

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM  
REGULAR MEETING  
FEBRUARY 10, 2014**

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

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	Mr. Baumann	Absent
	Mr. Merkt	Present
	Mr. Strobel	Present
	Mr. Tolley	Present
	Mayor Thomas	Present

Also Present: John M. Mills, III, Esq., Township Attorney  
Stephen Mountain, 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**

There were two resolutions adopted after the executive session. Resolution 2014-32 approved tax appeal settlements and Resolution 2014-33 authorized payment to the OEM coordinator.

**PRESENTATION**

Mosle Master Plan – John Hanson, Ferriero Engineering

Mr. Hansen presented a brief recap on the five year vision plan for Mosle Preserve. After exploring other areas of the property for increased parking, the original plan was deemed the best.

Mr. Strobel noted that any group can utilize the fields not just soccer and baseball. He stated that the fate of the chapel must be decided. The large maintenance and repair costs would be a burden to the Township. Mr. Strobel stated that the parking and increased safety was more important than restoring the building.

Mayor Thomas recommended getting the renewed opinion of the Facilities Committee at a March meeting. Mr. Tolley asked for the list of issues to be prioritized so the Committee can address the key factors. Mayor Thomas questioned the continued development of the trail system. Mr. Mountain stated that the trail cannot enter the watershed protection areas. With County guidance, the trail was moved outside the protection area. He added that the existing trails meet the needs of Mendham Magic.

The meeting was open to hearing persons present.

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Amalia Duarte, 22 Brockden Drive

She suggested that the Historic Committee be consulted regarding the chapel.

Russ McCabe, 16 Carriage Hill

He stated that lights should not be permitted; however, lighting restrictions are not mentioned in the report. Mr. Merkt stated that the matter is addressed in the Township Ordinance, which closes public facilities at dark. Mr. Tolley agreed that it is unnecessary to add that lighting is not permitted. It should be clear; however, that temporary lighting is not allowed without the authorization of the Committee. Mr. Mills noted that such requests made to the Committee have been denied.

Mr. McCabe stated that the chapel repair and maintenance costs would burden the Township. He did not recommend placing storage or adding other buildings. Handicap parking needed to be located closer to the fields and he presented a recommendation on how to achieve closer handicap parking as well as an unloading zone for coaches.

Pat Zimmerman, 3 West Main Street

Mrs. Zimmerman stated that a park being open from dawn till dusk is also a Green Acres regulation.

Norman Preston, East Main Street

Mr. Preston agreed parking should be closer to the fields. He noted that there is already a bathroom facility on the property. According to the caretaker, the bathroom is connected to the septic system and would be in working order with new toilets and sinks.

Kevin Lanahan, Talmage Road

As the head coach of Mendham Magic, Mr. Lanahan corrected the nights that the team practices. He stated that alleviating the problems with drop off and pick up is imperative for safety. He added that trail maintenance should be incorporated into the study.

Marcia Koch, Mountainside Road

Ms. Koch voiced her support of the mast plan and development of the property for active use by the community.

Ralph Rhodes, Roxiticus Road

Mr. Rhodes questioned storm water drainage. Mr. Hansen stated that the current open basin system can be modified to accommodate the expansion. The completed design will include the changes.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Thomas called for a motion to move the regular and executive session meeting minutes for January 28, 2014. Mr. Merkt so moved and Mr. Tolley seconded. All members present voted to approve.

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**DISCUSSION**

Correspondence – Newspaper Circulars

Mr. Mountain explained that a resident is concerned regarding the delivery of unwanted circulars. They not only get caught in the snow, but often pile up on the front lawn when the resident is away and signal that no one is home.

Mr. Mills advised that the law does not favor placing any restrictions on the freedom of speech even when unsolicited. In the past, the courts have upheld the distributors' right to send the mailings. The Committee cannot pass an ordinance prohibiting the flyers. Mr. Mountain stated that temporary relief can be found by corresponding directly with the distributing agency. He will reach out to the resident for a list of unwanted circulars.

Pitney Property Update

Mr. Mountain stated that a new sign will welcome visitors by indicating how to open the gate. The sign should be installed in a few weeks and in the spring ways to make the property more inviting will be investigated.

Tax Study

Mr. Mountain presented a comparison of area taxes. Mr. Tolley stated that, while the most common denominator to compare taxes is on a per capita basis, it may not be the way you pay taxes. A comparison will help relate to surrounding towns when partnering for shared services. The Finance Committee will discuss and present after the budget.

DPW Salt Shortage

Mr. Mountain noted that the salt reserve is very low. While there is no specific timetable, the State has demanded salt deliveries to the towns. If salt is not delivered by the next storm the DPW will take advantage of alternate methods, such as grit and sand. Mr. Mountain added that the Township is at a further disadvantage due to their small salt dome. Mr. Merkt suggested that a brief summary of the situation be placed on the website.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Tolley stated that budget meetings have been positive and reviewed the meeting schedule.

Mayor Thomas noted that Recreation will be hosting a bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show on March 9, 2014.

**HEARING PERSONS PRESENT**

Norm Preston, East Main Street

Mr. Preston noted that signs should indicate private residences at Pitney. Mr. Mountain stated that signs will direct visitors to the open space areas. Mr. Preston reviewed several alternate methods to salting.

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Bob Zimmerman, 3 West Main Street

Mr. Zimmerman thanked the Committee for their continued efforts to make the post office parking lot safe.

Pat Zimmerman, 3 West Main Street

Mrs. Zimmerman urged the Committee to contact the County regarding underground utility wires. She asked for a diagram of the Main Street Bridge showing the width. Mr. Mountain stated that the County has a tentative presentation date for February 25, 2014.

There being no further comment, hearing person present was closed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Strobel stated that the school study consultants have been invited to present at a public meeting. The tentative date is February 20, 2014. Each town continues to support seeing the process more forward.

Mr. Tolley announced that the Mendies are March 7, 2014.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolutions**

**RESOLUTION 2014-34**

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

**RESOLUTION 2014-35**

REAPPOINTING TIMOTHY B. DAY TO THE POSITION  
OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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

**RESOLUTION 2014-36**

DESIGNATING DEPOSITORIES FOR TOWNSHIP FUNDS  
AND AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES ON TOWNSHIP CHECKS

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

**RESOLUTION 2014-37**

APPOINTING MEMBER TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

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

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**RESOLUTION 2014-38**

APPROVING ISSUANCE OF SOCIAL AFFAIR PERMITS  
WEST MORRIS JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB

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

**RESOLUTION 2014-39**

RESCINDING TOWNSHIP CLERK OFFICE PETTY CASH FUND

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

**RESOLUTION 2014-40**

ESTABLISHING A NEW PETTY CASH FUND IN THE OFFICE  
OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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

**DISCUSSION**

None

**HEARING PERSONS PRESENT**

Norman Preston, East Main Street

Mr. Preston noted that there is an old gymnasium at Mosle that can be used for salt storage.

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

**ADJOURN**

Upon a motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Potter, Township Clerk