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**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM  
August 10, 2020  
IN-PERSON & REMOTE VIA ZOOM  
6:00 PM SPECIAL WORKSHOP**

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Baio Present  
Ms. Duarte Present  
Mr. Monaghan Present  
Mr. Orlins Present  
Mayor Neibart Present

Also, present:

Bob Casey, Interim Township Administrator  
John Mills, Township Attorney  
Maria Coppinger, Township Clerk

**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 Observer Tribune and Daily Record on July 31, 2020. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the township offices and notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**SPECIAL WORKSHOP**

The Township Committee met for a special workshop to discuss the findings of the feasibility study with the Architects on the Municipal Building. Mr. Robert Barranger, Mr. Robert Longo, and Mr. Scott Machio from Cornerstone Architectural Group were present to discuss the findings.

Mr. Barranger provided a brief introduction of Cornerstone Architectural Group. Mr. Machio delivered the presentation, which is attached hereto.

The Township Committee engaged in a question and answer session with the architects. Overall, the Township Committee's consensus was that an \$8 million project exceeded their estimates on what a new building would cost.

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM  
August 10, 2020  
IN-PERSON & REMOTE VIA ZOOM  
7:35 PM REGULAR MEETING**

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Baio	Present
Ms. Duarte	Present
Mr. Monaghan	Present
Mr. Orlins	Present
Mayor Neibart	Present

Also, present:

Bob Casey, Interim Township Administrator  
John Mills, Township Attorney  
Maria Coppinger, Township Clerk

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**RECOGNIZING NEW MEMBERS**

Mr. Tolley introduced Peter Gordon who has applied to be Senior Members at Brookside Engine Company #1.

**PROCLAMATION**

In Honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Passage and Ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution, Providing for Women's Suffrage – Presented by Committee Member Duarte

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Mayor Neibart provided an update on the Covid-19 cases. As of today, there were 258 new cases, 545 hospitalizations, 83 individuals in the ICU and 29 individuals on ventilators which is the lowest since the state's first case in March.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Neibart made the following announcements:

- National Night-Out is scheduled for Wednesday at the elementary school
- Meadow Wood Hike is scheduled for Saturday

Mr. Monaghan thanked everyone (OEM, First Responders, DPW, Volunteers) that came together and helped during the bad storm.

Ms. Duarte made the following announcements:

- Mendham TV is still looking for videos of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade
- Brookside Church is collecting food for the Interfaith Food Pantry
- The Rotary of the Mendham's is also collecting school supplies as well to benefit JBWS
- Meadow Wood Hike, Saturday August 15<sup>th</sup> - Sign up is at Meadow Wood on Old Mill Road or Community Pass and it is \$30 per family.

Mr. Orlins thanked the Office of Emergency Managements and the Mayor for their work during the storm.

Mr. Baio addressed a comment made during the last meeting regarding the conversion of public land or open space into private buildable plots. He noted that the statements were not about open land; they were intended towards individuals who have taken property, knocked down a house for the benefit of reducing their tax base. He advocated that he would like to see those properties rebuilt and returned to the tax roll.

Mayor Neibart noted that residential brush pick-up will take place on August 24, 2020.

**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 – W. Main Street – She suggested looking into a private residence for the police department, a structure to convert. She commented that JCP&L needs to look into putting their lines underground. She expressed that she is under the impression that the Township Committee is thinking of cutting back the DPW's size. She hopes that any discussion on the reductions of the DPW be done in an open session.

Mary Michaildis – 10 Thackery Lane – She expressed the need to have an open discussion on subjects that concern the town like the privatization of the DPW.

Jack Curtis - 4 Michael Road – Mr. Curtis is very concern about DPW and had several questions about the Township’s plans to privatize the department.

Susan Green - 1 Woods End Road – Ms. Green also expressed her concern with privatizing DPW and would like to see more transparency on the topic.

Joan Bakers – Woods End Road – Ms. Baker expressed that DPW has been wonderful all these years. She commented that the Township Committee has not provided information on the privatization of DPW.

David Shalit - 63 Tempe Wick Road - Spoke regarding the proposed intersection work at Tempe Wick and Corey Lane; noting that he is in agreement with concept plan #1 as long as Morris County keeps him involved with all final deigns and that his property is no negatively affective.

