

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

March 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.

Miss Buemi motioned to alter the agenda to move the Girl Scout presentation before the business of the meeting. Mr. Doheny seconded the motion. The Girl Scouts opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, the Girl Scout Pledge and a song. Mr. Freda then proceeded with reading a proclamation recognizing March 12, 2014 as Girl Scouts Day in North Haven, Connecticut. Mr. Freda awarded the proclamation to the North Haven Girl Scouts.

Mr. Freda asked if there were any public comments relative to the agenda, being none, Mr. Doheny motioned to approve the minutes from the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of February 6, 2014 with a second by Miss Buemi.

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

Mr. Freda read a letter from Pasquale Nuzzolillo, Chairman of the Board of Fire Commission regarding a request for an emergency purchase of a new fire department emergency unit. The letter detailed the extensive problems with the Emergency 1 vehicle which is out of service. The request was made to make an emergency purchase from the contingency fund not to exceed \$160,000 to replace the Emergency 1 vehicle. Mr. Freda explained that he feels this must be done because it is a public safety issue. Mr. Freda explained there is \$300,000 in the contingency fund, and this will not cause an over expenditure of the budget. Both Mr. Doheny and Miss Buemi supported this allocation of funds. Mr. Freda stated that we will be moving forward with this purchase.

Mr. Freda then introduced Mr. H. Richard Borer, President of the Easter Seals Goodwill Industries. Mr. Borer was present to discuss the Goodwill North Haven Textile Collection Program. Mr. Borer explained in the background of Easter Seal Goodwill Industries and the proposal that they have for working together with the Town of North Haven. The program will enable residents to put their textile donations into a bin that will be picked up once a month at the curbside on the resident's regular trash day during the first week of each month. This will be beneficial to both the Town and Easter Seals. Since North Haven is paying \$69 a ton in trash disposal, this program will help to reduce the amount of waste the Town is paying to dispose of while providing proceeds to Easter Seals that are used to fund community programs for people with disabilities and other challenges.

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

OPERATIONAL

- Grover Wyman Bike Path and Park Rehabilitation Project. Over the past several months we have been meeting with a community interest group to discuss and implement the construction of a bike path. Remaining work is expected to be completed by April 15, 2014. Construction improvements for the play scape are expected to commence this summer.
- Spring 2014 Bulk Pick Up. Effective on Monday, March 31, 2014 – Friday April 11, 2014 the Town's DPW will provide a two week curbside collection program for bulk items. Residents are encouraged to place bulk items at the curb along with their regular sanitation by 5:00 am on their designated sanitation collection day. Please visit the Town's website for specifics regarding acceptable bulk items. www.town.north-haven.ct.us
- Spring Road Bridge Reconstruction. Effective March 26, 2014 a bid opening will be held for the reconstruction of the Spring Road Bridge. Award is expected to take place in April and construction is expected to commence in May, 2014. Completion date expected to be around August 1st, 2014.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Budget 2014-2015. Will be finalizing at the budget workshop scheduled for Wednesday, March 19th at 7:30 pm. Budget Public Hearing, Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at 7:00 pm NHHS. Annual Budget Town Meeting, Monday, May 12, 2014 at 7:00 pm NHHS.
- Economic Development: Incremental Tax Phase In. Will be bringing to a Special Town Meeting in late April, 2014.
 - North Haven Shopping Center
 - Village on State 55+ Housing Project
 - Housing – Northern Washington Avenue for Quinnipiac University
 - Former Pratt & Whitney property
 - Cinemark Cinemas
 - 297 State Street
- EDC Breakfast - Thursday, April 10, 2014, Best Western Plus, North Haven, 7:30 am – Registration. Anyone interested in attending may contact Valerie Goodkin in my office to R.S.V.P.

NOTEWORTHY

- Attachments to Electric Distribution Poles. UI has asked the Town to inform its residents that they prohibit people and or entities from hanging signs, banners, playbills, and other foreign objects to UI poles. Under Connecticut Statutes Section 23-65 any person, firm or corporation who affixes to a telegraph, telephone, electric light or power pole...shall be fined no more than \$50.00 for each offense.
- North Haven Substance Abuse Action Council. In conjunction with the National DEA event, will hold a Pill Return – Saturday, April 26th at the fire headquarters on Broadway. Hours 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Drive into the rear, volunteers will be there to take the expired and unwanted medications.
- Earth Day Celebration. April 5th, 2014, North Haven Middle School, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Mr. Hugh Davis, Chairman of the Conservation Committee provided some additional detail about the event.

Mr. Freda shared a recommendation he received from a resident regarding accepting tax payments in cash, and perhaps limiting the amount accepted to under \$1,000. He opened the question to Miss Buemi and Mr. Doheny, considering the fact that it is an open building and we have had some incidents in the past. Miss Buemi wondered if any other

towns had this policy and expressed a concern for the potential that by limiting cash we may discourage people from paying their taxes. Mr. Doheny feels that we have come a long way in how we handle finances and don't have much of a need to carry large amounts of cash. He hopes we can have a balance of protecting Town Hall and our employees as well as ease of bookkeeping and not discouraging payments. Mr. Freda will continue to update.

