

**TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM  
REORGANIZATION MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022 - 7:00 PM  
Municipal Building and Remote via Zoom**

**CALL TO ORDER BY TOWNSHIP CLERK**

**STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:** Read by the Township Clerk  
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 Star Ledger and Daily Record on November 24, 2021. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the township offices and notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**INVOCATION:** Father Michael Drury delivered the invocation.

**STATEMENT OF DETERMINATION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY CANVASSERS** – Read by the Township Clerk:  
A Statement of Determination of The Board of Canvassers, Relative to an Election held in the Township of Mendham, County of Morris and State of New Jersey, for the election of certain Municipal Officers for the Municipality on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2021.

The said Board does determine that at the said election:

Name	Office	Term
Nick Monaghan	Township Committee	3 Years
Sarah Neibart	Township Committee	3 Years

**SWEARING-IN**

Senator Bucco administered the Oath of Office to Committee Members Nick Monaghan and Sarah Neibart

Senator Bucco and Assemblywoman Dunn addressed the public and acknowledged Mr. Monaghan and Ms. Neibart for their commitment to the community.

Commissioner Mastrangelo and Commissioner Smith were present via Zoom. The Commissioners acknowledged the committee’s commitment to the community and Morris County. Sheriff Gannon was also present via Zoom but due to technical difficulties we were unable to hear him.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Also, present:

Jason Gabloff, Township Administrator  
John Mills, Township Attorney  
Maria F. Coppinger, Township Clerk

**NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE OF MAYOR FOR 2022**

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Ms. Coppinger called for nominations for the position of Mayor.

Ms. Duarte nominated herself for the position of Mayor. She stated the following reasons: Not to sound like a broken record, because this is my fourth attempt and moving into a leadership role. For anyone who is new to town and participating in our meeting. First, I have the longest record of service on the township committee. I was elected in 2017 and re-elected in 2020. I have lived in Mendham for nearly 23 years. Before running for Township Committee, I was involved as a Board member for the West Morris Soccer Club, on the Schiff Nature Preserve Board and volunteered as a youth sport coach in the Girls Basketball League, among other volunteer roles. In our local government, I served as the Vice Chair of the Board of Adjustment; for many years on the Recreation Commission and was the Chair and Vice Chair at different times and organized the very successful annual Patriots Race; and served as Chair of the Open Space Committee. I have been elected twice with bipartisan support. I was re-elected in 2020 with 2,146 votes – a new record for a local contested race. Residents voted for me because of my record of service, and because I put the community first and I am not afraid to speak out or take a dissenting position. By continuing every year to bypass me for a leadership position you are disenfranchising them – THE VOTERS — those 2,146 residents who voted to re-elect me.

Ms. Neibart nominated Mr. Monaghan for the position of Mayor; seconded by Mr. Baio. Ms. Neibart provided her reasons for nominating Mr. Monaghan, noting Mr. Monaghan’s service to the township. Leadership is the ability to take a stand on issues and make hard decisions. A leader does not constantly abstain on issues or only take politically convenient votes.

No other nominations were presented for Mayor.

CLOSE NOMINATIONS

Ms. Coppinger called for a motion to close nominations. Motion made by Mr. Orlins; seconded by Mr. Baio. All members present were in favor of closing nominations.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Coppinger called on each committee person for their vote for Mayor:

Committee Members	Ms. Duarte	Mr. Monaghan
Mr. Baio		X
Ms. Duarte	X	
Ms. Neibart		X
Mr. Monaghan		X
Mr. Orlins		X

Votes were casted in favor of Mr. Monaghan for Mayor. Senator Bucco administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Monaghan.

MAYOR PRESIDING:

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2022

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Mayor Monaghan called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor.

Mr. Orlins nominated Mr. Baio for the position of Deputy Mayor; seconded by Ms. Neibart.

Ms. Duarte nominated herself for the position of Deputy Mayor. Ms. Duarte commented that her service to the community speaks for herself.

No other nominations were presented for Deputy Mayor.

