



**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM
April 26, 2016 – 7:30 p.m. Regular session**

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: John M. Mills, III, Esq., Township Attorney
Debbie Bonanno, Township Administrator
Mary Beth Zichelli, Township Clerk

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 Daily Record, Observer Tribune and the Star Ledger on January 8, 2016. Notice was posted on the Bulletin Board in the Township Offices and Notice was filed with the Township Clerk.

RESOLUTION 2016-52

AUTHORIZING DISCUSSION WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF THE PUBLIC

Mayor Cioppettini read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Tolley moved. Mrs. Orban Brown seconded. All members present voted to approve.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shredder Day is scheduled for May 14th, 8:30-12 noon in Township parking lot.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Cioppettini read a proclamation in honor of National Autism Month.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 11, 2016, regular, executive

Mayor Cioppettini asked that the minutes be tabled until the May 9th meeting

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

Michael Merritt, 73 Mountainside Road, spoke in support of a replacement fire pumper. (letter attached)

Richard Cotter, 9 Cooper Road, told the residents and Committee about the free trees being given away on May 8th in the Township parking lot.

Brian Phelan, 69 Woodland road, expressed his opposition to the decision to not get a new fire pumper.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 2016-8

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 10-2014
FIXING THE SALARIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MENDHAM IN THE COUNTY OF MORRIS, NEW JERSEY

Mayor Cioppettini read the Ordinance by title and called for a motion. Mr. Tolley moved. Mrs. Orban Brown seconded.

All members present voted to approve.

Public hearing and adoption will be May 9, 2016

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2016-53

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SETTLEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX
APPEAL

Mayor Cioppettini read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mrs Orban Brown moved. Mrs. Thomas seconded. All members present voted to approve.

RESOLUTION 2016-54

AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF BILLS

Mayor Cioppettini read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mrs. Orban Brown moved. Mr. Tolley seconded. All members present voted to approve.

REPORTS

Administrator - Ms. Bonanno reported a number of items that are currently going on in Town Hall which include: updating employee handbook, pursuing shared services, improving the website, adding a Facebook page and getting quotes for the library sidewalk to be repaired.

DPW – Mr. Tolley stated the DPW was moving along with no problems and in full swing of springtime duties.

Schools – Mrs. Thomas has had dialogue with the school board, will be meeting soon and will report any updates at the next meeting.

Police – Mrs. Orban Brown expressed her concern over accidents as a result of fallen trees in the road. She suggested using Everbridge to report downed trees and also having barriers around the trees so drivers can see them.

Administration – Mr. Baumann congratulated the staff for doing a good job.

Finance – **1st quarter report** – Mayor Cioppettini gave a YTD report, prepared by our CFO, Karen Fornaro. (attached)

DISCUSSION

Mr. Tolley discussed three amendments of the budget he would like to consider; indicate what the \$25,000 for municipal building improvements would be spent on, OEM stipend restored to \$3000 and make an adjustment to stop paying out to Mendham Sewer West.

Mr. Baumann stated the Fire Committee has had productive talks regarding new fire equipment.

Mayor Cioppettini discussed the steps taken to reach the final budget adoption and the desire to do it right and not make mistakes going forward. He also stated the Capital plan will be looked at by the Township's professionals after the budget is adopted.

Mrs. Orban Brown expressed her desire to develop a schedule to pay back what is owed to the town by Mendham Sewer West within a reasonable amount of time.

HEARING PERSONS PRESENT

Warren Gisser, 39 West Main Street, thanked Ms. Fornaro for answering the budget questions that were emailed to her. He also stressed how important the Capital Budget is.

Michael Merritt, 73 Mountainside Rd, expressed his concern regarding the Committee's talk of a long term capital plan and explained that Committee already starting discussing Capital items for the DPW and Fire Department 1 ½ years ago.

Patricia Zimmerman, 3 West Main Street, asked that the budget questions that residents emailed to the CFO, be made public.

