

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

APRIL 4, 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.

Mr. Freda asked if there were any public comments relative to the agenda. Mr. Amato, Pool Road, asked to address the Registrar's decision on the polling location of the referendum. Mr. Freda advised Mr. Amato that following their presentation we will open up the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Sturtz motioned to approve the minutes from the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of March 7, 2013 with a second by Mr. Doheny.

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

Mr. Freda advised there was no correspondence and moved on to introduce Registrars Patty Jackson-Marshall and Laurie Brangi.

The registrars explained in detail the reasons for their decision to move the referenda from five polling places to one at the Mildred Wakely Recreation Center on Linsley Street. The primary factors being concern following the Sandy Hook tragedy by having voting taking place in the elementary schools while school is in session, and a more cost effective way to hold a referenda in light of a substantial decline in voter turnout. They provided cost estimates for using five districts vs. one district. They explained an estimated savings of approximately \$7,129 by using one polling location. They provided an election summary detailing the last six budget referenda and the total number of voters and the percentage who voted. They also gave an overview of the state regulations on polling places. An overhead map of the recreation center and surrounding parking lots was also displayed addressing parking concerns. Mr. Freda opened the meeting for public comment and there was a very active dialogue with questions and answers among the Selectmen, Mr. Katz, Mr. Amato, Mr. Brangi, Mr. Heeran, Mr. Sturtz, Mr. Fowler, Ms. Salman, and Ms. Brody.

Following the Registrar's presentation Mr. Freda proceeded with the Selectman's Overview.

OPERATIONAL

Recycling -Effective February 1, 2013 the Town and John's Refuse and Recycling entered into a NO-cost agreement for the handling of all curbside recyclables and those brought to the Recycling Center located on Elm Street. This no-cost agreement saved the Town's tax payers approx. \$85,000 annually.

Bulk Pick-Up -Semi-annual Two Week Curbside Bulk Pick commenced April 1st. Residents are encouraged to place bulk items for pick up at the curb along with their regular sanitation and recycling containers by 5:00 am on their designated collection day. Check the website for list of acceptable items.

Town Parks -DPW has commenced with its annual efforts to commence spring clean-up in all of our parks (200 acres) and in response to various field requests. Efforts are underway to address maintenance and park improvements at Grover Wyman, Canna, Montowese, Memorial,

Recreation and Central Block areas.

Montowese Playscape -STEAP Grant Award \$50,000, PTA raised an additional \$20,000, Project scheduled to be completed Friday, April 5th.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Fiscal Year Budget -Most difficult one yet. Cost of operations to retain our services are going up. State Budget: North Haven loses revenue from the state on the Town side. We have analyzed the needs and determined what we can afford, Micromanaged 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.

Total Town Government 2013-2014 Budget with Debt & Capital Needs 2012-2013: \$39,330,314 / 2013-2014: \$39,880,399 / Change 1.40% / Dollar change \$550,085.

Total Board Of Education 2013-2013 Budget: 2012-2013: \$45,720,684, 2013-2014: \$46,970,908/Change 2.73%/ Dollar Change \$1,250,224.

Total Recommended 2013-2014 Town/BOE Budget Including Capital: 2012-2013 - \$85,050,998 / 2013-2014: \$86,851,307 / Change 2.1% / Dollar Change \$1,800,309.

The current Mill Rate is 26.54 and will increase 1.56 mills to 28.10 this coming fiscal year.

Budget Public Hearing Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00 pm in the North Haven High School Auditorium. Annual Budget Town Meeting Monday, May 13th at 7:00 pm in the North Haven High School Auditorium. Referendum – Tuesday, May 22nd.

Our Proposed Budget maintains our present level of services to our residents and reflects only true capital needs. I would encourage everyone to vote “Yes” and I endorse this budget!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Updates: Carter Mario Law Offices, 285 State Street Next Step Living – a residential energy efficiency company, Clean Harbors Corporation, Animal/Pets Surgical Referral Center being built, 352 Sackett Point Road – Wholesale Distribution Company, Development on Daddio Farms, State Street Project – old Nissan Dealership

NOTABLE MENTIONS

- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Town is supporting this effort.
- 5th Annual Earth Day, Saturday, April 13th, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, North Haven Middle School.
- Substance Abuse Action Council, Pill Return, Saturday, April 27th, 10:00 a.m.to 2:00 p.m., Fire Headquarters, 11 Broadway. Bring your expired, leftover, unwanted prescription and non-prescription medications, Anonymous and convenient

Following the Selectman’s overview Mr. Doheny read the following resolution:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That The Town of North Haven hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase, obtain financing and enjoy all other housing related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive Officer of the Town of North Haven or his designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of North Haven and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his right to equal housing opportunities. Mr. Sturtz motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Doheny.