CLOSE NOMINATIONS

Mayor Monaghan called for a motion to close nominations. Motion made by Mr. Baio; seconded by Ms. Duarte. All members present were in favor of closing nominations.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Coppinger called on each committee member for their vote for Deputy Mayor:

Committee Members	Mr. Baio	Ms. Duarte
Mr. Baio	X	
Ms. Duarte		X
Ms. Neibart	X	
Mr. Monaghan	X	
Mr. Orlins	X	

Votes were casted in favor of Mr. Baio for Deputy Mayor. Senator Bucco administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Baio.

WELCOME - 2022 Mayor

Mayor Monaghan read from a prepared statement which is attached hereto.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OFFICERS

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the officers were sworn in, earlier in the evening, at their respective buildings.

BROOKSIDE ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1 OFFICERS:

Chief/ Department Chief – Stephen M. Sauerman  
Deputy Chief – Daniel Wood  
Assistant Chief – John Kemp  
Lieutenant – Warren Gisser  
Chief Engineer- Christian Kalweit

RALSTON ENGINE COMPANY NO. 1 OFFICERS:

Chief - Tom Montgomery  
1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief - Scott Mortensen  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief - Jeffrey Betz  
President – Joseph Gomeringer

MENDHAM TOWNSHIP FIRST AID SQUAD OFFICERS:

Captain - George Budd  
Lieutenant - Leslie Dunlevy  
Quartermaster - Jesse Smith  
Quartermaster East - Patty Marold  
Quartermaster West - Estelle Pasquier  
President - Marlene Russell  
Treasurer - Debra Nails  
Secretary - Bob Marold  
Training Coordinator - Nicholas Witczak  
Data Steward - Nanci Kane

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

*The following resolutions were submitted to the Township Committee for review and made available to the public for inspection prior to the meeting, and may be adopted by one motion.*

**Motion to adopt the consent agenda 2022-001 through 2021-027 was made by Mr. Baio and seconded by Mr. Orlins.**

Ms. Duarte commented that Resolution 2022-015, Appointing members to the Finance Advisory Committee, does not have any women on the committee. However, Ms. Duarte will support the resolution.

**Motion to remove Resolutions 2022-002, 2022-011, 2022-015, 2022-016 made by Mr. Baio and seconded by Ms. Neibart. All members present voted in favor to move the resolutions to the Regular Agenda.**

**Motion to approve the consent agenda as amended made by Mr. Baio, seconded by Ms. Neibart.  
Mr. Baio, Ms. Duarte, Ms. Neibart, Mr. Orlins and Mayor Neibart voted in favor of the consent agenda.**

### **RESOLUTION 2022-001**

CONCURRING THE PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS OF THE SHARED COURT OF MENDHAM TOWNSHIP, CHESTER TOWNSHIP AND CHESTER BOROUGH FOR 2022

### **RESOLUTION 2022-003**

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY – JOHN M. MILLS, III, ESQ.

### **RESOLUTION 2022-004**

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL BOND COUNSEL SERVICES – MCMANIMON, SCOTLAND AND BAUMANN, LLC

### **RESOLUTION 2022-005**

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES - KATHRYN L. MANTELL – NISIVOCCIA LLP

### **RESOLUTION 2022-006**

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR TAX APPEAL CONSULTANT – THOMAS SATEARY, ESQ. – LINDABURY, MCCORMICK, ESTABROOK & COOPER, PC

### **RESOLUTION 2022-007**

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR 2022 LEGAL SERVICES – LABOR ATTORNEY – ARTHUR R. THIBAUT JR., ESQ. – APRUZZESE, MCDERMOTT, MASTRO & MURPHY

### **RESOLUTION 2022-008**

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL – SUSAN SHARPE, ESQ. - DORSEY SEMRAU

### **RESOLUTION 2022-009**

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES – DENIS KEENAN, P.E. – FRENCH & PARRELLO ASSOCIATES

### **RESOLUTION 2022-010**

AUTHORIZING THE AWARD OF A NON-FAIR AND OPEN CONTRACT FOR RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT – FRANK COVELLI – PROFESSIONAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATES (PIA)

