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**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM  
October 22, 2019  
Regular Session Minutes 7:30 PM**

**ROLL CALL:**

Mr. Diegnan	Present
Ms. Duarte	Present
Mr. Monaghan	Present
Ms. Neibart	Present
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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS**

Mayor Gisser recognized Brian Janacek, who was in the audience earning his communication badge for Troop 1. Also, acknowledged the Merritt Family, who is training a service dog, Laser, who was in the audience. He announced that Denise Bobinski, who works for Town Hall, will display her artwork at Harmony Brookside.

Ms. Neibart announced that Anthony Bucco will be officially sworn in on Thursday as the new Senator for the 25<sup>th</sup> District.

Mr. Diegnan announced that Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> is Operation Take Back which is a program for people to drop off unused prescription. There are collection sites throughout Morris County - Shoprite of Greater Morristown is the closes and also the police department. He congratulated Margaret Hogan, Transportation Supervisor for Mendham Township School District; who was recognized as one of ten phenomenal women in pupil transportation by School Bus Fleet website. He is very proud of our school district, from the education to pupil transportation system, he expressed that its great news that we are recognized on multiple fronts. He also reminded the public that November 5<sup>th</sup> is Election Day.

Ms. Duarte announced that the Mendham Players Annual Fall Drama is scheduled to take place November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. She announced that the well testing event, sponsored by the Environmental Commission and the Raritan Headwaters, is scheduled for Saturday between 9am and noon; where you can purchase a test kit at a reduced cost and the samples need to be returned on Monday. Mendham Borough Police will host a presentation for parents and students on the dangers of vaping on October 28<sup>th</sup>. She announced that tickets are still available for the Morris County NAACP Freedom Gala which will be held on November 1, 2019.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2019 - Minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

Executive Session Meeting Minutes of September 24, 2019

**Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Diegnan seconded.**

**Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve except for Mr. Monaghan who abstained.**

## **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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

**All members present voted to approve.**

Jack Curtis – Mr. Curtis explained that at the last meeting, there was discussion on farmland assessments which is a subject that he has been interested in for a number of years. He noted that he met with the Tax Assessor, who provided him with information, noting that there are 140 farmland assessed properties in Mendham Township or non-appurtenant woodland (just woods). He provided a breakdown of the figures for farmland assessed properties and his calculation determined that everyone who doesn't have a farmland assessment is paying \$402 additional taxes to get to Mendham's budget figure at the end of the year. He feels that the Township Committee should follow through on their discussion to communicate with the state because it's costing every other taxpayer in town \$400.

Mayor Gisser noted that the farmland assessment rules are governed by the State of NJ. He expressed that it's a complicated issue and that there is an interest of the governing body, in general, to take a look at the issue and contribute in a way that we can to modify it to the benefit of the community.

Mr. Curtis referenced the article which the headline says, "If elected, merging the two Mendhams for a big savings" and all through the article it's not "if" but "when." He noted that the article also references that we are working with the people in Trenton. He wanted to know what people in Trenton have control over Mendham Township. He suggested that if there is going to be a chance that the merger occurs then why not wait on a new police headquarter until a plan is or is not put in place.

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

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

## **RECOGNIZING NEW MEMBERS**

Shan Ali has applied to be a Junior Member at Brookside Engine Company #1

Dan Wood has applied to be a Senior Member at Brookside Engine Company #1

Chief Witczak introduced the two new members.

**Ms. Neibart moved. Ms. Duarte seconded the motion to open the meeting to the public.**

**All members present voted to approve.**

Bob Wock – 12 Cooper Road – He reiterated the comments that were made about the police station, he suggested that the presentation preface with any further discussions with the Borough about merging or sharing the police force. He mentioned that the state has allocated some funding to do these studies (merger/shared services) and wanted to know if the town has looked in financial support.

Mayor Gisser noted that he has not been engaged in any of those particular conversations. Ms. Neibart explained that, right now, in Trenton they are trying to decide what incentives or if they are going to give incentives to towns who merge or establish shared services. Members of the Township Committee reiterated that they have not been involved in any communications about a merger.

Nancy Wilson – Brockden Drive – She wanted to know if the committee looked into the ash borer problem. She also wanted to know if it's the town's responsibility to remove them or if a bid could be obtained to do everything. Mayor Gisser noted that Brian Hayes from the Tree Committee has been looking into the problem and noted that trees into the municipal right of way, on your property, are your responsibility. There are plenty of ash trees on municipal property.

