

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**JULY 29, 2014**

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

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

Also Present: John M. Mills, III, Esq., Township Attorney  
Amey Upchurch, 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** – Mayor Thomas  
There was no executive session after the Just 14, 2014 meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS**

Certificate of Appreciation – Eagle Scout Josh Usiskin  
Mayor Thomas presented the certificate and Mr. Usiskin gave a brief overview of his project.

Certificate of Appreciation – Mitchell Peters  
Mayor Thomas presented the certificate and Mr. Peters explained the work completed for the Department of Public Works.

**MASH**

Melanie Miller, Director; Marion Rajoppi, Assistant Director; MaryAlice Horn, Board of Directors President; and Robert Santos, Board Member were present to discuss the services offered to residents. Ms. Miller explained that MASH is a federally-funded housing project for seniors and disabled adults. Capital funds received from the United States Department of Agriculture help fund the housing; however, the transportation services are funded separately. There is currently a 12 passenger bus and Ford Flex to serve the 140 registered riders. Both vehicles are owned and serviced by Mendham Borough.

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Ms. Miller stated that when deficiencies in the budget were discovered the Board realized that the amounts requested from the municipalities were not covering costs. Due to the financial constraints rides have been limited to medical appointments and food shopping to best serve the community. It was noted that the funds received from the municipalities are for salaries, vehicles, gas, and replacement parts. Mayor Thomas offered the services of the Township fleet of buses. There was discussion regarding funding and billing.

Mayor Thomas read a letter from the MASH Board sent to seniors stating that services were cut due to Mendham Township reducing funding. She added that the letter was poorly written and portrayed that the Committee does not care about the needs of the seniors.

Mr. Merkt stated that funding was never reduced and Ms. Miller replied that the Township did not give the full amount requested. The funding provided for the past five years was reviewed. Mr. Santos apologized for the wording, adding that it was not intended to accuse the Township only to explain that there were not sufficient funds to maintain services. Mr. Tolley recommended examining the MASH funding during next year's budget discussions.

Ms. Horn apologized for any wording objections and praised the current MASH staff for their efforts. She added that, while it was a difficult decision to cut services, more seniors are able to get to medical appointments. There was agreement that increased communication between the MASH Board and Township is necessary.

**Library Five Year Strategic Plan Presentation**

Bonnie Mangold discussed library funding. Fundraising has increase by 20% for 2014. Library staff and programs are clear strengths, while building space and e-book selection need improvements.

Mr. Dumovic reviewed the library's 2014-2018 strategic plan for remaining a welcoming environment that is the cornerstone of community enrichment. Goals and accomplishments of 2014 were reviewed. Mr. Dumovic noted plans to rearrange the middle room of the library to create a more flexible space.

Mr. Merkt expressed his support for the library. Mr. Tolley suggested opening the back stairwell so the library can have easier access to the meeting room. Mr. Baumann agreed that the need for space should be seriously considered. Mayor Thomas applauded the library for reevaluating their needs and reaching out to a larger readership through e-books.

The meeting was open to the public regarding questions for the library. There being no comment public hearing was closed.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor Thomas called for a motion to move the regular meeting minutes from July 14, 2014. Mr. Tolley so moved and Mr. Baumann seconded. All members present voted to approve, except Mr. Merkt abstained.

**DISCUSSION**

**Tax Appeal / Equalization Ratio**

Tax Assessor Scott Holzhauser stated that there were 21 County tax appeals and 27 State tax appeals. He reviewed the ratable loss and the estimated impact. There was discussion regarding the ratio and ratable base.

**Cable Station Relocation**

Mrs. Upchurch stated that Mendham TV is considering utilizing the emergency services building as a cable transmission point in order to have more space and a backup generator. She will have a more detailed report as the issue develops.

**August Meeting Dates**

After a brief discussion, it was decided to reschedule the next meeting for August 19, 2014.

Lieutenant Johnson stated that the police now have Everbridge, which is a reverse 911 system. There are currently 300 residents signed up and he encouraged residents to register to receive important alerts.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Merkt stated that the Pitney finance subcommittee is working diligently to assemble information. They hope to present a combination of hard data and credible cost estimates at the next meeting.

**HEARING PERSONS PRESENT**

Diana Orban Brown, Ironia Road

Ms. Brown applauded the Everbridge system, adding that it's very useful. She congratulated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade Committee for arranging a great day despite weather problems.

Omie Ryan, 11 Glengary Drive

Ms. Ryan reviewed Mr. Strobel's request for more information regarding funding for the Pitney property. She asked for specification and a timeline, and she was instructed to reach out to Mr. Strobel to discuss.

Hearing persons present was closed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolutions**

**RESOLUTION 2014-124**

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 2014-125**

AUTHORIZING DISCUSSION WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC

Matters pertaining to:

Contract Negotiations – Pitney leases

Whitewater

School Study Contract

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

**RESOLUTION 2014-126**

EXTENDING GRACE PERIOD REGARDING PAYMENT

OF THIRD QUARTER 2014 PROPERTY TAX

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

**RESOLUTION 2014-127**

ACKNOWLEDGE ADJUSTMENTS ISSUED BY THE MORRIS COUNTY

BOARD OF TAXATION

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**

Mrs. Upchurch noted a white guide post for the post office parking lot. Chief Crawford has verified that the post meets safety standards. Mr. Tolley was skeptical that the guides would be a permanent solution, but agreed action must be taken. The Committee was in agreement to move forward with the white posts.

**HEARING PERSONS PRESENT**

There being no comment hearing persons present was closed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion duly made and seconded the Committee entered executive session at 9:30 p.m.

The Committee returned from executive session at 10:05 p.m.

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**RESOLUTION 2014-128**

EXTENDING THE CONTRACT BETWEEN WHITEWATER, INC.  
AND THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM FOR THE OPERATION OF MENDHAM  
EAST AND WEST WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES FOR A ONE YEAR PERIOD  
AUGUST 1, 2014 THROUGH JULY 31, 2015

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

**ADJOURN**

Upon a motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Potter, Township Clerk