

**MEETING OF JANUARY 5, 2016**  
**OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEHOLDERS AND COMMONALTY**  
**OF THE TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON**

Present: Francis Bock, Trustee Clerk  
Pat Mansir, Deputy Clerk  
Bill Taylor, Deputy Clerk  
Tyler Armstrong  
Brian Byrnes  
Rick Drew  
James Grimes  
Diane McNally

Not Present: Timothy Bock

Also Present: Richard Whalen, Trustee Attorney  
(signed in & on record) Lori Miller-Carr, Trustee Secretary  
Christopher Walsh, Star Reporter  
Ira Barocas  
George Eldi

The meeting was opened at approximately 6:00 p.m. by Ms. McNally. She briefly explained the process for appointing officers to the Board for those new to the procedure.

Mr. Whalen opened the floor to nominations for Clerk of the Trustees for the year 2016. A motion was made by Mr. Byrnes to nominate Francis Bock for Clerk of the Trustees for 2016. This motion was seconded by Ms. Mansir. Mr. Whalen asked if there were any other nominations for Clerk of the Trustees for the year 2016. Mr. Grimes made a motion to nominate Diane McNally as Clerk of for the year 2016. As this motion was not seconded, and there were no other nominations, a motion was made by Mr. Byrnes to close nominations for Clerk of the Trustees for the year 2016. This motion was seconded by Ms. Mansir and unanimously approved. In a vote of 7 to 1, with Ms. McNally opposed, Francis Bock was nominated as Clerk of the Trustees.

Mr. Whalen opened the floor to nominations for Deputy Clerk of the Trustees for the year 2016. A motion was made by Mr. Armstrong to nominate Pat Mansir as 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Clerk of the Trustees for 2016. This motion was seconded by Mr. Drew. As there were no other nominations, the Trustees unanimously approved to close nominations for Deputy Clerk of the Trustees for 2016. A motion was made by Mr. Byrnes to close nominations for Deputy Clerk for the year 2016. This motion was seconded by Mr. Armstrong. In a vote of 7 to 1, Ms. Mansir was appointed as the Deputy Clerk. Ms. McNally was opposed to this motion. A motion was then made by the Clerk to approve Annual

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Resolution #1 to appoint a 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Clerk of the Trustees for the year 2016. This motion was seconded by Ms. Mansir. (Ms. McNally and Mr. Grimes were opposed to this motion). Mr. Grimes asked for clarification of what the responsibilities of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Clerk would be. The Clerk explained there has always been a full-time Clerk and a part time Assistant Clerk; but now the Clerk also will be part-time. He feels it will be more efficient to have two Deputy Clerks to assist the Clerk. He went on to say the Town provided approximately \$40,000.00 toward the Clerk's position; and the Assistant Clerk received approximately just over \$10,000.00. He noted there will actually be a cost reduction as they are proposing the Clerk receive a pay decrease to \$22,300.00 and the two (2) Deputy Clerks will receive \$18,199.00 each. The Clerk added he discussed this modification with the Town Budget Officer, Len Bernard and the State Comptroller. Ms. McNally stated whenever the former Board of Trustees attempted to make a budget modification, following the adoption of the budget; they were told it couldn't be done. She felt the reason for the change to the positions on the Board is not to better serve the people of East Hampton Town, but an effort to best serve the nine Trustees that have been elected. As there is not someone who can take on the role of a fulltime Clerk, this is the alternative that has been decided upon. Ms. McNally pointed out she and Mr. Bock have held the fulltime seat, the Board is now going backwards with regard to the abilities and amount of time being spent by the Trustee Clerk. Ms. Mansir said it is her opinion anything that makes things flow better is to the betterment of the public. Mr. Armstrong said he felt it will better serve the Board to have a division of responsibilities among three Trustees. Ms. McNally added the specific responsibilities of the Deputy Clerks should be made very clear. The Clerk replied the responsibilities will be made clear at the next Trustee meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Drew to nominate Bill Taylor as 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Clerk of the Trustees for the year 2016. This motion was seconded by Pat Mansir and approved. Ms. McNally and Mr. Grimes were opposed to this motion. Mr. Whalen asked if there were any other nominations for 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Clerk of the Trustees for 2016. In a vote of 7 to 6, with Ms. McNally and Mr. Grimes opposed, Bill Taylor was nominated as 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Clerk of the Trustees for 2016.

