

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 8, 2013

Mayor Merkt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Township Hall, Brookside, New Jersey.

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Baumann	Present
	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 July 3, 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 – Mayor Merkt
There was no executive session at the last meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

Public Works Performance Measurement Proposal/
Shared Services Project – TR Consulting

Tom McGeough and Ron Ruiz presented the first steps of the project to improve the Township's DPW. They reviewed key performance indicators (KPIs) related to road maintenance, storm water management, parks, building and grounds, brush collection and fleet management. The asset management software was briefly reviewed.

The next step of the project is to explore shared service options. Several surrounding communities were noted as potential partners. The Township Committee was asked to provide feedback regarding the KPIs and to make initial contact with communities regarding a shared service.

Mr. Strobel noted that a KPI for fields is recovery time. There was discussion regarding potential shared service partners and criteria for determining the best partner. Mr. Ruiz stated that the best match will be found through meetings and gathering information about how the DPW functions.

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There was a brief discussion regarding vehicle loans. Mr. McGeough noted that vehicles were financed in various ways and over several years.

Mr. Mountain stated that the Township has formal and informal agreements with several surrounding municipalities, which allow for sharing equipment and exchanging services. Mr. Baumann questioned how not purchasing new equipment impacts the cost of repairs and it was noted that the software management system would track related costs. Feedback will be provided from the Committee within 30 days.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Merkt called for a motion to move the regular meeting minutes from June 25, 2013. Mr. Strobel so moved. Mrs. Thomas seconded. All members voted to approve, except Mr. Baumann abstained.

DISCUSSION

School Study Request for Proposal (RFP)

Mayor Merkt reviewed Mayor Henry's request to provide feedback on the proposed RFP.

Mr. Mountain focused on the structure, organization and administrative requirements and noted the following:

- Dates should match present time frame and offer a realistic turnaround schedule.
- Introductory section should be consolidated to outline key information regarding the lead agency, participating agencies, contract information and general intent.
- Submittal requirements should be consolidated and a number of standard submittal items were added.
- Addition of section for the review and selection of the consultant, which includes how review of the proposals will be conducted and how the consultant will be managed.
- Addition of section for prior studies and reports.
- Consolidation of qualifications and references required.
- Addition of section clarifying final product and time frame for delivery.
- Consolidation of section for sample agreement and proof of insurance.
- Add language under scope of work to reflect desire to include recent demographic study prepared by West Morris Regional High School Board in the analysis.

It was noted that, as the lead agency, Mendham Borough would be the legal entity to enter into a contract with the consultant. The terms of the RFP would outline the responsibilities of the lead agency and ensure that each partner is fully represented.

Mr. Strobel commented on the following:

- He tried to contact each Board of Education; however, received a response only from Chester Board member Kerri Wright who said she would try to obtain feedback. She acknowledged that the Board has held the belief that they do not have a role in the study since it is a funding formula issue.

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- The Committee has been consistent in getting everyone's questions answered.
- Reviewed recent cases and cautioned against not understanding all the ramifications of changing the schools.
- Reviewed differences between the Cavanaugh and Marino versions of the RFP.
- Point of the study is to answer any questions that decision makers may have. Need to make sure all questions are included and answered.
- Committee should be clear that the Township will not fund a study that does not cover all the issues.
- Is not against using the RFP as a chance for towns to provide questions and any input in order to build a consensus.
- No word document was available so Mr. Strobel created a word version in order to provide his changes, which are as follows:
 - o Eliminate superfluous material in the introductory sections and any wording that may bias the outcome.
 - o Address issues that the Committee identified as critical, such as educational quality, potential loss of the IB program, superintendent staffing and transition Allow 60-90 days to complete the study.

Mrs. Thomas supported the proposed changes. Mr. Baumann stated that it is disappointing to receive documents that continuously omit the Township's objective. He agreed that a master word document is necessary to track comments and changes moving forward.

