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**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM**

July 13, 2020

**6:00 SPECIAL (EXECUTIVE) MEETING
7:30 PM REGULAR MEETING**

ROLL CALL

Mr. Baio
Ms. Duarte
Mr. Monaghan
Mr. Orfins
Mayor Neibart

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 3, 2020. The Notice of Change in Meeting Format was given to the Daily Record and Star Ledger on July 9, 2020. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the township offices and notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

2020-127

Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing Discussion without the Presence of the Public – Personnel Matters and Matters falling within the attorney-client privilege

Motion to call the question made by Mr. Baio and seconded by Mr. Duarte

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve

ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION (CLOSED) at 6:06PM

REGULAR MEETING STARTS AT 7:30PM

Township Committee reconvened into regular session at 7:35PM.

ROLL CALL

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

COVID-19 UPDATE

Mayor Neibart provided a Covid-19 update:

- As of today, Monday, July 13 we have 231 new cases of Covid-19 in New Jersey.
- Total case count: 175,522
- New deaths: 22
- Total New Jersey deaths from Covid-19: 13,613
- As of July 12, total hospitalizations is 892, individuals in Intensive Care is 166 and 48% of those on ventilators.
- There are new reports of Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome and 53 cases in total.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Neibart made the following announcement regarding the social distancing guidelines and mask protocols while in attendance of Township Committee meetings.

In preparation for the last meeting in June and tonight’s meeting, Mayor Neibart spoke with a variety of public officials throughout the state of New Jersey regarding social distancing best practices and public meeting etiquette. She noted that the way we set up the room and conducted the last meeting and how we will conduct tonight’s meeting and future meetings is similar to how Governor Murphy conducts his daily briefings. To be clear, like Governor Murphy, the Township Committee should be masked when interacting with the public and not sitting on the dais. She mentioned for those at home who cannot see the meeting room, everyone in the public is masked. All chairs have been set up by social distancing standards and we have plexiglass dividers between each committee member. Mayor Neibart has spoken to Dr. Carlos Perez from the Morris County Office of Health Management about the set-up which he has approved. If any committee member chooses to wear a mask while they speak at the meeting, it’s their prerogative and it’s respected, but please project so the public can hear and understand you.

Mayor Neibart asked the Township Committee to consider a consent agenda for Resolutions 2020-128 through 2020-137.

Drakewick Residents: Mayor Neibart explained that we have a third-party council who is performing a fact finding for Sewer East. She noted that the Township is directing the third-party council to send a letter of notice to the original engineer of Sewer East, who is On-Site Engineering, Inc. that we are looking into fact finding and there is a possibility for litigation. Additionally, the Township is looking into purchasing fiber-glass flag for the laterals.

She noted that David Guida, Director of Recreation, is arranging for a 'Wear a Mask' campaign. The Township received 500 donated masks for the attendees to have during the fireworks event. The leftover masks will be provided to the public which we are asking people to decorate their masks, take pictures of them.

Mr. Orlins encouraged the families with children to go to NJ.gov and let Trenton know how they feel about the school's re-opening plan especially if you want your children to go back to in-person school.

Ms. Duarte appreciated the precautions that were taken with the plexiglass, but she will be very cautious on the matter by wearing a mask. She congratulated the Mendham High School graduates and to the 8th Grade Class of 2020. The First Aid Squad has 5 cadets, who are under the age of 18, that have completed or are undergoing the state emergency management training course. Ms. Duarte made several announcements on the upcoming events in Mendham Township.

Mr. Baio thanked Mayor, Chief Johnson, and David Guida for putting on a spectacular fireworks show. He noted that it was a wonderful public event. Ms. Duarte added that the Fireworks Display was a fantastic family night out and thanked the police department not only for the fireworks but for the parade.

Mr. Orlins thanked the sponsors Kris Goodrich of TriOrganics, Ilyssa Masiano and Family, Michael and Julia Shannon, Mark Ignor and Mayor Neibart and David Guida.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Monaghan moved. Ms. Duarte seconded the motion to open the meeting to the public. All members present voted to open the meeting to the public.

Patricia Zimmerman – 3 West Main Street – Mrs. Zimmerman complimented the township committee, especially the Mayor and Recreation Director for helping and carrying the residents through quarantine. She mentioned that the residential developer (Anatol) at the Pitney development has offered to help out with the seed house which is the last remaining building on the property.

Mr. Monaghan added that Anatol has also volunteered to install windows and doors.

Rich Diegnan – 40 Walsingham Road - Thanked Mayor Neibart for her leadership on the work at the Drakewick Community (Sewer East). He also thanked Dave Read, who has been taking a proactive approach and helping out the community. Mr. Diegnan encouraged the Township Committee to not pass Resolution 2020-143, regarding the potential costs to the Drakewick residents, when there may be other parties responsible for the issue at hand.

