

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

FEBRUARY 7, 2013

The regular 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.

There being no comments relative to the agenda, Mr. Sturtz motioned to approve the minutes from the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of January 3, 2013 with a second by Mr. Doheny.

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

Mr. Freda explained that Mr. Sonazzaro has expressed some concerns over the property on 100 Elm Street and the cemetery. To address those concerns, we did some research and Mr. Doheny then gave a detailed presentation. Mr. Doheny's presentation highlighted that in June of 1988 The Cemetery Association transferred both the Elm Street and Montowese cemetery land back to The Town of North Haven. He also noted that on April 29, 1974 the North Haven Cemetery Association approved a resolution authorizing the association to enter into a lease with Louis Tagliatela, n/k/a the North Haven Health and Racquet Club for 5.2 acres of land on Elm Street, located between the town garage (to the south) and the recycling center (to the north). It was also noted that the minutes of the meeting reflect that "Mr. Gott advised that Town Counsel is in Hartford today, but he has checked the incorporation papers of the Cemetery Association and did other research and asserted the Association can legally lease the property." The resolution that passed stated in part "and be it further resolved that all income from this lease will be used to operate, maintain and provide for the perpetual care in the active cemetery operation of the North Haven Cemetery Association". The lease was signed on May 21, 1974 and had an initial term of 20 years at \$6,000/year, completely net. The tenant was required to pay full taxes on all leasehold improvements and it granted the tenant the option to extend the lease for six successive five year periods, subject to an increase in the rent equal to the change in the Consumer Price Index. At the conclusion of Mr. Doheny's presentation, Mr. Freda commenced with the Selectman's Overview.

Operational

Recycling- Moving towards doing more recycling. More recycling reduces our costs. We are moving from \$67 per ton to \$36 per ton to \$0 per ton. Our new initiative will involve being paid for our recycling. Impending Storm- Preparing for tomorrow's massive storm, pre-treating roads, plows will be out in full force. Todd's Pond - completion date - February 28th.

Financial Update

Fiscal Year Budget -Most difficult one yet, cost of operations to retain our services are

going up

- State Budget: North Haven loses \$4,248,035 in car tax revenue
- As of today – Budget Request to BOF is:
 - Town side +6.5%
 - BOE +5.9%
 - BOE total capital \$1,000,000
 - Town total capital \$2,880,000

* Health Insurance is a large driver of the increases with a 29.1% quote based on claims incurred (claims history)

What are we doing about this dilemma? Analyzing the needs and determining what we can afford; Micromanaging every aspect of the budget; We have settled two union contracts which increase employee contributions towards health insurance and eliminate pension for new employees; We will continue to settle contracts in that fashion; We are out to competitive bid on insurance to reduce the increase. Revenue growth is critical.

Economic Development

- Carter Mario Law Offices
- 285 State Street Next Step Living – a residential energy efficiency company
- Leon’s
- Hibachi Grill –opened
- Yale New Haven Hospital – February 28th
- Economic Development Updates
- Animal/Pets Surgical Referral Center being built
- 352 Sackett Point Road – Wholesale Distribution Company
- Development on Daddio Farms
- Working to develop the corner of Scrub Oak Road and Northern Washington Avenue
- Pratt and Whitney
- Amazon
- State Street Project – old Nissan Dealership

Mr. Freda concluded his overview by stating that we will continue to focus on identifying new revenue streams.

Mr. Freda’s then explained that Mr. Fowler who was on the agenda, would not be speaking tonight, but will be on the March agenda to discuss child abuse prevention month in April.

Mr. Sturtz read the following resolution regarding the proposed Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation.

WHEREAS, the Town of North Haven, from time to time, undertakes and may financially participate in municipal projects to construct improvements to locally-maintained roadways, structures and transportation enhancement facilities that are eligible for government financial assistance from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, the federal government or both (“Transportation Projects”;

WHEREAS, when the Town undertakes a Transportation Project, it is required to enter into a contractual agreement with the Connecticut Department of Transportation;

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation has developed a Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects for use in connection with Transportation Projects;

WHEREAS, the utilization of the agreement will enhance the efficiency of administering and streamline Transportation Projects;

RESOLVED, that the Honorable Michael J. Freda, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to sign, on behalf of the Town, the Agreement entitled "Master Municipal Agreement for Construction Projects" with the Connecticut Department of Transportation.

