

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 23, 2013**

Mayor Merkt called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., Township Hall, Brookside, New Jersey.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Baumann	Present (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)
	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 and December 10, 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

There was no post executive session action taken.

PRESENTATION

Chief Crawford presented a recap on the events of 2013, including budgetary issues and staffing changes. 2014 will see a large turnover in leadership and manpower. He thanked the Committee for the effort and time spent serving the community.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mr. Mills gave the oath of office to Patrolman Rob Kaleweit.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS

RESOLUTION 2013-172

APPOINTING DAN TAQUINTO AND MATT AMBROSI TO THE POSITION
OF SERGEANT IN THE MENDHAM TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. Mills gave the oath of office to Sergeant Taquinto and Sergeant Ambrosi.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Merkt called for a motion to move the special meeting minutes for December 4, 2013. Mrs. Thomas so moved and Mr. Strobel seconded. All members present voted to approve, except Mr. Tolley abstained.

Mayor Merkt called for a motion to move the special meeting minutes for December 9, 2013. Mrs. Thomas so moved and Mr. Tolley seconded. All members present voted to approve, except Mr. Strobel abstained.

Mayor Merkt called for a motion to move the regular meeting minutes for December 9, 2013. Mrs. Thomas so moved and Mr. Tolley seconded. All members present voted to approve, except Mr. Strobel abstained.

Mayor Merkt called for a motion to move the executive session meeting minutes for December 9, 2013. Mr. Tolley so moved and Mrs. Thomas seconded. All members present voted to approve, except Mr. Strobel abstained.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Tolley noted that the cones at the post office parking lot have been replaced. The DPW will install a sign with a breakaway post.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Tolley stated that the Library Board held a special meeting to discuss their vision and ideas for the Pitney property.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

There being no comments, hearing persons present was closed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Public Hearing

ORDINANCE 12-2013

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM AMENDING CHAPTER: XII
GENERAL DEFINITIONS AND CHAPTER XXI ZONING REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.5B
SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS, SIGNS

Mayor Merkt read the ordinance by title and called for a motion. Mrs. Thomas so moved and Mr. Strobel seconded. The meeting was open to public hearing. There being no comments public hearing was closed. The Planning Board's recommendation to reduce the size of political signs will be considered at a later date. All members present voted to approve.

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NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2013-168

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 2013-169

AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT

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 2013-170

APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REVENUE
SHARING (CDRS) COMMITTEE

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 2013-171

APPOINTING TERRIS GARBARINI TAX COLLECTOR/ASSISTANT FINANCE OFFICER

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 2013-173

AUTHORIZING DISCUSSION WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC

Matters pertaining to:

- Contracts – Police Department
- Pitney Farm Stewards Agreement
- Litigation – Property Tax Appeal

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. Baumann stated that the meeting with the Board of Public Utilities, Division of Water regarding Roxiticus Water Company was very successful. The Division will present steps on how to find possible alternatives and action will be taken in 2014 to facilitate discussions on possible solutions. Although there is no guarantee that a viable solution will be found, the meeting was encouraging.

Mayor Merkt outlined the Committee achievements for 2013, adding that accomplishments happen as a team. The highlights of 2013 were as follows:

- Reached consensus with three towns on conducting a feasibility study of West Morris Regional High School District.
- Created Pitney Farm Public Purpose Study Committee

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- Developed plan for future operation of the Municipal Court following Mendham Borough's withdrawal from the shared court.
- Developed and adopted budget with less than 1.5% increase over prior budget.
- Stabilized long-term municipal debt through capital budget reforms.
- Obtained grant funding for infrastructure improvement projects on East Main Street and at Mendham West Wastewater Treatment plant.
- Updated land use ordinance, as recommended by the Board of Adjustment.
- Conducted public question referendum to gauge public interest in possible merger of Mendham Borough and Mendham Township.
- Signed lease agreement with Randolph Township as part of new animal control shared services.

Mayor Merkt thanked the Township employees, administration, volunteers and the Township Committee for making 2013 an outstanding year.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

There being no comment hearing persons present was closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Committee entered into executive session at 7:20 p.m.

The Committee returned from executive session at 7:35 p.m.

RESOLUTION 2013-174

RATIFYING AND CONFIRMING ASSESSORS APPEAL
BLOCK 117; LOT 39 149 MOUNTAINSIDE ROAD

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

RESOLUTION 2013-175

AUTHORIZING PITNEY FARM STEWARDS LEASE AGREEMENT

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

ADJOURN

Upon a motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Potter, Township Clerk