

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

August 9, 2012

The special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:00 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, Alan J. Sturtz

Mr. Freda introduced himself and Selectmen Timothy Doheny and Alan Sturtz and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr. Freda asked for public comments relative to the agenda. Mr. Gary Amato, Pool Road, asked if Mr. Freda would be including anything about the building department fees in his Selectman's Overview. Mr. Freda stated there would not, but would be more than happy to answer any questions during public comment. Mr. Sturtz also noted a correction to the agenda in the wording of item 6. There being no other public comment relative to the agenda, Mr. Doheny moved the approval of the minutes of the Regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting of July 5, 2012.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

There being no correspondence, Mr. Freda explained that our guest speaker this evening, Roseann Inlej from DCS Energy, was unable to attend due to illness. We will try to reschedule her again for a future meeting.

At 7:07 pm, Mr. Freda motioned to enter into executive session inviting Attorney William Ryan, Dave Mathieu, and Edward Swinkoski, Director of Finance, to discuss a police union contract that has been ratified by the Police Union. Mr. Doheny seconded the motion.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

At 8:06 pm, Mr. Sturtz motioned, seconded by Mr. Doheny to adjourn executive session and return to regular session.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

Mr. Doheny motioned, with a second by Mr. Sturtz to approve the terms of a collective bargaining agreement negotiated with and ratified by the Police Union.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

Mr. Freda gave a broad overview of the Police contract. He explained that one of the primary goals was to switch from a defined contribution plan to a defined benefit plan. This would begin saving money for the Town immediately. He also stated that they also worked to redesign the health benefits increasing employee copays and other gradual changes. The Town savings over the course of time could be in the millions. This four year contract does have wage increases, year one: 2%, year two: 2.5%, years three and four: 2.75%. We have worked favorably with the union and this will save the Town a

significant amount of money. Mr. Freda also noted that public safety is very important to us and he appreciates our fine police and fire departments. Mr. Freda then opened the meeting to public comment concerning the Police Union Contract.

Nancy Barnes of the Patch asked if the defined contribution plan refers only to new hires. Mr. Freda replied yes. Mr. Amato, reiterated that he felt Mr. Freda kept the fund balance down purposely as a bargaining tool because the money is not there for arbitration. Mr. Freda explained that Mr. Amato is incorrect. He is listening to advisors and keeping it at 8% where it was dropped four years ago. He stated that the outside auditors have relaxed a bit and now they are saying we should increase a bit. Mr. Freda feels that by maintaining the 8% Fund Balance and using the overage, we are able to provide no tax increase and feels that is important. Mr. Doheny noted that all across the country employers are moving away from defined contribution plans. There are many towns that are unable to fund their pensions, and does not think that can be ignored and focus solely on the fund balance. Mr. Sonazzaro, Elm Street, asked if there is language prohibiting anyone convicted of a felony from receiving their pension. Mr. Freda responded no. Mr. Amato stated he feels his opinion is correct. Mr. Freda disagreed and reiterated that is not the case. Ann Dematteo, New Haven Register, asked when does the Town expect to see a return on this. Mr. Freda noted that there will be several retirements soon with new employees coming on in this particular union. Ann asked how many still don't have new contracts. Mr. Freda stated Fire, Local 58, Clerical, Library and Supervisors unions.

Mr. Freda gave a brief Selectman's Overview which included Sustainable Building Systems, a new business coming to 297 State Street, bringing 400 new jobs to the area. Yale New Haven Hospital is on track to be completed by January 2013. Adjacent to that is the medical complex including three buildings; a cardiology practice due to occupy the building in late October, an animal hospital and the third building is also on track, but we are currently looking for tenants. Among all the projects we are looking at about 800 jobs. The Economic Development Commission has sent letters to the area businesses announcing the new developments and new jobs coming to the area.

Northern Washington Avenue, Leon's Restaurant which is occupying the old Hollywood Video is moving forward and on track for the Fall. Hibachi Grill which is bringing about 85 new jobs has encountered a delay. They need to go before the Planning and Zoning for an outdoor refrigeration unit. They are also looking to open towards the end of September. Mr. Freda stated that he has many wonderful projects in the pipeline and is working diligently to keep North Haven on track for continued economic growth.

Following the Selectman's overview, Mr. Doheny introduced and read the following resolution:

- (1) **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Selectmen authorizes submission of the funding application, North Haven Town Center Plan, under the Main Street Investment fund Program referenced in Section 78 and 79 of the PA 11-1; and
- (2) **RESOLVED:** That the First Selectman, is authorized to sign the Main Street Investment fund application and administer the project; and
- (3) **RESOLVED:** That the Board of Selectmen adopts the plan entitled "North Haven Center Plan" and the plan entitled "North Haven Center Action Plan".

Mr. Doheny moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and Mr. Sturtz seconded.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

Mr. Sturtz introduced and read the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the resolution entitled “Resolution Appropriating \$700,000 For The Replacement Or Rehabilitation Of The Spring Road Bridge Over The Muddy River And Authorizing The Issuance of \$700,000 Bonds Of The Town to Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For such Purpose”, a copy of which is attached hereto, is hereby adopted and recommended for approval by the Board of Finance and the legal voters of the Town at Town Meeting.

