

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**NOVEMBER 27, 2012**

Mayor Tolley called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Township Hall, Brookside, New Jersey.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Cioppettini	Present
	Mr. Merkt	Present
	Mr. Strobel	Present
	Mrs. Thomas	Present
	Mayor Tolley	Present

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

Mayor Tolley led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the following statement: 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 Star Ledger, Observer Tribune and the Daily Record on January 5, 2012; Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Offices and Notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Risk Manager's Annual Report-Frank Covelli**

Frank Covelli reviewed PIA's annual report. Mr. Covelli stated that in 2012 the Township complied with the requirements to update the employee manual and provide employee training. This allows the Township to enjoy the lowest deductible and coinsurance available.

Mr. Covelli reviewed the following:

- Cyber Liability Coverage, which is a new coverage starting January 1, 2013.
- Environmental liability coverage provided by EJIF. While the grant may not be applicable it is still available to the Township.
- Safety enhancements, including full day training sessions and additional online training.
- Synopsis of coverage, including coverage of property, valuable papers, communications equipment, flood, and physical damage to automobile fleet and mobile equipment.
- Liability policies and exclusions. The limit of liability is \$6,000,000.00 with a \$20,000.00 deductible.
- Lost Time Accident Frequency. Mr. Covelli noted that the Morris JIF is among the best in the State with a Lost Time Accident Frequency average of 1.67 between 2009 and 2011.

There was discussion regarding the exclusion of trees from coverage. Mr. Covelli explained that, while the damaged tree will not be replaced, the JIF will defend the Township in liability cases, such as a tree falling on a car.

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Mr. Covelli noted that Public Official and Employee Liability coverage with XL Insurance is expiring as of January 1, 2013. He recommended renewing the coverage by maintain the deductible and reducing the coinsurance. There was a discussion regarding fee shifting. Mr. Mountain agreed that proper coverage was necessary.

The Committee agreed to training that would award the Township \$250.00 per participating Committee member.

Mr. Covelli reviewed the VFIS coverage provided on behalf of the emergency services volunteers. The coverage has been reworked to offer a three year policy with locked-in rates and a lower premium. The Committee may choose to make no changes; however, Mr. Covelli recommended opting for the three-year policy and putting the savings back into the policy. This would provide extra coverage to the volunteers at virtually no extra cost to the Township.

Mr. Covelli noted that the JIF contract must be renewed and highly recommended renewing membership.

**West Morris Regional High School Superintendent Report-Mackey Pendergrast**

Mackey Pendergrast stated that the school has spent many months gathering data about student achievement to present to the public. He added that his goal is to make the high school national leaders in education.

Mr. Pendergrast reviewed the HSPA, which is a New Jersey standardized test based on State core curriculum. In 2011 and 2012 WMRHS ranked number one in the county and number two in the State for reading and writing proficiency. The IB Program, which is a diploma program that rates juniors and seniors at an international level, was reviewed. It was noted that IB students are accepted into top colleges at a much higher rate than any other program. The rate of college acceptance was reviewed. Mr. Pendergrast also noted that the rating in NJ Monthly Magazine does not include a metric for the IB Program.

SAT scores were reviewed and Mr. Pendergrast stated that dramatic steps are being taken to increase student scores.

Mr. Pendergrast stated that the school is working to adjust the curriculum to the changing world. Changes will include revamping the special education program, rewriting the curriculum in every discipline, and focusing on technology.

Mr. Cioppettini questioned demographics and Mr. Pendergrast stated that there has been an increase in enrollment. Mr. Cioppettini inquired about the school's 10-year capital improvement plan and Mr. Pendergrast stated that funds will be invested to increase technology; however, there are no other major investments planned.

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There was discussion regarding boosting the math and science curriculum and Mr. Pendergrast noted that the entire curriculum is critical for a balanced education.

Mrs. Thomas questioned the percentage of students enrolled in the IB Program, and Mr. Pendergrast stated that 20-25% of students are in the diploma program and over 50% participate in at least one IB class.

Mr. Strobel noted that teacher salaries are higher in Chatham and showed concern that salaries were not competitive enough to attract the best teachers. Mr. Pendergrast stated that they are working to offer more competitive salaries; however, can make little change due to the 2% cap.

The meeting was opened to hearing persons present.

Chris Baumann, 2 Lindsey Court

Mr. Baumann stated that the school should focus on perception versus reality and make sure the community knows the true figures.

Michael Merritt, Mountainside Road

Mr. Merritt recommended building on the interdisciplinary strength of the IB Program to strengthen the curriculum.

Peter Dumovic, 3 Shelton Road

Mr. Dumovic agreed with the school's goal to increase test scores for students at all levels. He also recognized the new administrations drive to increase all aspects of education.

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

**Pitney Farm Transition Committee Progress Report**

Peter Dumovic explained the Committee's achievements, which included:

- Obtained two preliminary evaluations of the farm's historical significance
- Started the process of creating a tax-exempt entity
- Restored the gazebo and brick-walled garden
- Hosted tours of the farm
- Hosted a logo contest at Mendham High School.

Mr. Dumovic reviewed steps that the Pitney Farm Committee wanted to accomplish in the future, which included:

- Establish a non-for-profit organization
- Increase publicity of events and utilize the Mendham Township website to get information to the public
- Seek funds to organize and document Pitney Farm archives
- Recruit additional volunteers

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- Hire a professional grant writer to apply for funding for the development of a Master Plan and Preservation Plan
- Appoint a Mendham Township Committee member to PFTC

The Committee agreed to address the recommendations at a future meeting.

**DISCUSSION**

**JCP&L Storm Response-Michael Obremski & John Anderson**

Mr. Mountain stated that Mr. Anderson and Mr. Obremski will be present at an upcoming meeting. Mr. Mountain asked the Committee to forward him questions and concerns that they would like the company to address.

Mr. Cioppettini noted that Mendham Rotary would like to present OEM Evan Thomas with a token of appreciation at the next meeting.

Mayor Tolley stated that the regional school board has stopped meeting since the storm, but is trying to organize a time to meet. While a study will not be conducted at this time, he wanted the mayors to work together in support of the superintendent's efforts to improve the school.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Strobel stated that the Environmental Resource Inventory Report should be reviewed and discussed.

Mrs. Thomas noted that during the storm Recreation held programs at the school for kids.

Mayor Tolley noted that the library is currently working on their budget.

**HEARING PERSONS PRESENT**

Michael Merritt, Mountainside Road

Mr. Merritt noted the problems he faced with Comcast during the storm and recommended reaching out to all the utilities to present a report at a meeting. He stated that JCP&L should be urged to quickly remove debris.

There being no further comments hearing persons present was closed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolutions**

**RESOLUTION 2012-165**

**AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS**

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

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**RESOLUTION 2012-166**

**AMENDING 2012 BUDGET INSERTION OF SPECIAL REVENUE**

Mayor Tolley read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Cioppettini so moved. Mr. Merkt seconded. Mr. Mountain provided a brief explanation. All members voted to approve.

**RESOLUTION 2012-167**

**AUTHORIZING DISCUSSION WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC**

Matters pertaining to:

Personnel- Fire Department

Interlocal Agreement

Litigation

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion duly made the Committee entered executive session at 10:10 p.m.

The Committee returned from executive session at 10:25 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

Upon a motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Potter, Township Clerk