

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2015**

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

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Cioppettini	Present
Mrs. Orban Brown	Present
Mrs. Thomas	Present
Mr. Tolley	Present
Mayor Baumann	Present

Also Present: John M. Mills, III, Esq., Township Attorney
Amey Upchurch, Township Administrator
Elizabeth Rego, Acting Township Clerk

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

1. ADEQUATE NOTICE: STATEMENT OF 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 6, 2015. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Offices and Notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

2. DISCUSSION

New Jersey American Water

Nick Pinto, New Jersey American Water
Armando Veguez, Montana Construction

New Jersey American Water is replacing the water mains on the section of route 24 between Mountain Ave in Mendham Borough and Ralston Hill Road in Mendham Township. The project is an effort to improve water pressure and water quality. The Construction hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The target date for completion is May 31st. Police will monitor traffic and a detour will be in effect from Mountain Ave to Mountainside Road to Ironia Road. The contractor, Montana Construction will keep the construction area free of debris and store all construction materials off site every evening. The eastbound lane of route 24 will be open for emergency vehicles, buses and trucks.

The construction storage and staging area will be in the parking lot at Wysong Park. The contractor will store the construction materials safely and not monopolize the parking lot. Potholes and any damage that may occur will be repaired.

3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Committee

The Police Committee met with the Chief and Lieutenant to discuss personnel issues and the water main project.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will hold meetings on Monday, March 2nd at 5:30 p.m., Monday, March 9th at 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday, March 18th at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public.

Recreation Committee

The first round of interviews have been completed. The second round of interviews are scheduled for next week. The final 3-4 candidates will interview with the Recreation Commission members and the Township Administrator.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rocco Cifrese a veteran and former BEC1 volunteer has passed away.

The Chester Food Pantry is looking for donations. Toiletries are needed; toothbrushes, shampoo and toothpaste. Donations can be dropped off at Town Hall between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

A meeting has been scheduled by the Mendham Township Mayor and Administrator with the Mendham Borough Mayor and Administrator to discuss shared services.

5. HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

Robert Jacobus

150 Mendham Road

Mr. Jacobus envisions the Pitney property as a campus like setting. The existing buildings could be used as classrooms and studio space. Residents would be able to take classes in the arts and culture. The town image would be enhanced with a facility in town that offered enrichment activities.

Ray Nadaskay

Mendham Road

Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee

Mr. Nadaskay read a letter written by the Historic Preservation Committee in support of preserving the Pitney property. The property meets several of the criteria for preservation through the National Register of Historic Places. The Historic Preservation Committee urged the Township Committee to preserve the Pitney Property and to remain "good stewards" of the property which has historic, architectural and cultural importance.

Mrs. Kociancic
21 Devonshire Lane

The Pitney Property is an important historic landmark which should be preserved. The site is an important community asset that present and future generations could enjoy.

Aloisa Boretti
59 Tingley Road

Mrs. Boretti would like the Township Committee to revise the town's property maintenance ordinances. The ordinances need to have clearer guidelines and more enforcement capabilities. The Township Police Department should be authorized to assist residents with zoning issues and have power to enforce complaints. Currently, enforcement is solely the jurisdiction of the Township Zoning Officer.

Judy Shrem
3 Olmstead Lane

Mrs. Shrem thanked the Pitney Preservation Committee for their hard work and a job well done.

Susan Browse
13 Cooper Rd

Mrs. Browse asked the Township Committee to consider the long range benefits of preserving the Pitney property for the community to enjoy. Budgets are tight now, but the property offers long term benefits to the community.

Jamie Kinsel
Combs Hollow Rd

As a member of the Mendham Township Planning Board , Mrs. Kinsel helped craft the township master plan. Key to the master plan vision was the goal of maintaining the historic character of Mendham Township. The Ralston Cider Mill was preserved through strong leadership, volunteer efforts and the procurement of grant money, perhaps the same could be done to preserve the Pitney Property?

Brian Boden
41 Walsingham

An on-line petition is circulating in support of preservation the Pitney Property. To date, 608 signatures have been collected. Mr. Boden read some of the comments submitted by supporters of the petition.

Aloisa Boretti
59 Tingley Rd.

The town has spent millions to purchase and maintain the Pitney Property. Preservation would cost taxpayers millions more. The property should be zoned for senior housing which is lacking in Mendham Township. The central location of the property would be perfect for such a facility.

Tasos Konidaris
Ballantine Rd.

The Pitney studies were done 10 years ago and are out of date. All the facts need to be reexamined.

Bierce Riley
Morristown

Mrs. Riley, a member of the Historic Preservation Committee, read from a letter from the New Jersey State Cultural Resource Center. The Pitney Property would qualify as a registered cultural and historic site.

Bob Henelly
2 Robert Rd.

Mr. Henelly has researched the rich historical background of the Pitney family. The property serves as a snap shot of a place and time period in Mendham Township's history.

Theresa Finlay
Mosle Road

Mrs. Finlay volunteered to assist in raising funds to preserve the Pitney Property. She has raised funds for projects in town before and is willing to offer her expertise.

Omie Ryan
11 Glengary

Mrs. Ryan, the Chairperson of the Friends of the Pitney Farm Committee and the former head of the Pitney Public Purpose Committee. Mrs. Ryan wanted to clarify some points brought up in regard to the Pitney property. The funding formula for the Pitney Property purchase: 1.5 million dollars was received from the county open space fund and the balance was funded with 2.5 million in bonds. One of the recommendations of the PPPC included a 17,000 square foot building. This was to demonstrate the possibility of building a shared library on the property. The current library is too small to host large events or classes.

Caroline Jacobus
159 Mendham Rd. E

Mrs. Jacobus read excerpts from a letter she received from the State of New Jersey Natural & Historic Resources Historic Preservation Office. The Pitney Property meets the criteria to apply for a certificate of eligibility to be placed on the historic register.

Ross Buchanan
27 Hilltop Rd.

To afford and maintain the Pitney Property the town could propose a referendum to raise taxes on residents for a 3 year period at a minimal amount of approximately \$32.00 per month per household.

Pat Zimmerman
West Main St.

Mrs. Zimmerman enjoyed Bill Moran's editorial in the paper which listed the pros and cons of preserving the Pitney Property.

Brian Boden
41 Walsingham Rd.

Mr. Boden polled Mayors from surrounding towns and found some success stories with preserving historic properties for public use.

Mrs. Boretti
59 Tingley Rd.

Fosterfields is down the road from the Pitney Property. Mrs. Boretti does not see a need for another preserved farm in the immediate area. Enough taxpayer money has been spent on studies and/or preservation.

The Township Committee will look in to Mrs. Boretti's request to revise the property maintenance ordinances. If Mrs. Boretti has a property maintenance complaint, she was instructed to contact the Mendham Township Police Department. The Police Department will contact the Township Zoning Officer. It is important to document property violations in order to build a case when trying to resolve an ongoing complaint.

Peter Dumovic
3 Shelton Rd.

Mr. Dumovic asked if the Regional High School Feasibility Study done by Ross Haber and Associates was completed. The study was presented to the Regional High School Board and more data and information was requested. The Township Committee will notify the public as soon as the study is complete. The township is hoping that the study will offer ways in which to save money on school funding.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned and the Township Committee went into Executive Session at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Rego, Acting Township Clerk