

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

May 5, 2011

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The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:10 pm in the Community Room of the North Haven Memorial Library, 17 Elm Street, North Haven, CT.

### **Members Present**

First Selectman, Michael J. Freda  
Second Selectman, Timothy M. Doheny  
Third Selectman, Stephen A. Fontana

Mr. Freda introduced himself and Selectmen Doheny and Fontana, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Public Comments Relative to the Agenda – none**

Mr. Doheny motioned to approve the minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting of April 7, 2011

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

Mr. Doheny motioned to approve the minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting of April 19, 2011

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

**Selectman's Overview** – Mr. Freda provided an overview of the following topics:

### **OPERATIONAL**

#### Spotlight on the North Haven Library Spring 2011

- After almost 35 years as a charter member of the LEAP library consortium we will join LION – a Middletown based consortium of 25 libraries.
- What does this mean for North Haven?
  - Residents will continue to enjoy all the resources that they have had over the many years that we were with LEAP.
  - Patrons will continue to have online access to their accounts enabling them to search for material, renew their own books, place holds and enjoy the many on line databases.
  - In addition patrons will have access to: Over 2 million books and materials from the collections of member libraries in Madison, Guilford, Branford, Stony Creek, Meriden, Orange, Wallingford, Woodbridge, Middletown, Durham, Westbrook, Norwich, New London
  - We will offer free downloadable e-books and audio books
- The Town of North Haven will realize a savings of over \$16,500 by joining LION
- A few statistics:
  - On a yearly basis we receive almost 78,000 visits from the public
  - We have 14,876 North Haven residents who are registered borrowers
  - Almost 17,000 reference questions are answered annually
  - Over 20,000 people used our public internet computers last year
  - We offered 258 children's programs last year in addition to our Summer Reading Club where over 800 children participated
  - We have 101,836 print books in our collection
  - We have 10,755 non-print (audio books, CD's, DVD's, etc) items in our collection.
  - Last year we circulated 185,637 items

- In conclusion - for a small membership fee, the library belongs to the CT Library Consortium. Among the many benefits we receive a 46% discount on our books as well as significant discounts on our non-print items and supplies.
- Public Safety Day
  - July 9, 2011 (rain date: 10<sup>th</sup>)
  - Police
  - Fire
- North Haven Substance Abuse Action Council
  - Participated in the DEA's National Pill Return Program
  - Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at Fire Headquarters
  - In addition to hundreds of pounds of various over the counter and prescription medications the SAAC collected close to 5,000 tablets/capsules of controlled substances with an estimated street value of \$150 - \$200,000
  - This is good for our children and our environment!!

### **HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATE**

- Anthem has lowered their rate to -4% on medical with stop loss insurance on Rx
- Guarantee on Administrative cost for next year
- We went out to bid
- Results = inconsistencies with coverage
- *Saved \$324,000 This Year!*

### **GRANT UPDATES**

- Universal Drive Milling and Paving Project
  - The project commenced on May 2, 2011
  - Milling is completed
  - Paving starts May 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m.
  - Continues from May 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> from midnight to 11:00 a.m.
- Traffic Calming Grant – Spring Road and Laydon Avenue
  - The DPW secured a grant for a Traffic Calming Study through the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) for the Spring Road and Laydon Avenue areas.
  - CHA Consultants were selected by members of SCROG and the DPW to perform this effort which will focus on means to calm traffic in that area.
  - A Public Information Meeting is being scheduled for the end of June 2011 to inform the residents of Spring Road and Laydon Avenue of the options being investigated.
  - Residents in the affected areas will receive a letter regarding the date, time and place of the meeting.
- Lawn Equipment Exchange Fund (LEEF) Grant
  - On March 24, 2011 the Town was awarded \$25,000 toward the replacement of several critical pieces of lawn equipment
  - An edger, plate compactor, two field liners and a groomer is currently being procured.
  - The Town's funding match is \$5,000
- Small Cities Block Grant  
ADA Modifications to Town Hall–
  - Moving forward with the process
  - Architects have been in
  - Public Hearing was held March 31, 2011 @ 7:00 pm- Library Community Room
  - *Public Support – Please write your letters of support and send to the Selectman's office*
- STEAP Grant Award 2011 – Clintonville School Playground
  - The Town selected Milone and MacBroom Consultants for this project through a competitive RFP process.
  - Test pits and land surveying tasks have been completed and a draft plan is currently being developed for the drainage and playscape improvements.

