

## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**September 6, 2012**

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The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:03 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. There being none, Mr. Sturtz moved the approval of the minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting of August 9, 2012.

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

There being no correspondence, Mr. Freda proceeded with a brief explanation of the guest speaker's program explaining that he learned of the ROOF (Real Options Overcoming Foreclosures) program at a recent South Central Regional Council of Governments meeting. He feels that this organization can provide a valuable service to our residents. Mr. Freda introduced Ms. Carla Weil, Executive Director. Ms. Weil introduced her associates, Cara Johnson and Briana Gavigan. Ms. Weil and her associates gave a very detailed presentation about ROOF explaining that the ROOF Project is a collaborative effort of the municipalities in South Central Connecticut and various area agencies. A main goal of ROOF is outreach. Briana discussed the negative impacts of foreclosure, and provided detailed information specially related to North Haven foreclosure statistics. Cara also talked about reasons for increases in foreclosure and trends. Information was provided about working with ROOF and the assistance they can provide. Mr. Sturtz suggested that we put the information on our website and make it available in Town Hall.

Mr. Freda then proceeded with the Selectman's Overview.

### **OPERATIONAL**

Bonding Projects: Milling and Paving Plan, Fire House Renovation, Construction of New Public Works Garage

Milling and Paving Schedule for 2012 - 2015

- The 10 mile milling and paving plan has been completed for August 2012. The Department of Public Works is working closely with the milling and paving contractors to ensure that the project remains on schedule. Letters were mailed to all residents whose roadways were designated for milling and paving operations in 2012.

Sanitation Garage Construction

- The structure has been completed and the Sanitation and Recycling personnel and equipment were relocated to the 110 Elm Street Garage on August 31, 2012. Remaining work includes, site loam and seed, installation of a drainage (box) culvert and the final paving coarse, scheduled for early October.

Fire House Renovations

- Lawrence Associates from Manchester, CT has been appointed as the architect and is under contract with the Town. Downes Construction Company has been selected as the construction manager. The schematic design and cost estimates for all four stations are being put together now. Once all the estimates are together, the bidding process will begin. Construction will begin next spring.

Closure of Spring Road Bridge Over Muddy River

- Due to a May 18, 2012 inspection by the CT DOT the DPW closed the southbound lane of the Spring Road Bridge over the Muddy River. On July 6, 2012 the Dept. was informed that the project qualified for funding under the CT DOT's Local Bridge Program and the Town will receive \$206,017 toward the total estimated project cost of \$700,000. The Department has selected a consultant engineer and design/ construction costs will be presented at the September 24<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting for authorization to bond for the project. Construction is expected to commence in April 2013 with completion by July 2013.

#### Oil to Gas Conversion Project

- The Finance Director, Ed Swinkoski, is working with the Building Official to convert 3 buildings: the Town Hall Annex, the Town Hall and the Police Department from oil to gas heat. The estimated total cost for the engineering work and construction is between \$85,000 - \$100,000. This will be financed over a 2 year period. The payback period for the THA is under a year while the Town Hall and Police Department are approximately 1.25 years.

#### Capital Equipment Purchases

- The Department under its Fiscal Year 2013 Capital Budget received approval for the purchase of several capital equipment items, including a tree stump grinder, tree bucket truck, computerized vehicle diagnostics and a garage exhaust system. The Dept received the tree stump grinder on August 30<sup>th</sup> and has already placed it into service in the Millbrook area. The garage exhaust system was designed and is being installed this month. The Dept. is working with Ali Data Motors to purchase the computer vehicle diagnostic equipment. The Dept. continues to search for a used tree bucket truck.

#### September Bulk Pick Up Program

- On September 4<sup>th</sup> the Dept. commenced with the Fall Bulk Pick-up Program. Residents are reminded that bulk items are defined as large upholstered items, appliances, and scrap metals. Residents are encouraged to place bulk items for pick up at the curb along with their regular sanitation and recycling containers on their designated sanitation collection day. The program concludes on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

#### GRANT UPDATES

##### STEAP Grant Award Montowese Elementary Playscape

- The Town of North Haven received notice on May 18, 2012 that it had been awarded a Small Town Economic Assistance Grant (STEAP) in the amount of \$50,000 to design and construct playscape improvements at the Montowese Elementary School. The Personal Service Agreement was executed by the State of Connecticut's Office of Policy Management on July 12, 2012. The Town has selected a design consultant and has met with all involved parties to move forward with design plans and specifications for improvements and Bid in October.

##### STEAP Grant Applications for 2013

- We have submitted STEAP grant applications for 4 projects including the Montowese Elementary School Playscape (unfunded portion), Vanacore Field Bathroom and Concession Facilities, Canna Park Tennis and Basketball Court Refurbishments and Streets and Roads Garage Refurbishment. The applications were delivered to OPM on June 8, 2012. STEAP Grant awards are routinely identified in January.

