

MINUTES

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
@Memorial Library Community Room

February 4, 2010
7:00p.m.

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:03p.m. by First Selectman Michael Freda. Also present were, Timothy M. Doheny, Second Selectman and Stephen A. Fontana, Third Selectman.

Mr. Freda introduced Selectmen Doheny and Fontana and thanked everyone for coming. He mentioned that one of the objectives of the board is to generate interest in the meetings with the hope of attracting more individuals from the general public to attend the meetings.

At this time, Mr. Freda asked if there were any public comments relative to the agenda.

Gary Amato, 27 Pool Road, again requested that the Selectman's Overview of the meeting using a PowerPoint presentation be viewed after the second public comment. Mr. Freda responded that at last month's meeting, the informal vote, with approximately the same amount of people as this evening's meeting, indicated with a show of hands, only four people asking for the PowerPoint presentation to be pushed back. The rest of the people indicated they would like it to remain at the beginning. Mr. Freda went on to say that the PowerPoint presentations are designed for one thing, to tell the people of North Haven watching on TV, and the people at the meeting, a comprehensive update as to what is happening in North Haven in terms of the problems, the challenges, the solutions and what we are doing on economic development. Mr. Amato again stated that he felt the presentations were good, but just wanted them at the end of the meeting and didn't see a difference.

Mr. Doheny stated that there is no way to predict the length of a meeting, or what the public likes or dislikes about the meetings. His thoughts were that he thinks telling the residents about what is going on in the Town should come first.

Mr. Fontana suggested doing it at next month's meeting at the end, and see what the public likes better.

Maura Demarco, 44 Wayland Street, asked to clarify what Mr. Amato was asking for and confirmation of the vote taken last month.

Mr. Freda offered to take another vote, Mr. Amato, doesn't feel that his point is being understood, and doesn't feel the decision should be made by a vote, or by majority rule, but rather by the First Selectman, as done by Mr. Kopetz.

Maura Demarco asked for another vote.

James DiCarlo, Police Chief, stated that he would like the board to go by the agenda. He stated the agenda was made by the First Selectman, and feels that is what the board should follow.

Michael Zuccarelli, 520 Middletown Avenue, stated that he feels the First Selectman has the prerogative of setting the agenda. He also feels that NHTV's broadcast of the meeting is available for those with health issues.

Mr. Amato responded to Chief DiCarlo, saying that he felt the comments are part of the agenda.

Maura Demarco stated that she would like Mr. Amato to know that she was not asked by Mr. Freda to attend the meeting, but was there on her own.

Mr. Fontana stated that he feels very strongly that their needs to be decorum at the meetings. The public has a right to ask questions and be respected and the public also needs to respect one another. He also stated that he would be in favor of trying the PowerPoint at the end of one of the future meetings.

Mrs. Veronica Kivela, 70 Drazen Drive, stated that she feels it is helpful for her to have the PowerPoint presentation earlier in the meeting so she can get an understanding of what has been going on for the past month, as well as, giving her time to digest the information prior to the public comments so she may think it over and ask questions if needed.

Mr. Freda asked for other public comments relative to the agenda, hearing none, he proceeded to the second item being the approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen of December 9, 2009.

Mr. Fontana explained that he would be abstaining since he was not present at that meeting.

Mr. Doheny moved to approve the minutes.

Vote: Mr. Freda – Yes, Mr. Doheny – Yes, Mr. Fontana - abstain

Mr. Freda then proceeded with the third item on the agenda, the approval of the minutes of the regular Selectmen's Meeting of December 14th.

Mr. Doheny spoke to the fact that we have three (3) sets of minutes on the agenda for approval - December 14th and December 28th and January 7th. He acknowledged that Mr. Lieserson had prepared comments for two of the meetings that he requested be added to the minutes. Freda stated that prior to moving to approve the minutes he wished to state two items. Mr. Gerald Feinberg sent him an email and asked for a change to the meeting minutes, he advised that we have made that adjustment and that will be included. Also, he noted that shortly before the meeting it came to his attention that Mr. Leiserson presented the Board with proposed changes to the minutes that were published. Mr. Doheny explained that he felt there was not a need to include extensive verbiage of what was said during the meetings, especially during the public comment. He also stated that after some research, Robert's Rules of Order, does substantiate that. What does belong is what transpired during the official part of the meeting with a limited amount of public comments.