### **RESOLUTION 2022-012**

APPOINTING MEMBER(S) TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH

### **RESOLUTION 2022-013**

APPOINTING MEMBER(S) TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### **RESOLUTION 2022-014**

APPOINTING MEMBER(S) TO THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

### **RESOLUTION 2022-017**

RE-ESTABLISHING VARIOUS PETTY CASH FUNDS FOR THE YEAR 2022

### **RESOLUTION 2022-018**

AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO WIRE TRANSFER FUNDS FOR INVESTMENT AND PAYMENT OF CAPITAL DEBT

### **RESOLUTION 2022-019**

DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS AND FIXING CHARGES FOR NOTICES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS DURING 2022

### **RESOLUTION 2022-020**

ESTABLISHING 2022 TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING DATES

### **RESOLUTION 2022-021**

ESTABLISHING 2022 OFFICE HOURS AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

**RESOLUTION 2022-022**  
APPROVING THE CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM

**RESOLUTION 2022-023**  
ESTABLISHING INTEREST RATE-DELINQUENT TAXES AND SEWER FEES

**RESOLUTION 2022-024**  
ADOPTING 2022 TEMPORARY BUDGET OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM

**RESOLUTION 2022-025**  
DESIGNATING DEPOSITORY FOR TOWNSHIP FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES ON TOWNSHIP CHECKS

**RESOLUTION 2022-026**  
AUTHORIZING THE RE-AFFIRMATION OF THE POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL OF THE MUNICIPALITY

**RESOLUTION 2022-027**  
TO AFFIRM THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM CIVIL RIGHTS POLICY WITH RESPECT TO ALL OFFICIALS, APPOINTEES, EMPLOYEES, PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS, AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC THAT COME INTO CONTACT WITH MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, OFFICIALS AND VOLUNTEERS

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION 2022-028**  
APPOINTING MEMBER(S) TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

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

**RESOLUTION 2022-029**  
APPOINTING MEMBER(S) TO THE MORRIS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REVENUE SHARING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

**RESOLUTION 2022-002**  
APPOINTING TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS FOR 2022

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

**RESOLUTION 2022-011**  
APPOINTING MEMBER(S) TO THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

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

Committeewoman Duarte stated she was voting against it because several women had applied and were not considered.

**RESOLUTION 2022-015**  
APPOINTING MEMBER(S) TO THE FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

RESOLUTION 2022-016  
APPOINTING MEMBER(S) TO THE PLANNING BOARD

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

Appointments to the Tree Preservation and Landscape Committee will be presented at the Township Committee Meeting of January 24, 2022.

STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR / COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**2022 MAYORAL APPOINTMENT** – Mayor Monaghan made the following appointments:

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

<b>Heather Tokarz</b> , Regular Member	Re-assigned (M. Wilkenfeld)	Unexpired term	12/31/2023
<b>Brian Roth</b> , Regular Member	Newly Appointed (S. Schmerler)	3 years	12/31/2024
<b>Mary Calabro</b> , Regular Member	Re-appointed	3 years	12/31/2024
<b>Kylie Bailin</b> , Alternate	Re-appointed	2 years	12/31/2023
<b>Bernadette Koenig</b> , Alternate	Newly Appointed (H. Tokarz)	Unexpired term	12/31/2022
<b>Brian Roth</b> , Chairperson		1 year	12/31/2022

PLANNING BOARD

<b>Jordan Orlins</b> , Designee Class I	Newly appointed	1 year	12/31/2022
<b>Ross Johnson</b> , Township Official Class II	Re-appointed	1 year	12/31/2022
<b>Carl Perri</b> , Class IV	Re-appointed	4 years	12/31/2025
<b>Ted Maglione</b> , Alternate	Re-appointed	2 years	12/31/2023
<b>Brian Roth</b> , Class IV	Environmental Representative	3 years	12/31/2024

