

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
REORGANIZATION MEETING
January 5, 2015**

The Mendham Township Reorganization meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Township Hall, Brookside, New Jersey.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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 Daily Record, Observer Tribune and the Star Ledger on January 7, 2014. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Offices and Notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

INVOCATION-Reverend Joel Biggers, Brookside Community Church

Mrs. Rego stated; The Morris County Board of Elections has certified the election of Diana Orban Brown to the Mendham Township Committee for a term of 3 years, such term to expire on December 31, 2017. Oath of Office administered to Diana Orban Brown by Township Attorney Mills

- **Call of the Roll**
 - Mr. Baumann
 - Mr. Cioppettini
 - Mrs. Orban Brown
 - Mrs. Thomas
 - Mr. Tolley

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE OF MAYOR FOR 2015

Mrs. Rego called for nominations for the office of Mayor for the year 2015. Mr. Tolley nominated Mr. Baumann. Mr. Cioppettini seconded. There were no further nominations. Upon a call of the roll Mr. Baumann was elected unanimously to the office of Mayor for 2015.

Mr. Mills administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Baumann and Mrs. Rego turned the meeting over to Mayor Baumann.

MAYOR PRESIDING:

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE OF DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2015

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Mayor Baumann called for nominations for the office of Deputy Mayor for 2015. Mrs. Thomas nominated Mr. Cioppettini. Mrs. Orban Brown seconded. There were no further nominations. Upon a call of the roll Mr. Cioppettini was elected unanimously to the office of Deputy Mayor for 2015.

Victoria Cioppettini administered the oath of Office to Mr. Cioppettini.

OATHS OF OFFICE TO FIRE COMPANIES AND FIRST AID SQUAD

The Oath of Office was administered to the officers present from Brookside Engine Company No. 1, Ralston Engine Company No. 1 and the Mendham Township First Aid Squad. The following is a list of the new officers for 2015.

Brookside Engine:

Chief	Peter Dwyer
Assistant Chief	Eric Cooper
Captain	Melissa Alderton
Lieutenant	Stanley Witzak
Chief Engineer	Vince Suhocki
Engine 2 Truck	
Captain	Walter Dwyer
Engine 3 Truck	
Captain	Leo Geary
Attack 4 Truck	
Captain	John Alderton
Utility 5 Truck	
Captain	Samuel Tufts

New Members: Sam Blaettler and Drew Gizzi

Ralston Engine:

Chief	Tom Montgomery
Assist. Chief -	John McDonough
Captain	Scott Mortensen
Lieutenant	Charlie Maltbie
Engine 11	Scott Mortensen
Tender 12	Paul Hogan
Rescue 14	Charlie Maltbie
President	Bill Grier
V.P.	Gary Russell
Secretary	John Bond
Treasurer	Joe Gomeringer

New Members: Dylan Cross, Derek Olsen, Eric White and Phillip Schlegel

First Aid Squad:

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Captain	Leslie Dunlevy
Lt.	Nick Monaghan
Quartermaster	Dan Wood
Asst. Quartermaster	
East	Kyle Wiggins
Asst. Quartermaster	
West	Bill Dunlevy
President	Vince Reilly
Secretary	Liz Siminoff
Treasurer	Ellen Tawil
Data Steward	George Budd

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Baumann read the consent agenda Resolutions by title and called for a motion to adopt.

RESOLUTION 2015-1

APPOINTING TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS FOR 2015

Mrs. Thomas asked that the statutory positions, the contracted professionals on Resolution 2015-1 be and be added to executive session for the January 12th Township Committee meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Tolley, seconded by Mr. Cioppettini and approved by all.

