

**TOWN OF EASTCHESTER
MINUTES OF THE TOWN BOARD
March 5, 2024**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7:30 p.m., at the Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Colavita called the Meeting to Order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: Supervisor Anthony Colavita
Councilman Luigi Marcoccia
Councilwoman Sheila Marcotte
Councilwoman Theresa Nicholson
Councilman Anthony Giacobbe

Also Present: Town Clerk Joseph Dooley
Town Attorney Louis Reda
Town Comptroller Dawn Donovan
Superintendent of Parks & Recreation/Senior Services Sally Veltidi
Police Chief Joe Rodriguez

IV. OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD ON AGENDA ITEMS –

Kristen Smith (46 Elm Rock Road Bronxville): Kristen Smith is a Board Member of the Tuckahoe Youth Association (TYA) and has two boys ages 11 & 12 in TYA. She mentioned that TYA is an organization that believes that children ages 4 -12 that go to public or private schools in our Town should be able to play recreational sports run by our volunteer organizations. Many of the children that go to our private schools (ICS, Chapel and St. Joe's) are part of church communities and these families contribute to our communities and she believes should be allowed on the ball fields with our Town residents. She went on to mention that TYA does support the Town's stance on non-residents that do not attend schools in Town and has adhered to this policy. She mentioned that the non-residents in the private schools comes to about 45 children spread across five divisions within TYA and that this is not overwhelming. TYA has never had any field issues as they use Labriola Park and sometimes Cottle, Chester Heights and ICS. ICS has given access to their field for over 12 years and she is worried that they could lose access to this field with this decision. She ended by asking for a compromise that would allow these children to play on Town fields.

Preston Flammang (Non-resident from Fleetwood): Mr. Flammang put together a couple of slides, one showing the breakdown of Non-residents (19%) vs. Non-residents in Private Schools (6%) vs. Residents(75%) and one showing the breakdown of Non-residents (75%) vs. Non-residents in Private Schools (25%). His slides were used as his talking points to show that eliminating the non-residents should take care of the Town's field capacity issues and that the non-residents in private schools are such a small number that the Town should be able to accommodate these children. He went on to say that he has spoken with Iona and they should be able to allow the Town to use their fields.

Joe Spillane (101 Bolder Trial, Bronxville P.O. Yonkers): Highlighted that what has been built with the leagues over the years has been great and that it has benefited his son. Although his son has aged out, he would like the Town to continue to allow participation in the leagues by non-resident/private school children.

Steve Rebanco (10 Meadow Avenue West Bronxville P.O.): Wanted to complain about the Eastchester Little League Board for not playing his son in the District Team game and wanted the Town Board to take a look at what is going on with the League.

Supervisor Colavita responded by mentioning that the Town doesn't get involved in the running of the leagues, the Town is there to make fields available. He also mentioned that the Town has not received any offers form anyone about additional fields. He also wanted to highlight that the Town is not bound by Little League rules and that what the Town is doing is not in violation of Little League Rules. With respect to the numbers, there are a lot of users of the fields beyond

the baseball/softball leagues. There is the Blue Devil Programs, the Tuckahoe and Bronxville Football Leagues, the Bronxville Youth Lacrosse League, and the 1,600-player Eastchester Youth Soccer League. This field capacity problem is also compounded with the loss of Scout Field from the County and the loss of Leewood Park (renovations) and possibly Chester Heights this year. At the last Town Board Meeting the Town had prepared a Resolution and based on feedback made some changes. The Town will enforce the Non-resident Program with two exceptions; 1) the public-school non-residents due to reciprocity issues and 2) anyone going into their last year of play. Supervisor Colavita then moved to the matter within Section VIII CORRESPONDENCE - F) MEMORANDUM FROM THE SUPERVISOR RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE USE OF TOWN OWNED FIELDS BY YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUES for a vote. On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

Preston Flammang (Non-resident from Fleetwood): Asked is anyone had reached out to Iona as he has. Supervisor Colavita mentioned that the Board had not and has heard nothing from them. Mr. Flammang then brought up the numbers and capacity issues again.

V. APPOINTMENTS –

A). ZONING BOARD MEMBER

Councilman Giacobbe offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Marcotte to approve the appointment of Mr. Paul Weber to the Zoning Board of Appeals effective March 5, 2024 – December 31, 2026.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

B). COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE – JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT

Councilman Marcoccia offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Marcotte to approve the probationary appointment of Brian Donovan of Tuckahoe, NY as Jr. Accountant effective March 18, 2024 at the annual salary of \$77,811 (CSEA Grade VII, Step 8 Sch. 3).