Mr. Fontana remarked that he is pleased with the meeting minutes from January's meeting, and feels the minutes going forward will be done satisfactorily.

Mr. Leiserson, 15 Cella Terrace, Agreed with Mr. Doheny that there were comments in the minutes that were not appropriate. Mr. Leiserson suggested modifying the minutes in question to extract some of the public comment portions not relevant to the business of the meeting.

Approval of the minutes of the December 14th and 28th were tabled until they could be revised as agreed by all members of the board and public.

Mr. Freda asked for approval of the meetings of the Regular Board Meeting of January 7th, 2010. Mr. Doheny motioned to approve, Mr. Fontana seconded.

Vote: Mr. Freda – Yes, Mr. Doheny – Yes, Mr. Fontana – Yes

Selectman's Overview:

Mr. Freda proceeded with the presentation of the Selectman's Overview explaining that he would be updating the public on what has been happening in the Town over the last 30 days.

1. Operational Updates:

Mr. Freda explained that he has been trying very hard to improve the level of internal communication. He has been meeting with all the Department Heads, including individual meetings. He has also had two meetings with the Union representatives along with the Department Heads. One of his goals is to improve the level of communication so that employees know exactly what is happening in the Town.

Mr. Freda went on to say that he has been spending a lot of time working to settle union grievances. He has made a lot of progress and is currently looking to settle several union grievances, and he is having some success doing that.

Mr. Freda stated that with regard to the citizens of North Haven, the Selectman's office has received hundreds of phone calls over the past 60 days. We pride ourselves on calling everyone back as quickly as we can and he spoke to the audience, both at the meeting, and at home watching on North Haven Television, when he stated that if anyone did not get a return call, to please contact him immediately.

Mr. Freda commented that he is looking at internal efficiencies. He has a meeting with the Town and the Board of Ed, and both the electric and gas companies to see where we can save money. He has a meeting with the UI to get to the bottom of the \$8,000/month extra cost that is being paid. He is looking to determine what the return on investment is on the \$8,000 monthly fee.

Mr. Freda thanked Mr. Ed Swinkosky, based on a recommendation from one of the members of the Board of Finance, we reviewed our cell phone policies, and through a call with our carrier, we were able to save \$2,500 just by renegotiating a rate that we had. Although it is not a lot, it is an example of some of the things we are trying to do to save costs.

Mr. Freda discussed Munis, a software package that the Town has had for several years that had not been maximized for utilization by Department Heads. We worked with our IT department and our Finance Department, and now just about every Department Head has "real time" access to their individual budgets. This critical component of Munis was not being accessed in the past, so Department Heads did not have real time access to expenditures versus budgets.

2. Communication:

Mr. Freda noted that in terms of future communication, two things we are looking at are having "Firehouse" type format meetings sometime in the spring. Looking to meet at firehouses in different districts, inviting the public, and answer questions.

Mr. Freda also mentioned that sometime in the late spring or early summer he will be having visiting hours with the public and is entertaining Saturdays and or evenings for personal meetings to discuss issues that maybe some is not comfortable doing in a public meeting format.

3. Senior Center:

Mr. Freda stated that it was expected that we would have a Certificate of Occupancy on February 9th. There may be a delay due to getting furniture moved in, etc., so we are looking at having the Center up and running for the week of February 15th. He thanked our seniors for having the patience to work with us during this process over the last year.

He thanked the employees, Public Works Department, senior Citizens Staff for doing a great job in moving the process along. He also thanked Post 76 for allowing our seniors to utilize the Legion Hall.

Mr. Freda detailed the events of the previous week, when Sue Young, Senior Center employee, responded with life saving measures to perform the Heimlich maneuver on one of our seniors who had been choking. He went on to describe the emotional event, and related the gratitude of the Town that was shown to Sue Jung when he presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation and the Key to the City.

