



Founded 1749

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
FEBRUARY 28, 2017
Regular Session 7:45 p.m.**

ROLL CALL

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

Also Present: John M. Mills, III, Esq., Township Attorney
Karen Fornaro, CFO
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 Mayor expressed her condolences for the passing of Rob Pierson, a former Township Mayor.

PRESENTATION

Verizon – A presentation was made by four representatives of Verizon regarding the installation of network nodes to improve wireless communications in the Township. After an explanation and questions from the Committee, they were told the next step may be to go before the Planning Board. Mr. Mills told them he would be in touch with the Planning Board attorney. The Mayor asked them to contact the Administrator to give names of other towns that have had the nodes installed.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT – Seeing no one wishing to speak, the Mayor went on to approval of minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 13, 2017, regular session

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

February 13, 2017, executive session

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

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING

ORDINANCE 2017-1

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

This ordinance was introduced on February 13, 2017 at the Township Committee meeting. Mayor Orban Brown called for a motion. Mr. Gisser moved. Mr. Diegnan seconded. The Mayor opened it up for public hearing and discussion of the Committee. Seeing no one wished to speak, a roll call was taken. All members voted to approve.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2017-35

CANCELLATION OF CURRENT FUND RESERVES

Ms. Fornaro explained that the money could not be used in the present account, but by moving it, it could be used at the discretion of the Township; using the same process of Purchase Orders and requisitions.

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

RESOLUTION 2017-36

CANCELLATION OF OPEN SPACE RESERVES

Ms. Fornaro explained that the money could not be used in the present account, but by moving it, it could be used at the discretion of the Township; using the same process of Purchase Orders and requisitions.

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

RESOLUTION 2017-37

AUTHORIZING REFUND OF OVERPAYMENT OF 2017 TAXES

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

RESOLUTION 2017-38

AUTHORIZING TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION

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

RESOLUTION 2017-39

APPROVING RAFFLE LICENSE

This resolution was tabled until March 13th meeting because the application was not completed.

RESOLUTION 2017-40

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mayor Orban Brown called for a motion. Mr. Gisser moved. Mr. Cioppettini seconded. The Mayor commented on a bill for mileage reimbursement from June. Mayor Orban Brown stated that this needs to be done monthly and this request will be passed to the people who make mileage reimbursement requests. All members voted to approve.

RESOLUTION 2017-41

RATIFYING A CERTAIN MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM AND PBA LOCAL 402

Mayor Orban Brown called for a motion. Mr. Baumann moved. Mr. Cioppettini seconded. The Mayor stated that the Public Safety Committee had negotiated with the Police Benevolent Association and came to a mutually agreeable decision. This resolution is to allow the parties to enter into a bilateral agreement. This agreement is pending the actual contract that should be done by the next meeting. All members present voted to approve.

REPORTS

Public Safety –The Mayor remarked that the PBA contract negotiations were a tremendous sign of progress and very cordial. She also stated that they were close to selecting a police chief and would be interviewing four candidates on Thursday, March 2nd.

Facilities/ Infrastructure - Mr. Baumann asked Lieutenant Johnson to speak about the Hardscrabble Bridge and the time line on having it fixed. He stated it was deemed safe to drive on by the county, but knows it is in dire need of repair. The County will have structural engineers out to the bridge and inspect it on a regular basis and shut it-down if necessary. At this time, there is no impact on emergency services getting through.

The Mayor spoke about the facilities tour and as a result of that, an ad hoc committee has been formed to look at facilities and equipment with Deputy Mayor Diegnan as the chair with residents, employees and a professional consultant.

Finance/Administration – Mr. Cioppettini stated that the revenue items are up and the expense side is close to last year. He also explained to the residents that through the budget process the finance committee was striving to reduce debt, increase cash reserves and provide more funds for infrastructure. Ms. Fornaro has come up with a debt management plan (attached) which would put this town in a very good position. A capital plan over the next thirteen years has also been developed and will continue to talk about the operating budget (attached).