Brian has successfully passed the civil service exam and his name appears on the Westchester County Civil Service List #60-222.

The probationary appointment will be effective March 18, 2024 at the annual salary of \$ 77,811 (CSEA Grade VII, Step 8, Sch. 3). He will be required to serve a probationary period which will run not less than twelve weeks and not more than fifty-two weeks. Funds have been provided in the 2024 budget.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

A). APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2024 TOWN BOARD MEETING

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Nicholson to approve the Minutes of the February 6, 2024 Town Board Meeting as prepared by Town Clerk Joseph Dooley.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

VII. REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS –

A). LAW DEPARTMENT REPORT –

1. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER A PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER AND HPE HUNTINGTON POWER

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Giacobbe to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the Supervisor to execute and deliver a Purchase Agreement between the Town of Eastchester and HPE Huntington Power in relation to the purchase and installation of a new Generator in the amount of \$98,186.94

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

2. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN BOARD TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF JOHN SARCONI, ESQ. TO SERVE AS COUNCIL ON VARIOUS LEGAL MATTERS

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Marcocchia to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the Town Board to engage the services of John Sarcone, Esq. to serve as Council regarding various legal matters and be it further resolved that John Sarcone, Esq. will be compensated at a rate of \$225/hour for partners, \$170/hour for associates, and \$75/hour for paralegals.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

B). TOWN CLERK’S REPORT for January 2024 was received for filing.

C). POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Supervisor Colavita tabled this item as it will be presented at the next meeting

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE –

A). MEMORANDUM FROM THE COMPTROLLER RE: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENT – SEASONAL

Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Marcotte to approve the following seasonal employees:

| NAME | JOB TITLE | APPOINTMENT TYPE | RATE | EFFECTIVE DATE | DEPT. |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| John Yozzo | Laborer | Seasonal | \$17.00 | 3/6/2024 | Hwy |

B). MEMORANDUM FROM THE COMPTROLLER RE: PROCUREMENT POLICY UPDATE- OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PURCHASING DECISIONS

Per a request from Comptroller Dawn Donovan, Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Giacobbe to approve the revision of the Town of Eastchester procurement policy by updating Section XII - OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PURCHASING DECISIONS as presented below:

- Anthony Colavita - Town Supervisor
- Luigi Marcocchia - Town Council
- Theresa Nicholson - Town Council
- Sheila Marcotte - Town Council
- Anthony S. Giacobbe - Town Council
- Dawn T. Donovan - Town Comptroller
- Janet M. Calano - Town Justice
- Frederick Salanitro - Town Justice
- Joseph D. Dooley - Town Clerk
- Rocco Cacciola - Receiver of Taxes
- Louis Reda - Town Attorney
- Joseph Rodriguez - Police Chief
- Rocco Latella - Superintendent of Highway
- Sally Veltidi - Superintendent of Bldg., Parks & Recreation, Sr. Services
- Carlo Valente - Building Inspector
- Michelle Liscio - Town Assessor
- Tracy Wright - Library Director
- George Papademetriou - Lake Isle Manager

The revision is pursuant to Chapter 402 of the Laws of 2007, effective March 1, 2024. The revision will satisfy Section 104 of the NYS General Municipal Law which requires that the names of all municipal officials responsible for purchasing decisions be named in the procurement policy.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

C). MEMORANDUM FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE EASTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY RE: RESTROOM ALTERATIONS

Supervisor Colavita reviewed a memo submitted by Tracy Wright, Director of the Eastchester Library, in which she reported that two bids for the Bathroom Alterations Project at the Eastchester Library were received and opened on Tuesday, February 22, 2024 in the Town's Clerk's Office. The bids were from Suburban Contracting Company for \$199,152.00 and Milcon Construction Company for \$211,500.00.

Per a request from Tracy Wright, Director of the Eastchester Library, Councilwoman Marcotte offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Nicholson to approve a RESOLUTION awarding the Eastchester Public Library Bathroom Alterations Project Contract to Suburban Contracting Company for the bid amount of \$199,152.00.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

D). MEMORANDUM FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION RE: ePACT AGREEMENT

Supervisor Colavita reviewed a memo submitted by Sally Veltidi Superintendent of Parks and Recreation to approve the contract between the Town of Eastchester and ePACT which is an online Health and Emergency Network for \$4,550.00. This amount includes a discount based on membership in NRPA- National Parks and Recreation Association.