MORRIS COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REVENUE SHARING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

<b>Swathi Karri</b> , Representative	Re-appointed	1 year	12/31/2022
<b>Liz Carrino</b> , Alternate	Newly Appointed	1 year	12/31/2022

Mayor Monaghan addressed the emails, social media posts, and newsletters comment that he has heard referencing his decisions to replace the chair of the Environmental Commission. He expressed that he discussed the Environmental Commission with many different people over the past month or so, each of whom has provided a different point of view, but the consensus was that a change of focus was needed. Mayor Monaghan communicated these reasons to Martin Slayne last night before the public forum. Mayor Monaghan noted that the decision was not easy or personal. He expressed that he likes Martin as a person, and he respects his passion. Mayor Monaghan supported Martin as he was nominated to the EC three years ago and supported his extension to the Chair of the Commission. Mayor Monaghan knew that making the change would be controversial; changes like these are not easy to make. Mayor Monaghan does not intend to discuss, here, publicly the feedback that was provided – praise in public, correct in private – that is what he intended to do here. However, he understands the raw feelings that many public members may have towards the decision. The decision is not political or personal, as noted in Mr. Slayne’s email.

Mr. Baio commented that for 2022, it will be a year of catching up on open matters. He has focused this last year on getting presentations that are conclusion of our Master Plan. He noted that the committee was successful implementing a number of things from the Master Plan. He expressed that we have issues of affordable housing and that we need to study creative ways to address it. He would really like to see some movement on accessory apartments. He noted that our rural roadways look great and he would hate to apply State standards to Mendham Township, especially since any new roads would be the ones that would be regulated. The Pitney Park project, the Seed House, has become a growing eye soar. He noted that it’s a good problem, when you improve the property around a dilapidated structure, and now that dilapidated structure stands out. We as a committee need to address the seed house, that has to happen soon; it’s the weak link of driving on Cold Hill Road. He will work with other members of the Township Committee (TC) to determine options for the future use of the former police station. Like other members of the TC, he is hoping that the Environmental Commission will soon refocus on the improvement of open space and trails. Finally, he wants to see Mendham Township police adopt an electric vehicle; we should be the first police department to do so.

Ms. Duarte read from a prepared statement which is attached hereto.

Mr. Orlins read from a statement attached hereto.

Ms. Neibart made the following announcements:

- Morris County Office of Emergency Management: Winter advisory warning in effect until Friday, January 7, 10AM.
- Morris County Department of Health: The County is administering a second vaccination clinic at the County College of Morris on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **HEARING PERSONS PRESENT**

### **Motion to open hearing persons present made by Mr. Orlins, Seconded by Ms. Neibart.**

Martin Slayne – Indian Hollow Road – Mr. Slayne spoke on his role as Chair of the Environmental Commission. He noted the Environmental Commission’s accomplishments in the last couple of years. He expressed that the EC members are looking to understand his removal as Chair and that the Mayor owes an explanation to the community.

Kylie Bailin – 10 Washington Valley Road – Current member of the Environmental Commission (EC) – Ms. Bailin commented on the removal of Martin Slayne as Chair. Ms. Bailin noted that the EC had spent a great deal of their time on trail maintenance which was Mr. Monaghan’s request to shift their purpose too. Ms. Bailin went through the EC accomplishments and expressed her support for Martin Slayne. She raised her opposition to the removal of Martin Slayne as Chair of the Environmental Commission and asked if there was a way to have the decision reversed.

Heather Tokarz – 12 East Main Street – Current member of the Environmental Commission (EC) - Ms. Tokarz spoke on Mr. Slayne’s character and commitment to the EC which she expressed her support for Martin Slayne.

Chris Neff – 89 West Main Street – Mr. Neff recognized Martin Slayne and the volunteers of the Environmental Commission. Additional comments were made however, the audio was not clear.

Deborah Macy – 1 Main Street – Ms. Macy expressed concern with the debris discharged from nearby sump pumps in the brook that runs alongside her property. She asked for assistance with this matter. She also commented that the trails do need to be better maintained.

