mendham" Facebook page which encourages people to hike the trails. Also, the HSA Family Fall Feast is on October 28th. She thanked the first responders for making Halloween enjoyable and safe for all.

Ms. Neibart reminded the public that October 30th is the last day to send in the Vote by Mail application.

5. RECOGNIZING NEW FIREFIGHTER

Joshua R. Wolfson and Conner Beggan have applied to be senior firefighters at the Brookside Engine Company #1.

Mr. Connor Beggan was introduced to the committee and the public.

6. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Diegnan opened the public portion for discussion on agenda items. Seeing no hands and hearing no voices, Mayor Diegnan closed the public portion to the public.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting of September 11, 2018 – Minutes were tabled to the next meeting.

8. RESOLUTIONS

2018-171 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Appointing Russell Heiney to the Position of Acting Plumbing Subcode official / Plumbing Inspector

Mr. Cioppettini moved. Ms. Duarte seconded.

Roll Call vote: All members voted to approve.

2018-172 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing Execution of a Separation Agreement with Jack Philhower

Mr. Gisser moved. Mr. Cioppettini seconded.

Mr. Cioppettini thanked Mr. Philhower for his many years of service to the Township.

Roll Call vote: All members voted to approve.

2018-173 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township Of Mendham Designating Karen Fornaro as the Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O)

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Gisser seconded.

Roll Call vote: All members voted to approve.

2018-174 Resolution for the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Payment of Bills

Ms Duarte moved. Ms. Niebart seconded.

Ms. Duarte asked about the payment for the additional Patriot Race t-shirts. Mayor Diegnan noted that it was for last minute registrations that required t-shirts.

Roll Call vote: All members voted to approve.

9. ORDINANCES FOR ADOPTION

18-2018 An Ordinance of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Amending Chapter 7 “Traffic” Section 29 “Speed Limits”

Second Reading / Public Hearing scheduled for November 12, 2018

Mr. Gisser moved. Ms. Duarte seconded.

Chief Johnson noted that Chief Camoia of Mendham Boro contacted him regarding the speed limits. Chief Johnson noted that the change was requested to keep the speed limits consistent in both towns. Subsequently, a traffic study was performed which recommended that the speed limits be changed. Chief Johnson also noted that there are two traffic studies, currently, in place at Corey Road/Tempe Wick Road and Roxiticus Road/ Rte 24). He noted that in the next six weeks they hope to meet with everyone

involved to talk about some of the changes that they would recommend based on the data that was collected.

Mr. Gisser wanted to know the implementation process for the new speed limits. Chief Johnson expressed that once the ordinance is adopted, the police department will put signs out, issue a press release and a campaign will take place to notify drivers of the new speeds limits. He also expressed that, initially, warnings will be handed out.

Ms. Duarte wanted to know that status of the speed trailers that the resident was working on. Chief Johnson noted that the old sign board is back in service.

10. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATIONS

Chapter 170 (Repealing Chapter 10, Article VI, 10-29) Entitled “Fire Department” of the Mendham Township General Ordinances

Mayor Diegnan noted that the fire ordinance is in draft mode. He asked the rest of the committee to review the ordinance and notify Ms. Duarte with any concerns. Mr. Cioppettini wanted to know if the draft was provided to the labor attorney. It was noted that the labor attorney has reviewed the ordinance.

Creation of a Communications Advisory Committee

Mayor Diegnan noted that he has provided some changes to the communication ordinance and asked the committee to contact Ms. Duarte with any feedback. Ms. Neibart asked if the current communications committee is in favor of the ordinance. Ms. Duarte expressed that the Ad Hoc Committee was disbanded and the new group would be a smaller group at the request of the Mayor. Ms. Neibart is concern with limiting the membership on the committee. Ms. Duarte expressed that originally it was a bigger group but the feedback from the Mayor was to have a smaller group. She noted that a student representative was added and she feels comfortable with a small group. Ms. Duarte reminded that public that these committees are open to the public which is another way to participate

Ms. Neibart noted that the ad hoc shared services committee met to discuss animal pound services, control services and recreation. Mendham Township will speak with Randolph Township to see if they would be interested in adding additional municipalities to the contract. Mendham Township will review their fee schedule with Randolph Township to keep cost down. The recreation directors shared some ideas around partnering with bordering municipalities to share programs and trips. They looked into a “55 and over Mendhams Club” for seniors and recreation activities. They spoke about the creation of a dog park and they received feedback on how to go about creating a dog park.

