

## MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

FEBRUARY 15, 2007

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 10 a.m. by First Selectman, Kevin J. Kopetz. Also present were William F. Mitchell and Janet M. McCarty.

Mr. Mitchell moved approval of the minutes of the regular Selectmen's Meeting of January 11, 2007. Voted: Kopetz-yes, Mitchell-yes, McCarty-yes

Mr. Kopetz presented two letters from Letitia McPhedran, 21 Central Avenue, dated January 29, 2007 and January 30, 2007, in which she supports the Town becoming a "Connecticut Clean Energy Community." The Selectmen will act upon this issue later in this meeting.

Mr. Mitchell moved to ratify a labor contract between the Town of North Haven and Local 818/Supervisors' Union. The five-year contract is retroactive to July 1, 2005 and extends to June 30, 2010. Finance Director, Vincent Palmeri, introduced Union President, William Bennett, and explained the provisions of the contract, which grants an annual wage increase of 3.5% for employees. New employees hired after the signing of the agreement shall contribute 10% of the medial insurance premiums and be eligible to participate in a Defined Contribution Pension Plan. Mr. Kopetz explained that the Town is moving away from a Defined Benefit Pension Plan to reduce costs. Ms. McCarty asked the Finance Director to provide her with a written synopsis of the contract, including a description and salary analysis of the temporary position of Assistant Public Works Director. Voted: Kopetz-yes, Mitchell-yes, McCarty-yes

Mr. Kopetz moved to sign a Call for a Special Town Meeting, to be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at 7 p.m., in the auditorium of North Haven High School, 221 Elm Street, North Haven. Mr. Kopetz outlined the seven resolutions under consideration. They are:

1. To approve the assignment of the Town's tax liens for unpaid real property taxes on the 1991 through 2005 Grand Lists for property owned by North Haven Tire Disposal, Inc. at 441 State Street to Gateway Terminal, LLC or a designee for a sum of \$400,000
2. To repeal the existing Noise Ordinance and adopt a superseding Noise Ordinance
3. To appropriate the sum not to exceed \$140,000, from the unappropriated fund balance, for the purchase of one replacement payloader
4. To appropriate the sum not to exceed \$70,000, from the unappropriated fund balance, for the purchase of one replacement EMT/Rescue Vehicle for the Fire Department
5. To appropriate the sum not to exceed \$90,000, from the unappropriated fund balance, for the purchase of one replacement recording system including hardware and software for the Town Clerk's office

6. To appropriate the sum not to exceed \$85,000, from the unappropriated fund balance, for the purchase of one replacement boiler for Green Acres School
7. To adopt amendments to the Ordinance Providing for Tax Relief for the Elderly and Permanently Disabled

Regarding the Tire Pond, Town Attorney, Jeffrey Donofrio, discussed the global settlement. Understanding that the Town is owed \$865,000 in taxes, interest and penalties, he explained that since the Town could never foreclose on its tax liens and the property is appraised at no value, he recommends collecting the proposed \$400,000, which represents all tax dollars owed, plus some interest. Under the terms of the agreement, Gateway Terminal will close the Tire Pond, assume responsibilities and develop potentially the site in the future.

According to the First Selectman, a new Noise Ordinance is necessary to respond to concerns of the community. The former ordinance, adopted in 1991, was not in compliance with the Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Kopetz explained that the Police Chief is concerned about the 7 a.m. weekday start-time for construction projects. Ms. McCarty would prefer that construction variances be directed to the Planning & Zoning Commission, not to the Board of Selectman, as proposed in the new Ordinance. Town Attorney, Jennifer Coppola, addressed the Board's questions. Along with the First Selectman, she believes that the Board of Selectmen would be the appropriate venue to address variances, as some would involve exceptions for special events.

Regarding the four capital purchases totaling \$385,000, the Board of Finance voted unanimously to proceed with them at this time. Ms. McCarty does not oppose the purchases, but prefers that they be voted on at the budget referendum in May. Mr. Mitchell and the respective department heads and school superintendent reported that these purchases are emergent, and they do not support a two-month delay. Mr. Kopetz stated that there is no impact on taxes, as the funds are to be allocated from the unappropriated fund balance. He added that in the past, Town residents have been supportive of such purchases and the work of the departments and recommends proceeding with a vote at the Town Meeting. Mr. Mitchell concurred with this opinion.

Proposed amendments to the Ordinance Providing for Tax Relief for the Elderly and Permanently Disabled, adopted in 2001, were discussed in detail at last month's Selectmen's Meeting. They include employing State income guidelines and adding \$7,000 to increase the pool of qualified applicants and to establish a cost of living adjustment, changing the file period from annual to biennial and removing the stipulation that disqualifies applicants responsible for children in the school system. Mr. Kopetz added that his research shows that using federal adjusted gross income guidelines is preferred, and to divert from this method may lead to unequal treatment of similar types of accounts.

Voted: Kopetz-yes, Mitchell-yes, McCarty-no

Ms. McCarty moved to sign the following resolution to enable the Town to contract with the Department of Environmental Protection on a \$600,000 grant, in order to

address drainage concerns on Timothy Drive (\$75,000); Todd Drive and Hartford Turnpike (\$500,000); and Mount Carmel Avenue (\$25,000).

RESOLVED: That it is the best interests of the Town of North Haven to enter into contracts with the Department of Environmental Protection. In furtherance of this resolution, the First Selectman, Kevin J. Kopetz, is duly authorized to enter into and sign said contracts on behalf of the Town of North Haven. The First Selectman, Kevin J. Kopetz, is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the State in connection with said contracts and to execute any amendments, rescissions and revisions thereto.