4. Challenges:

Mr. Freda explained that he has been bogged down with the number of lawsuits that the Town is contending with right now. He is happy to report that he is making some slow progress. He is looking to put it behind us and move forward with some beneficial things for the Town of North Haven.

Mr. Freda stated that in terms of the fiscal year budget deficit for this year, we started at \$1,446,000 and then we were down to about \$1,330,00 based on debt cutback from the State regarding education that did not happen. We are currently down to about \$536,000 and put some freezing in place on some capital expenditures, and our goal is to balance this budget by June 30th for this fiscal year.

Mr. Freda went on to say that the major concern as we look forward at the budget for 2011, is an anticipated \$5.5 million dollar gap, based on the utilization on one-time revenues that was used in last year's budget. That gap still exists, and is now complicated in that the original budget that was put out at the workshop reflected a 4% increase in health insurance. Since then he has met with Anthem and had a number of discussions and has the brokers involved. Unfortunately we are now anticipating anywhere from a 22 – 27% increase in health insurance. Although he has not been able to thoroughly research it, it looks like in the early stage, that the move from Blue Cross to Connecticare created so much chaos and confusion, that it actually raised the claims history analysis, and our rate now is based on a larger claims history. Next month he is bringing in Blue Cross, over the next thirty days they will be doing their own analysis, and will explain their findings to the public at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Mr. Freda informed the public that we are facing another challenge: the Grand List numbers for 2009 came in and is off by approximately \$44 million dollars. That equates to \$1,019,000 less in taxable revenue for the Town starting in the fiscal year, July 1. Mr. Freda explained that the decrease is due to various factors, including a lack of economic growth. This now means that together with the \$5.5 million dollar gap we are now facing a \$6.5 million dollar gap.

5. Economic Development:

Mr. Freda noted that he met with 22 businesses in Wharton Brook business district looking for opportunity, as well as to see how we can help them to reduce their energy costs.

He noted that he has personally met with just about every commercial real estate agent in North Haven and greater New Haven areas. He has received a listing of all the commercial spaces available and is working to see where he can personally meet with them to bring in business to some of the vacant buildings that exist. He mentioned that he recently showed a fiber optic company a 48,000 square foot facility in Town. They are in the initial stages, but Mr. Freda would like to have them here, and it would represent about 50 jobs.

Mr. Fred went on to say that in the Montowese section, he has spent a lot of time seeing what can be done there. On his list of goals, he would like to find a solution for the former gas station on the corner of Quinnipiac Avenue and Route 17.

6. TIF (Tax Incremental Funding) Grant Utilization:

Mr. Freda explained that if there is a prospective business that wants to redevelop a site that business might not do so because of remediation costs - being contamination, ground pollution and the like. A municipality has the ability to work with the business and the state to apply for a TIF Grant. Which means that the town will share in the remediation cost based on the incremental tax revenue that is generated through the redevelopment of the site. For example, if we were able to do this for a potential business and were able to generate a half a million dollars in property taxes, North Haven might have to pay \$220,000 of that, but \$500,000 extra dollars back to the state to help support the remediation. The net gain is \$280,000 that we would not have had if we had not utilized the TIF. The added benefit is you get the percentage of property tax increase that the municipality would not have had, and you get the full benefit on the property tax on the inside of the building, and job creation. It is a win-win.

7. Quinnipiac Announcement:

Mr. Freda shared his enthusiasm for the announcement and thinks its great for North Haven. He feels that Quinnipiac is one of the great "brand names" in the country and is a great institution and we should be proud to have Quinnipiac here in North Haven. He believes the development of the Quinnipiac Medical School will help us with regard to Northern Washington Avenue for the future.

Mr. Freda went on to say that he is continuing his efforts on the development of Northern Washington Avenue and has meet with Mickey Rabina, and property owners and trying to development some momentum.

8. Regional Water Authority:

Mr. Freda stated that he met with the Regional Water Authority and is trying to develop a relationship with them. He would like to have a public session in Town Hall or the Library for those who may be interested to talk about our water and reservoirs. He then noted that if anyone would be interested in having a public Q & A session with the RWA, they have agreed to that and Mr. Freda would agree to set it up. Any interested residents would need to call Town Hall.

