

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 5, 2015

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 welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced himself and Selectmen Timothy Doheny and Sally Buemi. Mr. Freda asked if there were any public comments relative to the agenda.

Mr. Gary Amato, Pool Road, asked the Board to remind people, especially since there have been some new people attending the meeting, to please come to the microphone when called upon to speak and address the Board as opposed to just speaking from the audience.

Mr. Doheny motioned the approval of the minutes of the regular Board of Selectmen's meeting of January 8, 2015. Miss Buemi seconded the motion.

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

Regarding the approval of the minutes from the Board of Selectmen's budget workshop of January 12, 2015, Miss Buemi questioned the percentage of the Board's recommendation to the Board of Finance. She remembers it as being 2.5%. Mr. Freda remembered 3%. After a brief discussion, Miss Buemi motioned to table the approval of the minutes to allow further research.

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

There being no correspondence, Mr. Freda proceeded with an overview discussing several areas including operational issues, financial, economic development topics as related to the Town, and efforts to increase communication with our residents.

Following Mr. Freda's overview, Miss Buemi stated that she had received some correspondence regarding the presentation at the last BOS meeting by Nancy Alderman on synthetic fields. She felt that since Nancy spoke during public comment, the residents did not know in advance that she would be speaking. Sally asked to invite Nancy back and notice it as an agenda item. Mr. Doheny

suggested providing someone to speak on the merits of synthetic fields so that both sides of the issue are represented. Mr. Freda agreed.

Miss Buemi then commented on the taping of the Middle School Building Committee meetings. She asked who decides what commissions or committee meetings are taped. Mr. Freda stated it would ultimately be the Board of Selectmen. He then stated that Attorney Jeff Donofrio, who sits on the committee and has been involved in over 50 public building projects was present to discuss this. Mr. Donofrio provided a very substantial explanation of the process and responsibilities of the committee. He discussed the challenges the committee faces with regard to mitigating all the issues with keeping the best interest of the Town and costs minimized. The committee needs to be able to speak candidly so that the committee can do their job, however, this must be balanced with keeping the legitimate and valued interest of the public's right to information. The Board continued the discussion with Mr. Donofrio. The Board agreed that a potential solution to keeping the public informed could be implementing the suggestion of a resident to have someone from the Committee attend the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen's meetings to provide regular updates on the project.

Miss Buemi provided a detailed update on her research on affordable housing and amending the Affordable Housing Act 8-30g. She explained that she has been working closely with State Representative David Yaccarino. She is suggesting a 5 tiered system based on a percentage of single one unit detached homes. Mr. Doheny and Mr. Freda discussed the issue with Miss Buemi. Mr. Freda concluded the conversation by thanking Miss Buemi for her efforts and suggesting that as she continues her mission to amend the Act, he will simultaneously strive to achieve a moratorium for North Haven.

Following Mr. Freda's explanation of the following resolution Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the approval of the resolution.

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

RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectmen of the Town of North Haven endorse the South Central Regional Council of Governments' (SCRCOG) Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) grant proposals for (1) Regional Planimetric Data Development, (2) Regional Open Space Inventory, and (3) Regional Community Rating System Feasibility Study, referenced in Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-124s, (2014 Supplement).

Following the passing of the resolution, the Board continued with the following resignation and appointments:

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the acceptance of the resignation of Robert E. Johnson (D) 839 Middletown Avenue, North Haven,

Connecticut from the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) effective January 22, 2015.

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

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the appointment of Earl Stamp (D) 292 Upper State Street, North Haven, CT 06473 to the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) to fill the unexpired term of Robert E. Johnson, term to expire December 31, 2017.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned and Miss Buemi seconded the appointment of Fran Bartlett (D), 216 Quinnipiac Avenue #210, North Haven, Connecticut to the Commission on Aging to serve a term to expire December 31, 2017.

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

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the appointment of Deacon Ronnie Bicknell (R), 12 Patten Road, North Haven, Connecticut to the Commission on Aging to serve a term to expire December 31, 2017.

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

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the Appointment of James A. Redman (D), 47 Pool Road, North Haven, Connecticut to the Cemetery Commission to serve a term to expire June 30, 2016.

