

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE - TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 12, 2013**

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

ROLL CALL:	Mr. Baumann	Present
	Mr. Strobel	Present
	Mrs. Thomas	Absent
	Mr. Tolley	Present
	Mayor Merkt	Present

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

**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. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Offices and Notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Proclamation**

SUPPORTING THE DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER 2013  
STATEWIDE CRACKDOWN

Mayor Merkt read the proclamation and called for a motion. Mr. Strobel so moved. Mr. Baumann seconded. All members present voted to approve.

**Resolutions**

**RESOLUTION 2013-108**

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

**RESOLUTION 2013-109**

AUTHORIZING REDEMPTION MONIES TO OUTSIDE LIEN HOLDER

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Merkt reported on a meeting he had with Mayor Henry of Mendham Borough. At the meeting they discussed the potential of the Pitney property for a future public purpose,

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specifically the viability of a joint library. He asked Mayor Henry in this meeting to discuss this idea with the Borough Council and to request their support to jointly explore the idea in greater detail. Mayor Merkt further advised the Township Committee that if the Borough Council is not interested in studying this idea then he would recommend the Township Committee reconvene with the Pitney Transition Committee to develop an alternative option for the property.

Once a clearer direction on the future of the property is established a schedule outlining next steps should be determined. A brief discussion ensued and it was agreed by the Committee members present that this was a good course of action.

Mayor Merkt asked Mr. Mountain to prepare for the next meeting an update on the transition of the property from Pitney family oversight to the Township. Mr. Mountain was asked to include specifically in his report a status advisory on the establishment of leases with property renters, progress on the establishment of the 501c3 and the overall finances relating to the property.

Mayor Merkt offered a report on the status of the School Study Request for Proposal. He advised that the Township's comments were forwarded to Mendham Borough and the Borough Council has accepted all of the changes for inclusion into the final document. Mayor Merkt further advised that draft has been circulated by the Borough to Chester Township and Borough as well as the local school districts for comment. The Borough is awaiting responses from these entities.

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Mills advised the Township Committee that the Brookside Engine Company Chief Peter Staples has appointed John Alderton Jr. to fill the vacated Lieutenant's position. He recommended that the Township Committee acknowledge the appointment by the passage of a resolution he read into the record (John can provide the resolution language).

**RESOLUTION 2013-110**

**ACKNOWLEDGING APPOINTMENT OF JOHN ALDERTON JR. TO THE POSITION  
OF LIEUTENANT IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM**

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

**HEARING PERSONS PRESENT**

Brian Cavanaugh, 610 Cherry Lane

Mr. Cavanaugh referenced the letter submitted by Jaime Button to the Mayor and Township Committee regarding the School Study Draft RFP. He stated he generally agreed with the letter and is happy to hear from the earlier discussion that the Township Committee will be giving consideration to points raised in the correspondence. He asked if it is the Township Committee's position that it would only be in support of the Request for Proposal if the changes proposed by the Committee were accepted.

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Mayor Merkt advised that while he typically does not respond to questions raised in this forum he would make an exception due to the sparse crowd. He advised that while he does not speak for the Township Committee as a whole it is his belief that the entire body felt that the suggested changes made sense and the intent of the revisions was to improve upon the original document. He further stated that in transmitting the suggested changes the Township did not mandate that they be accepted by the Borough, just fairly considered.

The Township Committee was pleased to learn the Borough Council agreed to accept all of the recommended changes to the document. It is understood that the Borough Council is now engaged in a similar process to collect input from the Chesters and the Township Committee is pleased they are following this course.

Mr. Cavanaugh again reiterated his support for Mr. Button's letter and asked the Township Committee in their review of the letter that they focus particular attention towards three issues raised in the letter. He stated that these issues are:

1. Funding Formula – He expressed the opinion that the RFP draft as currently configured focuses on too many funding options, most of which are not in the best interest of Mendham Township.
2. Scope Expansion – He stated that items proposed for inclusion in the scope of work section of the RFP are superfluous and will only add to the time to complete and cost of the study.
3. Citizen Representation – He asked that the Township Committee support the inclusion of a citizen representative to the steering committee proposed in the RFP. Mayor Merkt pointed out that if this were done a representative from each community would be needed in order to be fair. Mr. Cavanaugh suggested that since a citizen group comprised of members from all of the participating towns already exists (CBS), perhaps the representative could come from CBS. He further stated that he personally would support that this representative be Mr. Button.

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

**ADJOURN**

Upon a motion made and seconded the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Potter, Township Clerk