Voted: Kopetz-yes, Mitchell-yes, McCarty-yes

Mr. Kopetz moved the following resolution to support the Town's goal of having 20% of its municipal energy comes from clean, renewal sources by the year 2010:

WHEREAS, clean energy resources, such as wind and solar energy, constantly replenishing themselves, do not cause the buildup of global warming gases or health damaging pollutants, and, if properly managed, will be available to serve our energy needs forever; and

WHEREAS, the North Haven Board of Selectmen promotes energy conservation, efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Legislature has mandated the creation of a clean energy choice for consumers to join with the Town by opting for clean energy on their electric bill; and

WHEREAS, the 20% by 2010 campaign is a Connecticut not-for-profit initiative that undertakes efforts to encourage community action in support of putting Connecticut's consumers on the path to having 20% of their electricity supply come from clean, renewable energy sources by the year 2010;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of North Haven commit to the goal of having 20% of its energy purchases come from clean energy sources by the year 2010, with clean energy purchases beginning fiscal year 2007-2008 and increasing over time to meet the 2010 goal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen shall encourage all businesses, institutions and households within North Haven to adopt the goal of making at least 20% of its energy purchases come from clean energy sources by the year 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Haven Board of Selectmen designates its Conservation Commission as its clean energy task force, which will assist the Town to meet the 20% by 2010 goal.

Mr. Kopetz explained that while the Town would receive a \$5,000 educational grant, there are some minimal costs involved with the establishment of the program. The Board of Finance reviewed the proposal and expressed a concern over any additional

cost. The Board would need to monitor costs, independently and relative to other budgetary demands. Seven of fifteen communities in the Council of Governments are participating in the program to date. Voted: Kopetz-yes, Mitchell-yes, McCarty-yes

Mr. Mitchell moved the following property tax refunds:

All Vehicle Leasing, 210 Gardiners Avenue, Levittown, NY 11756-3707, in the amount of \$216.14, Assessor's Correction #35565

Alphonse D. and Albina S. Cannavaciolo & Survs., 15 Shaw Drive, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$87.78, Assessor's Corrections #36240 and #36241

Chase Manhattan Auto Finance Corp., PO Box 29214, Phoenix, AZ 85038, in the amount of \$313.43, Assessor's Correction #35642

DCFS Trust, 7 Village Circle, Box 685, Roanoke, TX 76262, in the amount of \$399.88, Assessor's Correction #35691

Elrac, Inc., 1550 Rte. 23 North, Wayne, NJ 07470-7516, in the amount of \$327.12, Assessor's Corrections #35251 and #35873

Ford Motor Credit Co., PO Box 67000, Dept. 231601, Detroit, MI 48267-2316, in the amount of \$40.84, Assessor's Correction #35699, and in the amount of \$205.04, Assessor's Correction #35698

GMAC, c/o Semperian Property Tax, P.O. Box 33115, Knoxville, TN 37930, in the amount of \$947.28, Assessor's Corrections #36282, #36321 and #36324, and in the amount of \$908.23, Assessor's Corrections #36319, #36322 and #36323, and in the amount of \$139.62, Assessor's Correction #36285, and in the amount of \$339.86, Assessor's Corrections #36244 and #36287, and in the amount of \$238.84, Assessor's Corrections #36245 and #36246

William E. Leonardo, 88 Leonard Drive, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$34.56, Assessor's Correction #35249

Maria Peralta, 9 Pez Court, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$9.18, Assessor's Correction #35468

Alphonse or Anne Piscitelli, 2 Victor Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$45.70, Assessor's Corrections #35654 and #35668

Angelo Raso, 1400 Ridge Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$304.49, Assessor's Correction #35943

Toyota Motor Credit Corp., Box 105386, Atlanta, GA 30348-5386, in the amount of \$67.79, Assessor's Correction #35967

Voted: Kopetz-yes, Mitchell-yes, McCarty-yes

Mr. Mitchell moved the following bond releases and reduction:

J.T. Furrey, Inc., 35 Tokeneke Drive, North Haven, CT 06473, Total Release in the amount of \$4,000, with the recommendation of the Inland Wetlands Commission

Ralph Capasso, 120 Summer Lane, Lot 41, North Haven, CT 06473, Total Release in the amount of \$2,500, with the recommendation of the Inland Wetlands Commission

Giuseppe Floriano and Nazzareno Russo, 404 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473, Total Release in the amount of \$2,500, with the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission

North Haven Holdings Limited Partnership, 2 Universal Drive North, North Haven, CT 06473, Total Release in the amount of \$5,000, with the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission

Lippincott Farm, LLC, 2480 Ridge Road, North Haven, CT 06473, Total Release in the amount of \$25,000, with the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission

Northside Plaza, LLC, 510 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473, Partial Release in the amount of \$35,000, leaving a balance of \$10,000, with the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission

Voted: Kopetz-yes, Mitchell-yes, McCarty-yes

Mr. Kopetz announced the resignation of Vincent J. Gangi(R), 48 Country Way, from the Board of Assessment Appeals and thanked him for his many years of outstanding service. In his place, Mr. Kopetz moved the appointment of Michael E. Fletcher(R), 35 Ansonia Drive, to this board, to fill the unexpired term of Vincent J. Gangi(R), 48 Country Way, term to expire 12/1/07. Voted: Kopetz-yes, Mitchell-yes, McCarty-yes

Ms. McCarty moved the appointment of Joseph A. Cappucci(D), 1 Surrey Drive, as a Constable, term to expire 12/1/07. He replaces George H. Breuler(D), who recently relocated out of town. Voted: Kopetz-yes, Mitchell-yes, McCarty-yes

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Mitchell moved for adjournment at 12 p.m. Voted: Kopetz-yes, Mitchell-yes, McCarty-yes