

## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**March 5, 2015**

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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 and introduced himself and Selectmen Timothy Doheny and Sally Buemi. Following reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Freda asked if there were any public comments relative to the agenda.

Gary Amato, Pool Road, questioned in regard to the Middle School Building Committee update and the discussion regarding synthetic turf fields whether there would be any opportunity for public comment or questions. Mr. Freda said questions would be appropriate.

Mr. Doheny motioned the approval of the minutes of the regular Board of Selectmen's budget workshop of January 12, 2015. Miss Buemi did not second because she questioned the percentage of the Board's recommendation to the Board of Finance. She remembers it as being 2.5%, Mr. Doheny, Mr. Freda, and the Director of Finance Mr. Swinkoski recalled it as being 3%. Mr. Doheny shared that the percentage was merely a non-binding recommendation, and the budget process will unfold with the budget public hearing and culminate with the referendum.

Vote: Freda -Yes, Doheny -Yes, Buemi -No

Miss Buemi motioned the approval of the minutes of the regular Board of Selectmen's meeting of February 5, 2015. Mr. Doheny seconded the motion.

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

There being no correspondence, Mr. Freda requested to change the agenda order to have the discussion regarding Synthetic Turf fields before the Middle School Building Committee Update. Miss Buemi motioned to adjust the agenda accordingly. Mr. Doheny seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Freda then welcomed Dave Mikos, Middle School Building Committee Member; Shay Atluru, President Diversified Technology Consultants; Graham Curtis, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Diversified Technology Consultants as proponents of synthetic turf fields and Nancy Alderman, President of Environment and Human Health, Inc. as an adversary of synthetic turf fields. Mr. Curtis addressed the Board of Selectman and the public as an engineer with studies of evidence stating that there are no health risks of using synthetic turf fields. Mr. Curtis shared a study from January 2015 stating that there was no scientific proof that there is any health risks associated with turf fields. Mrs. Alderman then addressed the Board and the public. Her organization seeks to study and inform the public of hazards in the environment against human health. She shares that most government organizations which advocate synthetic turf fields do not use the opinion of human health professionals. Mrs. Alderman continued a lengthy presentation sharing the toxicity of tires used and that the carcinogens have a far greater impact on younger children. She believes that should the Town spend the money to install the turf fields, it will have to get pulled up within a few short years once the federal and state governments begin recognizing the hazards of synthetic turf fields. Following the two presentations there was a brief discussion as well as question and answer period including comments from the Board and several residents, including Sherman Katz, Mary White, Adam Sirot and Gary Amato. Mr. Freda concluded that ultimately the fields will be a Board of Education and Middle School Building Committee decision.

Mr. Freda then welcomed Gary Johns, Chairman of the Middle School Building Committee, for an update of his Committee. Mr. Johns stated that this month was a productive month for the Committee, including having received and approved 90 percent of the completion construction documents. The Board of Education has approved of the documents as well and the documents will then go to the State for approval. The State then gave the Committee authorization to peer review the project. As of right now, the Committee hopes to begin going out to bid in April. They are approximately \$2 million under budget, but do have about \$4 million in add alternates. Once the bids begin to take place, Mr. Johns stated the Committee will have a more finalized projection of the overall cost. Mr. Johns then shared that the state sent the Committee a letter to reject the status as a renovation project and explained that this does not affect whether the Town gets reimbursed, but rather how much the Town gets reimbursed. However, Mr. Johns is working with the legislature to try to obtain the renovation status. Having finished the update, there was a period of comment and questions.

Miss Buemi began a discussion regarding the taping of the Clintonville Manor Meeting. Miss Buemi believes that this meeting which took place on January 29<sup>th</sup> and informed the Town of a potential economic development project at the old Clintonville Manor property should not have been taped. Mr. Freda

explained that the meeting in question was a public information meeting. Mr. Freda further explained that the meeting did not need to be noticed as a Town Meeting because there was no quorum of elected public officials: there was no vote. Miss Buemi shared that she felt the meeting should not have been taped because other potential private projects do not get the same treatment. Mr. Freda explained that because of the heightened interest and concern in this project, he believed it was best to share the meeting with as many residents as possible, including those who could not make the meeting. The Board continued to discuss the matter.