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

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

## **PRESENTATION - MENDHAM TOWNSHIP POLICE HEADQUARTERS – 8:00 PM**

Mayor Gisser thanked everyone for attending the meeting to hear the presentation on the police headquarters and he noted that this is the first time anyone, including the Township Committee, has heard the presentation.

He will try to address the questions that were asked, a moment ago, by a few people as to why we are hosting a presentation in light of things that were said, as it relates to a merger. He noted that for 15 years, we have been talking about the problem that we have at the police headquarters and for most of those 15 years there has always been something that was a reason to wait to do something else. Coming into this year, Mayor Gisser stated at the reorganization meeting that before the end of the year, the committee, in this case Mayor Gisser wanted to bring forward a solution for Mendham Township to address a known issue. He has referred to it as a “yard stick.” He noted that any decision that we make on anything to do, going forward, it would be helpful to know what is the other alternative and the importance is that the other alternative is something we can actually do – a unilateral decision.

He recognized that the clock is ticking quite loudly as to his and Mr. Diegnan’s tenure on the Township Committee. He doesn’t expect that by December 31<sup>st</sup> there is going to be a shovel in the ground doing what he is about to present this evening. He wants it to be the bench mark by which decisions are made. He believes it’s an actionable idea, it will serve the community well but ultimately it is going to take the will of the community to make the decision to move forward on this. Understand that any solution, whatever the solution may be, is not going to be acceptable to everyone. He is hoping to inspire action out of this which will be the biggest change that we had in 15 years.

Mayor Gisser acknowledged several members who assisted him:

- Denis Keenan, Township Engineer
- Len Perre, Construction Official, Len Perre
- Debbie Bonanno, Township Administrator
- Karen Fornaro, Chief Financial Officer
- Ross Johnson, Police Chief (Assisted with technical information)
- Steve Bittman, Lieutenant (Assisted with technical information)
- Robert Scialla, Architect

Mayor Gisser expressed that the mandate to the team was bring forward a solution that we can act upon unilaterally and most importantly on property we already own.

### **HISTORY:**

The Police Department operates out of 3-4 facilities:

- Main Police Headquarters,
- First Temporary Trailer (2005),
- Second Temporary Trailer (2007)

There have been many conversations between various forms of the Mendham Township’s and Mendham Borough’s Governing Body, to discuss what seems to be the easiest thing in the world – merging towns, however, Mayor Gisser expressed that Mendham Township is the only one present tonight. Back on June 10<sup>th</sup>, there was a meeting where we said in many words, that the option to work with Mendham Borough on a police force in various forms (shared service, co-location, and contract for service) however the option was not there; we have to have a willing dance partner. At the June 10<sup>th</sup> presentation, the Chief of Police was able to present to the community, what it is that the Mendham Township Police Department does as an agency, what are the services provided and the Chief Financial Officer was able to provide what is the cost for those services. We also went into an analysis on what was wrong with the building. There were about 12-13 people that spoke that evening. There was one person that asked for the police officers to smile more and the rest of them were in support of the agency. At the conclusion of that meeting, we made the announcement that we would then continue to pursue what was the next thing. As a reminder, the current building is in violation of fire code, in addition to not having a safe transition of defendants which is often referred to as a sally port, the interview rooms are deficient by the department of corrections’ code, no appropriate facilities for juvenile offenders, evidence room routinely has a moisture problem as known as flooding, last week the processing room experienced significant water damage, highly limited by space and we currently do not have space for male or female officers.

The following diagrams were presented:

#### **MENDHAM TOWNSHIP POLICE STATION LOCATIONS**

- The tan shaded areas represent “all the dirt that we own” which Mayor Gisser expressed “is a lot.” This map does not include parcels that are owned by other agencies that are tax-exempted like the county properties, Schiff, Girls Scouts. He noted that when you add it all together, 25% of Mendham Township’s land mass is either owned by the municipality which means it does not pay taxes, owned by the county or owned by a not for profit organizations which also do not pay taxes. These organizations do wonderful work but the fact of matter is property within Mendham Township is not available for us to do anything on and does not pay taxes. The relevance for this particular slide is going back to the mandate to the group of professionals that he asked to prepare this information, which was to start with the dirt that we own and that is available. Mayor Gisser explained that when you start going through the whole map, you start to exclude properties that already have a significant use or how they were acquired which most have been acquired through open space green acres, there are encumbrances on almost all these properties. Occasionally, it’s just a pure topography, some it’s the geography where it’s located. For example, the State of New Jersey will not permit the township to put a headquarters at India Brook (Ironia Road) because it’s restricted. There is a lot of property that is owned by the Township but there’s very, very little of it that is usable in any way shape or form.

