



**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
April 23, 2019
Regular Session 7:30 PM**

ROLL CALL:

Mr. Diegnan present
Ms. Duarte present
Mr. Monaghan present
Ms. Neibart present
Mayor Gisser present

Also present:

Debbie Bonanno, Township Administrator
Karen Fornaro, Chief Financial Officer
Matthew Petracca, Township Attorney

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

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 Observer Tribune and Daily Record on January 8, 2019. Notice was posted on the bulletin board in the township offices and notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

RECOGNIZING NEW FIREFIGHTER

Richard R. Vanderbeek, III has applied to be a Junior/Explorer at the Brookside Engine Company #1. Assistant Chief Stephen Sauerma welcomed Mr. Vanderbeek to the Brookside Engine Company. Richard expressed his enthusiasm for the opportunity to serve in the Junior membership program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

Mayor Gisser announced the arrival of Delaney Jacqueline Coppinger, 7lbs 4oz and 19 inches, daughter of Township Clerk Maria Coppinger. Ms. Coppinger will be out of the office for a period of time, and Ms. Bonanno will make sure that there is appropriate coverage during her absence.

Mayor Gisser attended a seder at the Community Center along with his son and had a great evening.

Mayor Gisser announced the one year anniversary of the Harmony Brookside business.

Park Palooza, sponsored by Morris County Parks, is scheduled for April 27 with food trucks and various events.

Mendham Township Police Department is sponsoring 'Operation Take Back NJ'. Residents are encouraged to drop off unused prescription drugs on Saturday April 27th 10-2pm, no syringes.

Ralston Playground grand opening will be held Sunday April 28th from 4pm to 7pm. More information will be forthcoming.

'Girls Night Out' registration deadline has been extended to Friday April 26th.

Mr. Diegnan announced that the DPW is selling mulch at an economical price.

Ms. Duarte announced that the Environmental Commission is sponsoring a composting workshop at Town Hall on Thursday May 2nd at 5:30. Registration is open for the Patriots 5k run. Recreation Director David Guida should be contacted for details about registration for the Summer Teen Adventure Travel Camp. Mendham TV is seeking volunteers to help with filming, training is provided, and also for help on their board. There will be a 'Wine with Friends' fundraiser for the Mendham Township Library Friday evening at the Community Club. Save the date for the Schiff Nature Center 'Music in the Woods' Saturday May 11th from 7pm-9pm. Morris County Freeholders celebrates one year anniversary on Wednesday of being 'Stigma Free'.

Sarah Neibart thanked everyone who attended the Passover Seder at the Community Club. Anyone interested in assisting with interfaith events should contact her or Ms. Duarte.

Mr. Monaghan thanked the Brookside Community Club for sponsoring the Easter Egg Hunt.

Police Chief Ross Johnson reported on traffic studies that were conducted by the Township and the County in response to inquiries by concerned residents regarding accidents at the intersections of Tempe Wick and Corey Lane, and Roxiticus and Rte 24. Regarding the Tempe Wick/Corey intersection, an engineer will complete a survey to determine if regrading is a possible solution. In the meantime, the Township will work on cutting back brush and improve lighting. Regarding Roxiticus/Rte 24, the recommendation is to install clear'no passing' markings and improve signage as well as improving site distance by clearing brush. After monitoring the sites for one year without improvement, traffic lights will be considered.

BUDGET HEARING

2019 Municipal Budget – Public Comment

Motion to open for public to address the Committee as relates to the budget

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Monaghan seconded.

All members present voted to open the meeting to the public.

There were no public comments.

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Diegnan seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to close the meeting to the public.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Monaghan seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

Sante D'Emidio – 8 Ballantine Road- Mr. D'Emidio asked the Committee if they were aware of the new apprentice law as it relates to construction businesses, which requires the firm to have a permanent apprentice position in order to do work for municipalities and schools. He said this law requires prevailing wages for custom fabrication which would be devastating financially for both the firm and the municipality. It applies retroactively from March 18th. Mayor Gisser said that Committee would present this issue to the freeholders.

Ms. Neibart moved. Mr. Diegnan seconded.
Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the April 8th, 2019 meeting were tabled.

RESOLUTIONS

2019-074 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Adoption of 2019 Municipal Budget

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Monaghan seconded.