Jack Curtis – 4 Michael Road – Mr. Curtis commented on the unsafe practice of landscapers parking on the road which he feels needs to be looked at. He also commented on the privatizing of the DPW which he is against for several reasons. He also commented on the school buses that are maintained by the Washington Township DPW and not the Mendham Township DPW. Mr. Curtis' handouts are attached.

James Puleo - 65 Walsingham Road - Thanked Mayor Neibart and Township Committee for the attention that has been provided to the Drakewick Sewer System. He echoed Mr. Diegnan's comments that they fell the payment system should be pushed off until next year so that the residents can fully understand the issue and allocate the funds to those responsible. He also expressed that Dave Read is a great asset to the town. He expressed that the sewer issue is pretty simple, the system is not working weather it's the collection system or the plant itself. Mr. Puleo appreciates the diligence the Township Committee is putting forth.

Stephen Bernt - 9 Wainwright Road – expressed his gratitude for the township's engagement, participation and the progress that has been made especially with the third-party counsel. He also asked that we make sure we have all the right facts and understand the nature of both the potential design issue and operational issues. He reviewed the operational data and what surprised him was that the plant only operates at about 21,000 gallons per day which was below the design criteria. Also, when he looked at the NJ guidelines for sewer waste from different types of dwelling units, he was

coming up with a design number of 26,000 gallons per day which would be an average design if we were to obtain a new sewer treatment plant approved today. He expressed that it might be that the plant is not designed to the right capacity and its not even operating at that capacity. Mr. Bern't's recommendation and request would be, in addition to the third-party council, to have a third-party independent engineer look at the design of the plan and the operations of the plant. He echoed Ms. Marino's comments from previous meetings that it would be great to have some sort of operational review. He requested resolution 2020-143 not be passed because it seems premature to charge when we don't know all the facts and if there are other culpable parties.

Mayor Neilbart explained that a third-party engineer is something that will be discussed in the next couple of weeks. She also noted that all of the flow data was shared with Megan Marino about a week ago and as the information becomes available it will be communicated.

Motion to close the meeting to public comments made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Orlins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Executive Session Minutes of March 9, 2020

Executive Session Minutes of March 24, 2020

Executive Session Minutes of May 18, 2020

Motion made by Mr. Orlins and seconded by Mr. Baio

Motion to call the question made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Monaghan

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

Regular Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2020

Motion made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Baio

Motion to call the question made by Mr. Baio and seconded by Ms. Duarte

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

Special Meeting Minutes of May 18, 2020

Motion made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Baio

Motion to call the question made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Baio

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

CONSENT AGENDA - RESOLUTIONS

Motion for a consent agenda 2020-128 through 2020-137 made by Mr. Monaghan and seconded by Ms. Duarte.

- 2020-128** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing Premium to Escheat from Park Finance II LLC to Township of Mendham for Tax Sale Certificate 12-00006
- 2020-129** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Amending 2020 Budget Insertion of Special Item of Revenue for "Municipal Court Alcohol Education, Rehabilitation and Enforcement Fund"
- 2020-130** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Amending 2020 Budget Insertion of Special Item of Revenue for "2020 Clean Communities Grant"
- 2020-131** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing a Grant Application to the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the Mt. Pleasant Road Project
- 2020-132** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Qualified Purchasing Agent to Develop Bid Specifications and the Municipal Clerk to Advertise a Notice to Bidders for Various Goods and Services
- 2020-133** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing Amendments to Resolution 2020-115 Titled Staff Appointments for the Department of Recreation - Summer Season
- 2020-134** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Awarding Tilcon through the Morris County Co-Op Contract# 6 – Catch Basin Repair Not to Exceed \$107,000
- 2020-135** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Awarding Campbell Foundry Company Through the State Contract# T0148 for Catch Basin Castings, Inlets and Manholes Not to Exceed \$35,000

2020-136 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Awarding Tilcon through the Morris County Co-Op Contract# 6 - Road Resurfacing of Various Roads Not to Exceed \$460,000

2020-137 Resolution of the Township of Mendham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey Authorizing the Award of a Contract to Dosch-King Not to Exceed \$16,000 for Sealcoating Colonial Road and Colonial Place

Motion to call the question made by Mr. Monaghan and seconded by Mr. Orlins.
Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve resolutions 2020-128 through 2020-137.

REGULAR AGENDA - RESOLUTIONS

2020-138 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Appointing Committee Member Nick Monaghan as Liaison to the Board of Health

Motion made by Mr. Baio and seconded by Mr. Orlins.

Motion to call the question made by Mr. Baio and seconded by Ms. Duarte.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

2020-139 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Payment of Bills

Motion made by Mr. Baio and seconded by Mr. Orlins.

Motion to call the question made by Mr. Monaghan and seconded by Mr. Baio.

