

## May 9th, 2016 –Meeting Summary

Members present: Steve Abramson, Rik Kristiansson, Joe Krajewski, Steve Lerner, Gloria Rabinowitz, Rachel Verno

Guests: Jim McKenna; running for Southampton School Board, Joan Tutt, Mary Lynch, Jerry Larsen; East Hampton Village Chief of Police, Tony Newman, Edward Segal, Jane Nichols, Olivier Vidal

Minutes for April were approved.

Guest Jim McKenna gave a summary of his credentials as a teacher in Southampton, an assistant principal in Riverhead and as Superintendent of Schools for Mattituck/Cutchogue. Retired in 2014, Jim began attending meetings of the SH school board, became more and more involved and focused on the proposed merger with Tuckahoe.

Jim is a “fiscal conservative” and feels he could bring much expertise in managing the school budget. Currently Southampton is spending the most dollars per student in all of NY State. Budget is up 2.6 million dollars this year (4% increase).

Every year Board puts monies not used into reserve funds and after a number of years, he thinks some of these funds (cumulatively about \$20 million) could be applied to reduction in school taxes.

Discussion/questions followed on comparing various costs per student in different local districts, and percentage of our property taxes going to school. (approximately 65%) Jim wants open, transparent communication between school board and Community and believes he will be an asset to the board.

Note: After our meeting, school board election was held and Jim did get a seat on Board.

Next guest was Jerry Larsen, Chief of Police in East Hampton Village, who will be interviewing for the position of Chief of Police for Southampton Town. Jerry gave a summary of his background and said he has been attending meetings of the SH Town CACs to get up to par on various SH Town issues.

### **Water Mill PDD re Philip Young property:**

The Board passed an amendment that would allow Young to have 39 units with 6 affordable as opposed to what is allowed now – 24 units with 3 affordable. It would also allow for 33 units with no affordable housing component. (The CAC did not support this amendment) Given the climate regarding PDDs, Rachel thinks Young will most likely drop his PDD proposal and just move forward with this new zoning.

### **Water Consumption Tax:**

The County is proposing a surcharge (tax) based on water consumption in order to fund water quality issues. The proposal, 1 dollar per 1000 gallons of water, would go up for a referendum vote in November. The annual estimate of 73 dollars per family seems low. The County has to come up with a system for

monitoring private well use since the surcharge is based on water consumption through the Suffolk County Water Authority. The SCWA would also have to sign off on the concept of a surcharge. There is also the question of how to handle ag use. At a presentation by the County, CAC member asked the question about how to distinguish between a legitimate farming operation (which may be exempt) and something like the polo fields in Water Mill, which would use 1000 gallons of water per minute, or a homeowner who has ag land that serves as a back yard. Other questions came up regarding how the funds would be distributed and would the East End get its fair share since our water quality vary greatly from other areas in the County. There is also a concern that this referendum could compete with the referendum asking that a certain percentage of CPF funds be used for water quality issues.

**Bridgehampton Gateway PDD Hearing:**

After Town Board heard many arguments on both sides of this issue – PDD verses As of Right, Rachel thinks some sort of hybrid could eventually be approved such as of right with some kind of affordable housing apartments above. Since our CAC meeting, the developer has dropped the PDD application.