ADJOURNMENT

The Township Committee motioned to move into executive session at 8:30 PM and moved back into Regular Session to vote on two resolutions as follows:

RESOLUTION 2016-55

AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF POLICE CHIEF, STEVEN S. CRAWFORD'S RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE APRIL 27, 2016

Mayor Cioppettini read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mrs. Orban Brown moved. Mrs. Baumann seconded. All members present voted to approve.

RESOLUTION 2016-56

AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF ACTING POLICE CHIEF, ROSS JOHNSON, EFFECTIVE APRIL 27, 2016

Mayor Cioppettini read the resolution by title and called for a motion. Mr. Baumann moved. Mrs. Orban Brown seconded. All members present voted to approve.

The Township Committee motioned to adjourn at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Beth Zichelli
Township Clerk

Mary Beth Zichelli

Subject: FW: Last night's "hearing person present"

To the Editor,
Township Committee Members,

My recent letter addressed the Mendham Township Committee's responsibility to budget for and provide capital equipment to support fire safety. It has inspired questions about the necessity of a new engine in Brookside and its role in fire operations within our community and the surrounding towns. Although our operational model has been stable and effective for many years, engines are expensive and the questions are reasonable. I have been asked by the members of Brookside Engine Company No. 1 to provide a summary explanation and justification for the replacement of our water supply Engine #2, a 26 year old vehicle that has been out of service now for several months.

At its heart, fire suppression is simple...put the wet stuff on the red stuff. But look around your property...how far is your home from the nearest fire hydrant? For most homes in Mendham Township, it is physically impossible for a single engine to connect to a fire hydrant and also support fire operations. So our mode of operation depends critically on two engines. In a typical scenario, the first volunteers to the fire house staff the attack engine (for us, the 2010 Engine 3) and proceed as quickly as safety permits to the scene. But they make one key stop on the way...at the fire hydrant closest to the scene. A firefighter hops off, grabs the 5 inch water supply hose, "wraps" the hydrant, and returns to the cab. As the engine proceeds to the scene, hose lays out from the bed of the engine. "Little fire...little water." Our attack Engine 3 carries 750 gallons of water and supports compressed air foam...an efficient firefighting agent that maximizes the effectiveness of the available water. The hope is that the attack engine can reach the scene quickly enough that this will be sufficient to suppress the fire. But fires double in size very quickly. Especially if interior hand lines are put into operation, additional water is needed urgently, both to be effective at saving resident lives and property, and to protect the firefighters themselves. "Big fire...big water." The volunteers who arrive at the fire house after the attack engine has departed staff the water supply engine...our now defunct Engine 2...and proceed to the "wrapped" fire hydrant. They connect the hydrant to their engine, and the engine to the 5 inch hose left by the attack engine. Now there is a stable, high volume water supply to support fire operations. These two engines connected in series to the hydrant supply support the typical minimal configuration required to provide fire suppression for our primary response area, the east side of Mendham Township. Travel times from Ralston preclude placing our second essential vehicle there. Counting on neighboring communities to provide essential apparatus involves similar delays, and is irresponsible and exploitative. (Note, expensive apparatus needed for atypical scenarios are effectively coordinated between neighboring communities...for example, Mendham Borough supports us with their ladder truck "Quint 3", and the Township supports them with the ~4000 gallon Ralston Tender 12.)

Water supply engines are standard, and we are looking for low cost options to meet the basic needs that Engine 2 has provided for 26 years: these include 1000 gallons of water on board, a 1500 gallon-per-minute pump, hard suction (for drafting where hydrants are not available), large diameter hose to augment the quantity on the attack engine, and other standard equipment to support and transport fire personnel. We are open to the options of purchasing or leasing a new or quality used vehicle that meets these requirements.

If this quick primer on fire suppression brings other questions to mind, I am happy to respond. I can be reached at michael.merritt@bec1.org.

Respectfully,

Michael Merritt

President, Brookside Engine Company No. 1