Ms. Duarte's son is a recipient of a scholarship which is on the bills list for payment, therefore, Ms. Duarte will abstain.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve except for Ms. Duarte who abstained.

2020-140 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Opening of Township Playground at Ralston Park

Motion made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Baio.

Due to the Executive Orders, if parks reopen then the playground equipment needs to be disinfected daily (7 days a week). Mayor Neibart thought it would be appropriate to put a resolution on the agenda authorizing the reopening of the playground with the protocols in place. This is important due to liability concerns.

Motion to call the question made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Monaghan.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

2020-141 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Appointment of a Part Time Temporary Clerk in the Building Department

Motion made by Mr. Orlins and seconded by Ms. Duarte.

Motion to call the question made by Mr. Orlins and seconded by Mr. Baio.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

2020-142 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Appointment of a Part Time Permanent Administrative Clerk in the Township Administrator's Office

Motion made by Mr. Baio and seconded by Ms. Duarte.

Motion to call the question made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Orlins.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

2020-143 Resolution of the Township of Committee of the Township of Mendham Establishing an Amount to be Added to the August and November Quarterly Sewer Bills for Mendham Sewer East Utility Fund to Recover Excess Flow Charges

Motion made by Mr. Baio and seconded by Mr. Orlins.

Mayor Neibart recommended not moving forward with resolution 2020-143 and asked for a "no" vote. As of late Saturday, the President of the Homeowners' Association has requested that the charge be pushed off until next year. Mr. Mills clarified that action should be to 'withdraw' the resolution and reconsidered next year. Ms. Duarte suggested some sort of subcommittee to oversee the ongoing communication with the residents of Drakewick. Mr. Monaghan recommended taking it a step forward and start at whether we need a sewer commission so residents are fully aware of what is going on at all times.

Mr. Orlins reassured the resident of Drakewick that the Township Committee has a pretty good understanding of what is going on. He noted that the Township Committee has a pretty solid plan going forward led by the Mayor and Mr. Casey.

Motion to withdrawal resolution 2020-143 made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Orlins.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

2020-144 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Governing Body Certification of the Annual Audit

Motion made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Ms. Baio.

Mayor Neilbart read a portion of the resolution "Be it Resolved, the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:36.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required to said board to show evidence of set compliance." Mr. Casey provided a description of the two technical issues in the audit.

Motion to call the question made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Orlins.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION / FIRST READING

08-2020 An Ordinance of the Township of Mendham, in the County of Morris, New Jersey, Authorizing a Special Emergency Appropriation in the Amount of \$70,000 for the Preparation of an Approved Tax Map for the Township of Mendham Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53

Second Reading/Public Hearing scheduled for July 28, 2020

Motion made by Mr. Baio and seconded by Ms. Duarte.

Mr. Casey explained that for a reassessment to take place, the tax maps need to be in a current format. He noted that a proposal for the preparation of the tax map has been provided, however, the Township Committee must provide the funding before the proposal could be signed. This funding mechanism works to the Township's advantage because it basically says, you are appropriating \$70,000 which will be paid off during the next 5 years. The same funding mechanism will be used for the reassessment.

Motion to call the question made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Monaghan.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

Mayor Neilbart explained that there was a request from the Police Department to add **Resolution 2020-145 titled "Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Declaring an Emergency to Exist Due to Excess Traffic and Parking Concerns at Various Publicly Owned Location in the Township of Mendham Pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Code of Ordinance of the Township of Mendham."**

Motion made by Mr. Baio and seconded by Mr. Monaghan.

Chief Johnson explained that Buttermilk Falls in the last month has become overwhelmed and overrun by people on the weekends. They were hoping the problem would windle down as beaches reopen but unfortunately it seems to be getting ahead of steam. Last week, there was an estimated 300-500 people in the park which has overwhelmed the parking area. After reviewing the ordinance there is really no parking enforcement power so the emergency declaration (resolution) would address the enforcement concern.

Mayor Neilbart read the Be It Resolved statement .. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM, COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY** that a State of Emergency is hereby declared for the following locations in the Township due to the excessive parking being experienced by virtue of the high demand for public usage of the affected area. Said State of Emergency and any required parking restrictions shall remain in place until the Township Committee can adopt permanent regulations governing parking and park access in these areas or for 4 months after which park usage subsides due to weather conditions: Buttermilk Falls /India Brook Parking area at 97 Ironia Road, including 300 feet of Ironia Road on either side of the park entrance as well as 300 feet in either direction of the designated parking areas for Buttermilk Falls on Calais Road, Combs Hollow Road and Mountainside Road; Mosle Preserve; Meadowood Park; Tempe Wickes Preserve; Dismal Harmony Area on East Main Street and 300 feet on each side of the trail Parking access points to Dismal Harmony Area on East Main Street and Tingley Roads.