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

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

Mr. Doheny proceeded to read the following resolution.

RESOLVED: that Michael J. Freda, First Selectman, of the Town of North Haven is hereby authorized to sign the LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION on behalf of the TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN for Spring Road over Muddy River, Bridge No. 03961.

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

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

Following the approval of the resolutions, Mr. Doheny motioned to accept the resignation of Audrey R. McClure (R), 1 Bowen Road, North Haven from the Quinnipiack Valley Health District Board of Directors. Mr. Sturtz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned to accept the resignation of Joseph Cappucci (D), 1 Surrey Drive, North Haven from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Sturtz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned for the reappointment of Vincent Landisio as the Open Burning Official for a two year term to expire December 31, 2014. Mr. Sturtz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned for the reappointment of David Carney, 56 Hayward Road, Hamden, CT 06514, as the Animal Control Officer for a one year term to expire December 31, 2013. Mr. Sturtz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned for the reappointment of Chrystal Rashba, 76 Clifton Street, Wallingford, CT 06492, as the Assistant Animal Control Officer for a one year term to expire December 31, 2013. Mr. Sturtz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned for the reappointment of Donald A. Olson, 11 Matthew Lane, North Haven as the Department of Motor Vehicles Hearing Officer for a two year term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Sturtz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Sturtz motioned the appointment of Joseph A. Cappucci (D) 1 Surry Drive, North Haven to the Fire Commission to fill the unexpired term of Daniel P. Fleming to expire December 1, 2013. Mr. Doheny seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned the appointment of Michael P. Maturo (R), 120 Millbrook Road, North Haven to the Cable TV Advisory Council for a two year term to expire June 30, 2014. Mr. Sturtz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned the appointment of Goldie Adele J.D. (R), 2223 Avalon Haven Drive, North Haven to the Board of Education to fill the unexpired term of Stephen Consiglio (R) to expire December 1, 2017. Mr. Sturtz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned the appointment of Christopher Duby (D), 81 Collett Street, North Haven to the Economic Development Commission for a three year term to expire December 31, 2015. Mr. Sturtz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned and the appointment of Richard LoPresti, 175 Sentinel Hill Road, North Haven to the Clean Energy Task Force. Mr. Sturtz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned the appointment of David Yaccarino, 1804 Hartford Turnpike, North Haven to the Clean Energy Task Force. Mr. Sturtz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Doheny moved and Mr. Doheny seconded the following Bond Releases:

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

- 38 Broadway – The Stop & Shop Supermarket Co. (Gas Station) release entire bond balance in the amount of \$130,000.00 with the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission.
- 432 Washington Avenue – Easter Seals Goodwill Industries 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

- Crosse, John & Laura, 3 Patten Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$108.12, and in the amount of \$109.62.
- GMAC, PO Box 9001951, Louisville, KY 40290-1951 in the amount of \$324.58, and in the amount of \$532.66, and in the amount of \$167.20.
- Honda Lease Trust, 600 Kelly Way, Holyoke, MA 01040-9681 in the amount of \$398.10.
- Johnson and Johnson Finance, 3333 Hesper Road, Billings, MT 59102 in the amount of \$264.89.
- Robinson, Lina, 85 Round Hill Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$34.64.
- Saulsbury, Robert, 5 Kent Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$104.56.
- Toyota Motor Credit Corp, Box 105386, Atlanta, GA 30348 in the amount of \$471.77.
- Treloar, Robert or Katherine, 3349 Dixwell Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$58.52.
- Ulbrich Shaped Wire Inc, 153 Washington Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473 in

the amount of \$2,592.68.

- Wheeler, Stephen D Jr., 19 Elizabeth Street, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$64.28.

Mr. Freda stated that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the community room of the North Haven Memorial Library, 17 Elm Street, North Haven, CT. He then opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive asked what the 29.1% increase in health insurance relates to in dollars. Mr. Freda estimated it to be about \$3 million. Mr. Katz also asked if the pension funds were all fully funded. Mr. Freda advised they were. Mr. Katz asked if we were collecting taxes on the Pratt & Whitney building. Mr. Freda stated that we will be demolishing because it is in such decay. Mr. Katz also stated that he feels we are penalized by the State for running efficiently. Mr. Katz also stated that he feels we need to alter our leaf pick up program to provide bags that residents can fill so we don't have to have such a labor intensive and costly program. Mr. Freda noted that three years ago when we removed the leaf program from the budget, an overwhelming number of residents voiced their opinions against removing it. Mr. Freda related his conversations with other mayors regarding the level of services we have compared to our neighboring towns.