Mr. Freda progressed the meeting to the next item of business to approve of the following Bond Releases as presented:

Mr. Doheny motioned and Miss Buemi seconded the approval of the following: 60 United Drive – Area Cooperative Educations Services (ACES) release the entire bond balance in the amount of \$100,000.00 with the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission.

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

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded approval of the following: 209 North Hill Road – Founders Preserve Hitching Post, LLC release the entire bond balance in the amount of \$10,000.00 with the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned and Miss Buemi seconded approval of the following: 3012 Ridge Road – Nicholas Sarro release the entire bond balance in the amount of \$2,500.00 with the recommendation of the Inland Wetlands Commission.

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

The Board continued with the following resignation and appointments: Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the acceptance of the resignation of Letita McPhedran (D) 21 Central Avenue, North Haven, Connecticut from the Clean Energy Task Force. The Board thanked Mrs. McPhedran for her service.

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

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

Vote: Freda- Yes, Doheny- Yes

- Allen, Annastine – 589 Middletown Avenue, North Haven CT, 06473, in the

amount of \$278.66, and in the amount of \$295.06.

- Aloia, James or Dawn – 39 Beechwood Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$109.45.
- Castiglioni, John – 7 Lincoln Street, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$132.18.
- Chase Auto Finance Group – Box 901098, Fort Worth, TX 76101 in the amount of \$212.55.
- Demianczyk, Magdalena or Adam – 7 Garfield Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$82.73.
- Honda Lease Trust, 600 Kelley Way, Holyoke, MA 01040-9681 in the amount of \$194.45 and in the amount of \$66.07.
- Muir, Thomas & Colavolpe-Muir, Susan – 23 Clark Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$500.00
- Munson, Corey – 76 Frost Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$229.58.
- NAFI Connecticut Inc. – 20 Batterson Park Road, Farmington, CT 06032 in the amount of \$47.91.
- Sullivan, Marie – 216 Quinnipiac Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$123.03.
- Swiatek, Michael or Alice – 33 Robin Court, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$95.60
- Toyota Motor Credit Corp – Box 105386, Atlanta, GA 30348 in the amount of \$232.05, and in the amount of \$152.44.
- USB Leasing LT – 1850 Osborn Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54902 in the amount of \$271.73.

Mr. Freda stated that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the community room of the North Haven Memorial Library, 17 Elm Street, North Haven, CT

Mr. Freda opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive, began by stating that he is in favor of taping important informational meetings such as the Clintonville Manor meeting. Mr. Katz then asked Mr. Freda how much the Town had exceeded its Public Works budget in terms of snow removal thus far. Mr. Freda shared that it was over \$100,000.00 and his first concern is public safety in response to storms, but with the Town's reputation of balancing the budget, he is confident that to do the same this year. Mr. Katz stated that he believes there should be

a town employee responsible for preventative maintenance within the town, including boilers and roofs.

Mr. Gary Amato, Pool Road, addressed his concerns with the Board of Finance Chairman Richard Monico saying that they would take care of Public Works this year. He believed the comment was inappropriate. Mr. Amato continued to ask whether there was a line item for the Board of Education budget for custodial and bus drivers. Mr. Freda explained that Master Custodial has a contract with the Board of Education, but there is a line in the budget. Mr. Amato then shared his belief of personally funding the taping of the Middle School Building Committee meetings and encouraged donations.

Mr. Victor Palma, Director of Field Operations, spoke on behalf of the Board of Finance Chairman Richard Monico. He states that he believes the Town is developing a better understanding of the importance and needs of the Public Works Department. Miss Buemi asked if there were any potential reimbursements available from the State or Federal government. Mr. Freda shared that there potential reimbursements and the Town could potentially get 75 percent reimbursements.

Mr. Freda asked for additional public comment, hearing none, Mr. Doheny motioned to adjourn with a second from Miss Buemi at 9:00 pm.

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