The Westchester County Department of Health requires many forms for a camper to participate in Summer Camp. The Town of Eastchester has over 800 campers as well as 200 staff that need to hand in paperwork before camp begins each summer. The ePACT system will help the Recreation Department with Custom set-up electronic Health Record & Management; waiver management (E-Signature) and custom consents (for trips, swimming, swim tests, use of bug spray, etc); custom other operational questions and shared filed collections, email and one-way text messaging (for emergencies or reminders), automated messaging for members, advanced filtering & reporting and an option for a mobile app with offline access (for when the Dept of Health comes to camp to inspect).

Per a request from Sally Veltidi Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Supervisor Colavita offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Giacobbe to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing Supervisor Colavita to sign the agreement with ePACT: your online Health and Emergency Network.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

E). MEMORANDUM FROM SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION RE: 2024 MUNICIPAL CONTRIBUTION TO SOUTH EAST CONSORTIUM

Supervisor Colavita reviewed a memo submitted by Sally Veltidi, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, for the approval of a contract between the Town of Eastchester and South East Consortium (SEC) for \$30,015.30 for services they provide for the disabled in Eastchester, Bronxville, and Tuckahoe. This is the first time in 15 years that there has been an increase in the amount of the contract.

This amount is included and approved in the 2024 Recreation Department Budget .

Per a request from Sally Veltidi, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Councilwoman Marcotte offered a motion that was seconded by Councilman Marcoccia to approve a RESOLUTION authorizing the Supervisor to sign the agreement with South East Consortium and the Town of Eastchester for 2024.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

F). MEMORANDUM FROM THE SUPERVISOR RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING THE USE OF TOWN OWNED FIELDS BY YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUES

Councilwoman Marcotte offered a motion that was seconded by Councilwoman Nicholson to approved a RESOLUTION confirming the Town of Eastchester's Policy regarding the use of fields by resident youth sports leagues as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Supervisor and the Town Board of Eastchester hereby confirm the policy regarding the use of fields by Residents

WHEREAS, the Town owns fields utilized for youth sports and recreation by various leagues by issued permits, and the Town spends significant taxpayer funds to build, improve and maintain the said fields, and

WHEREAS, there is a significant number of residents that wish to participate and use Town fields, and there is a recognized shortage of fields, thereby making it difficult to provide adequate facilities for the permitted play, and

WHEREAS, the Town has had a decades long policy of permitting its fields to the youth leagues for resident use only, and over the past several years, the youth leagues in town who receive permits from the Town for utilizing town-owned taxpayer-funded fields have opened enrollment to non-residents, and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Advisory Board and Eastchester, Tuckahoe and Bronxville School Districts support the resident-only policy of the Town, and furthermore, the Town partners with the three school districts to share fields owned by the districts and issues permits to the youth leagues for school district owned fields and facilities, and

WHEREAS, the Town is desirous of reaffirming, stating and enforcing the resident only youth league field use policy, and

THEREFORE,

1. Effective immediately, residents ONLY shall be eligible to participate or enroll in youth sports and/or youth recreation programs and/or leagues or camps that use town-owned fields and facilities by permits issued by the Town for said use or school-owned fields/facilities permitted to the Town by the districts.
2. Non-resident students duly enrolled in the Eastchester, Tuckahoe or Bronxville Public School Districts shall be eligible for participation and enrollment in the youth sports and/or recreation programs and/or leagues or camps that use town-owned fields and facilities via town-issued permits, conditioned upon:
 - a). a request by said school district and
 - b). further provided the school districts provide school fields and facilities to the Town for the issuance of permits
by the Town to the youth leagues and programs at the same or greater number of hours of time and usage.
3. Proof of residency shall be submitted by the youth leagues or programs upon request by the Recreation Department. Non-Resident students enrolled in the three Public School Districts shall provide a transcript or other proof of enrollment satisfactory to the Recreation Department. Proof of residency shall be verified by the Recreation Department by documentation deemed sufficient by the Recreation Department in its sole discretion.
4. Any violation of this policy shall result in the temporary or permanent suspension of the town issued permit for the violating league or program for a period of time to be determined by the Superintendent of Recreation.
5. Any non-resident entering his/her last year of eligibility and who has been previously enrolled in any Town-wide youth sports and/or recreation program and/or league or camp may enroll for the upcoming 2024 league or program. After the 2024 season ends, this eligibility shall cease and expire without further notice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

On the roll call, all voted "AYE." Motion carried.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – None

X. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS –

- COUNCILMAN MARCOCCIA

Councilman Marcoccia congratulated the Tuckahoe Boys and Girls Basketball Teams for making it to the Semi-finals at the County Center with the Tuckahoe Girls Basketball Team being victorious and moving on to win the Section 1, Class C, Championship game. On the Lake Isle front, applications have been mailed out with registration beginning April 1st. Office hours will be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends. Golf opening day will be

determined at the end of this month and an update will be provided at the next Town Board Meeting. 2023 golf members will be notified via e-mail. The Lake Isle Advisory Board's 1st meeting of 2024 is scheduled for April 3rd at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