#### **SITE SELECTION STUDY MATRIX**

- Mayor Gisser presented the positives and negatives of each property which are listed on the diagram; attached hereto.

#### **PD HQ SITE SURVEY**

- Mayor Gisser explained the plan which highlights the location next to Town Hall – West Main Street. The plan would eliminate the existing structure and replace it with a new structure. The building’s frontage would be along West Main Street. The concept for the actual building was to create a facility that would have no impact on West Main Street, if anything an improvement on West Main Street, in terms of the visual appearance and no impact; a residential structure. The front would be ceremonial; there is no intent to use the front door. It’s also a means of egress from the inside of the building; there is no garage or driveway located in the front of the building. The entire facility would operate from the rear of the building, the municipal complex area. Mayor Gisser cautiously expressed that there will be zero impact, to where we are now, on West Main Street, Brookside area. This is a residential construction with ADA accessibility to include ramps, an elevator and fire suppression system. Mayor Gisser noted that this plan would fit at the Ralston side, there is flexibility. He noted some details of the inside of the building.

#### **PD HQ BUILDING DESIGN**

- The design was presented; diagram attached hereto. Mayor Gisser noted that the building on the diagram is a little bit wider (3 ft. on each side) which was driven by a comment made by Mr. Monaghan, which was to the extent that we do something to address the housing of the Mendham Township Police Department, let’s not make the critical mistake, a second time, and that is having a facility that’s just big enough to house the Mendham Township Police Department. Mayor Gisser explained that looking at what the space requirement would be to allow Mendham Township to be the provider of services to another municipality (merge/contract for services) to put Mendham Township in the position to extend our reach beyond just Mendham Township. The building was modified from an earlier version to reflect that idea. He reminded the public that there are 15 members of Mendham Township Police Department including the command staff and one administrative person. As far as extending the reach, that has to do with the level of service – call volume, nature of their community, response times, volunteer EMS/firefighters.
- Cost: Construction of the **building** is about \$210/sq. ft. This particular building is about 3,200 sq. ft. per floor. The building cost is approximately \$1,750,000. This does not include site work (septic systems/parking lot) or soft costs (professionals/permitting) so a project of this nature would be, comfortably in excess of \$2 million. On a \$900,000 home, which is an average in Mendham Township, a million dollar borrowing is \$23.43/year; the borrowing would be for thirty years.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Mayor Gisser expressed that to his knowledge, this is the first actionable idea that has been brought before the community and his concern is that the township continues to move forward with the topic, in an informed way. He does not want to leave the committee without giving the community a sense of what it is that we could be doing. He expressed that it's uncomfortable for him to be Mayor of a town with police that deliver the service that they do, working from the current facility. Mayor Gisser thanked the public for their indulgence and asked the community for their feedback.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE POLICE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS**

Bob Cooper – 12 Cooper Road – Thanked Mayor Gisser for the presentation. He expressed that having a number of \$2 million helps, in terms of, understanding what the benefits would be if we did find a merge. The cost was an outstanding question in addition to the significant savings Mendham Township would have. He asked if any consideration was given to sharing some of the facility with the existing Emergency Services Building.

Mayor Gisser noted that at the current moment, the police department's locker room is actually located in the meeting room of the Emergency Services Building. For purposes of this exercise, Mayor Gisser noted that we did not go into fully analyzing the use of the existing Emergency Services Building, largely driven by some issues related to the sally port, evidence room and addition items.

Mr. Cooper asked if we are compelled to actually have the police department in Mendham Township, like on Main Street (Borough) which has a vacant building. Mayor Gisser expressed that his mandate to the group was to start with the properties that we currently own. Mr. Copper highlighted the fact that we would have two police stations within 1/4 mile of each other, instead of being 2 miles apart.