##### Main Street Investment Fund Grant

- The Department is working closely with the Town's Grants Administrator and the Office of the First Selectman to prepare a grant application for the reconfiguration of the Central Block and to address possible upgrades to the exteriors of various Town Buildings. The Main Street Investment Fund Grant applications are due to the State's Office of Policy and Management (OPM) on or before September 28, 2012. A complete application must include a Master Plan of the Central Block area. Those municipalities who qualify and file accordingly may be awarded grant dollars up to \$500,000

#### FINANCIAL UPDATE

- As a result of our management philosophy of looking for cost savings and efficiencies through the fiscal year and at a time when many governments are running deficits, we have been able to deliver a 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive surplus this fiscal year that just ended.
- The total surplus is \$750,000 and is a result of approximately \$287,000 in cost savings this past fiscal year and, a revenue increase of approximately \$465,000 in our building

permits and fees as a result of 3 things: A better and more robust system of adherence to collections, a large amount of new economic development projects in our pipeline, an extra \$60,000 received from the State.

#### NOTEWORTHY

##### Music Under the Stars Concert Series

- On Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> we concluded our 10 week Music Under the Stars Concert Series. The feedback from our residents has been very positive and we appreciate all the efforts of our Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works Department. Eileen Pettit is already working on next year's series.

##### Today in America with Terry Bradshaw

- North Haven identified as one of America's hidden gems. On Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> a production engineer flew in to shoot footage over a 10 hour day concluding with our Willie B Smith Concert on the Green. As soon as we have the schedule of airing dates and channels we will post on our website and submit to the local papers.

##### Alert: Beware of Scams

- North Haven residents being contacted by thieves targeting elderly posing as grandchildren in need of money.

##### North Haven Fire Department celebrating 100 years and 129<sup>th</sup> Annual State Firemen's Convention

- September 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Festivities throughout the weekend. Parade will be the largest North Haven has ever had. Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

##### North Haven Show and Sell Business and Community Expo

- October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 10:00 am – 3:00 pm at the North Haven High School. Interested food vendors, businesses and community groups can contact Valerie in the Selectman's office or visit: [www.northhavenevents.com](http://www.northhavenevents.com) to register

##### North Haven Substance Abuse Action Council

- Pill Return – Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, North Haven Fire Headquarters 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, Drop off your unwanted, expired, and leftover medications. Keep in the original bottle. Use marker to cross off names. All medications incinerated.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Yale New Haven Hospital Update:

The Yale New Haven Hospital (YNHH) project continues to move forward with their plans to develop an outpatient center in the former AT&T building at 6 Devine Street. They have purchased and are remodeling the 120,000 square foot, four story building for a comprehensive ambulatory care program. The center will be open seven days a week and will offer a wide variety of very comprehensive services and treatment including: Walk in Primary Care/Urgent Care Center, Inflammatory Disease Center, Smilow Cancer, Hospital Care, X-ray / MRI. In addition, YN Health System will consolidate and move some of its information technology office from multiple sites in New Haven to the North Haven facility. The first wave of employees are expected to begin working in the building this month. By the beginning of 2013 Yale's facilities will be fully occupied and functioning. By then there will be about 300 People working at the facility.

- Medical Center on State Street with the 24,000 square foot facility, Leon's, Hibachi Grill, Covidien Expansion, Sustainable Building Systems

##### New Businesses:

- Froyo World – 300 Universal Drive; Big Brothers Big Sisters - 277 State Street; Steel Horse Saloon – 630 Washington Ave; North of Havana – 55 State Street

Following the Selectman's overview, Mr. Sturtz read the following item on the agenda regarding the consideration of adding the following to the Annual Town Meeting previously called on August 9, 2012 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.): To Consider and act upon a resolution in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Finance to adjust appropriations of certain line items in the fiscal year 2011-2012 Budget, transferring funds between amounts as may be necessary in the total sum of Four Hundred Thirty One Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Three and 02/100 Dollars (\$431,923.02).

Mr. Doheny motioned the approval seconded by Mr. Sturtz.

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

Following approval of the additional item to the Annual Town Meeting, Mr. Sturtz moved and Mr. Doheny seconded the appointment of Marjorie R. Bergin (R), 30 Watson Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473 to the Greater New Haven Transit District Directors for a four (4) year term to expire September 6, 2016.

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

Mr. Doheny moved and Mr. Sturtz seconded the reappointment of Frank G. Contento, Sr. (D), 1640 Hartford Turnpike, as an alternate on the Greater New Haven Transit District Directors for a four (4) year term to expire September 6, 2016.

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

Mr. Doheny announced the resignation of James Marshall (D), 10 Watson Avenue from the Community Services Commission effective August 31, 2012.

Mr. Sturtz announced the resignation of Steven J. DiCapua (R), 103 Kings Highway, from the Board of Education. Mr. Doheny thanked Mr. DiCapua for his dedicated service to the Board of Education.

