

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

August 18, 2011

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The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 pm in Conference Room 1 located upstairs in the North Haven Memorial Town Hall, 18 Church 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 July 14, 2011.

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

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

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Yale New Haven Hospital: the State will render a decision no later than October 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had many letters of support sent to the office of OHCA, Dept of Public Health.

Quebecor facility/ 297 State Street: most of exterior work done, interior still going on. Project delayed due to roofing issues which have been corrected. In September major meeting with the new owner.

Rabina Properties: continue to meet with Mr. Rabina. Still pursuing opportunities, remain optimistic even though this has been one of his biggest challenges.

Other properties: showcased various sites and land throughout the town. Trying to keep interest and create synergies.

#### **FINANCIAL:**

We have delivered a surplus ending this fiscal year of \$1,582,000. The revenue was flat, only up about \$273,000. The majority of the surplus was a derivate of cost savings and operational efficiencies throughout the year. Most departments came in under budget, and for the first time in quite some time the Town did not need to spend its contingency fund. Also through aggressive bid process the Town saved about \$670,000 in the total insurance package including worker's compensation. Of the \$273,000 revenue, we received \$73,000 from FEMA from the winter snow storms. The grand list is beginning to grow. The growth is mostly from Universal Drive, but does not yet include DSW Shoes, Big Lots, and Buffalo Wild Wings Restaurant, so there will be additional growth with these locations.

It is the goal of this government not to spend every dollar in the budget, and not to tap into the fund balance. We will use the surplus in the following fiscal year to assist in relieving the tax burden to the residents. We will maintain our fund balance at 8%.

**Correspondence** – from Michael Zulawski requesting the attendance of the Town Planner, Town Engineer and Zoning Enforcement Officer at the BOS meeting to answer questions due to recent activities in the P & Z department. Mr. Freda explained that they are not here this evening. He noted that Mr. Zulawski is questioning the \$65,000 bond on his project. He advised him at the last meeting to bring his questions to the P & Z. The commission told him that if he is going to refute the bond, that he should develop the research, make a presentation at the next P & Z meeting, and then make his case as to why he feels it should not be \$65,000. As far as this Board is concerned, the case is closed and it is in the hands of the P & Z Commission.

**Old Business** – Based upon the recommendation of Mr. Ray Fowler suggesting that the Town should do something for Child Abuse month, Mr. Doheny and Mr. Fontana provided an update. Mr. Doheny advised that he spoke with the Regional Director of DCS and she will be giving a presentation at the September BOS meeting. Superintendent, Dr. Cronin, has agreed to have a presentation late in September at the teacher's workshops. Mr. Fontana stated that he brought the concept to the Community Services Commission at their last meeting, and it was agreed that they would get involved along with Harbor Health. He feels that the Selectmen have many things that they are involved in with the Town that preclude them from taking a leadership role. He had not heard back from the Community Services Commission since their meeting and feels they may also have some concerns about whether they have the time to participate. He thinks perhaps other boards and commissions should get involved as well. Mr. Freda felt that we should designate a week and honor that week each year. We will begin by creating awareness simply by our presentation and expand upon it going forward. Mr. Fontana stated that he had heard concerns that the week should be late September or early October because parents are very busy getting their children back to school. He suggested that we discuss it at the next BOS meeting to pick a date, and also include Ed Swinkoski, Director of Community Services for his input.

**Resignations and Appointments –**

- Resignation of Veronica B. Masi(U) from the Board of Directors of the Quinnipiac Valley Health District effective July 21, 2011. The Board thanked Ms. Masi for her service.
- Resignation of Sandra Cummings(R) from the Board of Education effective July 18, 2011. Mr. Freda thanked Ms. Cummings for her service to the Town and the Board of Education. Mr. Fontana asked if we needed to appoint someone to fill the vacancy.
- Appointment of Kevin Smith (D), 191 Pool Road, Apt B-22, North Haven, CT to the Housing Authority, to fill the unexpired term of Margaret C. Wells expiring December 31, 2014. Mr. Freda again thanked Margaret Wells for her service and noted that Mr. Kevin Smith is interested in filling the vacancy. He also lives in the building. Mr. Doheny noted that we are required to have a tenant fill this position. Mr. Doheny motioned to approve the appointment.  
Voted: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Fontana - yes
- Appointment of Christine Orris (R), 15 Allen Road, North Haven, CT to the Community Services Commission to fill the unexpired term of Michael Pepe expiring December 31, 2012. Mr. Freda shared Ms. Orris' resume. Mr. Doheny motioned to approve the appointment.  
Voted: Freda – yes, Doheny – yes, Fontana – yes
- Reappointment of Reverend Scott Morrow (D), 34 Bassett Road, North Haven, CT to the Cemetery Commission effective July 1, 2011 for a two year term to expire June 30, 2013. Mr. Doheny motioned to approve the re-appointment of Reverend Morrow.