Mr. Monaghan addressed Mr. Cooper's comment on the merger, noting that there is no interest, right now, on the borough's part to merge police departments or even towns. He expressed that even if we were to co-locate, take some space from the borough, and even that was not doable. Even if we offer to modify the building to make room upstairs, they do not have parking; they just do not have the infrastructure to hold the Mendham Township Police department. It's not necessarily a given that even if we merge, there is not going to be a need for a new building to house the joint police department.

Nancy Wilson – Brockden Drive – She does not know why it has taken so long for this to get to where it is. Her kids are 50 years old and the headquarters was a disgraceful dump when they were growing up. She expressed that we have to do something.

Peter Dumovic – 3 Shelton Road – prepared statement attached hereto

Sam Tolley – Woodland Road – asked about the status of the current septic system of the W. Main Street property. Mayor Gisser noted that with proper maintenance and cleaning of the septic system the current septic system would be available. Mr. Tolley also noted the environmental constraints at the property and Mayor Gisser noted that preliminary evaluations indicate that we are in compliance, as contemplated we are 48 feet from the road so it might be little bit tight on the front yard in regards to depth/set back issues. Mr. Tolley asked if the current police department structure would be removed. Mayor Gisser noted that the current structure would not be removed because he feels that it's a building that can be repurposed, potentially, but it not suggested that it would be raised. Mr. Tolley encouraged the committee to look at the environmental wetland issue.

Michael Merritt – Mountainside Road – highlighted the cooperation that has gone into affording the police temporary use of the emergency services building meeting room. He also highlighted the lessons learned from the construction of the Emergency Service Building and to make sure we do not repeat them. He also noted that we need to make sure that any major project is professionally managed and properly insured so we do not repeat those mistakes. He also noted that the reason we do not have a modern police station is because we failed when we bought Pitney to properly make that purchase and organize the space in a way that can be effectively utilized which was the intent. He applauded the Township Committee that the current proposal is being made in a public way and he hopes the public to be involved.

Patricia Zimmerman – 3 West Main Street, Brookside – she hopes there will be other opportunities to talk about this in more depth. She suggested that, if we are looking for a partner, that we look at Chester Township for a shared service and noted that we might want to look at a location on the western side of town which would be more appealing to the Chesters. She commented on the size of the proposed structure and the use of the house

which three first responders, currently, reside at. Her other concern is the affect upon the historic character of Brookside noting that the building appears to be very large and will not fit architecturally. She explained that it's a squared peg being forced into a round hole because the town wants to building on property that we own. She suggested that if the places on the west side are not appropriate, then we look at possibly buying a piece of property that would be an appropriate location. She appreciates everyone efforts and provided a history of Brookside.

Anastasio Konidaris - 6 Ballantine Road – Thanked Mayor Gisser and the rest of the Township Committee for putting forward a legitimate path to move the issue forward. He noted that the presentation is a start to an open and transparent process and he hopes the momentum continues.

Randy Lee – Oak Knoll Road – He attended the June meeting to promote the police department. He appreciates the presentation and is fully behind it however the issue he has is timing. He noted that we are here again, 5 years later, 40 years from a building that is in disarray. The police department is providing unbelievable service but they do not have anything to back it up. He noted that the current work environment falls back on the moral of the police department. He noted that we keep bringing up shared services which also affect the moral of the officers because the officers worry about the possibility of losing their jobs.

Jack Curtis – expressed that the presentation was an exceptionally comprehensive and educational one. He asked the age of the septic system which Mayor Gisser responded, that the septic system was updated about 10 years ago.

Thomas Baio – 21 Northgate Road – he expressed that the presentation falls in the shadows, literally and figuratively, of a failed (Emergency Services) building, noting that the building from a functional standpoint is working but it failed in the sense that its budget was totally exceeded and it lacked disciplined from many standpoints including expertise from our own Township Committee. He noted that we should never repeat that sin. We should also consider all future reuse and adaptive reuse which is a big part of historic preservation and its smart planning. He expressed that the construction should be phased due to the few people using the building at one time. He also noted that he does not believe the current building is in eminent domain. He noted that we should never rush into something and it can't hurt to introduce a little delay.

