

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 6, 2014

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, Sally J. Buemi

Mr. Freda introduced himself and Selectmen Timothy Doheny and Sally Buemi to the meeting.

Mr. Freda asked if there were any public comments relative to the agenda, being none, Miss Buemi motioned to approve the minutes from the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of January 9, 2014 with a second by Mr. Doheny.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned to approve the minutes from the Special Budget Workshop Meeting of the Board of Selectmen on January 14, 2014.

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

There being no correspondence, Mr. Freda explained that the representatives from the Easter Seals Goodwill were not present to discuss the Goodwill North Haven Textile Collection Program. The presentation was tabled for a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Freda then welcomed representatives from the United Illuminating who were present to provide information on the UI's tree trimming and cutting initiative. Mr. Jim Cole, Director of Operations and Maintenance for the UI, addressed the selectmen and public. He explained the program and the reasoning behind it based on the repeated power outages and extensive damage from the three subsequent storms that hit New England - Sandy, Irene and Storm Alfred. UI would like to strengthen their system to prepare for the possibility of future storms. UI's plan is to trim limbs where possible preventively and also where wires are involved in the branches. When presented with a tree that cannot be trimmed without compromising the integrity of the tree, that tree will be marked for cutting down. No tree will be cut down or trimmed without a review and agreement by the UI, Town and resident. In any area where an agreement can't be achieved, an appeal can be brought before PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority) who will be the decision makers. There was a brief discussion and question and answer period following Mr. Cole's presentation.

Miss Buemi read the following resolution. Mr. Doheny motioned to approve the resolution, seconded by Miss Buemi.

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

RESOLVED that the Town of North Haven confirms its commitment and participation in a regional household hazardous waste collection center.

WHEREAS, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, as agent for the South Central Regional Council of Governments and participating municipalities, has undertaken the permitting, construction and operation of a regional facility for the collection of household hazardous waste and conditional exempt small quantity generator business waste at its headquarters at 90 Sargent Drive in New Haven; and

WHEREAS, the municipalities participating in the facility are able to have residents drop off their household hazardous wastes on Saturday mornings (9am-Noon) and conditionally exempt small quantity generators deliver business waste on Saturday morning, (by appointment from 7 am – 8:30 am), from spring through fall for proper processing, transportation, and disposal; and

WHEREAS, the facility is owned, managed and operated under the supervision of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority for the benefit of the participating municipalities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF NORTH HAVEN THAT:

The Town of North Haven declares its commitment to continue participation in the regional household hazardous waste collection center for a minimum three-year period (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017), and confirms its intent to contribute financially for the operation, processing, transportation, and disposal of household waste.

The Town of North Haven authorizes its First Selectman to enter into this agreement with the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority for the operation of the facility. Such agreement will permit the Authority to act as its agent to maintain the facility, to contract with a vendor for the transportation and disposal of the wastes, to receive financial support from grant sources, to enter into agreements with other municipalities, and to operate the facility.

Invoicing will be based on a two part formula:

1. Annual operational costs are based on the number of 1 and 2 family housing units,
2. Annual transportation and waste disposal costs are prorated

This resolution shall be effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017.

Mr. Doheny read the Call for a Special Town Meeting to be held Thursday, February 20, 2014 in the upstairs conference room # 1 in the North Haven Memorial Town Hall, 18 Church Street, North Haven, Connecticut, at 9:00 A.M., to consider and act upon the following resolution:

Resolved that Goldie Adele, J.D., 3324 Avalon Haven Drive is added to the North Haven Middle School Building Committee (“NHMS Building Committee”) previously established at the Special Town Meeting held on January 28, 2014.

Miss Buemi motioned the approval, seconded by Mr. Doheny.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned to accept the resignation of Michael Pomichter from the Park and Recreation Commission. Miss Buemi seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned to accept the resignation of Stephen Darley from the Inland Wetlands Commission. Miss Buemi seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned the appointment of Ann Garsten (D), 225 Millbrook Road to the Inland Wetlands Commission to fill the unexpired term of Stephen Darley terminating on December 31, 2015. Miss Buemi seconded the motion.

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

Miss Buemi motioned the appointment of Ronald L. Bathrick, Jr., (R) 37 Susan Lane, as an alternate on the Board of Ethics to fill the unexpired term of Kerry Kennealy terminating on December 31, 2014. Mr. Doheny seconded the motion.

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

Miss Buemi motioned the approval of the following Property Tax Refunds. Mr. Doheny seconded the motion.

