



**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
REGULAR MEETING**

DATE: Monday, December 7, 2020

TIME: 6:00 PM Executive Session
7:30 PM Regular Session

LOCATION: IN-PERSON LOCATION
Town Hall
2 West Main Street
Brookside

REMOTE VIA ZOOM – Link on the last page
Webinar ID: 838 8095 2143
Passcode: 021071

ROLL CALL

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

ALSO, PRESENT

Mr. Bob Casey, Township Administrator
Mr. John Mills, Township Attorney
Ms. Maria F. Coppinger, Township Clerk

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE – Read by Mayor Neibart

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. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the township offices and notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

2020-232 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Providing for a Meeting Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE	MOTION	SECOND	MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION	SECOND	ROLL CALL		
					YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Baio					X		
Ms. Duarte	X			X	X		
Mr. Monaghan		X	X		X		
Mr. Orlins					X		
Mayor Neibart					X		

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Township Committee adjourned into executive session at 6:02 PM. The Township Committee reconvened at 7:26PM.

Mayor Neibart announced that there was no action taken in Executive Session.

REGULAR SESSION STARTS AT 7:30PM

ROLL CALL

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

ALSO, PRESENT

Mr. Bob Casey, Township Administrator
Mr. John Mills, Township Attorney
Ms. Maria F. Coppinger, Township Clerk

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COVID-19 UPDATE

Mayor Neibart reported on state and township covid case numbers, and she reiterated the Governor's covid guidelines and Morris County information regarding covid testing; a drive through test site in the township is being considered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Duarte reported on Police, Recreation, and Stigma Free initiatives. Mayor Neibart noted that today is the 79th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. She also reported on holiday celebrations in the township and she reiterated that no action is required of residents on the energy cooperative, at this time, as was stated in the letter to residents.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Duarte made a motion to open the meeting to the public; Seconded by Mr. Baio.

Bob Wowk – 12 Cooper Road – Mr. Wock expressed his opinion on how a new mayor is chosen noting that residents should be able to vote on a new Mayor similar to the borough's process. He asked about the status of the town hall construction project and the communication to the residents on the project.

Arjan Roghanchi – 10 Brockden Drive – Mr. Roghanchi asked if there would be an opportunity to comment on land use since it comes after the 2nd open to the public. It was noted that no action will be taken on the land use discussion.

Jack Curtis - 4 Michael Road – Mr. Curtis made several points: letters to residents should be sent regarding the town hall building plan; the mayor should be chosen by seniority; outsourcing the Department of Public Works; savings from the energy cooperative, and woodland and farm assessments. In response, the Committee discussed their awareness of energy savings to residents.

Jeff Brzuchalski – 5 Pender Hill Road – He expressed concerns as to the efficacy of the Sewer East resolution and whether the Committee has confidence there will not be a repeat of the issue. Mr. Casey explained the engineer's report and confirmed that the township has confidence in the success of the system.

Megan Marino – Trimmingham Road – Ms. Marino thanked the Mayor and Mr. Casey for their work on the Sewer West.

Brian O'Mahoney - 21 Langford Drive - Mr. O'Mahoney requested an explanation of the Sewer East assessment and the amount of flow that the system handles. Mr. Casey explained the reason for the redesign and that a detailed report is available via OPRA.

George Twill – 6 Knapton Hill Rd – Mr. Twill engaged Mr. Casey in a conversation about the inspection of the laterals in Drakewick. Mr. Twill expressed concern about the cost to residents.

Joanne Spataro - 6 Langford - She asked if residents in Drakewick should be home when flow testing is done. She asked if a vendor rather than DPW would be doing sewer work to which the Mayor clarified that the DPW is doing the work. Mr. Casey addressed her concern about the 8% surcharge and he asserted that the goal is to keep the existing rate structure.

Steven Bernt – 9 Wainwright Road - He questioned whether missing manholes in Drakewick contributed to excess flows to which Mr. Casey responded that the manholes were found.

Diana Orban Brown – Ironia Road - Ms. Brown expressed concern about unpaid taxes and what can neighbors do to assist if residents are in need. The Mayor commented that this meeting would not be the appropriate forum for this discussion and she would check with the tax office to review current properties that are in arrears to determine if this problem still exists.

Peter Staples – 10 Woodland Rd - Mr. Staples raised the question of whether the township would consider having a private company manage the sewer utility rather than managed by the municipality itself. He continued to say that the Drakewick residents could take on the management and it would no longer drain resources of the township. Mayor Neibart explained that at this time the township is manager of the sewer utility by ordinance but that a different management structure could be addressed in the future.

Mr. Orlins agreed that Mr. Staples brought up a good point and there are alternatives to the township assigning resources against this job.

Mr. Monaghan made a motion to close the meeting to the public; Seconded by Mr. Orlins.