9. North Haven Commons:

Mr. Freda stated that he met with Doug Gray and feels there is good news unfolding, North Haven Commons and Doug Gray are looking to populate about 30,000 square space that is currently vacant. He sees some opportunity with Doug Gray for other opportunities in the mid future.

10. Coviden:

Mr. Freda went on to say that our largest Grand List member is Coviden. He has been contacted by them and will be meeting with the management staff over the next several weeks. The purpose will be to discuss our goals and hear their plans and expansion.

11. Post Office:

Joe Mulvey will be here on Tuesday, the 9th and we will be personally looking at sites up and down Washington Avenue. We've heard from the public and will be considering various sites.

Mr. Freda closed his presentation with the challenges that the near future is presenting for North Haven; the tax burden will grow, unless we can ignite some growth. He is taking this very seriously and is going to be relentless in terms of driving top line growth here in North Haven. He stated that if it doesn't get done, there will be no excuses, and he takes responsibility.

He went on to say that over the longer term he is incredibly optimistic about the future of North Haven. Although we have struck out in some areas, he is not getting discouraged and has never been more energized. He is very focused on getting things done and has put a foundation in place for the future.

That concluded Mr. Freda's PowerPoint presentation.

Correspondence:

Mr. Freda there was no correspondence to report on.

Resignations:

Mr. Freda noted that he received a letter of resignation from Ralph Durante (R), 37 Juniper Drive, from the Economic Development Committee, term to expire 12/31/11.

He noted that Ralph will be spending more time working on a state level. He has been in regular communication with him, and thanked him for his outstanding efforts over the course of 20 plus years in North Haven. Although he will no longer be a Economic Development Committee member he has pledged his support in working on future projects.

Mr. Freda advised that we have received a resume for Michael Pomichter (R), 11 St. John St, previously appointed to the Parks & Recreation Commission on December 28, 2009.

There was no discussion.

Ethics Committee:

Mr. Freda commented on the Board of Ethics, and advised that he has received many resumes of people who are interested in being appointed to the Board. He noted that the Board has not had the opportunity to personally interview the individuals who have applied, he asked Mr. Doheny and Mr. Fontana to consider working together to increase the level of collaboration of the Board by selecting the individuals they feel would be good candidates, and then conduct the interviews. Once that has been completed, they can announce the appointments at the March meeting.

Mr. Fontana stated that he has discussed this with Mr. Doheny and thinks it's a good idea. Mr. Doheny pointed out that we received approximately 12 resumes, and we are looking for 5

full time and 2 part time members. He apologized for the delay but thinks it's important to get it right. He also mentioned that if anyone else wished to consider sending in a resume they still had the opportunity to do so. Mr. Freda requested that each applicant be contacted out of courtesy to the individuals.

Resolutions

Mr. Doheny read the following resolution:

A. RESOLVED: That pursuant to C.G.S. 4-66g the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and whereas, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of North Haven make an application to the State for \$250,000 in order to undertake the Public Works Facility Expansion Project 2nd Phase and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

Mr. Freda explained to the public that with reference to the resolution, the Town of North Haven has previously applied for a \$350,000 grant for Public Works garage renovations. This is an additional \$250,000 that the resolution is based on, with the total amount of grant money being \$600,000. As part of the grant project, the Town has to contribute \$50,000 in an effort to get the \$600,000, but the \$50,000 does not have to be actual dollars, but may be "in kind", meaning that any work that our employees do, hours accrued, equipment being used, is considered "in kind process". Our goal is to ensure that the \$50,000 we need to contribute will be in manpower, rather than dollars. The \$600,000 will cover in total the cost of the renovations at this facility.

Mr. Freda made a motion to accept aforementioned Resolution
Voted: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Fontana – yes

Mr. Doheny continued with reading the second resolution as follows:

B. RESOLVED: That the Town of North Haven authorize and sign a contract with Central Auto Auction to dispose of surplus police department vehicles and public works equipment at a cost of \$195.00 per item sold. All revenue received will return to the Town's General Fund. At present there are three (3) police cruisers leaving the fleet and available for auction. First Selectman Freda and Police Chief DiCarlo have set a reserve of \$3,000 per car.