Brian Testa, Maple Avenue, asked what the loss of \$4.2 million dollars of car tax would relate to in mills. Mr. Freda estimated about 1.5 mills. Mr. Testa asked about upper Washington Avenue and affordable housing. Mr. Freda provided a detailed overview of our affordable housing situation. Mr. Testa concluded with a question about the health insurance bidding.

Mr. Joseph D'Errico, Corey Road, asked about the State funding Mr. Freda mentioned in his overview. Mr. Freda explained that we received \$5.6 million last year and \$5.6 million this year, but there are line by line differences. We would have been \$1.1 million short, but our legislature worked hard for us and we received a hold harmless grant for \$1.1 million, but there is no guarantee we will continue to get it.

Mr. Gary Amato, Pool Road, said other towns get leaf pick up. He also questioned the health insurance bidding process. Mr. Freda explained it. Mr. Amato questioned the change to the bonding resolutions recently passed at the town meeting. Mr. Amato also asked why he is now being required to submit formal FOI requests for information, when previously, Mr. Freda told him he did not have to. Mr. Freda explained he has abused the privilege with the excessive demand he has put on our employees. Mr. Doheny also commented on Mr. Amato's onerous amount of requests and the strain he has put on our resources. Mr. Amato also inquired about the soil being removed from Todd's Pond and if soil samples were being taken. Ms. Sadosky explained that soil samples were not taken and not necessary, the actions we have taken to excavate the pond, and explained the Town's rights under State regulations. Mr. Amato also inquired about 222 McDermott Road and who the client is. Mr. Freda explained there is no client right now, but Empire Paving is the owner. Mr. Amato also had a question regarding the paving of a portion of Valley Service Road. Mr. Freda explained it was due to crumbling conditions of the road. Mr. Amato also asked about the fence in front of the DPW garage. Mr. Freda explained the money came from the Public Works budget and the fence was put up due to the request of the neighbors facing the garage. Mr. Amato also questioned a catch basin on Bailey Road. He also feels our new DPW hires are sloppy. Mr. Freda explained the rigorous interview and testing process that is used to ensure qualified hires. Mr. Amato concluded with

comments regarding a personnel issue.

Mr. Frank Contento, Hartford Turnpike, addressed the Board and public regarding the Commission on Aging, their mission and their concerns for affordable senior housing. Mr. Freda stated that he is concerned with providing more housing opportunities for seniors who are income restricted. He would like to see that happen in the former Clintonville Manor, but although there are several developers interested, he cannot control the pricing to put the deal together.

Charles Wicklein, Hartford Turnpike, inquired about Indian Ridge. Mr. Freda explained we did reach a settlement agreement to reduce the units from 396 to 145. Right now there has been no movement due to the lack of interest from any developers. Mr. Wicklein asked about the toxic waste from Pratt and Whitney. Mr. Freda explained UTC is responsible for the remediation. Mr. Wicklein inquired about 297 State Street. Mr. Freda explained Sustainable Building Systems has not been able to put up the money they agreed to as part of the First Five program through the State. Mr. Freda stated we cannot come up with the \$15 million, but we are working to try to find other interested tenants.

John Heeran, Debra Lane, mentioned that he supports elderly housing. He also stated that in Madison regarding their transfer station, you pay by the pound.

Mr. Sonazzaro, Elm Street, stated that we do need senior housing but not affordable housing.

Mr. Katz commented on the accessibility that Mr. Freda provides. The level of the customer service that Mr. Freda extends to our residents is unheard of. Running a town of this size is big business. He continued to provide his observation of having the best representation possible. He thanked all three Selectmen for the way they run our Town.

Mr. Freda asked for any additional public comment. Hearing none and seeing none, he thanked everyone for coming. Mr. Doheny motioned to adjourn at 9:11 p.m. seconded by Mr. Sturtz

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