Bruce Harris – Brockden Drive – Mr. Harris spoke regarding Martin Slayne’s status as the Chair of the Environmental Commission. Mr. Harris expressed his support for Mr. Slayne.

Craig Scrader - 1 West Main Street – Mr. Scrader expressed that a trail safety program is essential. He noted the condition of the trails is miserable, with trees sitting in front of the trails (Patriots Path, Dismal Harmony). He asked the committee for a plan on climate change which is an issue that needs to be addressed by the committee (ex. solar). He also encouraged the committee to understand the Covid-19 vaccination rates and establish a plan on the topic. He mentioned that biological diversity is significant – it affects humans, and part of human diversity is opinion; noting that some of the work, lately, does not appear to have the diversity of opinions and transparency.

Neil Mody – 6 Stone House Road – Mr. Mody spoke on Mr. Slayne’s removal from the Environmental Commission as chair; and expressed his support for Mr. Slayne. Mr. Mody wanted to know the mayor’s reasons for removing Mr. Slayne from the Environmental Commission.

Richard Smith – 29 E. Main Street - member of the Environmental Commission (EC) – Mr. Smith commented on the removal of Martin Slayne as Chair. He expressed his support for his EC peers and noted that party affiliation should not matter. However, he said it feels partisan because the EC members do not know any information about the new incoming member (chair).

Kimberly Gavagan – 10 Kennaday Road – Ms. Gavagan noted that it’s pretty troubling to hear what has unfolded with the Chair position on the EC. She agrees that the mayor owes the public more transparency on how he arrived at this decision. Ms. Gavagan expressed the removal snaps of political retribution for Martin speaking out on solar power, against DPW cuts, and increased development. She strongly urged the mayor to reconsider this very important decision and to uphold his oath to act impartially and justly, not just because it looks bad but because it is bad for the future success of Mendham Township.

Meredith Sahi – 16 Hilltop Circle – Ms. Sahi would like to understand better how the committee decided to remove Martin Slayne from his role as Chair of the Environmental Commission. She expressed support for Martin Slayne. Ms. Sahi proposed that in this situation where the township committee has an opportunity to provide our community with greater transparency and visibility into a decision-making process without violating anybody's confidentiality. She noted that it's essential to respect a diversity of opinion and open dialogue. She also mentioned that it's necessary to have a balance of women on boards/commissions.

Tracey Moreen – 52 Hardscrabble Road –statement attached hereto.

Stephen Martinez – Dumont, NJ – Mr. Martinez expressed volunteers are the backbone of the organization. He suggested more activities for people. He also suggested more street lights in the Township.

Tracey Budnick – 36 Oak Knoll Road – She would like the TC to consider converting the old police department to a teen youth center. She also spoke regarding the manner in which Martin Slayne’s dismissal was handled. She asked for a process for changing seats and appointments – specifically how the new chair person was selected.

Mr. Orlins made a motion to close the public comments session; seconded by Mr. Baio.

Mayor Monaghan addressed the public’s questions.

Ms. Duarte expressed her support for Martin Slayne and asked the mayor to reverse Mr. Slayne’s removal.

## **ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Baio, Seconded by Mr. Orlins. The Township Committee adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Distributed: 1/21/2022  
Approved: 2/15/2022

Maria F. Coppinger  
Township Clerk

Attachments:

- Mayor Monaghan’s statement
- Amalia Duarte’s statement
- Mr. Orlins’ statement
- Tracey Moreen’s statement

## **WELCOME – 2022 MAYOR NICK MONAGHAN - January 5, 2022**

I would first like to thank my fellow committee members for displaying their confidence in me by electing me as the Mendham Township Mayor for 2022. It is truly an honor for me, one that I could not have envisioned when I began attending Township Committee meetings shortly after moving here over 20 years ago. I've seen a lot of things occur that I agreed with, a few that I didn't, but have always felt that the power of the representative form of government lies with the people who get involved. It doesn't take much more than a desire to be informed, and it's even easier now that the meetings are live streamed over Zoom.