Mr. Freda explained that we are maximizing the value of equipment the Town has utilizing an auction process. Mr. Freda noted that this company made a presentation to himself, Chief DiCarlo, and Ed Swinkoski, and for \$195 per vehicle, they will ensure that when the car goes out to auction it will look as well as it possibly can. This process is designed to help maximize the dollars for North Haven on these vehicles. He proceeded to thank Chief DiCarlo for his idea to set a reserve amount of \$3,000 per car, protecting us by giving us the right to set a minimum amount of what will be accepted for each vehicle.

Mr. Freda made a motion to accept aforementioned Resolution
Voted: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Fontana – yes

Property Tax Refunds

Mr. Freda made a motion to approve the following property tax refunds:
Voted: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Fontana – yes

- Cab East LLC, Box 105704, Atlanta, GA 30348, in the amount of \$129.07, and in the amount of \$73.37, and in the amount of \$75.43, and in the amount of \$160.21, and

in the amount of \$66.44, and in the amount of \$132.87, and in the amount of \$233.01, and in the amount of \$205.18, and in the amount of \$263.11

- Cab East LLC, 260 Interstate Drive, Atlanta, GA 30339, in the amount of \$149.81, and in the amount of \$45.05, and in the amount of \$67.72, and in the amount of \$288.75, and in the amount of \$ 209.74, and in the amount of \$139.69, and in the amount of \$109.28, and in the amount of \$238.53
- Rose M Delucia, or Anthony M Delucia, , 67 Sackett Point Road, # 203, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$170.93
- Elrac, 1550 Route 23 North, Wayne, NJ, 07470-7516, in the amount of \$143.86
- Ford Motor Credit, Box 10574, Atlanta, GA 30348, in the amount of \$196.23, and in the amount of \$287.88
- Patricia C Golebiewski, 600 Washington Avenue, Unit E1, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$71.24, and in the amount of \$65.80
- Jaime E Grieco, 30 Pool Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$40.97
- Timothy Jones, 201 Velvet Street, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$70.44
- Phillip or Cynthia Montuori, 40 Country Way, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$49.07
- Nissan Infiniti LT, Box 650214, Dallas, TX 75265, in the amount of \$48.86, and in the amount of \$264.05
- James Palmer and Magdalena R Palmer 27 Angel Place, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$18.58
- SAAB Leasing Semperian Inc, 1450 N 12th Avenue, Greeley, CO 80631, in the amount of \$75.49, and in the amount of \$158.79
- John Tullo, 44 Sugar Hill Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$133.13

Bond Releases/Reduction

Mr. Doheny made a motion to approve the following Bond Release/Reductions.

Voted: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Fontana – yes

Quinnipiac University, 328 Bassett Road, North Haven, CT 06473, Release a portion of the bond in the amount of \$23,000.00 and retain a balance of \$7,500.00.

Mr. Freda announced that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, March 4th, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room.

Mr. Fontana asked Mr. Freda a question regarding several articles in the paper regarding the situation with regard to our building department, and noted the questions we have had at our meetings. He asked if Mr. Freda has considered hiring investigator to perform an investigation for the Town.

Mr. Freda replied that we have a state investigation in process with the State's Attorney's

Office, we have a state investigation in process with the State's Building Department, and apparently there was an investigation done by a private investigator last year. He noted that he found this out when he took office. He also found out that the invoice for the private investigator had not been paid, implying that the Town did not want to disclose that the private investigator had been hired. So on his 5th day in office, he paid the invoice that had been lingering for quite some time. He noted that the results of that investigation was turned over to aide in the State's investigation. Mr. Freda feels that all the information is out in the open and will take its own course. He has given his cooperation completely to this issue.

Mr. Fontana replied that he felt the information may have been withheld for an important reason, and could imagine how the results of the investigation may have played if it had come out in October of last year. He thinks it may have been withheld to protect some people in the report.