Mr. Monaghan expressed that he felt the budget was fair and balanced even though he had hoped more items would have been included. Ms. Neibart opposed the budget since she was against tax increases this year. Ms. Duarte expressed that she is comfortable with the budget and feels that it is reasonable and an investment in the community. Mr. Diegan was pleased that the committee has worked together to strive to pay down the debt and urges future members to continue to follow the fiscal policies as in the strategic plan. Mayor Gisser thanked the governing body and administrative staff of the township for past and future support of the plan.

Roll call vote: All members approved, with the exception of Ms. Neibart, who voted no.

2019-075 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Award of Contract for Dental Benefits to Metlife, Inc.

Ms. Duarte moved. Mr. Monaghan seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

2019-076 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Appointment of Anthony Duarte to the Position of Laborer/Truck Driver

Ms. Duarte moved. Ms. Neibart seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

2019-077 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Appointment of Cameron Miller to the Position of Laborer/Truck Driver

Ms. Duarte moved. Ms. Neibart seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

2019-078 Resolution of the Township Committee of the Township of Mendham Authorizing the Payment of Bills

Ms. Neibart moved. Mr. Diegnan seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION

04-2019 An Ordinance of the Township of Mendham Providing for Various Capital Improvements and Appropriating \$417,000 Therefore, From the Capital Improvement Fund – *Public Hearing scheduled for May 13, 2019*

Ms. Duarte moved. Ms. Neibart seconded.

Ms. Fornaro explained that this ordinance covers purchases for the firehouses, building and grounds, police vehicles, roadwork and various projects including recreation. This is consistent with the township's long term capital plan. Mr. Diegnan confirmed that these projects are being funded through cash. Ms. Duarte questioned whether the chimney repair was for the rental property to which Ms.

Fornaro replied that it was. Ms. Neibart questioned whether these funds were separate from the general budget to which Ms. Fornaro replied that they were separate. Ms. Fornaro also confirmed for Ms. Neibart that there is a list of roads in priority order for seal coating. Ms. Neibart questioned whether one of the recreation projects was for a separation guard between spectators and the fields, to which Ms. Duarte responded that this is being researched by the recreation director. Ms. Neibart expressed that although she voted no to the general budget, she is in approval of these capital expenditures. Mr. Monaghan asked what the balance of this fund would be. Ms. Fornaro will need to confirm an amount however she explained that the amount is usually significant.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

05-2019 Bond Ordinance Providing for Various Capital Improvements In and By The Township Of Mendham, In The County of Morris, New Jersey, Appropriating \$1,051,000 Therefor And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$999,500 Bonds Or Notes Of The Township To Finance Part Of The Cost Thereof – *Public Hearing scheduled for May 12, 2019*

Ms. Neibart moved. Ms. Duarte seconded.

Ms. Fornaro explained that these projects are for mixed funding. Items included are the mini pumper for Brookside, equipment for DPW, paving of roads. Mr. Gisser clarified that funds for paving does not include grants in place. He also explained that the township does use notes and no new bonds have been issued. Mr. Monaghan asked if the DPW trucks were ‘used’, which was confirmed, and that the useful life is 5 years. Ms. Duarte asked if there was a way to share vehicles with other townships to which Ms. Neibart answered that it was determined not to be a viable option. Ms. Duarte expressed that it would be a good idea to include the street paving schedule on the website. Mr. Diegnan confirmed that this ordinance is a cash flow management tool and allows the township to do work in a timely fashion and still pay back more debt.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to approve.

DISCUSSION

Mayor Gisser asked Karen Fornaro to report on the progress of the RFP for garbage and recycling. Ms. Fornaro and Ms. Bonanno are working together to complete the bid package by the end of this week. By law, the bid must be advertised for 60 days therefore the bid will not be open until July. Ms. Neibart questioned whether this bid was for direct consumer service to which Ms. Fornaro replied that it is for the municipality. It was determined after discussion that the township can ask the bidder if they offer direct consumer service and what the cost would be. Mayor Gisser would like to ensure that all data is collected by July 1 so that residents have sufficient time to prepare and be advised of the cost of the service of their choice. Ms. Duarte asked if there is data regarding how many residents currently use a private contractor. Ms. Bonanno answered that there is no data available however she was advised by a contractor that there are about 10 homes using their own. Ms. Bonanno further mentioned that she and Ms. Fornaro are looking into franchise areas for the purpose of negotiating better rates.

Ms. Bonanno reported that bids are out for the Mosle demolition and will be opened on May 22nd. Mayor Gisser mentioned that the two structures that require demolition are the old gym and the caretaker’s house.

