



**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
October 7, 2019
Regular Session Minutes 7:30 PM**

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Diegnan	Present
Ms. Duarte	Present
Mr. Monaghan	Present
Ms. Neibart	<i>Absent</i>
Mayor Gisser	Present

Also present:

Deborah Bonanno, Township Administrator
Matthew Moench, Township Attorney
Maria Coppinger, 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 Observer Tribune and Daily Record on January 8, 2019. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the township offices and notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

RECOGNIZING NEW FIREFIGHTER

Shan Ali has applied to be a Junior Member at the Brookside Engine Company #1. Mr. Ali will be introduced to the Township Committee on October 22nd.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

Mayor Gisser reminded the public that the police presentation will be held on October 22nd during the regular township committee meeting which starts at 7:30PM; with the police presentation starting at 8:00PM.

Mr. Diegnan reminded the public that the high school plays football on Friday night, come out and support the team, cheerleaders and band. He reminded the public that November 5th is Election Day and voter registration forms are available at town hall.

Ms. Duarte announced that October is Fire Safety Month and noted some fire safety tips and events that are taking place in town. During the May 28th Township Committee meeting, Ralph Rhodes and Sarah Dean Link were presented with a plaque by the Environmental Commission for their work in the community. A commemoration ceremony will be held on Monday, October 21 at 6PM at Meadowood, where the plaque will be installed, to remember the work of Ralph Rhodes and Sarah Dean Link. A mental health workshop was held at the middle school to discuss positive mental health for young people and about 60 parents were in attendance. Ms. Duarte thanked the middle school counselor, Allie Perrott, who did a wonderful job organizing the event and for her participation in the discussion. The Environmental Commission will host a well testing event and kits will be available on October 26th (9AM-noon). Ralston Cider Mill will host a Juice Pressing event on Saturday, October 12th. Ms. Duarte will host office hours on Friday, October 11th from 11AM-12:30PM.

Mayor Gisser congratulated the elementary school and the school district on their Blue Ribbon Award.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

Christine Blood – 32 Tingley Road – Mrs. Blood asked why the graffiti (directional arrow) was not removed from Route 24 after the 5K race. She explained that she calls it graffiti because it serves absolutely no purpose and it's an eye sore. She provided other options for a directional sign but if nothing else the township could use chalk and remove it immediately after the event. Ms. Duarte asked that we reach out to David Guida, Recreation Director, to have the issue addressed. She added that the Patriots' Race is a community event that raises money for local recreation. The race was started 11 years ago, and no one has ever complained about the race course markings left on the street.

Jack Curtis – Thanked the Administrator and Mayor for the response to his email about the landscapers taking over the roadway as parking lots. He's not sure why the landscapers can't park in the driveway. He also commented on the Police Headquarters noting that he recently read that there have been discussions about a possible merger of the Township and Borough. He asked the Township Committee to consider this possible merger when discussing a new Police Department Headquarters.

Patricia Zimmerman – Main Street – Ms. Zimmerman agreed with Mr. Curtis' comments that the landscapers/contractor should be required to get their vehicles off the road, if possible.

Rick Blood – 32 Tingley Road – Mr. Blood explained that there was a news story last week about the Governor and the President of the Senate wanting to merge or split in half the number of school districts in the State. He noticed that the Mendhams, the Chesters, and Washington Township were among them listed. He's not sure about the numbers, as far as, the utilization of the facilities between Mendham Township and Mendham Borough but he would think that there possibly might be a building opening up as a result of this merger that could help police or municipal facilities in the future.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2019

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Diegnan seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

Executive Session Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2019

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Monaghan seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

RESOLUTIONS

2019-154 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham urging Governor Phil Murphy and the New Jersey State Legislature to enact legislation that will permanently extend the 2.0% CAP on binding interest arbitration awards that expired in 2017; and, to further require the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) to include in all arbitration awards: a full financial impact statement that summarizes the total cost of all awards in a clear, concise, and transparent manner

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Diegnan seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

2019-155 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing Discussion without the Presence of the Public – Contract Negotiation / Personnel

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Monaghan seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

2019-156 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Payment of Bills

Ms. Duarte moved. Ms. Duarte seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

2019-157 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Recognizing and Congratulating the Morris County Branch of the NAACP on its 49th Annual Freedom Fund Gala and its 88th Anniversary

Ms. Duarte moved. Ms. Monaghan seconded.

Ms. Brown thanked the Township Committee for considering the resolution. She explained that annually the NAACP has a gala which is their only fundraiser for the year. Municipalities adopt resolutions that are placed in their ad journal and she did not want her town to be left out.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION - Second Reading and Public Hearing Scheduled for October 22, 2019

14-2019 An Ordinance of the Township of Mendham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Establishing
An Electric and/or Natural Gas Aggregation Program

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Monaghan seconded.

Ms. Duarte explained that she attended the League of Municipalities Convention last year and learned about this statewide program. The town can combine the energy “buy” for the entire community and save residents money on their energy bill. Ms. Duarte noted that a number of communities have moved forward with this program.

Discussion on the process to establish the program continued with Mr. Alan Vakin, Consultant, who was present to answer any questions from the Township Committee and residents.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Motion to open public comment was moved by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Mr. Diegnan.

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

Jack Curtis – Mr. Curtis wanted to know if there are any disadvantages that come with the program. Mayor Gisser noted that, at first, he was unsure about the program but after hearing the presentation and giving the enormous flexibility of the program, he is comfortable with the program because no one is bound to it. He wanted to know if a decision was made on garbage. Mayor Gisser noted that the bid opening for garbage will take place next week. Mr. Curtis expressed that Blue Diamond has done an exceptional job with garbage pickup and recycling.

Motion to closed public comment was moved by Mr. Diegnan and seconded by Ms. Duarte.

All members present voted to close public session.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Gisser commented that he anticipates a fairly full agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Diegnan added that the electricity program is a common tool that is used in the commercial setting. He noted that the electricity program gives residents a choice in electric supplier.

Ms. Duarte noted that if there is a viable option to merge the township with the borough then the new police headquarters needs to be put on hold, if in fact, conversations have taken place about a merger.

Mr. Monaghan noted that he is not aware of any discussions on merging the two towns. The Township Committee agreed that no discussions have taken place.

Mayor Gisser clarified that at the next meeting he plans to bring potential solutions to a new police headquarters.

Mr. Monaghan suggested adopting a resolution, similar to the 2% CAP resolution, asking the Governor to review the guidelines for farm land assessments. Mayor Gisser suggested having the Tax Assessor provide a presentation on the topic. Ms. Duarte agreed the Township Committee should address the farmland assessment issue. She said a resolution would have to be written so that other towns would adopt it to send a message to the state legislature. She offered to work with Mr. Monaghan on this issue.

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session made by Mr. Diegnan and seconded by Ms. Duarte.

All members voted to adjourn into Executive Session.

ADJOURN

Motion by Mr. Diegnan and seconded by Ms. Duarte.

All members voted to adjourn at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria F. Coppinger
Township Clerk

Distributed: 10/29/2019
Approved: 11/11/2019