Mr. Freda asked if Mr. Fontana knew about the investigation, Mr. Fontana acknowledge he did. Mr. Freda asked why then wasn't the invoice paid. Mr. Fontana suggested Mr. Freda ask the former First Selectmen. He went on to say that people were criticized for not investigating a matter that came up in her office, and he didn't know if Mr. Freda personally criticized her, but he wanted it to be on the record that if it is something worth doing in some cases

Mr. Freda stated that he is trying to move forward and is not blaming anyone. He has an obligation to inform the citizens of North Haven in a full disclosure environment. He is perplexed as to why the investigation was thwarted last year and not carried through and it wasn't until he took office that he found out an investigation took place, the invoice wasn't paid, and apparently the information was not divulged, and he immediately acted on it and that is where we are today.

Mr. Fontana raised another point with regard to a discussion at the last Board of Finance meeting, as well as comments tonight. Pertaining to the electricity issue and the UI and the efficiencies that have been pursued over the last several years. Since Mr. Freda will be meeting with the UI he thought it would be helpful to share some information with the Board, as well as the public.

Mr. Fontana went on to describe in detail that when the previous administration took office a little over two years ago, their goal was reexamine and reevaluate operations and look at ways to create efficiencies. At the time, he was involved with the UI and energy matters and took it upon himself, under the direction of the former First Selectman, to pursue those initiatives. There were five initiatives undertaken, and he would like to focus on two of them.

The first had to do with the streetlights in Town. UI engaged in a multiyear project to replace and upgrade all the streetlights in its service territories. They were presented with several options from the UI, and decided to engage in the Step Down Program involving lowering the wattage of the existing streetlights. They determined that 3600 street lights already at the lowest level of 50 watts. The other half were at wattages above 50, ranging up to as high as 400 watts. At no cost to the Town, and after discussion with the Police and Fire Chiefs, they decided to go ahead and implemented the program. There were no complaints to Mr. Fontana's knowledge.

The other initiative was to replace lighting and lighting controls in both the schools and Town buildings. A number of bidders came into town and reviewed and gave proposals on what could be done to reduce costs. A number of state programs enabled the Town to reduce costs and the balance would be financed at zero percent on our bill over a period of time. The idea was the savings we would generate would be paid on our bill at no additional cost to the Town. They solicited bids and had three different proposals. They used two elements of

criteria, one being credibility and the other estimated cost saved per kilowatt-hour. Based on that analysis they did the school buildings first, and chose to hold the Town buildings until after the schools were done.

Ed Gomeau was concerned about the additional cost to the school system. They explained it would be offset by the savings over the three year period, and proceeded to agree that if the costs exceeded the savings, that the Town would make it up.

Mr. Fontana mentioned that he has heard the figure of \$8,000 at several of the meetings. He said that he hopes and expects that the UI will be able to show Mr. Freda that across the six school buildings we are in fact breaking even or saving money.

Mr. Fontana described several examples that he prepared comparing two schools, picked at random, Ridge Road and the High School for a six-month period. Based on the review Ridge Road showed a \$2.53 cent charge to Ridge Road. The High School over the same period saved \$4,474 per month, and after the UI's charge, the net savings was \$2,223.68 per month.

Mr. Fontana felt that when you compare the gross cost compared to the savings, it is important to remember that the cost would be much greater if we were not doing this, and in two and a half years from now when the bill is paid off, the entire amount of savings will be netted.

He thanked Mr. Freda for the opportunity to present the information on the cost effective investment made to reduce our costs.

Mr. Freda thanked Mr. Fontana, and mentioned that up until this time, he didn't think anyone, including the Finance Department had this information, and this is why a meeting was called with the UI to get this type of analysis.

Mr. Fontana mentioned that he spent a good deal of time working on this in 2008 with Mr. Swinkoski, and expects that he should be able to support the information for the meeting with the UI.

Mr. Doheny mentioned that this had been mentioned to him, but he was not sure they had this information regarding the savings.

The Board entertained comments from the public.