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

Mr. Doheny stated that Valerie provided him with information from section 205 of the Charter, stating that any vacancy in any elective Town office, other than a member of the Board of Selectmen, from whatever cause arising, shall be filled within sixty (60) days by appointment by a majority vote of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Freda stated that since Ms. Cummings resigned on July 18, 2011 they would need to fill that position by September 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Bond Releases / Reductions – none**

**Property Tax Refunds –**

- Barger, Kim 85 St John Street, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$92.09
- Holcomb, Michael, 10 Cannonball Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$20.04
- Natale, Joseph R, 7 Sachus Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$87.19
- Nova Dental LLC, 521 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$200.09
- Palumbo, Mary or Carafeno Patricia, 21 Carina road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$79.62
- Slocum & Sons, 30 Corporate Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$73.97
- Tirozzi, Jeffrey J, 1298 Hartford Tpke, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$83.60
- USB Leasing LT, 1850 Osborn Avenue, Oskosk, WI 54902 in the amount of \$65.56

Mr. Doheny motioned to approve the property tax refunds as presented.

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

Mr. Freda stated that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the North Haven Memorial Library, 17 Elm Street, North Haven, CT.

**Public Comment –**

Mr. Gary Amato, Pool Road, asked why Mr. Zulawski was not afforded the opportunity to speak during the correspondence section of the meeting. Mr. Freda stated that he will be heard during public comments.

Mr. Michael Zulawski asked about the zoning regulations concerning replacement of buildings that were knocked down. Mr. Freda asked if he was referring to the North Haven Fair Grounds. He stated that according to the P & Z Commission, a site plan is not needed when the replacement buildings will be on the exact locations with the exact dimensions. Ms. Sadosky, Director of Public Works, stated that they spoke with the P & Z Commission who required documentation from the owners of the property and the contractor stating that the buildings are the same size, height, dimension, and foot print, therefore no site plan or bonding was needed. Mr. Freda reiterated that the Board of Selectmen has no jurisdiction over this issue. Mr. Zulawski commented that on 346 State Street they were doing work without a permit and he was curious as to why they did not get a cease and desist order. Ms. Sadosky stated that they did.

Mr. Sonazzaro, Elm Street stated that he feels that utility trucks should have a flagman. He also feels that commercial vehicles such as landscaping trailers do not legally belong on the road while they are mowing lawns and doing yard work. They take up the roadway and it makes for a dangerous situation. Mr. Freda agreed and noted that he would check with the police department on the issue.

Mr. Brian Testa, Maple Avenue, wanted to clarify several topics that have been talked about

around town. The first being new trucks in the public works department. Mr. Freda explained that we have several old vehicles that needed to be replaced because they are posing safety concerns. We have gone out to bid for used vehicles to replace them; they are not additions to the fleet. A discussion continued regarding the use of town vehicles. Mr. Testa wanted to address a subject repeatedly brought up by Mr. Amato regarding work performed during the winter storms and the replacement of mailboxes. He feels that living in New England, perhaps it should not be the Town's responsibility to replace them. Mr. Freda stated that it has been done previously and is continuing. Mr. Testa also wanted to clarify that he spoke with the Police Chief and Fire Chief regarding the issue of the accident involving the Fire Chief's car. He checked with the Police Chief, there was no accident report, the individual responsible paid for the repairs and everything appears to be documented. There was no conspiracy or cover up.