Mr. Sturtz moved that said resolution be adopted as introduced and the motion was seconded by Mr. Doheny.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

On motion of Mr. Doheny, duly seconded, it was voted that the First Selectman be authorized and directed to call for the Annual Town Meeting to be held Monday, September 24, 2012, at the North Haven High School, 221 Elm Street, North Haven, CT, at 7:00 P.M. (E.D.T.), for the following purposes: (i) to consider and take action on the resolution entitled “Resolution Appropriating \$700,000 For The Replacement Or Rehabilitation Of The Spring Road Bridge Over The Muddy River And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$700,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose”, and (ii) that the First Selectman be directed to cause a proper notice of said meeting to be published as a paid advertisement in a newspaper having circulation in the Town, and that said notice be posted in the office of the Town Clerk.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

Following the call for the Annual Town Meeting, Mr. Freda, Mr. Doheny and Mr. Sturtz introduced and moved the following appointments:

- Appointment of Matthew Kerzner (R), 60 Round Hill Road to the Board of Education to fill the unexpired term of Bert Mozealous, to expire on December 1, 2017.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

- Appointment of Ronald Penton (R), 132 Pool Road, North Haven to the Planning and Zoning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Douglas Roberts (Deceased) terminating on December 1, 2015.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

- Appointment of Mary Jane Mulligan (R), 69 Highland Park Road as an alternate on the Planning and Zoning Commission, term to expire December 1, 2013.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

- Reappointment by First Selectman, Michael J. Freda, of Robert F. Hannon, 26 Highland Park Road, as the Parking Violation Hearing Officer for a two year term to expire August 31, 2014.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

- Reappointment of Dorie Baker (D), 419 Skiff Street, to the Conservation Commission for a four year term to expire August 31, 2016.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

- Reappointment of Salvatore Bonito (U), 511 Elm Street, #7-5, to the Conservation Commission for a four year term to expire August 31, 2016.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

Mr. Doheny moved the following bond releases with the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sturtz.

- 370 State Street – 370 State Street, LLC release entire bond balance in the amount of \$30,000.00 with the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- 370 State Street – 370 State Street, LLC release entire bond balance in the amount of \$80,000.00 with the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mr. Sturtz moved and Mr. Doheny seconded the following property tax refunds -

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

- Amatruda, Robert & Whitehouse, Barbara, 10 Pond View Circle, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$31.58
- Borruso, Ronald or Linda, 1042 Hartford Tpke, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$28.85
- Cordova, Amy L, 55 Ezra Street, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$164.22 and in the amount of \$166.47
- Desimone, Ann or Annmarie, 93 Bradley Street, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$79.62
- Esposito, Giro Jr. or Angelina, 11 Peters Court, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$16.00
- Financial Ser Veh Trust, 5550 Britton Pkwy, Hilliard, OH 43026 in the amount of \$453.70, and in the amount of \$39.51, and in the amount of \$706.78
- Gelco Corporation, 3 Capital Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55344-3890 in the amount of \$134.20, and in the amount of \$382.14
- Horvath, Carmela B, 8 Cottontail Lane, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$31.10
- Lewis Garner or Patricia, 19 1st Street, Madison, CT 06443 in the amount of \$111.01, and in the amount of \$24.51, and in the amount of \$53.87, and in the amount of \$93.95
- Nerkowski, John & Eileen, 3 Pond View Circle, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$33.58
- Nissan Infiniti LT, P.O. Box 650214, Dallas, TX 75264-0214 in the amount of \$326.97
- O'Connor, Daniel, 317 Mill Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$18.61
- Partyka Lee M, 376 Mansfield Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$35.75
- Sandor, John or Ella, 19 Silo View Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$58.74
- Scoppetto, Anthony & Patricia, 4 Pond View Circle, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$29.74
- Stepleman, Leonard, 35 Saxony Ave, Delray Beach, FL 33446 in the amount of \$83.01
- United Parcel Service, 15 Arlington Street, Watertown, MA 02472 in the amount of \$41.93, and in the amount of \$30.05, and in the amount of \$30.05, and in the amount of \$30.05, and in the amount of \$35.70
- USB Leasing LT, 1850 Osborn Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54902 in the amount of \$370.15.

Mr. Freda identified the location and dates below for the year 2013 Board of Selectmen's meetings. Mr. Doheny motioned, seconded by Mr. Sturtz to accept the dates as follows:

- The meetings will be held on the first Thursday of each month with the exception of July and September where the first Thursday falls on a holiday. The meetings will be in the Community Room of the North Haven Memorial Library, at 7:00 pm. January 3, 2013; February 7, 2013; March 7, 2013; April 4, 2013; May 2, 2013; June 6, 2013; July 11, 2013; August 1, 2013; September 12, 2013; October 3, 2013; November 7, 2013; and December 5, 2013

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes

Mr. Freda stated that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Thursday, September 6, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the community room of the North Haven Memorial Library, 17 Elm Street, North Haven, CT. At this time he opened the meeting up to public comment.