Mayor Gisser pointed out that the baseball teams will be sodding the infield and making repairs at their own expense. Ms. Neibart asked if this information could be shared with other municipalities in the spirit of shared services to which Mayor Gisser responded that once the teams know exactly what they are doing that this information could definitely be shared.

Mayor Gisser reported on the Pitney property. An update was posted on the township website as well as in the Observer Tribune. He added that there is a grant application with the state and fundraising by the township will follow so that the property can be made usable for residents.

Ms. Bonanno reported on the status of the beach dredging. The township is still waiting for the fish permit, and the DEP needs to conclude their review by June 2nd. Princeton Hydro and the engineers French and Perillo are working to have the project completed by May 15th.

Ms. Bonanno reported that regarding the playground, the DPW is laying out the mulch that is available now and they are waiting for additional deliveries.

Mayor Gisser addressed the sewer east issue whereby he explained that excess water is being diverted into the system and that the source has been identified. All efforts are being made to resolve the problem. He also reported that the Planning Board passed the resolution regarding Shores Road. Six homes will be developed, with well water usage.

Ms. Neibart reported that regarding shared services, she is working on the court discussions among Chester Township, Mendham Township, Mendham Borough and Chester Borough. Chester Township is waiting for caseload numbers for Chester Borough and Mendham Borough after which the Chester Township administrator will organize a meeting of all administrators and court liaisons to discuss a shared court program. Ms. Neibart asked Ms. Bonanno to update the committee on the potential partnering of recreation programs with Mendham Borough. Ms. Bonanno provided the Borough with information and is awaiting their response.

Ms. Duarte reported that the Stigma Free Committee held a panel discussion regarding autism which will soon be available on Mendham TV. The mental health first aid training has been postponed until September. On May 15th the Stigma Free Committee will sponsor a program on youth suicide prevention at the Mendham Township Library at 7pm. This program is targeted to coaches and those who work directly with young people. The Historic Preservation Committee has requested that an ordinance be amended to allow them to view all demolition permits. Ms. Duarte commented that although this subcommittee would have no authority over demolition, they would like to have the courtesy to reach out to property owners who anticipate demolishing a property that has historic significance. Ms. Bonanno commented that a member of Historic Preservation sent an email with a document that was not able to be opened, and as the sender was out of town, the document could not be evaluated until the sender returned. Mayor Gisser and Mr. Diegnan commented that they would not be in favor of any resolution that would impede a homeowner from making improvements to a property that they already own. It was determined that the current resolution should be reviewed after which further discussion will ensue along with explanation of current demolition permitting procedures in the construction office.

Mayor Diegnan expressed thanks to Dave Read and Debbie Bonanno for their work on sewer east.

Mayor Gisser thanked the auditors who have been working in the township recently.

Open to the Public

Ms. Duarte moved. Ms. Neibart seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to open to the public.

Ryan Guthrie – 28 Cold Hill Road - Mr. Guthrie asked if there were more locations other than CVS who are issuing stickers for garbage and whether data could be collected in that way. Ms. Bonanno said that Blue Diamond refused a request for such information. He also asked if the Communications committee could ask residents which garbage service they use. He performed his own analysis and thanked the township for not going forward immediately since it would be a tax increase for those in his category. He felt the community should be advised in advance that changes to the garbage removal could cause a tax increase. Mr. Guthrie complimented the township on the debt pay down schedule. Mr. Monaghan agreed that residents should be advised of the potential change.

Thomas Baio – 21 Northgate Road – Mr. Baio offered input into the Historic Preservation conversation, commenting that in the last town he lived in, the HPC regulations caused a negative affect on property values.

Melissa Saharko -103 Ironia Road – Ms. Saharko agreed with Mr. Baio, however as a member of the HPC she explained that their intent is not to interfere with homeowner rights, but to offer the history of a home for the buyer to take into consideration. Mr. Monaghan asked if the committee could network with realtors to present historic information or to communicate with buyers via letters when homes are being purchased. Ms. Saharko expressed that the committee would like to have more capability however they are limited as as volunteer organization. Ms. Neibart asked about Ms. Zimmerman’s process in contacting homeowners and it appears that she does so directly by visiting the property.

Mr. Diegnan moved. Ms. Neibart seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to close the meeting to the public.

ADJOURN

Mr. Diegnan moved. Ms. Duarte seconded.

Roll call vote: All members present voted to adjourn at 9:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bobinski
Administrative Assistant

Approved: 05/13/2019