Ms. Duarte asked Ms. Neibart if she reached out to folks in town who are involved in the different rescues groups. Ms. Duarte asked if members of the committee could get involved with the shared services since it seems that there is a lot going on. Ms. Neibart will be reaching out to the Eleventh Hour Rescue Group.

Mr. Gisser mentioned that the Finance Committee had a productive budget meeting and reminded the committee to advise them of any projects that they are working on for budgetary purposes.

Mr. Cioppettini noted that the Planning Board - Master Plan Subcommittee has recommended a complete analysis and re-write of the master plan which is something that the Township Committee would have to consider. He expressed that due to budgetary constraints, he recommends that the analysis and re-write be held off and money be reserved if the committee decides to move forward with the recommendation. He also recommended holding off the process because the current planner is retiring and a new planner would have to brought-up to speed which would require some time. He expressed that we are in compliance with the State law and we have reviewed and updated the Master Plan (re-examination

requirement). Mayor Diegnan noted that the Planning Board will have a meeting on December 19th to review the re-examination. Discussion continued on making changes to the Master Plan which included changes regarding the legalization of marijuana.

Ms. Duarte noted the JCP&L forum was held and asked the committee and residents for suggestions on forum ideas. The volunteer spotlight on Mendham TV was the First Aid Squad and up next will be the fire companies. The website is ready to launch and thanked Melanie Politi and Debbie Bonanno for their assistant. Ms. Duarte noted that the siren issue was brought up at a meeting and expressed that she spoke to the county and first responders to look at ways to address the issue. She noted that the Volunteer Appreciation Celebration is typically held at the beginning of the year however she was wondering if it could be moved towards the end of the year. The Township Committee agreed to change the meeting time to 6:00PM on December 20th followed by the celebration at 7:00PM.

Mayor Diegnan noted that the mulch will be installed at the playground and due to the weather the grand opening will be scheduled for next year. Finally, the Pitney Farm Seven Acres Task Force will present a proposal at the second meeting in November.

Mayor Diegan asked the Township Committee to reach out to him if there is anything else that needs to be accomplished for this year.

- 11. 2018-175** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing Discussion without the Presence of the Public – Contract Negotiation & Personnel
Mr. Gisser moved. Mr. Cioppettini seconded
Roll Call vote: All members voted to approve.

12. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Cioppettini moved. Ms. Duarte seconded. All members voted to open the meeting to the public.

Michael Merritt – Mountainside Road – He appreciates the Township Committee’s investment with the fire ordinance. He has some feedback on the fire ordinance like time constraints and election dates which he will forward to Ms. Duarte.

Patricia Zimmerman – 3 W. Main Street - She asked for the status on the “small wireless communication” ordinance. Mr. Mills noted that new guidelines are in the works and it would be pre-mature to adopt an ordinance at this time.

Diana Orban Brown - Ironia Road – She had questions and concerns regarding the very complex fire ordinance and requested, respectfully, that the township committee have a public presentation on the revisions to the ordinance. Mayor Diegnan noted that the ordinance has been scrutinized for almost a year and it has been reviewed by several people.

Mr. Nick Witczack– Deputy Chief of the Brookside Engine Company – The changes to the fire ordinance started over a year now and this might be the draft number 10. He noted that everyone that needed to be involved in the ordinance update have been involved. In today’s complex society, with a lot of litigation and issues in the fire department, we need ways to protect our members, protect and help the public and this ordinance itself runs the operation of the fire department. The ordinance dictates how we administer the fire department.

Diana Orban Brown – 3 W. Main Street – She wanted to clarify her statement noting that the township committee should show the changes in the ordinance, what makes this ordinance different from the 1975 ordinance.

**Mr. Cioppettini made a motion to close the public’s comment section. Ms. Duarte seconded
Roll Call vote: All members voted to approve.**

The Township Committee entered into executive session at 6:00 PM.

13. ADJOURN

The Township Committee adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Coppinger, Township Clerk

Distributed: 12/17/2018

Approved: 12/20/2018