Mayor Merkt stated that the issue is moving in a positive direction. With the consensus of the Committee, he asked Mr. Mountain to relay the recommendations to the Borough.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Thomas stated that the Fourth of July Parade was a great success. Mr. Baumann noted that Brookside Beach is hosting Canteen Night and encouraged residents to sign up to receive e-mail updates.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

Jamie Button, 10 Glenbrook Drive

Mr. Button applauded the Borough for their leadership role regarding the RFP. He urged the Committee to approve the document without change in order to quickly place a referendum on the ballot. He stated that Mendham High School has declined from neglect.

Michael Merritt, Mountainside Road

Mr. Merritt stated that it is important to ask the correct questions during the study. He encouraged the Committee not to be driven exclusively by money, but rather work with neighboring communities to acquire results.

Norm Preston, West Main Street

Mr. Preston stated that K-8 school board involvement is imperative.

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Peter Dumovic, 3 Shelton Road

Mr. Dumovic asked the Committee to use judgment regarding an acceptable RFP in order to move forward at a reasonable pace. He claimed that separation would not have a negative impact on the high schools. He added that the impact of changes instilled by the new superintendent over the past year should also be examined.

Ron DeMeo, 2 Southern Slope Terrace

Mr. DeMeo encouraged the Committee to meet with the Mendham Borough Council to constructively review the recommended changes. Mayor Merkt noted that the Committee's comments are not to be intended as "take it or leave it", but instead are being offered as constructive feedback.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Public Hearing

ORDINANCE 3-2013

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM ADOPTING AND IMPLEMENTING AMENDED OFFICIAL ZONING MAP

Mayor Merkt read the ordinance by title and called for a motion. Mr. Tolley so moved. Mrs. Thomas seconded. The meeting was opened to the public. There being no comments, public hearing was closed. All members voted to approve.

ORDINANCE 6-2013

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM AMENDING CHAPTER 21, SECTIONS 21-6.4 AND 21-6.5; AND AMENDING THE DEFINITION OF "HEIGHT OF STRUCTURE"

Mayor Merkt read the ordinance by title and called for a motion. Mr. Tolley so moved. Mrs. Thomas seconded. The meeting was opened to the public. There being no comments, public hearing was closed. All members voted to approve.

ORDINANCE 7-2013

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY

Mayor Merkt read the ordinance by title and called for a motion. Mrs. Thomas so moved. Mr. Strobel seconded. The meeting was opened to the public. There being no comments, public hearing was closed. All members voted to approve.

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NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2013-74

APPROVING 2012 LOSAP ELIGIBILITY LIST

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

RESOLUTION 2013-94

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

RESOLUTION 2013-95

AUTHORIZING REFUND OF TAX OVERPAYMENT

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

RESOLUTION 2013-96

AUTHORIZING REFUND OF STATE TAX APPEAL SETTLEMETS

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 2013-97

AUTHORIZING DISCUSSION WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC

Matters pertaining to:

Personnel – Finance Department

Salary Resolution

Contracts - Municipal Property Leases

Appointment – Zoning Board of Adjustment

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 Committee has shown consistent support for the school study. He felt the Committee provided appropriate and positive feedback to the Borough. Mrs. Thomas added that it is counterproductive to have several RFPs circulating.

Mr. Mountain presented a timeline for moving forward with possible court changes. Initial outreach will be completed by next week, followed by preliminary meetings. Once a partner is established the Township's legal responsibilities can be closed.

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HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

Frank Cioppettini, 6 Wright Lane

Mr. Cioppettini stated that the Fourth of July Parade was such a success the Rotary Club ran out of food. He commended the parade committee for their hard work.

Norm Preston, West Main Street

There was further discussion regarding possible DPW shared services.

Michael Merritt, Mountainside Road

Mr. Merritt was an advocate for exploring further shared services.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made and seconded to enter executive session at 8:50 p.m.

The Committee returned from executive session at 9:18 p.m.

RESOLUTION 2013-98

APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

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

ADJOURN

Upon a motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Potter, Township Clerk