Mr. Doheny mentioned that, as Mr. Sturtz had supported in the past, he would like to remind everyone about a great charity that supports children with cancer. St. Baldrick's is this month and he encouraged public support.

Miss Buemi questioned the date of the May referendum, and would like to see the referendum on the Middle School be held before the end of school. She is hopeful that it will be before schools dismisses for summer to maximize voter turnout.

Miss Buemi commented on Mr. Freda's State Of The Town address. She commented that she reviewed old minutes and in August 8, 2013 Mr. Freda spoke of using the \$1 million dollar surplus for capital expenses. Mr. Freda stated that the surplus ends up being put in as a revenue item and could be used for any expenditure, including capital expenses. Mr. Freda noted that Ms. Yarbrough has done a great job of collecting back taxes and that has boosted revenue.

Miss Buemi entered into a lengthy dialogue regarding the one polling place for referendum. In summary, she never stated that the one polling place causes low turnout, however, she feels if you are already struggling with voter turnout, the last thing you want to do is make it harder or less convenient for residents to vote. She also has some concerns over the process the Registrar's used to make their decision to move to one polling place. She continued to speak on the subject, with additional comment by both Mr. Doheny and Mr. Freda. Mr. Doheny commented that in summary the Town attorney should be consulted with regard to the process. Miss Buemi asked for a motion on the subject. Mr. Freda stated that he would like to provide the Registrars with the opportunity to comment, and also have Miss Buemi speak directly with the Town attorney before making or voting on a motion.

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

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

- A. RESOLVED: The Board of Selectmen of the Town of North Haven endorse a proposal submitted by the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG) for a Regional Performance Incentive Program grant pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-124s as amended by Section 251 and 253 of Public Act 13-247. The SCRCOG proposal is for the Continued Development of Regional GIS Data Services.

Miss Buemi read the second resolution and motioned to approve same, seconded by Mr. Doheny.

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

- B. RESOLVED, that the Town of North Haven may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (formerly the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security) any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate;

and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Michael J. Freda, as First Selectman of The Town of North Haven, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of North Haven and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Miss Buemi motioned the appointment of Robin Wilson, 45 Summer Lane as an alternate to the Quinnipiack Valley Health District for a three year term to expire March 6, 2017. 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

- Lee, Ji Hyun, 111 Collett Street, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$296.46
- Nissan Infiniti LT, Box 650214, Dallas, TX 75265 in the amount of \$547.28
- Ryan, John, 6 Algonquin Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$7.34
- Toyota Motor Credit Corp., Box 105386, Atlanta, GA 30348 in the amount of \$28.94

Miss Buemi excluded herself from voting on the following property tax refund because of a client relationship with the resident. Mr. Doheny motioned for approval of the following Property Tax Refund, seconded by Mr. Freda

- Torello, James or Lori, 310 Upper State Street, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$28.01

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

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

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

- 191-209 North Hill Road – Founders Preserve Hitching Post, LLC reduce the current bond balance of \$150,000.00 by \$140,000.00 retaining a balance of \$10,000.00.

Mr. Freda stated that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen – Thursday, April 3, 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. John Heeran, Debra Lane, commented that regarding accepting large amounts of cash in the tax office he has had an experience with counterfeit money, which he believes has been a little more frequent lately, and that puts the Town at risk. He also stated that he would like to see the ordinance regarding snow being plowed from driveways into the roadways enforced. He also feels that regarding polling locations, if a person wants to vote, they will vote, especially when they are against something.

Mr. Katz thanked Miss Buemi for her research on the subject of the voting places. Mr.

Katz asked if there were panic buttons in Town Hall, Mr. Freda responded yes. Mr. Katz asked about the State reimbursement on the Spring Road bridge. Mr. Katz also asked about the emergency vehicles and if we would be fixing the vehicle and keeping it to have three in the fleet. Mr. Freda wasn't sure, but did not think we would have three.

Mr. Chris Burns, Fitch Street, former head Swim coach for North Haven provided a very nice commentary on the history of the pool and timing system. He detailed the system and the merits of the pool and the system, which deteriorated over time. Mr. Burns commented on the cooperation between the Town and the Board of Education and the refurbishment of the timing system. He commended all involved and stated how proud he is of the pool and the people involved in keeping it running and in pristine condition.

Mr. Al Warren, Charles Court, spoke from his experience regarding the emergency units. They go through a lot of stop and go and they break down from the wear and tear. He feels we must replace the unit and it would be money well spent.

With no further comments from the public, Mr. Doheny motioned to adjourn. Miss Buemi seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.