Mayor Neibart addressed the comments regarding the DPW. She expressed that there is no systematic privatization effort for the Department of Public Works (DPW). There have been conversations happening at the Finance Committee level, a subcommittee of the Township Committee, and our Finance Department about outsourcing some services that DPW provides. She explained that the Township Committee voted on two Request for Proposals; one was for snow plowing, which in the past has been outsourced, but this year, we decided on a larger package. She noted that trash collection was also discussed; trash and recycling are big-ticket items in the budget. Currently, both services are provided by Recycle Track System (RTS), and Mr. Curtis has suggested it be done in-house by DPW. Finance Committee brought the idea of how we can be more efficient and effective in our budgeting, and a couple of ideas were to outsource different aspects in DPW.

Mr. Orlins expressed that the efficiency work is to try to make ourselves more tax-efficient in a very tax heavy state, which at the municipal level we are partly responsible for that.

Ms. Duarte expressed that the DPW topic has clearly touched a nerve within the community. She suggested that a discussion or a plan be presented around the broader picture.

It was noted the DPW is always on the agenda under liaisons reports.

Mr. Monaghan clarified that all we are doing, right now, is going to RFP for specific services that we already outsource (snow plowing, mowing, etc.), and then we can figure out what the options are.

**Mr. Baio moved. Ms. Duarte seconded the motion to close the meeting to the public. All members present voted to close the public session.**

### **CONSENT AGENDA – NONE**

### **REGULAR AGENDA - RESOLUTIONS**

**2020-161** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Approving Concept Plan 1 for the Intersection Safety Improvements at Tempe Wick Road and Corey Lane

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

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

**Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.**

**2020-162** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Service Contract with Civil Solutions for the Development of a new Digital, State-Certified Tax Map in an Amount not to exceed \$70,000

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

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

**Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.**

**2020-163** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing Discussion without the Presence of the Public – Personnel Matter and Matters falling within Attorney-Client Privilege

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

**Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.**

**2020-164** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Payment of Bills

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

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

**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.**

Jack Curtis, 4 Michael Road – He expressed his concern with removing garbage collection from the municipal budget. He also expressed his concern with the maintenance contract for school buses, which is held by Washington Township and not by Mendham Township, which he suggested DPW could maintain the buses.

**Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Monaghan seconded the motion to close the meeting to the public.**

**All members present voted to close the public session.**

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. Casey explained that, by law, a tax payment is delinquent if received after August 10<sup>th</sup>. He spoke with the tax collector. They recommend that the governing body, by motion, authorize the acceptance of tax payment as long as the tax payment was postmarked no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> to be considered received and not delinquent. Mr. Casey requested a motion to have on record for the auditor, showing that the Tax Collector moved in a direction consistent with the Township Committee discussions.

Motion to authorize the Tax Collector to accept tax bills ***postmarked*** no later than the August 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion made by Ms. Duarte, seconded the motion Mr. Monaghan.**

**Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.**

Mr. Casey provided the Township Committee with an update on a DPW employee who was injured during the height of the storm. He noted that the DPW employee will be out of work for a couple of months. Mr. Casey recommended that the Township Committee authorize a temporary full-time hire to assist with brush collection.

Motion to Authorize the Administrator to hire a temporary full-time employee in the Department of Public Works

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

**Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve**

#### **DISCUSSION**

##### ***Liaison Reports***

- ***Construction (Baio)*** – No report
- ***Communications Committee, Marketing (Duarte)*** – No report
- ***Department of Public Works (Monaghan)*** – DPW did a great job during the last storm. Thanked Mr. Casey for the update on the injured DPW employee; expressed that thoughts go out to him and his family. Brush collection will begin on the 24<sup>th</sup>.
- ***Environmental Commission (Duarte)*** – No report
- ***Health Department (Monaghan)*** – The flu clinic will be conducted by a private medical facility which the board of health has a budgeted for these items.
- ***Finance Committee (Orlins / Neibart)*** – Mr. Orlins expressed there is nothing to fear from studying a “Make vs. Buy,” also called outsourcing analysis; the study aims to look for efficiencies. Mr. Orlins spoke on the make-up of the Finance Committee. He noted that the Request for Proposals for snow plowing is for a service that we already outsource. To a certain extent, we do it on the west side, so now we are looking to do it on the east side. We are also looking into outsourcing mowing to save some money. He explained that until we get the RFPs back, we cannot do a full make vs. buy study. We have to issue the RFPs, and we have to see what comes back to compare it to what the Township has. Mr. Orlins explained that when there is enough information to back brief the Township Committee to move forward with any proposal (or set of proposals), it will come to a public meeting and be fully briefed. He emphasized that we cannot do a study with 5,000 people; we have to do the study with a subset which he noted that we have the right people in the finance committee to do the job. He asked the public to have some patience, and sometime in the fall, recommendations will be made.