Mr. Sturtz thanked the people who volunteer to serve and asked if we could move forward with a description of the responsibilities of the various boards and commissions. Mr. Freda agreed it is a good idea which was started but needs to continue. He is making it his goal to follow through for each commission.

Mr. Sonazzaro feels we should take money from the fire house bonding and use it for the bridge. He disagrees with renovating the fire houses and does not feel we need volunteers who he feels are untrained/skilled. Mr. Doheny stated that he feels Mr. Sonazzaro has grossly mischaracterized the Volunteer Fire Department in North Haven, and does not agree with his statements. Mr. Freda echoed Mr. Doheny's comments adding his accolades for the volunteers.

Mr. Amato spoke regarding the Building Department revenues. He stated that in 2009-2010 the department collected \$249,623. In 2011-2012 they collected \$734,542 which represents an increase in over a half a million dollars since the new Building Official took over. Mr. Freda stated that there is no doubt that following the investigation and clean-up of practices systems improved resulting in an increase, but much of the increase is the result of economic development. Quinnipiac University and Yale New Haven Hospital added to that increase. Quinnipiac University alone paid approximately \$300,000 in fees. Mr. Amato asked why the last meeting was cancelled. Mr. Freda explained vacation schedules. Mr. Amato would like the Board of Selectmen to write a letter to the Board of Education to address the new busing plan of putting the middle school children with high school children on the same buses. He disagrees with putting younger children with the older children because of bullying and drugs, etc. He thinks the bus company is the one that is saving. Mr. Doheny stated that he is unwilling to sign that letter. He is aware of the issue, but does not know all the facts. He has friends and relatives with older children and has no problem with his children being on the bus with students/children of their character. Mr. Sturtz stated that he feels the fear factor is coming out from Mr. Amato, rather than the kids traveling the buses. He does not see a problem and thinks that most of them will be good role models for the younger children. Mr. Amato would also like to see a presentation on the Stiles Fund. Mr. Freda stated the Stiles Fund is not handled by the Town. Reverend Lincoln, of St. John's Episcopal Church handles the Fund.

John Heeran, Debra Lane, stated his experience as a bus driver was that there was more bullying on the elementary school buses than upper schools. He feels the older kids would usually stop the bullying. Also, the bus driver can report the child and that

puts an end to it. He also commented on the Volunteer Fire Department and said that they are required to undergo a pulmonary test and are trained.

Christine Orris, Allen Road, stated that her understanding of the Stiles Fund is it is restricted to hospital bills only. She also noted that most of the older children in high school have cars, and that you see many of the high school buses running half empty.

Brian Testa, Maple Avenue, also made a statement in support of the Volunteer Fire Department. Regarding the Spring Road bridge, since we won't be repairing for several months, and in light of the recent accident, he would like to see more awareness brought to the road closure. Mr. Freda explained that the accident that occurred there was a medically induced accident. He also stated he has been talking to the Police Chief and they are considering making changes by moving the stop signs further out away from the bridge. He said that regarding the Board of Education, he would hope that this board could try to appeal to the BOE to open up more to the public. There hasn't been any minutes posted since December and their agendas come up late. This BOE is not as transparent as it can be. We are used to the openness of the BOS. He hopes that Mr. Freda could talk to Dr. Cronin. Mr. Freda stated he feels it is his responsibility as the chief elected official to speak to the BOE, rather than the BOS. He has been in regular contact with Anita Anderson, Chairman of the BOE, and Dr. Cronin. He thinks that we will see some change and improvements, and we are working with the BOE towards more proactive communication.

Al Warren, Charles Court, wanted to know if the boilers at the high school are still in litigation, Mr. Freda responded yes.

Gary Amato, stated there is a Board of Education meeting on August 23rd. and feels that anyone who cares about the safety of the kids should attend the meeting, or contact the superintendent. He also asked if we purchased the bucket truck yet, Mr. Freda replied no. Ms. Sadosky, Director of Public Work advised that they are actively looking for a used bucket truck that meets their budget and is suitable. It has been challenging, they have been working on it for several months and will continue to do so. Mr. Amato also questioned the new car for the Fire Chief. Mr. Swinkoski responded that he needed a vehicle and it was replaced. Mr. Amato's contention was with the type of vehicle, a Dodge Charger. Deputy Chief Mulhern explained that the Dodge Charger is a police package vehicle. The Crown Victoria is no longer being produced. They tested the vehicles and the Fire Chief went off their specs. Mr. Amato then questioned a business card that sits in the planning office for septic services. Ms. Sadosky explained that is the vendor that is contracted with the Town for septic pump outs which offers a benefit to the resident. Mr. Amato brought up several other subjects including the indoor skate park.

At the conclusion of public comment, Mr. Freda thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Sturtz seconded Mr. Doheny's motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 pm.

Vote: Freda – Yes, Doheny- Yes, Sturtz- Yes