MINUTES

● Executive Session Minutes of August 10, 2020

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE	MOTION	SECOND	MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION	SECOND	ROLL CALL		
					YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Baio	X			X	X		
Ms. Duarte		X	X		X		
Mr. Monaghan					X		
Mr. Orlins					X		
Mayor Neibart					X		

● Regular Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2020

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE	MOTION	SECOND	MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION	SECOND	ROLL CALL		
					YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Baio		X		X	X		
Ms. Duarte	X		X		X		
Mr. Monaghan					X		
Mr. Orlins					X		
Mayor Neibart					X		

REGULAR AGENDA

2020-233 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Cancelling a Portion of the Emergency Appropriation for the Mendham Sewer East Utility Established via Resolution 2020-126

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE	MOTION	SECOND	MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION	SECOND	ROLL CALL		
					YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Baio		X		X	X		
Ms. Duarte	X		X		X		
Mr. Monaghan					X		
Mr. Orlins					X		
Mayor Neibart					X		

2020-234 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Establishing an Amount to be Added to the 2021 Quarterly Sewer Bills for Mendham Sewer East Utility Fund to Recover Excess Flow Charges

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE	MOTION	SECOND	MOTION TO CALL THE QUESTION	SECOND	ROLL CALL		
					YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Baio		X		X	X		
Ms. Duarte	X		X		X		
Mr. Monaghan					X		
Mr. Orlins					X		
Mayor Neibart					X		

2020-235 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Payment of Bills

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

Motion was made by Mr. Monaghan and seconded by Mr. Baio to remove the invoice for H2M until the final report of the Master Plan is received.

Motion to call the question by Mr. Baio and seconded by Ms. Duarte. All members voted in favor of Resolution 2020-235.

2020-236 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Contract for Architectural Service for Town Hall Renovation

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE	MOTION	SECOND	MOTION TO TABLE R2020-236	SECOND	ROLL CALL		
					YES	NO	ABSTAIN
Mr. Baio		X			X		
Ms. Duarte	X			X	X		
Mr. Monaghan			X		X		
Mr. Orlins					X		
Mayor Neibart					X		

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Duarte made a motion to open the meeting to the public; Seconded by Mr. Monaghan.

Jack Curtis – 4 Michael Road - Mr. Curtis commented that he felt that the DPW should be able to handle the camera work for the sewer system and that would save the township money.

Arjan Roghanchi – 10 Brockden Drive – Mr. Roghanchi commented that the idea of combining the planning and zoning boards into one land use board could open up to unforeseen risks in the future.

Ms. Duarte made a motion to close the meeting to the public; Seconded by Mr. Baio.

DISCUSSION

Administration

2021 Work Schedule – Town Hall

Mr. Casey presented a petition from the Town Hall office staff to change hours of operation from 8:30AM to 4:30PM with an hour for lunch to 8:30AM to 4:00PM with a half hour for lunch. The Committee discussed the impact this would have on the residents and it was decided that there would be no impact while there is still a state of emergency due to covid and residents must make an appointment to enter the building. The request will be an item on the agenda for the reorganization meeting.

COVID-19 Testing Policy for Township Essential Workers and Volunteers

Mr. Casey requested that the Committee confirm a policy on how to utilize the 300 covid test kits that the township purchased. After some discussion the Committee decided upon the guidelines suggested by the Mayor that the test kits be made available to first responders, volunteers, and essential employees who have been exposed to the virus or recently traveled. A log will be kept of those receiving the tests.

Township Committee

Land Use Organization: Combining Planning and Zoning Boards

Ms. Duarte questioned what the next step would be to which the Mayor explained that this topic was up for discussion but action was not necessarily required. After some discussion the opinion of Committee members agreed that combining the boards was not advisable but if there were enough interest the issue could be revisited.

Statement of Work for Committees

Mayor Neibart asked the Committee to review the binder containing resumes and statement of work in preparation for discussion at the December 17th meeting with their recommendations.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Monahan moved to table the reports for the next meeting.

Ms. Duarte commented that the Communications Committee will regroup next month with a formal budget request. She suggested that a communication to residents be sent out regarding the recycling and the new building project. The Committee discussed the pros and cons of sending out information by mail this year and the Mayor suggested adding a newsletter to the budget for next year.

Mayor Neibart announced that the next meeting would be virtual and she encouraged all to follow covid travel guidelines for the holidays. The Fire Department is thinking of doing a Santa holiday parade the weekend of the 20th and 21st and she wished all those who celebrate a Happy Hannukah. The menorah and tree will be lit this weekend.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 9:33PM made by Ms. Duarte; seconded by Mr. Baio.

Respectfully submitted,

Distributed: 06/03/2021

Approved: 06/14/2021

Maria F. Coppinger
Township Clerk