- **COUNCILWOMAN NICHOLSON**

Councilwoman Nicholson congratulated the Tuckahoe Varsity Cheerleading Team for making history by winning the school's first New York State Public High School Athletic Association Championship. They also were the Section 1 Champions and earned 3rd place at the UCA Cheer Nationals Championships in Disney. She also congratulated the Tuckahoe High School Varsity Girls Basketball team for winning their 3rd consecutive Section 1, Class C championship game which she attended. Their next stop is Class C regional game in Beacon. She also congratulated the Blue Devil Cheerleaders 8U and 10U who were awarded as National Champions at the Battle of the Boardwalk Competition in Atlantic City.

- **COUNCILWOMAN MARCOTTE**

Councilwoman Marcotte also congratulated the Tuckahoe Varsity Basketball Team and Cheerleading Team for their accomplishments. Councilwoman Marcotte also mentioned that the Bronxville Village Elections will be held on March 19th and the last day to register to vote for this election is March 8th. The Presidential Primary Election will be on April 2nd and the last day to register for this election is March 23rd. Early voting for the Presidential Primary will start on March 23rd through March 30th. She also mentioned that this year's Eastchester St. Patrick's Day Parade will be this Sunday, March 10th at 3 p.m. Congratulations to this year's Grand Marshall John Fix and the Honorees Patty and Billy George, a couple that has done a lot of great work for the Irish over the past 20 years.

- **COUNCILMAN GIACOBBE**

Councilman Giacobbe provided a Library update mentioning that it is Film Weekend at the Library where they will be showing IP Men and The Holdovers. He also highlighted that residents should take advantage of the free museum passes that are available at the Library and on their web-site. For his Parks and Recreation updates Councilman Giacobbe mentioned that the EIBL finals are this weekend and that Summer Camp Registration opens March 16th at 10 a.m. with information being available within the Parks and Recreation section of the Town's web-site. The photo-op with the Easter Bunny event is scheduled for March 23rd at Haindl Field. Regarding the Non-resident field issue, Councilman Giacobbe closed by adding that Eastchester is a small town with a small budget and that the priority needs to be for the taxpayers for its fields. From first-hand experience, he noted that there is a shortage of fields and there is always a tight window in practicing and scheduling games. There is always a lot of competition for these fields.

- **SUPERVISOR COLAVITA – No report**

XI. **SECOND OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

Shawn Nealis (24 Crawford Street Eastchester): Mentioned that he agreed with the Board on the Non-resident Field issue. He also requested an update on the Crawford Street Project. Supervisor Colavita mentioned that the Town's engineer is working on things but there is one little glitch. The glitch is that the State has a law that if you are on the ground for the project as the engineer you can't be the engineer for the project itself. There appears to be a solution to this that it is being worked on. The survey work is all done and will be available for the public at some point.

Dennis Convery (18 Anpell Drive Eastchester): Appreciated the attention regarding the Non-residency issue but thinks that the travel teams are taking up a lot of attention and field times. The travel team in the spring is taking away players from the regular league and taking up more time as they require 3 times the practice time. He believes that the Town should look at more oversight measures of the Leagues to address issues such as this. He would also like the Town to actively look at the field logs to see who is using the fields. Councilman Giacobbe and Supervisor Colavita reiterated that the Town does not get involved in the day to day operations of the Leagues.

Eddie Reardon (59 Joyce Road Eastchester): This is 7th Year on the Little League Board. He mentioned that the League has done a lot of work to improve the fields in Town so that they can handle more capacity. He also wanted to highlight that the Travel Team played all of their games outside of Town and was very limited with practice time on the Town's fields.

Mike Vecchione 11 Maple Avenue: Eastchester Little League President. He wanted to mention that regarding the non-residency issue, the leagues understand that this is the end of it and that they all understand it. Regarding the travel programs, the spring is the recreation season and there is only 1 travel team in the spring. For the summer and fall seasons it is difficult to put together a recreational league so travel leagues are used and there is always enough field space.

He also highlighted that the League spent \$20K to fix Waverly Field and \$15K to fix up the Anne Hutchinson Field. This year they are fixing up the batting cages at Garth Road. He highlighted that a lot of the monies raised goes into fixing up the Town's facilities.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further public business, Supervisor Colavita offered a motion to adjourn with all in agreement.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Minutes prepared by

Joseph D. Dooley
Town Clerk