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

- Baldarelli, Marco or Deborah, 36 Turner Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$531.34
- Cabral, Kevin A, 2224 Avalon Haven Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$54.19
- Cifarelli, Lori A, P.O. Box 942, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$118.98
- Conn Coffee & Commissary D/B/A State Canteen, 76 State Street, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$22.82, and in the amount of \$15.74, and in the amount of \$12.90, and in the amount of \$13.74, and in the amount of \$12.90
- Daimler Trust, Box 685 Roanoke, TX 76262 in the amount of \$439.51, and in the amount of \$102.26
- Daniels, Darlene I, 288 Putnam Avenue #2C, Hamden CT 06517 in the amount of \$139.23
- Daum, Stephen J, 22 Lincoln Street, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$171.97
- DeMarco, Christopher P, 19 Mowry Street, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$309.10, and in the amount of \$265.98
- EMP Services Inc, 30 Bernhard Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$65.50
- Fusco, David & Angelina, 146 Rimmon Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$117.28, and in the amount of \$118.90
- Hyundai Lease Titling, Box 105299, Atlanta, GA 30348 in the amount of \$215.10, and in the amount of \$333.08
- Kopylec, David, 28 South Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$5.84
- Kopylec, Timothy, 28 South Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$23.88
- Laczak, Kimberly M, 107 Spring Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$27.71
- Linder, Bruce, 71 Spring Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$7.75
- Nissan Infiniti LT, Box 650214, Dallas, TX 75264-0214 in the amount of \$80.60, and in the amount of \$177.95, and in the amount of \$104.54, and in the amount of \$78.48, and in the amount of \$258.98, and in the amount of \$289.39, and in the amount of \$340.72
- Onofrio, Deborah L, 245 Warner Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$902.47
- Onofrio, Deborah L or Brittany, 245 Warner Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$273.31
- Reilly, John or Dolores, 19 Shawmut Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$5.76
- Ricci Cavallaro Painting, 7 Peck Street Rear, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$76.94
- Roderick, Kathryn, 37 Hidden Pond Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$22.74
- Steinman, John R, 19 South Gate Lane, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$53.08
- Sullivan, Mark W, 3134 Avalon Haven Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of

\$18.71

- Technical Gas Products, 66 Leonardo Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$219.75, and in the amount of \$247.62
- Toscano, Santa E, 20 Carolyn Court, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$18.61
- Trinh, Giau Phoung, 576 Clintonville Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$24.73
- Vetrano, Ariana K, 114 North Hill Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$115.98
- Williams, George T or Judith, 1695 Ridge Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of 21.90
- Yelmini, Raymond A, 35 Spring Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$13.98

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

Mr. Freda stated that due to a scheduling conflict the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, October 11, 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. John Herpok, Coventry Circle spoke to the Board about his desire to address the many families who use wood burning fire pits in their backyards for recreational use. He feels strongly about the health risks and air quality issues associated with them. He would like to see the Town pass an ordinance to require permits by residents each time they wish to use a fire pit. The Board discussed the issue and felt that in general, perhaps this would be something that oversteps government's boundaries.

Chief Vincent Landisio addressed the issue and the proper methods in which these types of fires should be conducted. He also discussed the Open Burning Ordinance which details some of what can and can't be burned. He supported Mr. Freda's suggestion on the idea of educating residents on the use of fire pits and offered to have the Fire Department compile a pamphlet with safety tips and information.

Mr. Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive, said that he knows some people who use these, and he feels that banning them would overstep boundaries.

Mr. Freda wrapped up the topic by stating that we will work with the Fire Department to educate the public on the dos and don'ts of burning back yard fires, as well as alternatives to wood fires. In addition to the pamphlet, we will put the information on our Town website.

Mr. Sherman Katz brought up three topics, out of state car registration, the middle school, and the abundance of signs in Town. Mr. Freda stated that regarding out of state license plates; we have embarked on the program. We are finding that some of the plates are legitimate based on the 6 month rule, and some are not. We have a company that we hired to address that. We have also found that there are a large number of cars that are not registered. Many owners aren't even aware of that. This will be an ongoing effort for about a year. Regarding the middle school, we have hired a company to do an audit to assess the costs associated with repairs versus renovation, versus building and/or using Gateway as swing space. We won't know the results of the analysis until the end of the year. We will present the information to the public with full disclosure with public meetings and hearings. Regarding signs, we do get complaints. We have a part time zoning officer, putting us in a reactionary mode since we do not have the resources to go out looking for the signs. If we get complaints we can address it. It is also a challenge to understand the needs of the businesses. It is a balance in that we do not want to alienate the businesses, but also maintain the integrity of the Town.

Fire Chief Landisio mentioned the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Fire Department and the 129<sup>th</sup> Fire Convention parade scheduled for Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. He provided many details of the spectacular events scheduled for the weekend and wanted to be sure that all our residents know they are welcome and invited to attend.

Mr. Freda asked for any additional public comment. Hearing none and seeing none, he thanked

everyone for coming. Mr. Doheny motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm.

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