The remaining 2016 Annual Resolutions were offered by the Clerk and approved with minor clerical amendments: #2-**Employ Secretary** (seconded by Mr. Armstrong); #3-**Employ Attorney**- (seconded by Ms. Mansir- Ms. McNally was opposed); #4- Designated Banks- (seconded by Mr. Armstrong); #5- **Petty Cash**- (seconded by Mr. Taylor); #6- **Bonding- Clerk, Deputy Clerks (2), Secretary and Financial Officer**- (seconded by Ms. Mansir); #7- **Authority to withdraw from depositories**- (seconded by Mr. Drew); #8- **Official Newspaper**- (seconded by Ms. Mansir); #9- **Meeting Set-ups**- (seconded by Mr. Grimes- Ms. McNally was opposed); #10- **Salary Schedule**- (seconded by Mr. Taylor- Ms. McNally opposed); #11- **Part-time Office Help**- (seconded by Ms. Mansir); #12- **Office Operations**- (seconded by Mr. Drew); and #13- **Office Access to Trustee Documents**- (seconded by Ms. Mansir). A motion was made by Ms. Mansir to end the approval of the Annual Resolutions for tonight, but the remaining original resolutions will be voted on at the meeting of January 11, 2016. This motion was seconded by Mr. Drew and approved. Ms. McNally was opposed to this motion.

In a discussion regarding Annual Resolution #9- Meeting Set-ups, Ms. McNally asked why the Board wants to change the meeting schedule and location. The Clerk replied the new Board members would like to hold meetings at a larger venue to make it more comfortable for the public; and as Town Hall was not available due to the ZBA meetings on Tuesday evenings; Monday was chosen. Ms. McNally questioned why the Board would change their format for the ZBA. Mr. Armstrong said the

main reason they decided to move the meetings to the Town Hall is because the current office has not been large enough to accommodate some of the crowds that have attended. Ms. McNally replied the Trustees had a very controversial issue which when discussed at meetings and those were very well attended; but it was an unusual occurrence. She added her concern is the Board changing a well-established format of a governmental board to accommodate an appointed one. The Clerk said when he was first elected as Trustee, the Board met once a month at Town Hall and the meetings were moved to the Trustee office for some reason. Ms. McNally explained the meetings were moved because of the construction being done at Town Hall. The Clerk pointed out when the Trustees were first established, they met at the Town meeting place and now they are going back to tradition by holding the meetings at Town Hall. Mr. Taylor said he felt the move was being made to accommodate the public and LTV for filming.

Concerning Annual Resolution #10- Salary Schedule, Ms. McNally pointed out felt the increase of the attorney fee from \$15,600.00 to \$42,000.00 is substantial. Mr. Whalen stated this is a flat fee, and what he feels is economically sustainable for his own business. Ms. Mansir pointed out Mr. Whalen is a planner- and there will be issues where the Trustees will need his expertise in terms of planning and logistics within the Town. Ms. McNally inquired if the increase to the attorney fees will detrimentally affect the other outside professional costs anticipated for the Town budget line. Ms. Mansir noted the funds which will be given to the attorney are going to come from funding which was earmarked for the Clerk's salary. Ms. McNally said she didn't understand how more money can be allotted for the attorney and two Deputy Clerks. The Clerk added \$20,000.00 will be diverted from the health insurance that was paid for the full time Clerk.

Mr. Whalen stated he appreciates that the majority of the Board has selected him to serve as their attorney. He said his predecessor, John Courtney, has served the Trustees for thirty (30) years; he has done a very good job and feels all credit should be given to Mr. Courtney for his service.

Mr. Byrnes stated Ms. McNally has been a tremendous help to him and he thanked her for her service as Clerk of the Trustees. The remainder of the Board expressed their appreciation to Ms. McNally.

Elaine Jones asked the Board if they are cutting back on the salaries. The Clerk replied the same amount of money the Town Board provides towards salaries; plus that amount which the Trustees previously supplemented through their own funds will not be paid via the Town budget. As the Trustees will no longer do that, it is saving approximately \$24,000.00. Mrs. Jones added she is glad to see a new Board and they will work together.

Mr. Eldi welcomed the new members of the Trustees and added he looks forward to working with them again this year.

Ms. McNally acknowledged the presence of former Assistant Clerk, Stephanie Forsberg. She noted Dr. Forsberg initiated the water quality program. Dr. Forsberg told the Board she will introduce Dr. Gobler to them. She added Dr. Gobler is anxious to work with the Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Taylor to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:40 p.m. This motion was seconded by Ms. Mansir and unanimously approved.

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