

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 29, 2013

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

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Baumann	Present
	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

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. 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

The Committee adopted a resolution authorizing execution of a subdivision takeover agreement.

RECOGNIZE NEW FIRE FIGHTERS

Chief Peter Staples introduced senior firefighters Samuel L. Tufts and Jason R. Varro.

PROCLAMATIONS

Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month
Mayor Merkt read the Proclamation. It will be sent to the organization.

Public Works Recognition for Assistance with Brookside Beach - Recreation Commission
Recreation Director Lori Dent read the certificate of appreciation for the DPW for their help maintaining the beach. A thank you lunch will be provided at a later date.

PRESENTATIONS

Regional High School Report
Superintendent Mackey Pendergrast presented a progress and transformation report and highlighted the following:

- Highlighted the importance of security to keep the school healthy, strong and energized.

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- HSPA results ranked the school #10 two years ago. In two years scores have increased in all categories and the school is now #2. No high school in New Jersey has shown as much improvement in the past six years as Mendham.
- Above peer group average for SAT scores. 75% of students are scoring above a 1550, which is #1 in Morris County and #11 in the State.
- 32% more AP tests were taken last year than the previous year.
- Met the special education targets set by the State
- Reviewed college attendance, noting that the number of students attending the most competitive schools has increased.
- Number of students that remain in college is above the peer group average, including those in special education.
- The 2012-213 curriculum was redesigned and redeveloped. Classroom observation has increased.
- Working on increasing technology through ebooks, digital learning center and a student tech team. Mendham is one of the first schools in the nation to offer a class in technology, innovation and citizenship.
- Helping average level students meet their goals by providing the highest rigor in their area of strength.
- Looking to explore non-traditional pathways since there is not just one type of student.

Mr. Baumann asked if the school will continue to expand the special education program. Mr. Pendergrast stated that they are proud of meeting the State standards and continuously work to recognize students that require help, identify their strengths and provide support.

Mrs. Thomas was impressed with the progress achieved and thankful for the focus on the average child. She applauded the summer coding program. Mr. Pendergrast noted that they are striving to make innovation a prized attribute.

Mr. Strobel stated that the school seems poised for greatness. Mr. Pendergrast agreed that everything needed to become a leading school district in the nation is at hand. The administration team is engaged and eager to accomplish great achievements with continued community relations.

Mayor Merkt applauded the school for focusing on students that need guidance to achieve academic success.

The meeting was opened to public comment.

Christine Meyers, 27 Walsingham Road

Ms. Meyers asked the amount of potential grant money the school will receive if chosen. It was stated that the grant is for \$550,000.00 and Mendham is the only school in New Jersey to make it to the finals.

Ms. Meyers noted a rumor that the curriculum was not complete before the vote. Mr. Pendergrast advised that it was completed within the necessary time frame.

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It was stated that the IB program will now be on the NJ Performance Report Card and therefore considered by NJ Monthly Magazine ranking. There was discussion regarding IB and AP programs.

Ms. Meyers encouraged the school to reach out to residents that do not have children in the school. Mr. Pendergrast noted that community involvement is the strongest aspect of the school's grant application.

Public comment was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Merkt called for a motion to move the regular meeting minutes from October 15, 2013. Mr. Tolley so moved. Mrs. Thomas seconded. All members voted to approve.

Mayor Merkt called for a motion to move the executive session meeting minutes from October 15, 2013. Mrs. Thomas so moved. Mr. Strobel seconded. All members voted to approve.

DISCUSSION

Safe Streets Resolution – John Hansen, Ferreiro Engineering

Mr. Mountain explained that there are two drivers behind the resolution. First, the State grant ranking process now considers complete streets a category for disbursement of money. Also, the Sustainable Jersey Green Team considers it an action item to adopt a complete street policy. The initial element to the policy is adopting a resolution.

Township Engineer John Hansen added that the policy is a commitment to design projects to include all users of the street, if feasible. If adopted, future projects will examine if it is possible to add an element to facilitate pedestrian movement. The Township will receive credit for local aid applications if a policy is adopted. The policy will not place demands on the Township to widen roads or install sidewalks, and there has been no negative impacts to other towns that have adopted policies.

