

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2014**

Mayor Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m., Township Hall, Brookside, New Jersey.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Baumann	Present (entered the meeting at 7:40 p.m.)
	Mr. Cioppettini	Present
	Mr. Strobel	Present
	Mr. Tolley	Present
	Mayor Thomas	Present

Also Present: John M. Mills, III, Esq., Township Attorney
Amey Upchurch, Township Administrator
Kathleen Potter, Township Clerk

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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.

RECAP ON POST EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTIONS – Mayor Thomas

There was no executive session after the September 23rd meeting; however, at a special meeting on October 7, 2014 Mr. Cioppettini was nominated to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Merkt.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Thomas called for a motion to move the regular meeting minutes from September 23, 2014. Mr. Strobel so moved and Mr. Tolley seconded. All members present voted to approve, except Mr. Cioppettini abstained.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Oath of Office was given to newly appointed Committeeman Frank Cioppettini

RECOGNIZE NEW JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS

Chief Peter Staples introduced new junior firefighters John Kemp and Hannah Staples.

PRESENTATIONS

3rd Quarter Finance Report – Tim Day

Mr. Day reviewed his report. He stated that spending is within budget; however, recommended conservative spending in the last quarter. There was discussion regarding receipt of FEMA funds.

Review of DCA Best Practices Survey – Tim Day

The items that received “no” answers were discussed. A final score of 43 was received, which entitles the Township to 100% of aid dispersed.

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Disclosure Audit Services – Tim Day

Mr. Day explained that the company would help the Township be in compliance with the posting requirements for long-term bonds. About 99% of the State is not currently in compliance and municipalities have been granted until December 1st to meet regulations. Mr. Day received three quotes with the lowest quote from NW Financial Group, LLC. After a brief discussion the matter will be reconsidered at the next meeting.

DISCUSSION

After discussion regarding a final decision on Pitney Farm a special meeting was set for November 20, 2014.

Mayor Thomas noted that the East Main Street drainage project will begin on October 20th. Equipment storage was discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Strobel stated that the fire/first aid subcommittee met with Brookside Engine Company regarding the need for a new utility vehicle. The Fire Department will be presenting their request at the next meeting.

Mr. Tolley noted that budget meetings will be scheduled shortly. The meetings are open to the public.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

Jamie Button, 10 Glenbrook Drive

After a history of the issue, Mr. Button stated that a per pupil funding formula would equalize each municipalities spending with a reduction in cost to Mendham Township. Mr. Button stated that three years ago he urged the Board to hold a referendum to ask a question to change the funding formula; however, the Board tabled the issue. Mr. Button recently proposed to untable the issue since the feasibility study provides an alternate way to restructure the district; however, his motion did not carry. Mr. Strobel endorsed Mr. Button's recommendations and urged other Board members to show support.

Christine Meyers, 37 Walsingham

Ms. Meyers noted that more is spent per student on the K-8 district than at the high school.

Pat Zimmerman, West Main Street

Mrs. Zimmerman urged the Committee to insist on underground wires when the Main Street Bridge is reconstructed. Mrs. Upchurch noted that because the County does not view it as a necessity the cost would be on the municipality.

Eric Mauriello, 6 Woodlawn Terrace

Mr. Mauriello noted the poor condition of the Ralston Field parking lot and Mrs. Upchurch stated that she will discuss the problems with the Department of Public Works.

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There being no further comments hearing persons present was closed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2014-162

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mayor Thomas read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Strobel so moved. Mr. Baumann seconded. All members voted to approve.

RESOLUTION 2014-163

CANCELLATION OF GRANT RECEIVABLE AND RELATED UNEXPENDED
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AUTHORIZATION

Mayor Thomas read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Cioppettini so moved. Mr. Strobel seconded. All members voted to approve.

RESOLUTION 2014-164

RESCINDING PETTY CASH FUND IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Mayor Thomas read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Baumann so moved. Mr. Stobel seconded. All members voted to approve.

RESOLUTION 2014-165

ESTABLISHING A NEW PETTY CASH FUND IN THE OFFICE OF THE TOWNSHIP CLERK

Mayor Thomas read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Strobel so moved. Mr. Tolley seconded. All members voted to approve.

RESOLUTION 2014-166

AUTHORIZING DISCUSSION WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC

Matters pertaining to:

Personnel

Contract negotiations – DPW

Litigation

Mayor Thomas read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Baumann so moved. Mr. Tolley seconded. All members voted to approve.

DISCUSSION

No further discussion.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

Pat Zimmerman, West Main Street

Mrs. Zimmerman questioned if a survey was being created to gauge the residents' opinions about Pitney. Diana Brown stated that since a professional survey is expensive residents can submit their

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opinions to the Committee. Mrs. Zimmerman stated that residents not involved with volunteer groups need to be polled.

Bob Wowkt, Cooper Road

Mr. Wowkt agreed that only people from committees have given opinions and there has been no full consensus of the residents.

There being no further comments hearing persons present was closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion made and seconded the Committee entered executive session at 9:50 p.m.

The Committee returned from executive session at 10:30 p.m.

Mr. Baumann left the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Resolution 2014-167

APPOINTING ASHLEY WILSON TO THE POSITION
OF FULL-TIME FINANCE ACCOUNT CLERK/ COURT ASSISTANT

Mayor Thomas read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Tolley so moved. Mr. Cioppettini seconded. All members present voted to approve.

Resolution 2014-168

AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A CONTRACT WITH THE PHOENIX CONSULTING GROUP, LLC
TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR AN INTERIM CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Mayor Thomas read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Tolley so moved. Mr. Strobel seconded. All members present voted to approve.

Resolution 2014-169

AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY TO FILE A RESPONSIVE PLEADING IN
A MATTER CAPTIONED VINCENT CARRABBA V. TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM DOCKET
NO. C-139-14

Mayor Thomas read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Tolley so moved. Mr. Strobel seconded. All members present voted to approve.

ADJOURN

Upon a motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Potter, Township Clerk