Maura Demarco, 44 Wayland Street, asked if the question of the \$8,000 came up at the last meeting. Mr. Freda responded yes. Ms. Demarco asked Mr. Fontana why he did not present the information then. Mr. Fontana responded he prepared the information following the questions that came up at the Board of Finance meeting. He prepared the information to present tonight so that the public could hear it. Ms. Demarco asked if Mr. Fontana spoke with Mr. Freda over the last 30 days, Mr. Fontana replied no.

Raymond Sonazzaro, Elm Street, asked Mr. Freda why he would continue to negotiate with Anthem, since they are outsourcing their work. Mr. Freda explained that Anthem was brought back last year when he was not in office and has to honor the contracts of the Union members. A discussion continued regarding Anthem.

Mr. Sonazzaro asked another question regarding the Ierardi case, and falsified records of employees. Mr. Freda explained the courts are looking into the case right now.

Mr. Sonazzaro then proceeded to inform Mr. Freda that the Racquet Club has been built on land that was left to the Town by Mr. Stiles for the cemetery. He asked how the Town and the Cemetery Association could sign a 99-year lease to a private family for land that was designated for the cemetery. He continued to discuss the issue.

Mr. Gary Amato, 27 Pool Road, inquired if the Town has been impacted by the loss of the Engineer II position last year. Mr. Freda responded, he has heard no comments either way.

Mr. Amato then asked regarding the Building Department investigation, and if the employees that may be involved have been put on administrative leave to protect the documents in Town. Mr. Freda responded no, and did not feel that was necessary since the matter was being investigated, and all parties conducting the investigation had the necessary documentation.

Mr. Amato continued to speak to his involvement and hard work to bring open government to the Town. Mr. Freda asked Mr. Amato if he has seen anything to indicate that he does not favor open government. Mr. Freda continued the discussion in his support of open and honest government.

Paul Motyl, Pine River Road, he commented that since Mr. Freda took office, and Lynn Sadowsky has been Public Works Director, he has been kept in the loop regarding Pine River Road and the flooding of the Mudd River. He gets frequent communication advising him exactly what is going on with regard to all involved.

Mr. Freda thanked Mr. Motyl for the hospitality he has extended during his visits to try to assist with the situation.

Jay Richardson, Oakwood Drive, thanked Mr. Freda for his professionalism and courtesy, and would like to see more of the professional meetings being held.

Mr. Gerald Feinberg, 34 Brockett Farm Road, discussed the ten million dollars a year on health insurance. He attended a Board of Education workshop and was surprised at 17% projected versus the 4 % that was put in the Board of Finance Budget.

Mr. Freda explained that Mr. Swinkosky entered a 4% increase at that time because it was a preliminary budget, and they expected it to change as discussions and negotiations with Anthem ensued. He said the figure will be readjusted, and may go down based on negotiations. A discussion continued.

Mr. Feinberg took exception to Mr. Freda's explanation, and it was discussed further.

Mr. Feinberg also had several questions regarding the budget and Mr. Freda's projected decrease, and \$105,000 for incremental costs for storm supplies. Mr. Feinberg asked didn't we already pay for the storm supplies. Lynn Sadowsky, Public Works Director, replied that the Public Works went over their budget last year, and they projected the \$105,000 in case we had a similar winter this year. To date, we were only about \$20,000 over.

Mr. Feinberg asked about the \$25,000 in the budget for special audits, do be done randomly. When he asked at the last Board of Finance meeting, he was told they had not been done, so that \$25,000 can be used to reduce the budget.

Mr. Feinberg went on to say that he felt Mr. Freda may have overestimated the amount of the deficit. Mr. Freda commented that he was trying to give the public information in a real time fashion, and would prefer not to underestimate anything. He is revising information as

it is presented, sometimes, daily.

Mr. Feinberg stated that regarding the Board of Education budget; the 3.9% increase the Superintendent asked for a week ago has now changed to 2.9%. He asked if Mr. Freda could commit to the 2.9% increase. Mr. Freda responded that he was confident that Ms. Querfeld would present the best possible budget.

Mr. Feinberg commented that he supported the UI analysis and program that was done on the school side and would like to encourage follow through on the Town side.