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

Mr. Sturtz read the next resolution on the agenda as follows:

RESOLVED: The Town of North Haven authorize and sign a contract with Central Auto Auction to dispose of surplus Police Department vehicles at a cost of \$195.00 per item sold. All revenue received will return to the Town of North Haven's General Fund. At present, there are two (2) police department vehicles leaving the fleet and available for auction. The vehicles are identified as: Former Car # 11, 2010 Ford Crown Victoria and Former Car # 19, 2010 Crown Victoria. First Selectman Michael J. Freda and Chief of Police, Thomas McLoughlin have set a reserve of \$3,800 for each of the vehicles. If the reserve is not met, the Town may have the option to take said vehicles to an alternate auction location with the same reserve. Mr. Doheny motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Sturtz.

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

Mr. Doheny read the call for the Annual Budget Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 13, 2013, at 7:00 pm in the auditorium of the North Haven High School, 221 Elm Street, North Haven, CT. Referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2013.

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

Mr. Freda expressed the condolences of the Board to the family of Philip DiPeri who was a member of the Board of Ethics. Phil passed away March 11, 2013.

Mr. Doheny read the following appointments, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 7 - 65, Ms. J. Stacey Yarbrough, Registrar of Vital Records for the Town of North Haven has appointed Mr. Brian Havens (The North Haven Funeral Home) and Mr. John Iacobucci (Washington Memorial Funeral Home) as a sub- registrars of vital records for the Town of North Haven. Said statute requires the appointment of said sub-registrars by the Registrar of Vital Records to be approved by the Town's selectmen. The term of office of the sub registrar(s) tracks that of the Registrar of Vital Records, i.e. tonight's appointments expire at the end of Ms. Yarbrough's current term, November 30, 2013.

Mr. Sturtz motioned to approve the appointments, seconded by Mr. Doheny.

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

The appointment of Ronald L. Bathrick, Jr.(R), 37 Susan Lane, North Haven, CT to the Community Services Commission, term to expire December 31, 2015 was moved by Mr. Doheny and seconded by Mr. Sturtz.

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

The appointment of Michelle L. Bonora (R) 445 Clintonville Road, North Haven, CT as an alternate on the Zoning Board of Appeals term to expire December 1, 2015 was moved by Mr. Sturtz and seconded by Mr. Doheny.

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

Mr. Sturtz moved the following Property Tax Refunds seconded by Mr. Doheny.

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

- Cab East LLC, Box 105704, Atlanta, GA 30348 in the amount of \$270.98, and in the amount of \$462.06, and in the amount of \$164.23.
- Chase Auto Finance, Box 901098, Fort Worth, TX 76101 in the amount of \$257.79.
- Interconference Merchants, 2 Pez Court, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$7.05.
- Kennedy, Kevin, 10 Belmont Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$77.71
- Nissan Infiniti, LT, Box 0650214 Dallas, TX 75264-0214 in the amount of \$279.70.
- Ohare, Lisa A, 52 Drazen Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$322.03.
- Roche, Ann or John, 131 Shawmut Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$70.44, and in the amount of \$78.54, and in the amount of \$79.62, and in the amount of \$79.62.
- Ryder Truck Rental, 99 Murphy Road, Hartford, CT 06114-2104 in the amount of \$149.29, and in the amount of \$253.45, in the amount of \$253.45, and in the amount of \$170.99, and in the amount of \$280.82, and in the amount of \$273.49, and in the amount of