Diane Tolley – Woodland Road – She noted that a densely populated areas of town was chosen to build a police station and asked if a study was conducted to see how many households would be impacted at each site. She also asked if the public could obtain a list of the properties that were studied. Mayor Gisser noted that the matrix goes into further details regarding the household impact and noted that the impact on the Ralston location has fewer homes in their immediate area. The West Main Street property would see no significant change in traffic since the access will be from the back of the building (municipal complex area). Mayor Gisser noted that the only change may be seen during shift change. Ms. Tolley believes there is a lot of value to the West Main Street property but if it really was a money cost and we had a better location why not sell that piece of property and use that money for the better location. It was noted that it's an option but Mr. Monaghan noted that it would be difficult to do since the property is tied into the septic system.

Dan Wood – 4 West Main Street – currently resides at the house that is being proposed as a potential location for the new police headquarters. He expressed that the Mendham Township Police Department is top notched and they deserve better than what they are in now. He asked, if the West Main Street project receives tremendous support, will he be informed of the progress so he can make plans. Mayor Gisser expressed that nothing will be done without direct and specific communication with those most immediately impacted. Mayor Gisser explained that from a practical standpoint, from the moment of a commitment from the Township Committee, it's about 9-12months before a shovel hits the ground.

Rick Blood – 32 Tingley Road – noted that it was a great presentation. He doesn't believe Mendham Borough is going to be a willing partner in police shared services and also doesn't believe Trenton will force any town to merge. He suggested looking at other towns for police shared services.

Diana Orban Brown – Ironia Road – references have been made to the facilities and equipment ad-hoc committee that convened in 2017 and she expressed that a new police headquarters was a very high priority, maybe the highest priority of that study. She expressed that the idea of putting the police headquarters next door (West Main Street) makes a lot of sense. She noted that we have money for all sorts of wants and needs (playground, beaches, open space, maintenance equipment, fire trucks) which we find the money for it and the police station is not a want but a need, however, \$2 million is a lot money and its seems we have a bad track record in keeping in budget.

She suggested the following, obtain a second option by speaking to communities who recently built a new police station, work with experienced profession who have built a police station; look at alternatives for example declining school population may result in empty buildings and look at the uses beyond the current use its being built for.

Mayor Gisser asked the Township Committee for their comments.

Mr. Diegnan expressed that we need to make the effort to address this problem and address it in the near future. He noted that we have talked about a new police station and have done extensive studies on the topic. He strongly supports the project and believes that a public/private partnership in raising the funds is certainly the most appropriate way to meet our goals.

Ms. Duarte thanked Mayor Gisser, town professionals and Bob Scialla for working on the concept plan. She expressed that while there is a problem with the current police station; she would like the Township Committee not rush into anything, to be transparent and would like to have the information made available to the public. She wants it done smartly; with a lot of community engagement and that we utilize all the professional expertise.

Ms. Neibart thanked Mayor Gisser and the professional staff. She understands that this has been a long time coming and she believes we need to be aggressive, transparent and through. She really hopes that the township committee has a decision made by the beginning or the end of the budgetary cycle in 2020 which gives the committee 6 months or so to have conversations with the community and make a decision. She has concerns with a \$2.2 million project since we also have a PBA contract that has increases so those both will have impact on the budgetary cycle and for the years to come. She asked if the next presentation could have numbers next to all the different proposals. She asked about the current structure of the Ralston Fire House and also believes the building should be on the western part of town because she truly believes that the partners that are coming to the table on shared services are in the Chesters.

Mr. Monaghan thanked the Mayor and the team for a very comprehensive presentation. He definitely believes that the process has to be transparent and we need experienced people to run the project. He doesn't have a particular opinion on where the building needs to go but leans towards the west side of town for a variety of reasons partly because there could potentially be expansion (shared services). He expresses that the township needs to make a reasonable business decision and move forward with it. He also noted that the worst things that can be done is to let our, analyzes like a merger, paralyze us. We need to decide on what we have in front of us.

Mayor Gisser thanked the public for their input and the professionals.