I'd like to recognize the other elected officials that are in attendance...

- Senator Tony Bucco
- Assemblywoman Aura Dunn

I want to take a moment to thank and recognize Mayor Neibart for her tremendous work and dedication on behalf of the town over the past two years. Among her accomplishments are:

- Proactive and effective management and communication during the COVID Pandemic.
- Led a budget process resulting in no tax hikes for 2 years in a row
- Opened the Historic Park at Pitney Farm, ending a 12-year saga that began with the Township buying the Pitney Estate.
- And, after 30 years of discussion and can kicking, the township finally broke ground on its new police station.
- She helped to Expand recreation events and offerings to include July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks, for the first time I can recall, and reinvigorating the brookside beach, which is in the process of becoming an ice skating rink when it is cold enough.

And, if that's not enough, Sarah also joined the Brookside Engine Company and is now going through FireFighter 1 school. I've seen some the class videos, and I'm happy to stay on the First Aid Squad, thank you very much! This just scratches the surface of all you have helped the Township to accomplish during your tenure, I think I speak for the entire community when I say Thank you for all you do!

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to recognize and thank the 4%! 4% you ask, who are they? They are our Volunteers. You may not realize it, but there are well over 200 volunteers serving our town in one capacity or another. Over 100 on boards and committees alone, another 100 or so in our first responder organizations, not to mention Mendham TV, our student volunteers, our scouting organizations working on projects benefitting the township, the "Gardening Angels", the Pitney Task Force, the Mendham sewer east and west advisory committee, our library board volunteers, the list goes on. Compare this number to our paid staff, roughly 39 people (some of whom are part time), and you can see how much we all rely on the 4%, our volunteers! To the 96% of Mendham Township Residents I say come on down, join the 4%, you'll be glad you did!

### **Set priorities for 2022**

- Successful completion of the MTPD headquarters project
  - Success being defined as quality work, On-time and on-budget
  - In the spring, transition the project to begin the major infrastructure improvements to the Municipal Building and library.
- Focus on providing municipal services at a reasonable cost, while maintaining our emergency readiness
- Continue the successful debt pay-down schedule
- Make better use of technology
  - Scanning documents
    - Improves efficiencies and saves dollars by reducing time spent on OPRA requests
  - Hybrid meetings are here to stay, so we should improve the Hybrid meeting technology by providing better visibility and improved audio capabilities.
- Sustain our Department of Public Works.
  - DPW responsibilities are staggering:
    - 90 miles of roads
    - Almost 3000 acres of parks and open space
    - 30 miles of trails
    - Over 2400 stormwater basins which are mandated to be cleaned regularly and maintained at least every 5 years.
  - And, our DPW team is an integral part of our emergency response team. Flooding, windstorms, snowstorms, ice storms, you name it, they have been there and done that.
- Successfully implement the Townwide reassessment.
  - Tax Appeals cost the Township approximately \$300,000 per year. Completing the reassessment will help us stop paying out those dollars over time, because all property assessments will be recent, and less likely to be overturned in tax court.
  - I can tell you that I saw my letter from the appraisal group, and my assessment is up, along with my anticipated tax bill. If you are in that boat with me, I feel you.
  - Keep in mind that the reassessment is revenue neutral, the assumption is that the same funding that came in in 2021 will come in in 2022. The difference is in who pays how much.
- Last, but certainly not least, focus on trail maintenance. Our miles of trails are among our most used recreational amenities, and figure prominently among the reasons that new residents choose to live here. I'd like to work with the Environmental Commission to identify the areas that most need improvement, and develop a plan, apply for grants, to get it done.

There is a lot to do, I know I speak for the 5 of us when I say we are eager to get going! So, Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve Mendham Township!



**JAN 5th REORGANIZATION MEETING:**

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year! It was a very difficult holiday season with COVID running rampant. Too many families, especially with children, were sickened or exposed to COVID. I do hope we see this surge begin to subside soon. I encourage everyone to please get vaccinated and boosted. We are stuck at a 58% vaccination rate, one of the lowest in Morris County.