Mayor Baumann read the consent agenda Resolutions 2015-2 – 2015-11 by title and called for a motion to adopt. A motion was made by Mr. Tolley, seconded by Mrs. Thomas

RESOLUTION 2015-2

ESTABLISHING REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE – 2015 TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION 2015-3

DESIGNATING OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS AND FIXING CHARGES FOR NOTICES OF PUBLIC MEETINGS DURING 2015

RESOLUTION 2015-4

FIXING RATES OF INTEREST AND PENALTY ON DELINQUENT TAXES, ASSESSMENTS AND OTHER MUNICIPAL CHARGES IN 2015

RESOLUTION 2015-5

AUTHORIZING TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR TO CANCEL CERTAIN TAX OVERPAYMENTS AND DELINQUENCIES FOR 2015

RESOLUTION 2015-6

AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP TAX COLLECTOR TO HOLD A TAX LIEN SALE

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RESOLUTION 2015-8
ESTABLISHING 2015 OFFICE HOURS AND HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

RESOLUTION 2015-9
APPOINTING GARY F. TROXELL MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

RESOLUTION 2015-11
APPOINTING AMEY UPCHURCH ACTING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

WELCOME – 2015 Mayor

Mayor Baumann thanked everyone for attending, and welcomed Senator Bucco and Mendham Borough Mayor Neil Henry.

STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR

HELLO AND WELCOME EVERYONE TO THE FIRST MEETING OF THE MENDHAM TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE IN 2015! LET ME START BY THANKING THE RESIDENTS OF MENDHAM TOWNSHIP FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR TOWN. WE ALSO HAVE TIRELESS VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF THAT PROVIDE COUNTLESS HOURS OF SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY. OUR ADMINISTRATION SERVICES TEAM DOES A FABULOUS JOB HELPING OUR RESIDENTS IN EVERY WHICH WAY IMAGINABLE.....AND I SAY IMAGINABLE! TO OUR POLICE, FIRE, EMT, EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS WHO KEEP US SAFE TO OUR LIBRARY, PLANNING AND ZONING BOARDS, FINANCE, MENDHAM TV, RECREATION, HISTORICAL, GREEN TEAM AND OTHER GROUPS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR LOCAL AND DISTRICT SCHOOLS WHO EDUCATE OUR FUTURE LEADERS AND CONTRIBUTORS TO SOCIETY. THEY ARE NOT ONLY TOP NOTCH WITH US BUT ALSO RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY AS ONE OF THE BEST OF THE BEST! WE CANNOT DO WHAT WE DO WITHOUT THE FOLKS SITTING UP HERE. WE ARE TRULY INDEPENDENT THINKERS WHO ARE PROFESSIONAL BOTH ON AND OFF THE PODIUM. WE SHARE A COMMON GOAL TO BE FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE YET PROVIDE THE NECESSARY SERVICES TO SUPPORT THE STAFF AND VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS BENEFITTING THE TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS AND GUESTS.

TO BE CLEAR.....AS WELL OFF MOST OF OUR RESIDENTS ARE, WE ARE STILL CARRYING MORE THAN \$15 MILLION IN SHORT AND LONG TERM DEBT. FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS THIS AND RECENT COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN SEVERELY TESTED AS TO WHETHER WE CAN CONTINUE TO MORTGAGE THE FUTURE OR TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF REDUCING THIS DEBT SO THAT FUTURE LEADERS DO NOT FACE THE CHALLENGES WE HAVE TODAY. WE HAVE CHOSEN THE MORE DIFFICULT TASK OF REDUCING OUR DEBT BECAUSE WE FEEL THIS IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR TOWN. A SECOND CHALLENGE WE FACE IS AN AGING INFRASTRUTURE FOR OUR CRITICAL SERVICES. YES WE DO HAVE A NEW FIREHOUSE ACROSS THE PARKING LOT HOWEVER WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE TRUCK MOST OF OUR VEHICLES HAVE SURPASSED THEIR USEFUL LIFE EXPECTENCY. OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO WORK OUT OF A MODIFIED SINGLE FAMILY HOME WITH A TEMPORARY TRAILER AS THEIR LOCKER ROOM. OUR VOLUNTEER EMT SQUAD CONTRIBUTED OVER \$45K TO HELP OFFSET THE COST OF A NEW AMBULANCE. RALSTON FIRE HOUSE HAS HAD MINIMAL PROACTIVE MAINTIANANCE FOR MANY YEARS. OUR DPW HAS HAD INCREASED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR NOT ONLY AN AGING MUNICIPAL COMPLEX BUT ALSO MORE PARKS, ATHELIC FIELDS AND OTHER PUBLIC AREAS, NOT TO MENTION BECOMING A HOUSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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MAINTAINING AND REPAIRING OUR RESIDENTIAL RENTALS IN TOWN OWNED BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES. THEY DO THIS WITH THE SAME STAFF FROM SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND LESS SUPERVISION. OUR ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR HAS ACTUALLY GROWN. WE NOW HAVE OVER 90 MILES OF ROADS AS OPPOSED TO AROUND 70 A DECADE AGO. TO THEIR CREDIT, THEY ARE DOING MORE WITH LESS BUT THIS IS ONLY A TEMPORARY BANDAID AS LARGER PROACTIVE REQUIREMENTS GET PUSHED ASIDE.