**ORDINANCE FOR SECOND READING / PUBLIC HEARING** - Ordinance was introduced at the October 7, 2019 regular meeting

**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

**Mr. Diegnan made a motion to open to the public. Ms. Neibart seconded.**

Christine Blood – Tingley Road – she expressed that her concern with the ordinance is the wording specifically noting that the government is choosing an electric company for her. She noted that that the only stated benefit is that we may likely realize energy cost savings and this is in the interest of our health, safety and welfare but she asked how. She feels that from an individual resident's perspective, the benefit is really quite small when you take into account the other monthly tax and cost burdens so from her perspective the ordinance is really not a high priority. She also has a policy concerns and asked why the strong armed tactic which she expressed is very intrusive to have government involved in consumer choices for a small potential benefit. She also expressed that while other municipalities have adopted a similar ordinance, its' also true that some others have reviewed it and have decided to not pass a similar ordinance. She wanted to know if this type of approach really right for the township.

Jack Curtis – Mr. Curtis contacted Mayor Chegwiddden whose town has participated in a similar program and they have found the program to be satisfactory. He agrees with Ms. Blood's comments and he thinks there is a better way to go about it then springing it on all the people in Mendham Township by getting a letter saying that the township changed their electric payments. He does not believe the process was transparent. He asked if the rate would be a fixed or variable rate – which the township committee confirmed it's a fixed rate and it's established through an auction process. Mr. Curtis asked additional questions about the program which were answered by

members of the Township Committee. He asked that the committee put off the ordinance until the residents are made aware of the program.

Patricia Zimmerman – 3 West Main Street – She asked if the gas companies were included in the agreement and it was noted that the program just pertains to electric.

Ms. Duarte made a motion to closed public comment and second by Mr. Diegnan.

Mayor Gisser addressed the questions regarding the aggregation program specifically addressing the process of the program and Mr. Curtis' comments.

Mr. Moench clarified that the process in regards to aggregation is set by state statue so there is no other option, if you want to proceed with the program, to use a different method with opt-in/opt-out option.

Members of the Township Committee responded to the public comments regarding the aggregation program and overall are in favor of the program.

**Roll call vote: All members present voted to table the ordinance.**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**2019-158** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham, County of Morris, State of New Jersey, Authorizing the Signing of Government Energy Aggregation Program Agreements

**Ms. Duarte moved. Ms. Neibart seconded.**

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

**2019-159** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing Discussion without the Presence of the Public

**Ms. Duarte moved. Ms. Neibart seconded.**

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

**2019-160** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Appointing Alina Santana as Part Time Recreation Coordinator

**Ms. Duarte moved. Ms. Neibart seconded.**

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

**2019-161** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Appointing Wendy Parrinello as Part Time Communications and Health Department Specialist

**Mr. Diegnan moved. Ms. Neibart seconded.**

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

**2019-162** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Payment of Bills

**Ms. Neibart moved. Ms. Duarte seconded.**

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

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

All members voted to adjourn into Executive Session.

### **ADJOURN**

**Motion by Ms. Duarte and seconded by Ms. Neibart.**

**All members voted to adjourn at 10:15 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Distributed: 12/13/2019

Approved: 12/19/2019

Maria F. Coppinger  
Township Clerk



First, I like the idea presented by Mayor Gisser tonight, and the idea deserves serious attention by the other Township Committee members.

As a 23-year resident of the Township, I applaud the professional services provided by our proactive police department and commend our exemplary police officers.

In addition to usual law enforcement activities, I am especially appreciative of the department's heavy community involvement. As an example, above and beyond school security details, walk thru's and drills, police officers also spend time in the classrooms of our children working with teachers to help educate our children on important social and developmental issues, like social media safety, drug and alcohol prevention, and being a good citizen.

The Police Headquarters main building dates back to the 1950s, and has multiple deficiencies with continued degradation over many years. In early-2017, the Township's Ad Hoc Facilities Committee examined the facilities owned by the Township, and came to the obvious conclusion that the police facility was in urgent need of extensive refurbishment - or preferably replacement. I believe this is a very serious matter, especially since the Police Headquarters has been found to be non compliant in a number of areas by both the NJ State Department of Corrections and also the NJ State Juvenile Justice Division.

I think we would all agree that the current headquarters is not appropriate for the professional services provided by our police department. Our police officers and our community deserve better. I support building of a new police facility on a piece of property the Township already owns. And from what I heard tonight from the Mayor, it seems the new police facility should be built on West Main Street.

Peter Dumovic  
3 Shelton Road