Motion to call the question made by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Orlins.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Baio seconded the motion to open the meeting to the public.

All members present voted to open the meeting to the public.

Patricia Zimmerman – 3 West Main Street – Mrs. Zimmerman is also concerned with the landscaping trucks that park in the road making it difficult for drivers to move around them. She was also surprised to hear that there is consideration of doing away with the Dept. of Public Works. Mrs. Zimmerman mentioned that she attends the meetings regularly and has not heard any discussion on the topic which should be discussed in public. She expressed that we have really depended upon the DPW.

Jack Curtis – 4 Michael Road – asked what participated the idea of doing away with the DPW.

Mr. Orlins explained there is no plan to dismantle the DPW; there is no plan to fire the Superintendent Dave Read and expressed that they value Dave Read. Mr. Orlins explained that we have been meeting with Dave Read over the last two months to find efficiencies in DPW, not necessarily dismantle DPW. He explained that there is an ongoing effort within the finance committee to find savings across every area of the Township Administration and all the services we provide so we can meet our tax obligations and bills this year and next. Mr. Orlins stated that when, and if, they decide to do anything it will be made public but the hearsay about dismantling and firing 11 guys is ridiculous.

Mr. Monaghan expressed that there are absolutely no decisions. He expressed that the Township Committee is responsible for making sure we evaluate as many options as possible for being efficient with the tax dollars in the Township. He noted that they are exploring the options.

Comments via Zoom:

Diana Orban Brown – Ironia Road –asked for clarification on resolution 2020-128 in which Mr. Casey provided an explanation response.

Peter Dumovic – 3 Shelton Road – comments attached.

Meghan Marino – 9 Trimmingham Court – Thanked the Township Committee for their attention to the sewer matter, making it a priority and for withdrawing the resolution tonight. She clarified that our intention of “postponing” any charges to 2021 is with the understanding that the Township is going to do a thorough investigation to determine from where the excess flows are coming and who truly should be responsible for paying those charges. She noted that the report they received indicate that there is not a significant difference in flows over the year which led us to believe that something went wrong when the plant was converted to biological. She encouraged the town to hire a third-party engineer to review the system design to determine if the plant is defected or underbuilt.

Motion to close open to the public made by Mr. Orlins and seconded by Ms. Duarte.

DISCUSSION

Administration

Summer Hours for the Administrative Offices– Monday thru Thursday 8:30AM to 4:30PM with ½ lunch and Fridays 8:30AM to 1:30PM with no lunch. The Township Committee agreed to the summer hours effective immediately through Labor Day.

August 2020 - Township Committee Meeting Schedule – Mr. Casey asked if the Township Committee would like to host one meeting in August instead of two meetings. The Township Committee decided to reevaluate the schedule in early August.

Liaison Reports

- **Construction (Baio / Monaghan) – No report**
- **Communications Committee, Marketing (Duarte) – Meeting on a regularly basis – Survey is available for new residents who moved into town in the past 3 years.**
- **Department of Public Works (Monaghan) – DPW is focused on road work, paving project will start, testing a new seal coating company.**
- **Environmental Commission (Duarte) – the commission is on hiatus until September. A new chair, Martin Slayne was recently appointed. A student representative will update the content for the Environmental Commission webpages. Commission is looking at the different trail heads, signage, and adequate parking and access to open spaces and parks.**
- **Finance Committee (Orlins) - the job of the finance committee now that the budget passed for the year is to look for opportunities going forward. We are trying to find efficiencies so we can meet our obligation moving forward.**
- **Fire Department (Neibart) – meeting scheduled for Thursdays to discuss run cards – one run card to finalize, then they will be sent to the county.**
- **First Aid Squad (Duarte) – thanked them for their participation at the fireworks.**