Thank you to all of our first responders who were sworn in to their new terms tonight on the Brookside Engine Company no. 1; Ralston Engine Co. No. 1; and the Mendham Township First Aid Squad. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our town.

Thank all of the volunteers who were appointed tonight to our sub-committees, especially the new ones. Thank you for giving up your expertise, enthusiasm and time.

I also want to thank Township Clerk Maria Coppinger, Township Administrator Jason Gabloff, Police Chief Ross Johnson, DPW Superintendent Dave Read, Recreation Director David Guida, township attorney John Mills and all of the staff who work for our town.

Looking ahead, I am excited to start my fifth year on the township committee and work with my colleagues; with residents and the staff to continue doing my part.

I am looking forward to continuing to lead the work of the Mendhams Stigma-Free Task Force.

We are planning to sponsor a Youth Mental Health Aid training for first responders and residents in late winter, hopefully in person. This workshop will teach first responders, parents, teachers, anyone who is interested, how to support a young person who is experiencing a mental health issue or crisis. It's an 6-hour certification course, and you can look for the registration on the Stigma-Free Task Force Facebook page and via an email we will send out.

The Task Force is also partnering with the Rotary Club District 7475's Community Connections Initiatives Team. In May, we will co-host a Stomp Out Stigma Walk in May, which is Mental Health Awareness Month. We are planning to engage with the schools in both communities and make this an event that touches residents across the Mendhams.

The mission of this Task Force is more important than ever before. Mental health issues have been exacerbated because of COVID – and it's important that we continue to work toward removing the stigma about discussing mental health issues.

On the communications front, I am excited that the township will be launching a new Website in late January. This was an idea proposed in October 2020 by the Marketing Communications Team, and I am thrilled that we are finally moving it forward.

The Marketing Communications team is also interested in helping us create a better logo for our town. So we are working on a town-wide logo contest that members are excited to launch. The contest will be open to anyone who lives in town, and a group of residents with professional backgrounds in graphic design, marketing, photography and art have volunteered to act as judges. More to come on that!

Speaking of creativity, we are about to start our budget process for 2022, and at our last meeting, I mentioned a few areas that I believe are critical:

The top area is that we need a long-term plan and strategy for road repaving and catch basin maintenance. We have more than 2,400 catch basins, we have 85 miles of road, and are inheriting more roads as a result of new development. A majority of our roads were rated as Very Poor or Poor by the DPW, and we need a plan to fix our roads and get ahead of the potholes.

Dying ash trees is another issue we need to address. We can't wait until a tree falls on a home or car or a person out taking a walk. We should be putting money aside for 2022 and beyond to manage this problem.

Staffing of the Department of Public Works. Let's figure out the best model to move forward and be honest and transparent about it.

Finally, as we try to stay ahead of the curve, I would like to partner with Deputy Mayor Baio on the future of the current police station. Once the new station is open, and town hall renovations are completed, we should be ready with a plan for the current headquarters.

Let's not let it sit there and deteriorate any further. I want to investigate if there is a potential community reuse for the building, whether for recreation or as a community meeting space. That's a project I would like to focus on this year and next year.

Finally in closing, Mendham is a very special place because of our volunteers. We've had a situation tonight with a volunteer being removed as a Chair and many residents are upset about it. I hope this doesn't discourage anyone from volunteering or from speaking out. Please stay engaged.

Our local government and community is made stronger by our diversity and our diverse viewpoints. Let's listen respectfully and try to work together, even when at the end of the discussion, we don't disagree. It's okay to vote No on an issue. Obviously, I have done so tonight. This is how a democracy works. It's a little messy, but it's what makes our community and our country great.

With our democracy in mind, I am helping to organize a vigil tomorrow night at 6:30 PM at the steps of the Morristown Town Hall to mark the one-year anniversary of the insurrection at the US Capitol.

