

UNAPPROVED

MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
@Memorial Library Community Room

JULY 2, 2009  
7:00p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by First Selectman Janet M. McCarty. Also present were Stephen A. Fontana, Second Selectman and Michael J. Freda, Third Selectman.

At this time, there were no public comments relative to the agenda.

Mr. Fontana made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Selectmen's Meeting of June 4, 2009.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Ms. McCarty read a letter dated 6-30-09 submitted by Gary Amato, 27 Pool Road, asking that the Board of Selectmen address the need for a public comment session at all board and commission meetings. Ms. McCarty suggested that a letter be sent by the members of the Board of Selectmen to each board and commission asking that they include a public comment session in their agenda. Mr. Fontana and Mr. Freda agreed this would be a good idea.

Mr. Fontana made a motion to reappoint Audrey McClure (R), 1 Bowen Road, to the Quinnipiac Valley Health District Board of Directors, term to expire 5-1-12

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana made a motion to reappoint of Bessie A. Scott, (D), 534 Old Clintonville Road Unit A4, to the Quinnipiac Valley Health District Board of Directors, term to expire 7-1-12

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana made a motion to appoint Lisa Manfredi, 10 Green Hill Road, to the Clean Energy Task Force.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Mr. Fontana made a motion to approve the following property tax refunds:  
CIT Healthcare LLC, 1 CIT Drive, Livingston, NJ 07039, in the amount of \$7,407.44

DCFS Trust, 2050 Roanoke Road, West Lake, TX 76262, in the amount of \$96.03

DCFS Trust, Box 685, Roanoke, TX 76262, in the amount of \$322.46

Francis M. Dematteo, 320 Middletown Avenue Unit 6, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$278.00

Francis J. Langley, 165 Clintonville Road #119, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$53.11

Penske Truck Leasing Co., RT 10 Green Hills, Reading, PA 19603, in the amount of \$334.88, and in the amount of \$460.01, and in the amount of \$103.38, and in the amount of \$77.74

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes

Ms. McCarty responded to a question asked by Mr. Freda at a previous meeting. The property tax refunds are sent out by the end of the month after approval.

Ms. McCarty announced that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be on Thursday, July 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room.

Mr. Freda asked if the town had received the bonding for the Todd Drive project and when the project would begin. Ms. McCarty explained that the project is moving ahead but because we are still waiting for DEP approvals, which will be followed by local land use approvals, the project would probably not start for another year.

Mr. Freda asked if the rumors he had heard about Marlin Firearms leaving town in 2010 were true. Ms. McCarty answered that they were not true.

Mr. Freda noted that he was informed that Covidien was consolidating its facilities from Norwalk and was looking into locating in Wallingford. He said he had contacted a real estate developer in town to work with them to locate to North Haven. Ms. McCarty explained that Covidien will be leasing a facility in Wallingford mainly because the electric rates are cheaper.

Mr. Freda stated that after researching the claims in the CHRO complaint and especially since the town of North Haven was a party to the complaint, he felt that an independent review by an outside firm was needed. Ms. McCarty explained that the town was protected and was being represented by CIRMA. She further explained that a response was being submitted to CHRO addressing the complaint and there will be a formal response when that takes place. She stated that an investigation was not necessary at this time. She explained that after we respond, CHRO then decides whether to take action and if they do, we will address it at that time.

Mr. Freda made a motion to solicit bids to conduct an independent review of the allegations included in the CHRO complaint. He stated that this was necessary to demonstrate that the town was serious about the matter, even if it entailed future legal bills. Mr. Fontana stated that the CHRO was the appropriate venue at this stage and it was premature to spend taxpayers' money for an independent investigation.

Voted: McCarty – no, Fontana – no, Freda – yes

Mr. Freda asked if the budget figures for the end of the fiscal year were available. Ms. McCarty stated that the fiscal year had ended two days ago and she had not received a report from the Finance Department. She stated that when she received the information, she would let him know.

The Board entertained comments from the public.

Antoinetta Carmody, 159 Upper State Street, addressed Ms. McCarty's statement that the CHRO complaint was frivolous and stated that the complainant did not consider it frivolous.

Pasquale Nuzzolillo, 7 Mansfield Road, stated that an independent investigation with an armslength review between the parties involved was needed because that was the only way the taxpayers could depend on the results.

Gary Amato, 27 Pool Road, stated that it is important not to play politics in this circumstance and we must do what is best for the town.

Michael Zuccarelli, 520 Middletown Avenue, asked what the process was when a CHRO complaint is filed. Ms. McCarty explained that after the complaint is filed, the people named in the complaint respond. CHRO would then decide if a hearing is warranted. At that point, there is a spectrum of responses that could come forth from either side.

Gerald Feinberg, 34 Brockett Farm Road, explained that it was premature to discuss an internal investigation. He noted that there is a three step process in the CHRO procedures: information gathering, investigation and a formal hearing, and the case can be dismissed at any point for lack of merit. They are just in the information gathering stage. He noted that there is past history in town - allegations about practices in the Department of Community Services resulted in an investigation by the States Attorney's office that started about June 2006, and were revealed to the public in January 2007. Three town employees were arrested in April 2007 based on the information developed during the course of the investigation. Even at that time, the majority members of the Board of Finance did not agree to a full forensic audit or independent investigation. In the present case, the allegations were just filed with CHRO.

Michael Zuccarelli, 520 Middletown Avenue, asked if anything was being done about the Lexington Gardens property on Middletown Avenue. Ms. McCarty explained that a letter was sent to the owner by our Building Official requiring removal of the damaged structures by June 30<sup>th</sup>. If there is no compliance, action will be taken on July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Miriam Brody, 500 Elm Street, #15-4, asked if there was any progress on the Tire Pond. Ms McCarty stated that Phase I which included DEP has been completed and Phase II, involving local permits from land use boards in town is now proceeding.

Mr. Freda presented the Senior Community Resource Guide that will help seniors in town access services in the community.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. McCarty moved for adjournment at 7:30 p.m.

Voted: McCarty – yes, Fontana – yes, Freda – yes