- **Historic Preservation (Baio)** – deeply immersed in the Pitney Park Plan, HPC is beginning to discuss fundraiser for doing parts of the plan of Pitney Park that were not part of the grant – Seed House, Walled Garden. The Seed House this past week received a new roof. They are currently in the throws of developing our historic signs along the pathways around the new Pitney Park.
- **Library (Monaghan)** – Library opened for curbside pick-up on June 15th. They had 142 check-outs on the first day. While continuing curbside, the library opened for in-person visits on July 6th which had 130 check outs and 190 check outs on the second day.
- **Mendham Sewer East & West (Neibart)** – Sewer West is operating seamlessly.
- **Mendham Township School District (Orlins)** – July 16th Zoom Meeting, Superintendent Consentino of the K-8 will present his proposed plan for next year.
- **Mendham TV (Duarte)** – 4th of July Parade and Fireworks videos have been requested.
- **Planning Board (Baio / Monaghan)** – No Report
- **Police (Monaghan)** – Register your house with the police department if you are going on vacation. Made the public aware of the pedestrian walkway near Sammy's Restaurant (Route 24). Reminded the public to start a 9PM Routine – lock your vehicles/valuables. Take a look at the police department social media accounts for updates.
- Chief Johnson responded to the concerns about the landscaping trucks parking in the road noting that the police department will start a campaign, similar to the ones in previous years, to inform the landscapers about the issues.
- **Pitney Park (Monaghan)** – In addition to Mr. Baio's comments, the Steering Committee has met to finalize the plan, some changes need to be made and then they will be able to submit those plans to the state and the county.
- **Recreation Committee (Duarte)** – No additional comments. Mr. Orlins commented that Chester Mendham Little League is spending tens of thousands to install a score board at Raiston to make it look like an official field - hats off to Chester Mendham Little League lead by Carl Perri, Kevin Shannon (Shannon's Family). David Guida, Recreation Director, provided a brief summary on the field use ordinance which will be presented at the next meeting.
- **Regional School District (Monaghan)** – no update
- **Shared Court (Neibart)** – no update
- **Stigma-Free Initiative (Duarte)** – no update
- **Surrounding Town Outreach (Orlins)** – no update
- **Tax Assessor (Neibart)** – no additional update
- **Tree Committee (Neibart)** – Brian Hays and Mayor Neibart are reviewing West Orange's ordinance on Emerald Ash Borer Trees. Mr. Baio asked about if it's possible for the town to negotiate a fee from tree companies for residents to take down trees. Mr. Mills will look into the suggestion.
- **Wildlife Management (Duarte)** – hunting seasons dates will be updated for 2020-2021.
- **Zoning Board (Baio)** – no update

Mayor Neibart noted that Recycle Trucks System's (trash haulers) one-year contract expires at the end of the year so the Township will have to go out to bid. She expressed that it is going to be prudent for the Finance Committee to discuss garbage and if it should be removed from the budget. Mayor Neibart expressed that it's something she would be personally advocating for but she understands she is only one member. Mayor Neibart and Karen Fornaro are interviewing grant writers. Library is taking stories on the COVID -19 Pandemic.

ADJOURNED

The Township Committee adjourned at 9:44PM.

Motion made by Mr. Monaghan and seconded by Ms. Duarte.

All members present voted to approve.

Attachments:

1. Jack Curtis 4 Michael Road, Handouts
2. Peter Dumovic 3 Shelton Road, Comments

Respectfully submitted,

Distributed: 10/19/2020
Approved: 10/27/2020

Maria F. Coppinger
Township Clerk

Privatizing the Mendham Township DPW

7/13/2020
Jack Curtis
4 Michael Rd.

- ***How much would the average household tax bill be reduced by eliminating a present DPW Department?***
The average household tax bill would be reduced by about \$40.00 annually! This fact alone should be enough to scrap any proposed plan to do away with such an important part of the town government!
- During the Hurricane Sandy aftermath, The Mendham Township Department of Public Works did all the hurricane cleanup by themselves. Other towns called in outside contractors to assist with a massive cleanup effort in their towns. Mendham Township DPW did it all on their own. What do you suppose the savings were for doing all of that work in-house? Apparently, that is ancient history and no one cares about all the hard work that took place to put Mendham Township back together after that storm!

How do they get thanked... they lose their jobs all because of a political philosophy?

A Few Important Facts about the Mendham Township Department of Public Works:

- *Repairs and maintains all police vehicles
- *Cleans all township buildings:
 - *Town Hall
 - *Police Station
 - *Three fire houses
- *Three rental properties used by the Township
- *Does repairs on all buildings owned by the Township including 3 rental properties
- *Maintains all road signs and lines on the roads
- *Maintains 70 miles of Township Roadway-pot hole & the crack repairs
- *Maintains 25 miles of trails in the Township
- *Maintains all Township fields - 9 fields/50 acres
- *Does plowing, sanding, and salting of Township roadways
- *Maintains and repairs catch basins, many of which are not in good shape
- *Spring and Fall brush removal ***Apparently you also want to eliminate one of the two brush pickups per year! Common sense should tell you that your plan will simply mean that twice as much debris will be put out at the curbside during the one pick-up per year which basically means it will take them twice as long to do the one pick-up and will they have twice as much debris to dispose of!***

Common sense truly is the least common of all the senses!

- *Does street sweeping as mandated by state requirements
- *Does Stormwater Management Inspections-mandated by law
- *Does road sign and field and park sign repair
- *Cleans/repairs sewer lines and leach field-do not operate them, just clean/repair
- *Removes downed trees and debris after storms.
- *Responds to police calls for cleanups and accident sites or spills on the roads
- *Maintains playground at Wysong Park at Ralston

***The DPW presently has \$14 million worth of equipment at the DPW garage.**

Eight large trucks, backhoes, street sweepers, pickup trucks, specialty vehicles and other specialty equipment. If you privatize and all this equipment is sold, there is no way that the DPW department can ever be reincarnated. Once it is gone and all the equipment is sold, Mendham Township will live with private contractors forever. When school districts decide to privatize their busing, outside, private bus companies come in and give a great price for the first two-year contract. The districts then sell their fleet of 50-75 buses. Then when the districts have no way to transport their students, the private companies jack up their prices and the school districts are left to have to pay whatever the going rate is for the private bus company. There is no financial way for a school district to purchase an entire new fleet of buses once they have gotten rid of all of their old busses and vans. That same scenario may very well play out in this situation!