I invite you to join me and others to Stand Up for Democracy and honor members of law enforcement who were injured and died from the violence or later died by suicide.

The promise of democracy is not a partisan issue but a calling that unites us as Americans. I am hopeful we can have Republicans and Democrats come together to support our shared democratic values of fair elections.

**MR. ORLINS STATEMENT IS ATTACHED HERETO.**

This is my 3rd Reorg Meeting and so I will give my 3rd United Van Lines National Movers Study update...

- for the 4th straight year NJ is #1 for move outs, 70% of all hired moves were outbound, an ignoble achievement
- right behind NJ are IL and NY... what do these three states have in common?
- all three are fiscal messes, highest debt ratios.
- NJ is the worst for corporate taxes, income taxes, property taxes and regulation
- is it any surprise we #1 in move outs? good jobs leaving NJ, the best jobs... leaving.

We here in MT are part of the problem and can be part of the solution...

- NJ municipalities are too quick to hire and way too quick to lavish pensions and benefits
- municipal officials occasionally move on the Trenton and they bring these bad habits with them

Here in MT we have started to get more efficient...

- In 2020 your Finance Committee recommended investigating outsourcing MT's landscaping, it's a very big job, one of our main services
- We put the contract out for bid and found a private landscaper who for about \$120k did an excellent job, perhaps better than ever, according to our local sports leagues
- Looking at the public works iWorq data submissions from 2020 we know that DPW landscaping resources cost us ~\$240k

**TRACEY MOREEN**  
**52 HARDSCRABBLE ROAD**  
**JANUARY 5, 2022**

I fear that this body doesn't welcome different opinions, doesn't welcome debate, doesn't welcome dissent, and doesn't welcome hardcore disagreement. What I have observed – rightly or wrongly, is that if you disagree with this group and are vocal, you will not get appointed to something; you will lose your seat on committees you serve on; you will get passed over for mayor in spite of tenure and experience; and you will lose your Environmental Commission chair. This all may be happening for underlying reasons, but the optic, at a minimum, is horrible. You may say that this is being done in the spirit of change and fresh views – I am not buying that argument when you see who is being replaced or passed over tonight. By appointing only like-minded individuals to these positions and removing those who have served our community for a very long time, you are doing our town a great disservice.

I am a registered Republican – I always have been and always will be.

I am asking that as you start 2022, that you let people that you listen to people that make you mad – that you welcome healthy debate – that you celebrate people that are willing to disagree and talk about their views – and that you embrace the fact that hardcore debate will result in better outcomes and even compromise. Why do we have to mirror the politics of our national landscape where there is no bi-partisanship, people don't listen to each other, and compromise is not an option? Our Township doesn't have to follow that model.

Most of you ran unopposed for the Republican nominations to your seats, and because most of the town does what I do and votes straight ticket, your path to election was easy. You conduct business as though you have a wholesale mandate from our community to drive your own priorities, but I don't think that you actually do...most people in town don't know who some of you are or what you have planned for the town with development growth and zoning overlays, and if they had the transparency, they would give you feedback that is counter to the path that you are on. I respect all of you and the roles you play, I really do, but it scares me how much power you actually have to fundamentally change our town in a dictatorial fashion without public referendums. It may be a coincidence, but it seems like all of you are systematically eliminating your opposition at every turn and concurrently, you are ignoring the public when we come to give our feedback.

Sarah, you have been a great mayor and I look forward to observing your future in politics; Nick, I look forward to your leadership as mayor. My ask of you going forward is that you embrace dissent and healthy debate – not just listen to it, but to consider it and even change your opinions or votes because of it. We need diversity of opinion; we need to have Republicans and Democrats come together and debate all of the issues and know that some days will be difficult and that the Republican way won't always be the best way forward, especially when it comes to the preservation of our town and its legacy. I ask that you wake up to what is happening or at least acknowledge the optic of what you are doing. You have a chance to reverse the latest trend, to embrace diversity of thought, and to ensure that ALL of the people in our town are represented in the choices and appointments that you make.