- On May 2, 2011 the Planning and Zoning Commission issued an approval for the project under section 8-24 of the P&Z regulations.
- It is estimated that the project will be completed on or before September 1, 2011.
- Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (EECBG) Program
  - Home Energy solution Audits, provides up to 600 free in-home energy audits to Town residents as conducted by United Illuminating Company.
  - Up to 400 single family residents have already signed up for the program.
  - Audits are presently being conducted and will continue until the total number of audits is achieved.

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

FY 11-12 GENERAL FUND WHERE THE MONEY GOES

TOTAL RECOMMENDED 2011-2012 TOWN/BOE BUDGET INCLUDING CAPITAL

- Capital Needs
- The town had a total request from all departments which represented \$2,700,000 in total capital enhancements and improvements
- We were able to reduce that to a total of \$1,300,000 of improvements that we need this year
- Mill Rate Projected Increase .35 or less than one half of 1 mill
- Current Mill Rate = 26.18
- New Projected Mill Rate = 26.53
- Our Proposed Budget:
  - Maintains and enhances our level of service to our residents
  - Reflects true capital needs that will help enhance those services
  - Reinvests back into North Haven with capital upgrades
- *I would encourage everyone to vote "Yes" and I endorse this budget!*
- Looking Ahead...At the September Annual Town Meeting we will be presenting a 3 – 5 year plan
- Important Dates to Remember
  - May 9<sup>th</sup> - Annual Town Budget Meeting
  - May 17<sup>th</sup> - Budget Referendum

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Yale New Haven Hospital

- Informational meetings:
  - Quinnipiac Chamber of Commerce
  - Sherwood Drive Residents
  - The Rotary
  - Senior Center – Thursday May 26 @ 10:30 a.m.
- Property walk through with Sherwood Drive Residents- plans completed
- Approved by both the Inland and Wetland's Commission and Planning and Zoning Commission
- Yale has applied for their CON
- Possible merger with St. Raphael's will not have a bearing on this project
- Universal Drive
- Train Station
- Quinnipiac University
- 297 State Street/Quebecor 5/25
- Celavon Property
- Mickey Rabina
- Ulbrich Steel 55 Defco Park - Adding a machine \$2.5 million investment
- Marlin Firearms Update
- Economic Development Commission Breakfast
  - Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 7:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn

## **FREDA'S FOCUS**

- Continue to focus my efforts on moving this town forward in a positive fashion
- Continue to focus on cost efficiencies
- Continue to focus on maintaining a high level of "customer service"
- Continue to focus on new economic development
- Continue to focus on turning problems into solutions
- Continue to focus on answering your questions, helping to educate the public on town government
- Continue to focus on trying to help people in an effort to provide services to enhance the daily lives of our citizens.
- Continue to focus on the wonderful attributes and people of this great Town!

## **Resignations and Appointments –**

Mr. Doheny motioned to accept the appointment of Walter M. Spader, Jr. (D) 15 Leighton Court, North Haven, CT 06473, to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate to fill the unexpired term of Robert E. Martin, Jr., term to expire December 1, 2011.