Why are the 30-35 school busses used by the local Mendham Township school district maintained (repaired and inspected) by the Washington Township DPW? Obviously, Washington Township sees the benefit of having a vibrant DPW department in its town! Mendham Township could do the same! With one additional mechanic, Mendham Township could be taking care of the buses!

****With the present coronavirus emergency, the DPW department has been a great resource! They have stepped up and helped out in any way they were asked to serve, disinfecting buildings and vehicles. How are these dedicated individuals thanked for their service to the town? ...they will soon be told they don't have a job! That certainly is a great message to be sending people who have helped out and made this town a better and safer place to live! Essential workers???***
Apparently not!

**** There are a large number of catch basins in Mendham Township. They need to be maintained and upgraded. Without a public works department someone is going to have to pay a substantial amount of money to make sure these catch basins are in satisfactory working condition to meet the requirements of the state. Many of the catch basins are not presently in good shape.***

****You can't use Bain Capital techniques and philosophies on an 11-person local DPW department in a small town. The word morale doesn't seem to be a concept that is either understood or is taken into consideration with this situation of eliminating a long-time township department. The town needs a small town, friendly flavor not a Bain Capital, fire and privatize, mentality! If you take away one of the departments that adds to the small-town flavor and atmosphere you are affecting the overall morale of all of the employees that work for this town... ***They did it to them, am I next?...*** will be on the minds of all Township employees.***

****I personally saw the problems that were created when an overzealous school superintendent privatized the custodians and food services of the school district. The district substituted people who were brought into town who knew nothing of the history or the way things had been done to replace long-time employees and, in many cases, town residents. There was no loyalty to the town or to the job that they were doing. They were there only to do the assigned job, not to be ambassadors for the township. There were many problems with the privatization, and they have gone through a number of food service and custodial service companies. Every time a change was made there was a total loss of continuity and familiarization that the employees had for the job that they were doing. And there was a***

long learning curve to get those new folks up to speed and to be able to understand what their job was and then to carry it out satisfactorily. There is a long history where privatizations have taken place and have failed miserably. People need to do their homework before they rush into wholesale changes that have many unexpected and unforeseen consequences.

- When these privatized companies are brought into town to do the work that has previously been done by the DPW, they will insist on NARROWLY WRITTEN CONTRACTS that will specifically define exactly what they will and will not do as far as assigned work. As it stands now the members of the DPW department are asked on a regular basis to do a multitude of tasks and there is no worry about a narrowly written contract defining the duties that they will or will not perform.
- ***Have any of you taken the time and effort to go to DPW and get into a truck and drive with the driver as he or she plows the roads or does the other necessary tasks that are assigned to them?*** You need to see what they do from their perspective in the cab of a truck, not from the executive suite, before you pull the trigger and do away with this necessary and essential Town department!
- This is not a theoretical exercise to see if your Bain Capital techniques work on an 11- person department in a small town of 6,000 residents! This is real life where a number of people will lose their jobs and a town will lose the benefit of an internal department that has done an excellent job of satisfying the Town's needs for a very long time! Public safety will be compromised by this privatization fiasco. Plowing, sanding and salting cannot be put off until a privatized contractor decides they can get to the township to do the work that is needed during a snowstorm or an ice storm! ***Are other towns going to be first on the contractor's list to get their services?*** The head of the DPW can currently plan and schedule this kind of work and make sure that necessary tasks get done in a timely manner. Presently, the trucks are out pre-salting the roads before the storm begins so as to make the roads as safe as possible. ***Is that scenario going to be feasible when private contractors are going to be taking over those duties?*** You most likely are going to get different workers from the privatized companies for each storm. They will not know all of the roads and problem areas that the present drivers are totally aware of. Unless the same drivers do the same plowing routes each time, there will be problems.

- **OVERTIME!** What the DPW did during Hurricane Sandy should more than prove that they are capable, qualified, and should not have their department dismantled simply on a privatizing whim! ***What kind of fees are these private contractors going to charge for any overtime that is needed to complete plowing, sanding and salting or any other emergency tasks that don't occur during the regular workday?*** One can almost guarantee that they are going to be considerably higher than any overtime that may be paid to the present DPW workers!

IS THERE A MANDATE FOR THIS SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE?

