

MINUTES
Township of West Milford
PLANNING BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
February 23, 2023
7:00 p.m.
Main Meeting Room

LEGAL

In accordance with Chapter 231, Public Laws of 1975 of the State of New Jersey, adequate advance notice of this Regular Meeting was published in the Herald News. A copy has been filed with the Township Clerk's office and posted on the bulletin board in the main corridor of the Town Hall. Please take note of the fire exits in this room in the event of an emergency.

7:02 PM

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED

ROLL CALL

Regular Members: Mayor Michele Dale, Councilwoman Erik, Michael Gerst, James Rogers, Geoffrey Syme, Linda Connolly, Christopher Garcia, Steven Castronova, Joanne Blom

Late:

Board Engineer:

Board Planner:

PUBLIC PORTION

The meeting was opened to the public.

Seeing no one Councilwoman Erik **moved to close** the public portion, **second** by Michael Gerst.

All in favor

MEMORIALIZATIONS-None

APPLICATIONS- None

NEW OR ONGOING BUSINESS -

Master Plan Committee:

This evenings meeting consisted of face/face meetings with 3 Planning Board Attorney candidates. Talking points were rates, availability and experience.

The Board had a brief discussion prior to seeing anyone that included the fact that two new candidates submitted qualifications in response to the recent RFQ.

A soft poll was taken and determined the Board would speak with the 3 candidates before deciding if bringing in additional firms was necessary. Concerns were 1, the length of time the Attorney position had been vacant and 2, not to rule out any options in haste.

The candidates each had a staggered time slot assigned.

First appeared, Thomas Collins, Vogel Chait, Collins and Schneider arrived, introduced himself and sat at table on the floor before the Board. Mr. Collins stated he is a Professional Planner, licensed Attorney and holds a Master from Rutgers in City.

Regional Planning. He is an environmental Attorney and familiar with the West Milford and the Highlands Act. Mr. Molica is a partner in the firm and would work as a team to share meetings with Thomas Molica.

Mr. Collins has experience working with townships with similar demographics and municipalities located within the Highlands.

The Board had a question and answer period with Mr. Collins.

Ann Marie Rizzuto from Weiner Law Group located in Parsippany, NJ stepped forward. Ms. Rizzuto stated she would be the liaison to the firm working with her partner Matthew Gilson and Mr. Kienz would supervise the two. Ms. Rizzuto stated her credentials were in the Bio submitted. Ms. Rizzuto stated she has served a broad spectrum of townships types.

The Board had a question and answer period with Ms. Rizzuto.

James Bryce from Murphy, McKeon PC located in Riverdale, NJ came forward with James Parisi. The firm currently represents 6 Boards and have a history in land use and has a good understanding of its working. Mr. Bryce would not be present for the first several meetings. Mr. Parisi would substitute. Mr. Bryces flat fee/monthly retainer was discussed.

The Board had a question and answer period with Mr. Bryce and Mr. Parisi.

Discussion continued regarding interviewing more candidates or move forward with the Boards choice.

Councilwoman Erik made a motion to hire Mr. Collins and second by Mayor Dale.

Roll Call:

Yes: Mayor Dale, Councilwoman Erik, Michael Gerst, James Rogers, Geoffrey Syme, Christopher Garcia, Steven Castronova, JoAnn Blom

No: Linda Connolly

Abstain:

MINUTES

Councilwoman Erik made a **motion** to approve minutes for January 26, 2023 Re-Organization meeting, January 26, 2023 regular meeting and for February 23, 2023 – second by James Rogers.

All were in favor

MISCELANIOUS

The Board discussed the need to amend the current By-Laws to accommodate for a change in the Board size. Article 2 section 8, Article 6 section 3 and Article 8 section 2.

Mayor Dale made a **motion** to amend the Planning Board By-Laws as recommended by the Chairman, **second** by Councilwoman Erik.

Roll Call:

Yes: Mayor Dale, Councilwoman Erik, Michael Gerst, James Rogers, Geoffrey Syme, Christopher Garcia, Steven Castronova, JoAnn Blom

No: Linda Connolly

Abstain:

ADJOURNMENT 8: PM

A **motion** was made by Mayor Dale, **second** by Michael Gerst.

All were in favor

The next scheduled meeting, March 23, 2023

Respectfully submitted;


Pamela Jordan,
Zoning Board Secretary