Mrs. Thomas was concerned about potential expense and intrusion and Mr. Hansen assured her that a project will not be recommended under those circumstances. When members showed similar worries there was discussion regarding language and regulations.

Mr. Mountain recommended that the public works subcommittee review the resolution after the language is revised.

Correspondence – Michael Martirano, 4 Tanager Lane

Mr. Mountain reviewed Mr. Martirano's request to transfer maintenance responsibility for retaining walls from private to public in his Tufts Lane subdivision. Mr. Hansen suggested that the Planning Board review the original decision, noting that ownership is a potential expense for the Township. After discussion regarding detention basins, the Committee decided to wait for Planning Board review before taking action. .

Pitney Farm Projected Budget

Mr. Mountain distributed an outline of revenue and expenses. He felt comfortable that the Township can sustain the property in 2014. There was a brief discussion regarding how to utilize the main house as well as electric expenses and fundraising efforts.

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Defibrillator Purchasing Plan

Mr. Mountain presented an outline of priority facilities. Chief Crawford noted that the machines must be updated and replaced. Cost of maintenance was reviewed. Mayor Merkt requested a factual history regarding usage demand and recommended discussing purchases during budget discussions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Thomas stated that the finance subcommittee was presented with the first capital plan to review and presentations will be scheduled for November.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

Norm Preston, West Main Street

Regarding the main house at Pitney, Mr. Preston noted a house in Morristown that was divided into artist studios and rented as workshops and showrooms. Mayor Merkt stated that the subcommittee is working to determine a core public use for the property so it does not become a burden to taxpayers.

There being no further comments, hearing persons present was closed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Merkt announced that election day is November 5th and noted the public question regarding consideration to unify the Borough and Township.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Public Hearing

ORDINANCE 9-2013

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM DELETING CHAPTER 20 "SOIL EXTRACTION REGULATIONS" AND CHAPTER 24 "LOT DEVELOPMENT PERMIT" AND CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 20 "LAND DISTURBANCE"

Mayor Merkt read the ordinance by title and called for a motion. Mr. Baumann made a motion to table the Ordinance to the November 12, 2013 meeting. Mr. Strobel seconded. All members voted to approve. The Ordinance is now scheduled for public hearing on November 12, 2013.

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

Mayor Merkt read the ordinance by title and called for a motion. Mrs. Thomas so moved. Mr. Strobel seconded. The meeting was open to public hearing. There being no comments, public hearing was closed. All members voted to approve.

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NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance Introduction

ORDINANCE 11-2013

BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING IN ITS ENTIRETY BOND ORDINANCE #2013-4
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM, IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY FINALLY
ADOPTED APRIL 23, 2013.

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 public hearing and adoption on November 12, 2013.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2013-135

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

RESOLUTION 2013-136

AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL VEHICLE
FOR USE BY THE MENDHAM TOWNSHIP FIRST AID SQUAD

Mayor Merkt read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mrs. Thomas so moved. Mr. Tolley seconded. Mr. Strobel acknowledged that the rescue squad used their privately raised funds to help purchase the vehicle. All members voted to approve.

RESOLUTION 2013-137

AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT

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

RESOLUTION 2013-138

AUTHORIZING MENDHAM TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE
PRICING AGREEMENT – MIDDLESEX COUNTY COOPERATIVE PRICING SYSTEM

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

RESOLUTION 2013-139

APPROVING RAFFLE LICENSE

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

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RESOLUTION 2013-140

AUTHORIZING DISCUSSION WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC

Matters pertaining to:

Personnel - Construction Office / Board of Health

Contract – Police Department

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

DISCUSSION

Mr. Tolley presented a letter from the Mendham Township Green Team requesting to hold the Farmers Market at Pitney from June through October. The Committee will review the request and determine a decision at the November 12, 2013 meeting.

Mr. Tolley asked if the poll in the parking lot could be removed. After a brief discussion the Committee agreed to address the issue after examining the condition of the poll.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

There was no comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion duly made the Committee entered executive session at 9:35 p.m.

The Committee returned from executive session at 10:00 p.m.

ADJOURN

Upon a motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Potter, Township Clerk