Education/Community Relations – Mr. Diegnan stated he met with Mr. Constantino, superintendent of schools to go over the budget and enrollment and they will continue to work together. The forum for recreation was well attended and had a lot of great input from the community. The Mayor said the focus was on the use of fields, Ralston playground and Brookside Beach and there will be further meetings going forward with those groups.

Municipal revenue – Mr. Gisser said he met with the Administrator and Mr. Heiney, our construction official who said they are working on closing out any permits which would be subject to further assessments.

DISCUSSION – In response to a resident's inquiry about Pitney Farm and the status of subdividing and selling, Mr. Cioppettini remarked that they received an appraisal, waiting for an engineer's report. The Committee is looking at two scenarios; one is all houses and the other is 3-4 homes coming in off of Ballantine road, and a carve out which includes remains of the Pitney house. The Mayor remarked it originally was meant to have a portion for public use and portioning an acre for public use would give everyone a win, win situation.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

Michael Merritt, 73 Mountainside Rd, asked about the schedule of completing the budget process.

Taso Konidaris, 6 Ballantine Road, asked for clarification of Municipal use vs. Friends of Pitney use.

Sue Browse, 13 Cooper Road, inquired about shared services and the negotiations in regards to the Police Department.

Amalia Duarte, 23 Brockton Drive, expressed her appreciation for the forum and hopeful for future projects. She also inquired about the lights at Mosle and expressed how much football means to the community.

Omie Ryan, 11 Glengary Drive, thanked everyone involved to help bring the issue to resolution and supporting efforts to find a win win decision.

Diane Tolley, 15 Woodland Road, inquired about notifying people of Verizon poles.

The Committee went back into the Finance portion of the meeting at 9:37 PM. Mr. Cioppettini asked the committee to provide a consensus as to where the tax rate should be so they know how much to reduce the budget. He would like to see it be no greater than ½ of what it was raised to by last year. Mr. Cioppettini asked each member for their input on the tax rate they were looking for so they have a target to strive for. The following numbers were stated: Mr. Gisser-5%, Mr. Diegnan- 4%, Mrs. Orban Brown-4% and Mr. Baumann-4%.

Mr. Cioppettini went through each item with his suggestions (attached) and while Ms. Fornaro plugged in the new numbers he asked if any residents would like to comment:

Amalia Duarte, 23 Brockton Drive, **Michael Merritt**, 73 Mountainside Rd, **Laurie Pettine**, 24 Woodland Road, **Patricia Zimmerman**, 3 West Main Street, and **Arjan Roghanchi**, 4 East Main St. all expressed their opinions on cutting the recreation budget and asked the Committee to reconsider.

Eric Cooper, Brookside Chief, had questions and concerns regarding the fire department budget and asked for clarification.

Ms. Fornaro declared the new tax rate would be 3.821% with the proposed cuts. Mr. Gisser stated there were other items to be cut. Mr. Diegnan asked for feedback on what other programs could be cut. Mr. Cioppettini said the only group getting different from last year was MASH. Mr. Baumann asked why this year is different from last year and perhaps they should try to get by with the same as last year. The Mayor's suggestions involved utilities management, MASH and senior citizens, Brookside Beach and her desire to not close it down and restore the library budget from 2014. After much discussion regarding cuts and various opinions of the Committee, changes were made and all agreed to put the new figures in the budget to be ready for introduction on March 13th.

The Committee then went into executive session at 11:10 PM and reconvened into regular session at 11:25 to vote on one resolution.

RESOLUTION 2017-42

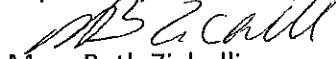
AWARDING CONTRACT FOR ASSET AND FACILITY EVALUATION

Mayor Urban Brown called for a motion. Mr. Baumann moved. Mr. Cioppettini seconded. The Mayor explained that this was to hire the Public Safety Institute Group for the Facilities Committee to evaluate assets and resources of the Police department, volunteer Fire Companies and DPW. All members present voted to approve.

ADJOURNMENT

The Township Committee reconvened in regular session and motioned to adjourn at 11:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Beth Zichelli

Township Clerk