The last election, as the numbers below clearly show, was not exactly a mandate for large-scale change let alone eliminating and gutting a long-term, essential department. As new council members, people should come in, study, listen and learn the internal workings of the town and its functioning departments. That is not what has happened in this case. It has been a rush to judgment and actions are

being taken that once done will not be able to be undone when it is realized that privatizing was not the most prudent way to improve things. This whole thing is basically just a philosophical/political decision to dismantle a proven commodity and replace it with a privatized system. There is no pressing need to do this and it should not be done. The old saying that you can't put the toothpaste back in the tube needs to be strongly considered in this situation.

2019 ELECTION RESULTS:

Baio-940

Orlins-933

Saharko-932

Goswami-912

These are not the numbers of a landslide that indicate that the people want the substantial changes that you are presently proposing to be implemented!

SALARIES

- The average salary for the nine workers at the DPW is approximately \$54,000 per year.
- The average salary for the four supervisory individuals at the DPW is \$79,000.
- \$54,000 divided by 52 weeks in a year equals \$1,038 per week.
- \$1,038 divided by 40 hours equals approximately \$25 per hour as an hourly rate.
- The individuals that you presently have at the DPW:
 - * Know the Town
 - * Know their job responsibilities and duties
 - * Possess a sense of loyalty because they work in the town and for the town.

You are not going to get those intangibles from a group of privatized individuals that are brought into town on a random basis to simply do specified jobs. This will be a lose/lose situation.

- ***Is any of this privatization attempt due to the fact that the DPW workers belong to the Teamsters Union and they have not had a contract in 2 years? What a good way to break a Union!***

Again, when you think back to Hurricane Sandy (none of you who are presently on the council were on the council at the time of hurricane Sandy) but the DPW certainly earned their wings and shouldn't be rewarded for their hard work by being shown the door because someone got elected by one vote and feels the need to install a completely different mindset about how to maintain all of the various aspects of the town that are presently being handled by a small, yet efficient, DPW Department.

If you were a dedicated and loyal employee of the DPW department you certainly would not want to be treated in the manner that these folks are about to be treated! They are being treated like numbers, not people!

Basically, you are attempting to do to the DPW Department what is being called for by some on the national level to be done to police departments. You are going to DEFUND the DPW.

This is a penny-wise and pound-foolish endeavor. Keep in mind, you don't need a cop until you need a cop!!! The same holds true for the DPW department – you don't need the DPW Department until you need the DPW Department! Unfortunately, there will be more Hurricane Sandy moments in Mendham Township's future!

I hope all of you are still on the council when that day arrives where you must pick up the phone and call the DPW for assistance with an serious emergency only to be told that there is not sufficient manpower to do what needs to be done and the privatized contractors won't be available for three days because of other obligations that they have in other towns! Think long and hard before you make a final decision to disband a department that has done exemplary work for the town at bargain-basement prices!

Also keep in mind that emergencies that need the attention of the DPW department don't always happen between 8 AM and 4 PM, the normal workday! ***What are these privatized contractors going to be requiring in remuneration for a call out in the middle of the night to get this essential work done?***

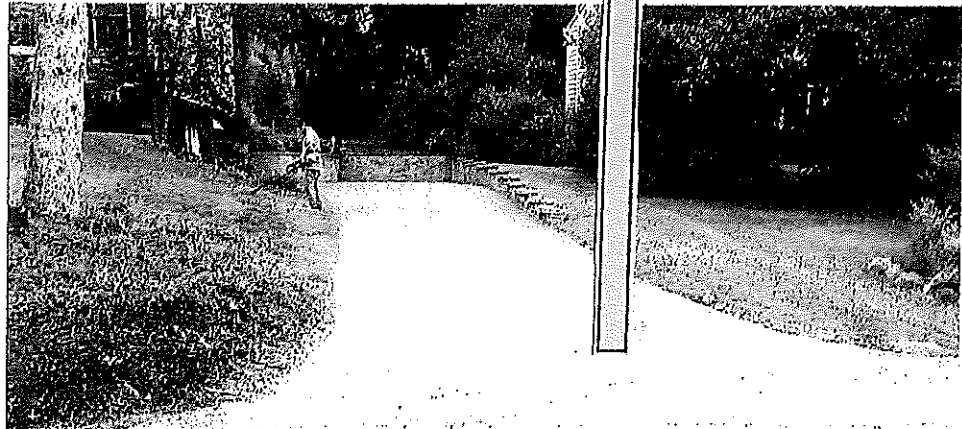
Who is going to be doing all of the coordination with the privatized contractors to get them to be in town when they are needed? This is no small job and will require a great deal of scheduling and coordination. Who in the town government is going to be undertaking that responsibility?