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

## **Bond Releases / Reductions – None**

**Property Tax Refunds –** Mr. Doheny motioned to approve the property tax refunds presented below:

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

- Cab East LLC, Box 105704, Atlanta, GA 30348 in the amount of \$284.05, and in the amount of \$201.35, and in the amount of \$100.32
- Delucia, Florence A, 15 Peters Lane, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$84.27
- Donarumo, Louis V, 83 Summer Lane, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$43.80
- GMAC, 9401 James Avenue South, Ste 14, Bloomington, MN 55431, in the amount of \$174.44, and in the amount of \$134.69, and in the amount of \$628.06, and in the amount of \$165.15, and in the amount of \$130.15, and in the amount of \$165.96, and in the amount of \$92.46, and in the amount of \$99.11, and in the amount of \$192.03, and in the amount of \$277.25, and in the amount of \$230.51, and in the amount of \$82.81, and in the amount of \$101.29
- Gomes, Gregory, 35 Orange Road, Middletown, CT 06457, in the amount of \$85.16
- Howell, Kenny A, 26 Renee Lane, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$155.76
- Stetson, James, 116 Hedgerow Lane, West Chester, PA 19380, in the amount of \$17.67, and in the amount of \$0.87
- Stetson, Kathleen, 116 Hedgerow Lane, West Chester, PA 19380 in the amount of \$17.67
- VW Credit Leasing Ltd, 1401 Franklin Blvd, Libertyville, IL 60048 in the amount of \$274.34

Mr. Freda advised that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library Community Room.

## **Public Comment –**

Mrs. Ann Ruocco, Ansonia Drive, expressed her opinion that she would like to see the capital expenses separated from the budget. She would like to see it voted down and have the money come from the Fund Balance and lower the mill rate. She would also like to see the traffic study on Spring Road include Potter Road since many people use that to access Spring Road. Mr. Freda agreed and will follow up on same.

Mr. Jim Leahy, Regency Drive, agreed with Mrs. Ruocco regarding the capital items. He would like to see them as a separate yes or no item on the Budget. He asked Mr. Freda about the Train Station item on his slides that he neglected to comment on. Mr. Freda apologized for missing

that important subject. He advised that his office has been in contact with the DOT and North Haven will have a train station in the next few years. He has a dilemma with regard to where to put it; northern Washington Avenue or Devine Street. Devine Street would support the Yale New Haven Hospital, economic development and the surrounding towns. With regard to northern Washington Avenue, it could act as a catalyst to spur economic growth in that area and also serve the Quinnipiac medical and law schools. He will be meeting with the Connecticut DOT over the next several weeks. Mr. Leahy feels it is a huge waste of money and hopes that North Haven residents do not have to contribute any money to this.

Mr. Leahy asked if Mid State Medical Center can veto the Yale project. Mr. Freda said that they can attempt to block it. There would be a hearing all parties would present their cases and the State would make a determination. Mr. Freda discussed his confidence in this project.

Mr. Leahy asked Mr. Freda what his plans were to address the conditions of the roads in town. Mr. Freda stated that we will be paving roads this summer, but it is a small solution to a major problem. He estimates we have over 80 miles of roads that need to be milled and paved. He is working to address this problem over the next several years.

Mr. Billy Leiserson, Cella Terrace, asked for an update on the Department Head personnel manual. Mr. Freda responded that there is no update. He remarked that with everything going on, it has not been a huge priority, but it will get done. Mr. Leiserson would like to get public input as to what goes in it. Mr. Doheny stated that he is a bit torn with regard to what is the right thing to do in this particular case and is not ready to commit. Mr. Fontana stated that he thinks the public has the right to know, especially when it comes to their money, and as we found out recently, due to the way the policy was written we paid out a lot of money. He feels that the public will want to know what is in the policy and have an opinion. Mr. Freda stated we have five department heads in town and he is not making any decisions right now. He feels it is a very generous plan and would like Mr. Freda's opinions as to what he will be taking out and or leaving in.

Lynn Sadosky, Director of Public Works, noted that even though the department head manual remains the same, in 2007 there were changes made to the plans that just aren't represented in the manual.

Mrs. Ann Ruocco, stated that in many private corporations they get bonuses as opposed to pensions because they do not compound and when they leave they end.

**Adjournment** – Mr. Freda asked for additional questions, and seeing none and hearing none Mr. Fontana motioned to adjourn at 8:05 pm.