

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2013**

Mayor Merkt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., Township Hall, Brookside, New Jersey.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Baumann	Present (arrived at 7:05)
	Mr. Strobel	Present
	Mrs. Thomas	Present
	Mr. Tolley	Present
	Mayor Merkt	Present

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- 1. 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 3, 2013 and October 11, 2013. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Offices and Notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RESOLUTION 2013-127

AUTHORIZING DISCUSSION WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC

Matters pertaining to:

Litigation – Tax Assessor Update

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

Upon motion duly made the Committee entered executive session at 7:05 p.m.

The Committee returned from executive session at 7:30 p.m.

RECAP ON POST EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTIONS

Mayor Merkt stated that there was no executive session after the September 24, 2013 meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation – National Breast Reconstruction Awareness Day

Dr. Colon was present to accept the proclamation and thanked the Committee for their support.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Merkt called for a motion to move the regular meeting minutes from September 24, 2013. Mr. Thomas so moved. Mr. Tolley seconded. All members voted to approve, except Mr. Baumann abstained.

JCP&L Pole Follow-up

Mayor Merkt stated that, a year after the storm, there are a number of poles that remain damaged. He noted a severely damaged pole near the elementary school. Mr. Mountain stated that he is corresponding with the area manager to schedule a meeting to better understand why poles are not being replaced at a quicker pace.

PRESENTATIONS

3rd Quarter Finance Report – Tim Day

Mr. Day reported that the budget is progressing very well this year. As of September 30, 2013 there are three properties going to tax sale. Mayor Merkt questioned if the Committee could be proactive in controlling line items running above budget. Mr. Day stated that many line items depend on factors outside Committee control, such as poor weather.

Review of DCA Best Practices Survey – Tim Day

Mr. Day noted that the Township scored 43 out of 50 and will be receiving the full State aid. Mr. Tolley recommended reviewing the areas where the Township did not meet the State standards. A list will be assembled of the areas that are relevant to the Township.

Mr. Day noted that budget preparation is moving forward.

DISCUSSION

Award of Bid – Ambulance

The one bid received for the ambulance was higher than the cost estimate. The first aid squad has confirmed their intention to cover the costs in excess of the estimate. Before the contract is awarded a transfer from the squad must be completed and the bond ordinance must be amended to reflect the actual cost. Both issues will be addressed at the next meeting.

Pitney Farm Update

Mr. Mountain stated that there was a positive subcommittee meeting to discuss feasibility and funding potential of the property. Mayor Merkt noted his intention to include each Committee member in meetings in order for them to understand the process and the progress. Mr. Tolley suggested that the Pitney Committee representative, which is Mrs. Thomas, should also attend the meetings.

Mr. Mountain presented a chart clarifying the transition of rental properties. He reviewed the buildings available for rent. There was discussion of a potential second steward living on the property, which would provide increased presence as well as carpentry skills.

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Mr. Tolley stated that expenses also need to be examined. Mr. Mountain stated that he has been examining expenses with DPW Supervisor Dave Read and believes expenses can be covered by projected revenue. It was noted that the building have potential to be utilized for the Township's possible future COAH obligations. Mr. Tolley questioned renting the main house and Mr. Mountain believed it holds greater potential value serving for fee type activities, such as meetings and retreats.

Mr. Mountain will provide an additional report with specific balancing of revenue and expenses.

Municipal Court Update

Mr. Mountain stated that the Township continues to explore opportunities with potential partners. Although the group of potential partners has been narrowed, the court will be streamlined to act as a stand-alone as of January 1, 2014.

Mr. Tolley noted the lack of defibrillators throughout the Township and encouraged the Committee to discuss a plan to acquire machines for all Township buildings and properties.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Thomas announced that budget meeting dates will soon be scheduled.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

There being no comments, hearing persons present was closed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Merkt stated that the Taste of Mendham was a great success. Funds were donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry and Meals on Wheels.

Mr. Mountain announced that the Township has received a \$20,000.00 grant for their Sustainable Jersey program. The funds will be used to convert Mendham East Sewer plant into a more environmentally friendly and cost efficient facility. A grant for supplemental funds for the East Main Street drainage project has also been received. The project will be funded almost solely by grants.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Introduction

ORDINANCE 10-2013

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY AMENDING VARIOUS CHAPTERS AND SUBSECTIONS OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE PERTAINING TO: FEES FOR COPIES OF CERTAIN PUBLIC RECORDS; FEES FOR PERMITS; AND PENALTIES

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Mayor Merkt read the ordinance by title and called for a motion. Mrs. Thomas so moved. Mr. Strobel seconded. All members voted to approve. This ordinance is scheduled for 2nd reading and public hearing on October 29, 2013.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2013-128

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

RESOLUTION 2013-129

AMENDING 2013 BUDGET

INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE

DRUNK DRIVING ENFORCEMENT FUND

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

RESOLUTION 2013-130

AMENDING 2013 BUDGET

INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE

BODY ARMOR GRANT

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

RESOLUTION 2013-131

CANCELLING \$24,500 FROM RESERVE FOR

FUTURE SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

Mayor Merkt read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mrs. Thomas so moved. Mr. Tolley seconded. Mr. Mountain stated that the funds will be utilized for the reconstruction of the Mendham West Sewer bed. In-house manpower and the use of donated stone have lowered costs substantially. All members voted to approve.

RESOLUTION 2013-132

AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION OF TAX SALE CERTIFICATE #12-00005

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

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RESOLUTION 2013-133

AUTHORIZING DISCUSSION WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC

Matters pertaining to:

Contract - Police Department

Personnel - Board of Health/ Construction Department

SAJ Bond Agreement - 7 Tanager Lane

Contract Negotiations - Court

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

DISCUSSION

Mr. Tolley suggested a future discussion on possible remedies for the community's high water bills. Mr. Mountain stated that he will reach out to the Board of Public Utilities to attend a meeting.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

Norm Preston, West Main Street

There was a brief discussion regarding the Roxiticus Water Company. Mr. Preston stated that West Main Street drainage should be examined. Mr. Mountain stated that a solution has been identified and costs will be reviewed with the 2014 budget.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made the Committee entered executive session at 8:35 p.m.

The Committee returned from executive session at 9:08 p.m.

RESOLUTION 2013-134

AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A SUBDIVISION TAKEOVER AGREEMENT

WITH FIRST INDEMNITY OF AMERICA INSURANCE COMPANY

Mayor Merkt read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Baumann so moved. Mrs. Thomas seconded. The resolution was approved unanimously by voice vote.

ADJOURN

Upon a motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Potter, Township Clerk