WE HAVE EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT TURNOVER THIS PAST YEAR. OTHER TOWNS HAVE BEEN AGGRESSIVE WITH COMPENSATION PACKAGES LURING OUR TALENTED PEOPLE. THIS HAS LED TO A SIGNIFICANT ADMINISTRATION EFFORT TO REPLACE THESE INDIVIDUALS WHILE TRYING TO RETAIN THE EXISTING STAFF. WE WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE TO MAINTAIN OUR CURRENT SERVICES WE HAVE ALL COME TO EXPECT.

TAX BREAKDOWN INSERT

DISTRICT SCHOOL TAX	41%
REGIONAL SCHOOL TAX	26%
MENDAM GENERAL PURPOSE	18%
MORRIS COUNTY	12%
MORRIS COUNTY OPEN SPACE	1%
MENDHAM OPEN SPACE	1%

AS I HAVE POINTED OUT OUR SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAKE UP ABOUT 67% OR 2/3 THIRDS OF OUR TAXES. OUR K THROUGH 8 HAS BEEN RECONGIZED AS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE ENTIRE STATE. OUR HIGH SCHOOL WAS RECENTLY RANKED 4TH IN THE STATE BY A LEADING PUBLICATION. THERE WILL ALWAYS BE A DEBATE AS TO WHAT VALUE THIS HAS FOR ALL OF US WHETHER WE HAD CHILDREN GO THROUGH THE SCHOOLS, OR HAVE CHILDREN IN THE SCHOOLS TODAY, OR PLANNING TO HAVE CHILDREN GO TO OUR SCHOOLS. WHATEVER MEASURE YOU USE IT IS A FACT THAT GOOD SCHOOLS HELP ALL OF OUR PROPERTY VALUES IF AND WHEN WE DECIDE TO SELL OUR HOMES. WE WILL WORK WITH BOTH SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO MAKE SURE WE GET THE MOST VALUE FOR EVERY DOLLAR WE SPEND ON EDUCATION IN MENDHAM TOWNSHIP. I ENCOURAGE ALL OF YOU TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS BECAUSE AS I HAVE MENTIONED BEFORE AND I WILL CONTINUE TO REPEAT THAT 2/3RDS OF YOUR TAXES GO TO THESE TWO DISTRICTS. WE JUST COLLECT THOSE TAXES ON THEIR BEHALF. WE AS RESIDENTS VOTE THE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS AND THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ESTABLISHING THEIR ANNUAL BUDGETS THAT EXCEED ANY MONEY SPENT TO PROVIDE MUNICIPAL SERVICES FOR THE TOWN.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

There being no public comment hearing persons present was closed.

ADJOURN

Upon a motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth Rego, Acting Township Clerk