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

- Cab East LLC, Box 105704, Atlanta, GA 30348 in the amount of \$241.62, and in the amount of \$304.15, and in the amount of \$454.63, and in the amount of \$173.55, and in the amount of \$420.80, and in the amount of \$189.58, and in the amount of \$613.79, and in the amount of \$169.24, and in the amount of \$182.86, and in the amount of \$286.60
- Daimler Trust, Box 685, Roanoke, TX 76262 in the amount of \$435.19
- DCFS Trust, 2050 Roanoke Road, West Lake, TX 76262 in the amount of \$325.88, and in the amount of \$453.30
- GMAC, 9401 James Avenue S ST 140, Bloomington, MN 55431 in the amount of \$371.40, and in the amount of \$520.71, and in the amount of \$520.71, and in the amount of \$630.33, and in the amount of \$109.45, and in the amount of \$556.81, and in the amount of \$166.28, and in the amount of \$320.60
- GMAC c/o Ally Financial Louisville, PO Box 9001951, Louisville, KY 40280 in the amount of \$431.01, and in the amount of \$556.81, and in the amount of \$442.16, and in the amount of \$335.73
- Honda Lease Trust, 600 Kelley Way, Holyoke, MA 01040-9681 in the amount of \$100.94, and in the amount of \$89.13
- Nissan Infiniti LT Box 650214, Dallas, TX 75265 in the amount of \$45.02, and in the amount of \$78.85, and in the amount of \$252.26, and in the amount of \$112.01, and in the amount of \$157.08
- Nissan Motor Acceptance box 650214, Dallas, TX 75265 in the amount of \$156.75, and in the amount of \$152.44
- Vault Trust Box 8138, Cockeysville, MD 21030 in the amount of \$125.67, and in the amount of \$75.56
- Vegliante, Joseph or Catherine 7 Regency Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$96.10
- Young, Katherine 67 Rakoczy Avenue, Fairfield, CT 06484 in the amount of \$360.43

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the approval of the following bond release.

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

- 88 Spring Road – Charles A. Valentino & Jennie Valentino release the entire bond

balance in the amount of \$2,500.00 with the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Mr. Freda stated that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen – Thursday, March 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the community room of the North Haven Memorial Library, 17 Elm Street, North Haven, CT.

Mr. Freda asked if there was any public comment. Mr. Charles Wicklein, Hartford Turnpike wanted to know if anything more was done regarding what the Town would do if Mr. Freda was unable to perform his duties and does two selectmen constitute a quorum. Mr. Freda and Miss Buemi agreed that it does. Mr. Wicklein also commented on an insert in the paper that provides statistics on North Haven including the number of fire calls and the decrease in student enrollment. He encouraged everyone to read it.

Mr. Katz asked if there were any plans to keep a check on the property Quinnipiac University purchases. Mr. Freda explained that Quinnipiac has been buying property. They have no plans right now for development. The Town's position is that we can't stop them from buying property, but we have a strong defense which is our planning and zoning regulations. Mr. Katz also commented that at the Board of Finance meeting, it was asked if there was going to be a vote at the town meeting regarding the middle school and the answer provided was no, however, there was in fact a vote taken. Mr. Freda responded that the interpretation of the question asked at the meeting was if there was going to be a vote on the referendum. The vote at the town meeting was on resolutions to set the stage for the referendum. The selectmen all spoke to the issue. Mr. Katz also brought up that he appreciates how North Haven handles the funding of the pension fund. He disagrees with towns that borrow to fund their pensions. Mr. Freda explained we do fully fund our pension and we have negotiated to move from defined contribution plans to 457 plans for new employees.

Mr. Peter Criscoulo, Fieldstone Court, commented on statements made by a resident at the last board of selectmen's meeting pertaining to the fire department and the chief. He gave a very detailed explanation of the renovations and why they were needed and how they were being managed. He took exception to the derogatory comments made at earlier meetings.

Mr. Sonazzaro, Elm Street, remarked that he still disagrees with the fire house renovations and thinks it was overbuilt. He had additional comments. Mr. Criscoulo made several comments in response to Mr. Sonazzaro clarifying that the fire house is not new, but renovated, the number of service calls the department makes, and comparisons to other departments.

Mr. Joseph Capucci, Surry Drive, stated that he has lived in town for 40 years and is on the Fire Commission. He also takes exception to the remarks made regarding the department. He states that there are no liars, cheats or thieves on the commission or department.

Mr. Katz, inquired about the pavement improvement program. Now that it is coming to an end, he is concerned about the ongoing maintenance and does not think it is wise to stop. Mr. Freda explained that the program is ending, but is very cognizant of taxpayer stress and does not want to overload the residents. We have the referendum on the middle school in June and he is concerned about going to the residents to ask for another 1 to 2 million dollars for paving. Mr. Freda restated that we have to maintain the Town's infrastructure and balance that with bonding as we watch the declining debt balance and bond at lower interest rates. The solution is managing the debt service line in the budget.

Mr. Katz stated we have a very healthy fund balance, and perhaps we could use a small portion of that rather than bond. Mr. Doheny commented on this stating that the bond rating correlates to our fund balance and other towns have poor bond ratings because of low fund balances. Mr. Freda feels it is important to keep a healthy fund balance.

Mr. Jay Bard, Sherwood Drive, does not feel we should be borrowing to pay for maintenance of the roads. It should be a line item as an operating expense in the budget. Mr. Freda disagreed. To populate that line item with several million dollars would be an immediate tax increase. The discussion continued among the selectmen and Mr. Bard.

Mr. Pasquale Nuzzolillo, Mansfield Road, commented on the derogatory comments made by a resident regarding the fire department, fire chief and fire house renovations. He feels the comments are out of line, not appreciated and there is no place for those types of words in North Haven. He continued his discussion on the topic explaining there is no evidence of any wrong doing or improprieties relating to the renovations. The project is being monitored, it is on budget, and on time, and the central station is a renovation, and not a new building. Mr. Nuzzolillo continued to speak in support of the department, the project, and requesting people to please be respectful, courteous and truthful when they speak at a meeting.

With no further comments from the public, Mr. Doheny motioned to adjourn. Miss Buemi seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.