- **Fire Department (Neibart)** –40 calls from Tuesday to Saturday. Both fire companies had charging stations and hose hook-ups for water which were available to the residents. Mayor Neibart commended them for their work.
- **First Aid Squad (Duarte)** – First Aid Squad will start a recruitment, trying to get new members – more details to follow.
- **Historic Preservation (Baio)** – Upcoming meeting in Pitney Park. The completion of the roof on the seed house and other improvements that the builder has been making.
- **Library (Monaghan)** – In July, there were 1196 visits to the library. Physical material circulation is up 24%, digital circulation is up as well.
- **Mendham Sewer East & West (Neibart)** – Early assessments on the plant, awaiting extra details from the engineer before we go to the Drakewick residents to put flags by their laterals. There was a heavy rainstorm in July that cause a pump and haul.
- **Mendham Township School District (Orlins)** – Superintendent Constantino sent out some facts on what to expect when it is time to go back to school. There will be 2 weeks of virtual learning. Option 1 has been approved by the board of education which is the more traditional in-school learning.
- **Mendham TV (Duarte)** – Working on a documentary on how Mendham is reopening. They have done four interviews so far that are airing on Mendham TV, on demand and on your TV.
- **Planning Board (Baio /Monaghan)** – No report
- **Police (Monaghan)** – Reminded the public to establish a 9pm routine. Report suspicious activities day or night. If you are going away register your house with the Police Department. National Night Out is this Wednesday at 6:00 PM at Brookside Beach.
- **Pitney Park (Monaghan)** – Waiting for the final construction drawings so it can be submitted to the county and the state for final approval before we go out to bid for the construction. Also, planning a meeting with the builder who is involved with the seed house.
- **Recreation Committee (Duarte)** – Meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> and got an update on Brookside Beach which is doing very well. At this point, 80 township families have signed up and 40 from the borough as well. At this point the anticipated net revenue is about \$6,000. The recreation director drove around and did an audit of all the parks and ball fields. He is going to come back in the fall with a capital plan to make some improvements. The Mendham Gives Back campaign collected hundreds of bags worth of clothing and a company is coming on Wednesday to take everything away. Mr. Orlin commented that a tree fell on the new fence at Ralston.
- **Regional School District (Monaghan)** – Suggested everyone take a look at the school’s website and read their school opening plan.
- **Shared Court (Neibart)** – The court is in the process of hiring a new court administrator.
- **Stigma-Free Initiative (Duarte)** – We will be at the National Night Out down at the beach.
- **Surrounding Town Outreach (Orlins)** – No Report
- **Tax Assessor (Neibart)** – Goal is to send a letter to the Drakewick residents, sometime in September, to have them identify the laterals by October.
- **Tree Committee (Neibart)** – Possibility of looking into a tree company to provide a group rate for residents to clear trees from their property.
- **Wildlife Management (Duarte)** – No Report
- **Zoning Board (Baio)** – No Report

Mayor Neibart expressed that she has a strong opinion on garbage provided as a municipal budget service. She has advocated to take it out of the budget. However, committee members have outvoted her since they disagree with her views on the garbage matter. She explained that it's a service that is not provided directly by Mendham Township. However, it's a service that when residents have concerns, they call town hall and not the vendor itself, noting that it takes up many staff hours.

She also noted that many residents use private garbage haulers so they are double-billed. Also, if they use the service, having it in the tax bill, in her opinion, does not necessarily make sense for the tax formula.

**ADJOURNED**

Motion made by Ms. Duarte and second by Mr. Baio.  
All members present voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Distributed: 11/20/2020

Approved: 11/24/2020

Maria F. Coppinger  
Township Clerk