Mr. Feinberg encouraged Mr. Freda to check with the RWA to see if there was any available parcels of land that could be acquired.

Mr. Feinberg noted that he would like Mr. Freda to reduce the amount of time spent on the PowerPoint presentation to maybe five minutes. Mr. Freda is still trying to work out the time frame but wants to have enough time to get the information out there to the public. He will take Mr. Feinberg's comment under advisement.

Mrs. Sinow, Maple Avenue, understood the request to quell the discord during public comment, but asked Mr. Fontana to allow the audience to applaud to nice comments. Mr. Fontana responded applause would be appropriate.

Mrs. Barbara Feinberg, 34 Brockett Farm Road, asked wasn't the money for the Public Works grant already dispersed and all that was being done now was the paperwork. Lynne Sadowsky, stated that we received the first part of the grant, and now we are doing the paperwork to submit for the second part of the grant.

Mrs. Feinberg asked to clear up what the decision was regarding public comments on the Agenda. Mr. Doheny replied that the minutes going forward would not contain verbatim comments, but rather a short summary of the individual's comments.

Mr. Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive, noted that he thought having the meetings in a larger facility such as the library, is a good idea to accommodate the public.

Mr. Katz asked if the UI survey included kilowatt-hours to make apples, to apples comparison on our actual usage. Mr. Fontana replied yes.

Mr. Katz commented that about a year ago Coviden announced that they were moving out of Norwalk. It was his understanding that North Haven did not have anything for them, and as a result they moved to New Haven, and we lost their potential contribution to the town.

Mr. Katz related his experience when living in East Haven, which at the time was referred to as a bedroom town because of the lack of industry, which increases the mill rate to the taxpayers. He does not want North Haven to have a similar problem.

Mr. Katz questioned why the engineers and architects didn't supply more efficient lighting in the high school. Mr. Fontana replied that it had been discussed, and the general consensus was that it was as efficient as it could be at the time, and that even though it is relatively new, efficiencies are moving ahead rapidly and are better than when the school was built.

Mr. Katz asked about the meeting with the Todd Drive residents. He wanted to know what we are doing about the water problem, and the rumor that those residents have been awarded a special tax discount.

Mr. Freda responded that this problem has gone on for a number of years, there was a meeting with about 65 residents and Diversified Technology at the Town Hall where a schedule was mapped out for working with DEP, Army Corp of Engineers, and various agencies, which should be completed somewhere around April 1st. As far as the tax abatements, there may or may not have been, but the residents have received their current revals, and may appeal if they choose. Mr. Freda went on to describe the unfortunate problems these residents are facing and our goal of trying to get the project moving to assist them.

Mr. William Lierson, 15 Cella Terrace, applauded Mr. Freda's idea of going after TIF funding. The Town has brownfields around town and this is a great program, which pays for itself. He mentioned it is not a new program, and has worked well in the past.

Mr. Lierson commented in terms of the Grand List, what is the commercial industrial versus the residential side. Mr. Freda stated that it appears the residential values have dropped about 5%, and the businesses have gone up about 15%. Mr. Freda went on to explain the balance of the two.

Mr. Lierson asked about the multiple brokers that the Town is using for health insurance. Mr. Freda responded we have three brokers, at no extra cost to the Town; Ovation, Charter Oak, and GBAC - each with various strengths. We are utilizing all three, trying to get the premium down. A discussion continued.

Mr. Lierson went on to say that he sympathizes with the residents of Todd Drive and is happy that Mr. Freda is moving forward on getting the problem resolved.

Mr. Dave Claybaugh, 205 Montowese Avenue, thanked Mr. Fontana for the information on the UI analysis. He asked is the same analysis was done on the new Public Works building. Ms. Sadowsky, stated that they looked for a design build structure, using a pre fabricated building, identified a company that used state of the art lighting, and overhead panels to maximize natural light. It is a very simplistic structure. Mr. Freda noted that he will get him a more detailed answer.

Mr. Freda asked if there were any more questions, hearing none and seeing none

Mr. Freda moved for adjournment at 9:25 p.m.
Voted: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Fontana – yes