Mr. Amato, wants to know what is the big secret about who did the damage to the Fire Chief's car. Regarding the land use people, could they be present at the next Selectmen's meeting. Mr. Freda responded, no. He also feels that there is no site plans on the three buildings, and we are going on the honor system, and doesn't feel this is right. Mr. Freda stated that he should go before the P & Z Commission, that the BOS has no jurisdiction. Mr. Amato would like to see the 300 to 400 feet of sidewalks put in. Mr. Freda suggested he again bring the issue to the Fair Ground Association. Mr. Amato also inquired about the audit and the 26 people who owed money to the Town. He went and checked and there are 13 who have not paid, and what is the Town doing to collect the money. Mr. Freda replied that the Town Attorney is involved, and the Town is still pursuing collection. Mr. Amato also inquired about the street sweeper. It just went by his house today, and why did it take so long for the sweeper to come. Mr. Palma responded that we do not use sand on the roadways so we are not sweeping regularly. Mr. Amato also inquired about private work done on the corner of Ridge Road and Mt. Carmel Avenue, and why did we go beyond the typical 10 foot Town property line. Mr. Palma explained that it was a sight line issue. The mulch was free and came from the Town, the boulders were put there to prevent cars from driving into the ditch. The discussion continued.

Mr. Jim Leahy, Regency Drive commented that he has lived in 5 towns, and North Haven has the best Public Works Department he has ever seen, they do a fabulous job. And regarding that corner, there is a sight line issue. He does not understand why some people waste our time with bringing up these small issues.

Mr. Zulawski asked if there any bond put on the North Haven Fair Association project. Ms. Sadosky responded no, it was not required.

John Heeran, Debra Lane, inquired about the post office. Mr. Freda stated that they renewed a short term lease for their existing location. They wanted to move up Washington Avenue near the Big Y. There is a site near exit 12 that they are presently negotiating. Mr. Heeran asked if Mr. Freda would consider going to three bulk pick ups. He replied he hasn't but would speak with public works to see what the cost for a third pick up would be. He also suggested that for people who put out electronics, that public works leave a note advising them to bring them to the recycling center. Ms. Sadosky advised that we do sometimes leave notices. Mr. Heeran stated that regarding the Chief's car, when you have 24 hour use of a vehicle your W-2 would reflect that. Mr. Freda advised that is correct and we do indeed follow the IRS guidelines. Mr. Heeran stated that regarding mailboxes, they are easily knocked over when the snow is wet, there is a tremendous force. He also stated that you can't put up a building without a foundation, so they will have to match the foundation on the buildings at the fair grounds.

Mr. Pasquale Nuzzolillo, Chairman of the Fire Commission, Mansfield Road, stated that Chief

and Deputy Chief both have cars for use on a full time basis and it is reported according to IRS guidelines. He also addressed the \$800 accident involving the Chief's car, his commission made up of a bi-partisan group of individuals which is inclusive of the Democratic Town Chairman, had been advised of the issue at the time it occurred, reviewed it, and took all of the necessary steps as a commission to be sure that the Chief did everything he needed to as far as notification to the Finance Department. The commission was completely satisfied with what transpired. They did not require then, nor do they require now, to know who the person was who bumped into the car. There were no injuries. As far as they are concerned, it is done and over with and he is hopeful that residents of the Town understand that completely.

Mr. Peter Criscuolo, Fawn Ridge Road, also a member of the Fire Commission, stated that he agreed with Mr. Nuzzolillo. It was minor damage in a private lot, and there were allegations made. There was no one in the car at the time, and as far as allegations that the individual was inebriated, he does not believe that to be the case since the individual acted responsibly by going back in to advise the Chief of the accident.

Mr. Joseph Derrico, commented on the fair ground issue, stating that he believes under state statute the zoning board does not have any jurisdiction over anything that pre dates zoning. He also asked about the building on Washington Avenue and Glen Road, the old Prudential building which is being renovated. Mr. Freda responded that the Easter Seals is moving in there. Our town is very desirable to many organizations. The Easter Seals, which is a non profit, purchased the building and is renovating it, and it may bring some jobs.

Mr. Al Warren, Charles Court, inquired about the bid process for the used vehicles purchased for Public Works. Ms. Sadosky explained the process. Mr. Warren asked if a town resident could sell a vehicle to the Town. Mr. Freda responded yes they could. Mr. Warren asked what is going on with regard to the utility field at the old high school. Mr. Freda stated that he met with the superintendent and he is entertaining bids to get the job of removing the debris from the fields by the middle of September. The bid process will be handled through our Finance Department and the funding will come from the Board of Ed. The goal is to have the fields ready by mid September. Mr. Warren also inquired about the boilers at the high school. Mr. Freda explained the status of same, explaining that we are not spending the \$45,000 on maintenance and we expect them to run for approximately another six years or so. Mr. Warren had several other comments on various subjects.

**Adjournment** – Mr. Freda asked for additional questions, and seeing none and hearing none Mr. Doheny motioned to adjourn at 8:16 pm.