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

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the reappointment of William Brown (U) – 92 Upper State Street, North Haven, CT 06473 to the Board of Ethics for a three (3) year term to expire on December 31, 2017.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned and Mr. Freda seconded the approval of the following property tax refunds:

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes

- Daimler Trust – Box 685, Roanoke, TX 76262 in the amount of \$531.82 and in the amount of \$506.42.
- Hyundai Lease Tilting – Box 105229, Atlanta, GA 30348 in the amount of \$95.48.
- Hyundai Lease Tilting – 10550 Talbert Ave, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 in the amount of \$253.74.
- Laczak, James – 107 Spring Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of

\$41.64.

- Morrotti, Toni – 27 Briarwood Cir, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$84.30, and in the amount of \$84.30.
- Penske Truck LSG Co LP – RT 10 Green Hills B405, Reading, PA 06088 in the amount \$260.83.
- Scafariello, Vincent Jr. – 6 Barnett Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$102.54.
- Sinard, John – 4421 Ridge Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$256.38, and in the amount of \$271.44, and in the amount of \$271.44.

Mr. Freda stated that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the community room of the North Haven Memorial Library, 17 Elm Street, North Haven, CT

Before Mr. Freda opened the meeting to public comment Miss Buemi announced that the Post 76 American Legion contacted her asking her to help get the word out that they would be honoring World War II Veterans at this year's Memorial Day parade and would like to encourage our veterans to participate in the parade. Miss Buemi encouraged any WWII Veterans that may be interested to contact her at 203-865-5567 or sbuemi5@comcast.net.

Janet Walsh, Hartford Turnpike, addressed the Board and commented on how impressed she is by so many passionate and caring people in the Town who attend meetings regularly. She made a suggestion to the Board regarding public comment and keeping questions to one per person before asking a second question, or perhaps imposing a time limit, all in an effort to keep the meetings from being lengthy, especially in the colder months with bad weather. The Board discussed the topic and concurred that perhaps providing everyone with the opportunity to ask one question and then come back to them if they have additional questions would be feasible. All agreed that everyone should be allowed to speak and ask all their questions.

Mr. Gary Amato, Pool Road, agreed with allowing all to speak and ask all their questions. He also thanked public works for their good work with the snow removal. He then stated that he would be willing to pay any costs associated with taping the Middle School Building Committee meetings and would make the arrangements to do so. Although the Board reiterated Mr. Donofrio's compelling reasons why taping may not be in the Town's best interest, the Board confirmed with Attorney Donofrio that any citizen may tape a public meeting. Mr. Amato then stated that he would like to see the Town pursue grant money for sidewalks and his concerns for children's safety. Mr. Freda explained the responsibility of sidewalk maintenance is the homeowners and not everyone wants to incur that responsibility. Mr. Amato offered to assist

with making inquiries to the residents regarding their acceptance of sidewalks.

Mr. Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive, in favor of keep public comment as is, and stated that most will yield to someone else if they want to speak. He then spoke about synthetic turf fields and his concerns which began months ago and appreciates Nancy Alderman getting involved. He stated that she would be presenting at the Board of Education's meeting in March. He then asked Mr. Freda what he will do if there is a budget surplus. Mr. Freda responded he would put it into the fund balance and carry over to the next year's budget. Mr. Katz also had concerns about large snow piles at intersections and the difficulty with visibility at those intersections. He asked the Selectmen to issue an executive order prohibiting more than 4 feet of snow at intersections. Mr. Freda explained the difficulty that the Town faces in this regard. Mr. Palma, Director of Field Operations gave a detailed explanation of the issue and how the Department is working to address it.

Mr. John Heeran, Debra Lane, spoke briefly about several topics including synthetic fields, asbestos, and other carcinogens and it may be many years before we know the full effects of the fields. He then stated that we need to defend our planning and zoning regulations against affordable housing.

Mr. Amato noted that the Board of Education meetings are held in a smaller venue and sometimes when there are many people, you end up in the hallway. He then inquired when a town road meets a state road, are we allowed to touch it, and do we address the main roads first. Mr. Palma responded yes. He then questioned if the public works sanitation workers plow as well. Mr. Palma responded yes. He also stated he is against the one arm sanitation truck concept and supports the sanitation workers.

Mr. Richard LoPresti, Sentinel Road, respectfully made a correction to Mr. Freda's reference to the Connecticut Lighting Center during his Selectman's Overview, it is in fact a "Smart Living Center."

Mr. Freda asked for additional public comment, hearing none, Mr. Doheny motioned to adjourn with a second from Miss Buemi at 8:45 pm.

Vote: Freda- Yes, Buemi – Yes