As an anecdotal bit of information, you need to think about the following. When I went to see the superintendent of the DPW and talk to him about my concept of replacing the street signs in town with the highly reflective and more visible green metal street signs, the superintendent told me that the task of installing the signs was something that his department could undertake without needing outside assistance. Once you reduce or eliminate the DPW department the installation of the 627 street signs is a job that would have to be outsourced and paid for over and above the cost of the signs themselves.

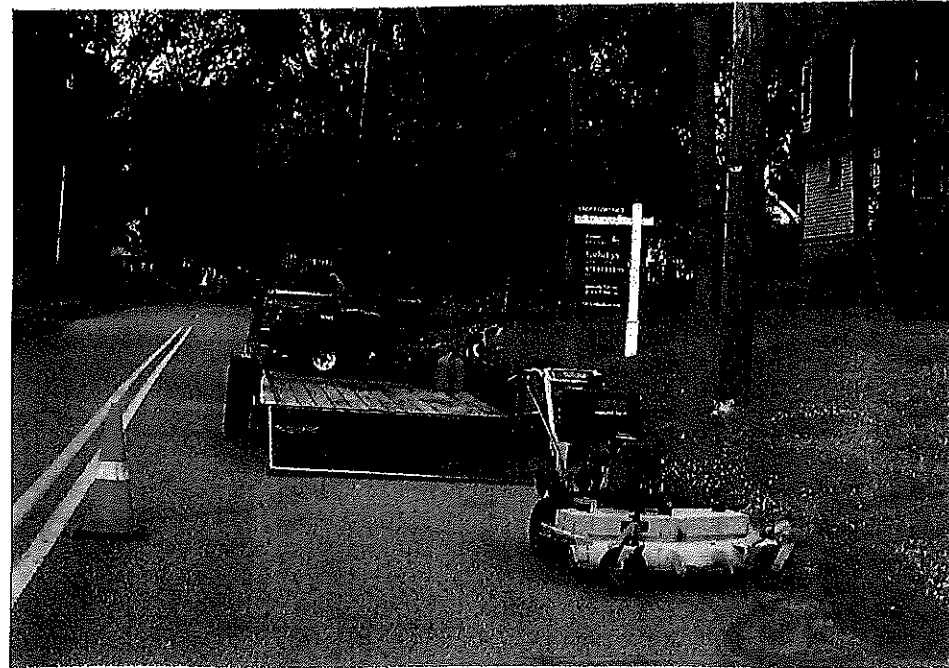
This is merely one example where the DPW is able to perform duties that otherwise would have to be paid for separately. Think about what an outside contractor is going to charge to install 627 signs and refurbish the cement posts that the signs would be attached to! What you presently have is an eclectic group of 11 individuals with a wide range of skill sets who can be assigned a multitude of tasks that can be done in the house and can be done when the work needs to be done, not days later when the private contractor is able to finally get around to do the work that is needed. From the standpoint of setting the job done in a timely manner and having a whole local contingent of workers who will be able to most any job for a reasonable cost, you presently have the ideal situation. ***Why would you tamper with that scenario?***

In conclusion, the whole concept of reducing or eliminating the DPW department is something that, once it is done, it is done! When it is a fait accompli there is no way to undo your decision. Once the \$14 million worth of DPW equipment is sold, there is no way to accumulate that amount of equipment again!

Why are landscapers allowed to block off an entire lane of traffic, on a curve, on a busy main road, when there is a driveway where they can pull off the road and not be a hazard?



This driveway is the same driveway that is pictured above. There's plenty of room to get the truck and trailer off the road!



Peter Dumovic
3 Shelton Road
7/13/2020

Given the community interest, I wanted to provide the Township Committee and residents a brief status update regarding reopening our local schools in the fall.

▪ June 26

The Governor and the Education Commissioner released the New Jersey DOE guidance on reopening schools in New Jersey in the fall. The no one size fits all guidance sets minimum standards for the safe return of students for in person instruction (in some capacity). The guidance allows individual school District Superintendents and local Boards of Education flexibility to implement reopening plans given local conditions and needs.

▪ June 29

MTSD Superintendent Sal Constantino sent an email informing the local school community that the MTSD reopening plan will be provided to families at least four weeks prior to the start of school.

▪ July 3

Superintendent Constantino sent out a survey to the school community seeking information from families to better ascertain how our families feel about sending their children back to school in the fall.

▪ July 16 (This Thursday)

A special working meeting of the Board of Education will take place on Thursday 7/16, where Superintendent Constantino will present the proposed school reopening plan to the board. It is important to know the Superintendent has had an outstanding group of teachers, administrators, and also some board members working with the Superintendent over the last few weeks to create the plan for the reopening of both the middle school and the elementary school. I'm not speaking on behalf of the board nor on behalf of the Superintendent but I can say as an individual Board of Education member that our reopening plan will certainly protect the health and safety of students and staff, and will also maximize the conditions for effective student learning. The public is welcome to join the 7/16 Board of Education virtual meeting.