\$106.48, and in the amount of \$106.48, and in the amount of \$144.94, and in the amount of \$800.52, and in the amount of \$141.86, and in the amount of \$123.15, and in the amount of \$83.34, and in the amount of \$34.02, and in the amount of \$100.40, and in the amount of \$74.36, and in the amount of \$168.79, and in the amount of \$295.52, and in the amount of \$295.52, and in the amount of \$293.26, and in the amount of \$293.26, and in the amount of \$293.26, and in the amount of \$168.79, and in the amount of \$253.45, and in the amount of \$126.72, and in the amount of \$295.52, and in the amount of \$253.45, and in the amount of \$253.45, and in the amount of \$295.52, and in the amount of \$537.86, and in the amount of \$439.90, and in the amount of \$34.40, and in the amount of \$103.56, and in the amount of \$34.40, and in the amount of \$407.28, and in the amount of \$2,163.01, and in the amount of \$24.79, and in the amount of \$100.40, and in the amount of \$212.99, and in the amount of \$141.86, and in the amount of \$280.88, and in the amount of \$248.02, and in the amount of \$ 141.67, and in the amount of \$218.80, and in the amount of \$134.03, and in the amount of \$252.23, and in the amount of \$239.04, and in the amount of \$125.72, and in the amount of \$259.64, and in the amount of \$259.64, and in the amount of \$69.19.

Mr. Freda advised that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen – Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the community room of the North Haven Memorial Library, 17 Elm Street, North Haven, CT. He also noted that there may be a change to the June meeting, which we will advise at the next meeting.

Mr. Freda then asked for Public Comment. Mrs. Carole Caggiano, Barnett Drive, commended Mr. Freda for doing a fabulous job. She also stated that she does not appreciate some of the negativity from several people. She feels we all need to work together.

Mr. Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive, inquired about the library roof, he notice it is becoming rusty and he also asked for an update on the middle school. Mr. Freda explained that snow guards were recently installed on the library roof. He also stated he is not happy about the condition of the roof and we are pursuing possible litigation against the company that did the work. Unfortunately, however, it appears that the existing installation company is out of business. We will be trying to find a resolution. Regarding the middle school, we did receive back the report and are exploring options regarding renovation, building new or the possibility of utilizing Gateway.

Mrs. Irene Salman, Drazen Drive, inquired as to the Director of Public Works whereabouts during the recent snow storm. Mr. Freda explained that she was on a preapproved vacation out of town. He also reiterated that she offered to cancel her plans and he declined her offer. He also stated that she worked remotely throughout the storm.

Mr. Sonazzaro, Elm Street, stated he does not appreciate any negative comments about Ms. Sadosky. She is a worker, and is present at every Board of Selectmen's meeting to answer questions.

Mr. Amato engaged in a lengthy commentary about his opinions regarding the performance of the Department of Public Works during the recent record breaking snow storm.

Mr. Frank Bumstead, Hartford Tpke., works for our DPW and stated that it is difficult to plow 38 inches of snow with a 30 inch plow, and the department had plenty of supervision.

Mr. Raymond Fowler, Todd Drive, used a military analogy stating that it is not necessary for the person in charge to be present, and in the 21st century you can manage remotely. He feels it is a specious argument.

Mr. Katz, stated he spent 40 years in management and it is a credit to any management organization that they can manage in someone's absence. Lynn built and organization that can be effective in her absence.

Mr. Sturtz noted that looking back on his long professional career he doesn't remember being

paid for the time he spent in his chair at his desk, but rather for the job he did and his performance and that the people who needed the information received it. He thanked Lynn Sadosky and also noted that even with a plan, we would not have been able to follow it.

John Heeran, Debra Lane, stated that the person in command doesn't dig the ditch. You build a team to carry out the task. There were white out conditions, and cars stranded on the roads. Also if Lynn can't take time off without the Town falling apart, then we are in dire straits.

Carole Caggiano, stated that she does not understand what the controversy is with one person going on vacation.

Mr. Amato continued his comments regarding the storm and the performance of the Department of Public Works. He also had some questions and comments on the budget and increase in the mill rate and how that will affect the homeowners. He was also unhappy with increases that several administrators were receiving in the new budget. He also encouraged everyone to attend the Budget Public Hearing on April 9th and also to vote.

Mr. Robert DeMauro, Lincoln Place, DPW employee stated that there was a lot talk about a plan. He stated that the plan is a guideline, but you must adjust the plan with the type of storm. He is a member of a crew of people with extensive experience working under Lynn's direction. With a snowfall of 5 inches an hour it is difficult to stay ahead of it.

Mr. Victor Palma, Director of Field Operations, said he is proud of his guys, they did a great job. Four and a half days, curb to curb. Other towns did not do as well. He also advised that the police lot and cars were covered in snow because they were not moving. He also mentioned that we had a number of residents who are on dialysis and we went out with pay loaders to get them out so they could get treatment. We also found a family stranded on the highway for five hours that we rescued using a pay loader. He appreciated the great job his team did.

With no further public comment, Mr. Sturtz motioned to adjourn at 9:05 pm.