



**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM  
REGULAR MEETING**

**DATE:** Wednesday, February 2, 2022  
**TIME:** 7:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** Town Hall and Remote via Zoom

**ROLL CALL**

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

Also, present:

Mr. John M. Mills, Esq.  
Mr. Jason Gabloff, Township Administrator  
Ms. Maria Coppinger, Township Clerk

**SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

**STATEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE**-Read by Mayor Monaghan

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 10, 2022. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the township offices and notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**TOTE FOR A TOTE** – presented by Christiana Pasini; summary attached. The Township Committee presented a resolution supporting the Tote for a Tote Initiative.

**2021-041** Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Expressing Support for the Tote for a Tote Project

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

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION** – presented by Kyle Bailin; presentation attached.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

**BOY SCOUTS TROOP 1** – On behalf of the Township Committee, Ms. Duarte presented Proclamations to Charlie Zaybekian, James Kociancic, and James Vanderbeek; Proclamation was ready for Trey Vanderbeek who was no present.

**COVID – 19 UPDATE**

Ms. Neibart provided a Covid-19 update; providing statistics and upcoming vaccination clinics.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Committee members provided an update on upcoming events.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Diana Orban Brown – Ironia Road – Ms. Brown asked the township committee to consider recording the meetings to make them accessible to residents that cannot attend the finance advisory committee meetings at 5:30 pm. She asked the township committee to address the “unsolicited gifts” from residents; donations that end up on township property without approval from the township.

Patricia Zimmerman – W. Main Street – expressed that she is delighted with the Zoom features.

Peter Banos – 47 Ironia Road – Mr. Banos commented on the Backer Farm’s Brewery Application to the Morris County Agriculture Development Board (MCADB). He noted that the MCADB would review the three noise complaints. Mr. Banos asked several questions about the attorney representing the township on the brewery proposal.

George Koenig – 13 North Gate Road – Congratulated the Boy Scouts and Kylie Bailin, noting that he and his wife put in a native garden and encouraged others to do the same. He also would like the township committee to address Mr. Banos’ questions.

Barrett Kolton – 3 North Gate Road – Ms. Kolton had several questions regarding the attorney representing the township on the Backer Farm Brewery application. She asked for the attorney's name and background; asked if the attorney will represent the interest of both the township and the affected residents; could the committee update the residents, regularly, on the status of the application; and can the attorney be made available to meet with concern residents.

**Motion to close hearing persons present made by Mr. Baio, Seconded by Mr. Orlins.**

Attorney Mills and Mayor Monaghan addressed the questions presented from the residents on the attorney representing the township on the Backer Farm Brewery application.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**January 5, 2022 - Reorganization Meeting** – *A motion to table the meeting minutes was made by Ms. Duarte; seconded by Ms. Neibart. All members present voted in favor to table the minutes to the next meeting.*

**RESOLUTIONS – 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.*

- 2022-036

Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham to Approve Settlement of Real Property Tax Appeal
- 2022-037

Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Municipal Clerk to Advertise for Bid for the Renovations to the Municipal Building at 2 West Main Street, Brookside
- 2022-038

Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Municipal Clerk to Advertise for Bid for Landscape/Grass Cutting Services
- 2022-039

Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Award of a Non-Fair and Open Contract to Father Daughter, LLC, of Long Valley, New Jersey for Infield Maintenance Services
- 2022-040

Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Payment of Bills

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

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Peter Banos – 47 Ironia Road – He reiterated Ms. Kolton’s question, will the attorney (Backer Farm) meet with residents and will you formulate a position.

**Motion to close hearing persons present made by Mr. Orlins; Seconded by Mr. Baio. All members presented voted in favor.**

**DISCUSSION**

Ms. Duarte followed up on Ms. Brown's comment regarding the Finance Advisory Committee; she agrees that we should be recording the meetings and suggested having the meetings on Zoom. She noted that the process is very different from last year, when it was a joint effort between the township and finance committees at all the meetings. She expressed that it seems that the finance committee is really in the driver's seat and will be doing a lot of the work and then presenting their findings to the township committee. She's really worried that the township committee will not have the opportunity to express our points of view until it's late in the process. In addition, she's worried that the township committee will be expected to rubber-stamp the budget by the time it gets to the end of the budget.

Ms. Neibart noted that last year was a little disorganized; some of it had to do with it being on Zoom and other technological limits. Also, last year we had a finance committee that couldn't activate to the extent that it could have because the five township committee members monopolized the conversation. Ms. Neibart does not mind the process because it's public; she noted that she has voted against budgets that have come out of the finance committee, and she has never rubber-stamped a budget. She plans to be incredibly analytical and assess the budget on its merit and what it will be providing residents.

Mr. Baio expressed that when the township committee selected the finance committee members, he entrusted those members to hold the budget. He is one of those people that do not want to see taxes rise and doesn't want to see an expansion of municipal services unless there is a high demand for it. He knows that there is pressure to increase programs in recreation; his position is that recreation should grow slowly, less than 2%.

Ms. Duarte noted that if she comes to the finance committee meetings that she's not allowed to engage due to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA).

Mayor Monaghan commented on the OPMA rules. He also noted that all decisions will always come to the dais. He mentioned that the issues with the audio make it challenging to record and stream the meeting.

Mr. Orlins commented that every town does the budget process differently, and Mendham Township has its process, which works very well.

Ms. Neibart announced that the recreation committee, sports leagues, and the professional staff are looking into building a turf field in the town. In addition, there will be workshops and information sessions to allow for every resident to provide feedback.

#### **LIAISON REPORTS**

Mr. Monaghan announced that the Board of Health had their reorganization meeting last week.

Mr. Orlins announced that the \$19 million Mendham township School District Referendum passed.

Mr. Monaghan commented on the new police department noting the weather did slow them down a little bit but it's not significations; so, everything is moving along very well.

#### **ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Orlins; Seconded by Ms. Duarte. The Township Committee adjourned at 8:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Distributed: 2/18/2022

Approved: 3/14/2022

Maria F. Coppinger  
Township Clerk