

**Town of East Hampton
Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 23, 2024
Town Hall Council Chambers and Zoom**

MINUTES

Present: Chairman Dean Markham, Vice Chairperson Karen Wanat, Council Members Deborah Cunningham, Tim Feegel, Richard Knotek, Jack Solomon, and Jordan Werme and Town Manager David Cox.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Markham called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers and via Zoom.

Adoption of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Werme, to adopt the agenda as submitted. Voted (7-0).

Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting of April 9, 2024

A motion was made by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to approve the minutes of the Town Council Regular Meeting of April 9, 2024 as submitted. Voted (7-0).

Public Remarks

Chris Austerman, 15 Lakewood Road, provided a packet of information for the Council members that will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. It is related to his concerns over the lack of oversight at the Lakewood Road development/timber harvest.

Sal Nucifora, 147 Colchester Avenue, commented about Board of Education ECS funding and the need to pushback against the legislators in Hartford and more towns need to get together to fight the issue for ECS funding.

Nick Mougey, 73 Bay Road, commented that he took pictures up the road and feels it is a disaster waiting to happen. The mitigation efforts are not good and unstable material is waiting to release dirt and silt into the pond.

Presentations

Presentation of the Board of Education Quarterly Financial Report

Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith provided an overview of a worksheet and description of the current state of the Board of Education budget deficit. The documents will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. He discussed more lobbying being needed in Hartford for the unfunded mandates being placed on the school systems. East Hampton isn't the only town facing these special education issues.

Bids & Contacts

None

Resolutions/ Ordinances/ Policies/ Proclamations

Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution for Sustainable CT

The resolution was discussed at the prior meeting. The updated resolution includes having Town Manager input and coordination with the task force. The motion was tabled at the last meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to remove the motion from the table. Voted (7-0)

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Mr. Werme, to adopt the updated resolution for Sustainable CT as presented. Voted (7-0)

Continued Business

Sub-Committee Reports & Updates

Mr. Feegel attended a recent Ambulance Board meeting. He spoke about the ambulance's business plan from the Holdsworth Company.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action on Board of Finance Recommended FY2024-2025 General Government, Board of Education, Debt Service and Capital Improvement Budgets

- **Presentation and Discussion on Road Improvement Program**

Director of Public Works Matt Walsh provided an overview of a memo and charts with the current list of roads and road ratings. This information will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. Mr. Walsh discussed how the road program works and the levels of funding and road ratings for the future.

- **Presentation and Discussion on Police Matters**

Police Chief Dennis Woessner introduced Lieutenant Hardie Burgie who was recently promoted to the Lieutenant position. Chief Woessner went on to review a memo regarding additional staffing for the Police Department. The memo will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

- **Discussion of Other Matters Related to the Budget**

Chairman Markham reviewed the anticipated budget schedule:

The budgets will be approved by Town Council on Tuesday, May 14, the Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 28, and the Budget Referendum will be held on Tuesday, June 4. There will also be a Public Hearing held on either April 30 or May 7.

New Business

Discussion and Possible Action on Public Service Associate Job Description

Mr. Cox provided an overview of the Public Service Associate job description. It has been updated at the request of the Library Director.

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to approve the updated Public Service Associate job description as presented. Voted (7-0)

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Cox provided his written report for the Council members which will be included with the minutes filed in the Town Clerk's Office. An additional item he reviewed was for the Brownfields Redevelopment agency and the two grants totaling \$700,000 that they are working on related to 13 Summit, 1 Watrous, 13 Watrous and 3 Walnut for additional environmental testing. The environmental company they are working with is also identifying data gaps from previous reports and years.

Appointments

A motion was made by Mr. Knotek, seconded by Ms. Wanat, to reappoint Barbara Moore to the CT Office of Tourism Board with a term through May 31, 2027. Voted (7-0).

Tax Refunds

A motion was made by Mr. Feegel, seconded by Mr. Solomon, to approve tax refunds in the amount of \$530.98. Voted (7-0).

Public Remarks

Bob Yenker, 83 Spellman Point Road, commented on the Lakewood Road timber harvest/drainage and Edgewater drainage not being on the agenda for this meeting. He spoke about prior Council, Planning & Zoning and IWWA meetings feeling nothing is being done and a lack of enforcement.

Justin Kelly, 31 Lakewood Road, commented that the town will always need money and we shouldn't trade conservation or preservation of land for tax money.

Communications, Correspondence & Announcements

Ms. Wanat announced that the Center School play Madagascar Jr will be presented this weekend.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Solomon, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Voted (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Sirois
Recording Clerk