

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN****April 2, 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 the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Freda asked if there were any public comments relative to the agenda. There being none, Mr. Freda moved on to the next item on the agenda, and asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes of the Board of Selectmen's meeting from March 5, 2015. Miss Buemi motioned for an approval of the minutes, Mr. Doheny seconded the motion.

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

There was no correspondence for the meeting. Before moving on to the next order of business, Mr. Freda requested to modify the agenda to move up Raymond Fowler's Child Abuse Awareness Prevention Presentation to the next order of business. Mr. Doheny motioned to adjust the agenda as proposed. Miss Buemi seconded.

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

Mr. Freda welcomed Mr. Fowler as the driving force of Child Abuse Awareness in North Haven. Mr. Fowler opened by explaining that since its establishment, the Child Abuse Prevention Program had two goals: raise awareness of child abuse, not only of its heinous effects, but also of its prevalence; and inspire people to take action against child abuse. Mr. Fowler continued to share that this year; the Town of North Haven reported five instances of a child being left in a vehicle; three times in the summer and twice in the winter. Children being left in motor vehicles in extreme weather are highly dangerous. These children were extricated by the North Haven Police Department. Mr. Fowler shared a few other examples of residents reporting child abuse to the North Haven Police Department and the positive outcomes which resulted. Mr. Fowler then updated the Town with his efforts with the North Haven school system, including a logo contest to increase student involvement with North Haven's Child Abuse Prevention Chapter. Mr. Fowler then shared updates of some well-known national child abuse cases as well as some stories closer to home. Mr. Fowler concluded his presentation by reiterating the prevalence of child abuse

even in North Haven.

Mr. Freda then proceeded with an overview, including operational issues, financial updates, economic development topics related to the Town, as well as upcoming events pertaining to residents.

Following Mr. Freda's overview, Miss Buemi began a discussion regarding the UI Tree Removal Program. Miss Buemi reported that several residents have reached out to her with concerns for the on-going program. Because of this, Miss Buemi wanted to remind residents that the homeowner has the ability to object to the removal of any tree on their property. Mr. Freda then stated that he would be willing to meet with any resident who contacted Miss Buemi to clear up any confusion.

Miss Buemi then transitioned to a discussion regarding the synthetic turf at the Middle School. Miss Buemi reminded everyone that Nancy Alderman gave two presentations at previous meetings as well as presented for the Board of Education. Miss Buemi shared that she felt as though the potential health hazards derived from synthetic turf would have been valuable information to have prior to last year's Middle School referendum. From this, Miss Buemi asked if it would be possible to include a question on the ballot in November whether residents wanted synthetic turf. Mr. Freda responded that in order to entertain the subject, the Board of Education would have to vote to change their ed specs to no longer include the synthetic turf. This would then hypothetically go to the Middle School Building Committee, the appointed legislative body over the on-going Middle School project, for a vote. Mr. Freda stressed that this was the only means of removing the synthetic turf from the ed specs. Miss Buemi pressed that even an advisory question, designed simply to understand public opinion, would be important since so much more information has come out since the referendum last year. Mr. Freda stated that the removal of the synthetic turf from the ed specs must begin with the Board of Education as defined by procedure, and therefore an advisory ballot question is moot. Mr. Doheny then shared that the Town entrusts our Boards and Committees to make decisions on behalf of the Town. Mr. Doheny felt that it would be peculiar and unusual for the Board of Selectman to try to supersede any Committees or Board by entertaining a vote. Mr. Doheny then encouraged Miss Buemi to discuss the matter with the Board of Education and the Middle School Building Committee.

Miss Buemi stated that she had one more issue which was not on the agenda. Last week Miss Buemi asked Assessor Gary Johns for some statistics regarding the revaluation. Today Miss Buemi was told that she could not receive the documents and asked why. Mr. Freda stated that he did not know why the documents were not given to her personally, but shared that statistics regarding the revaluation would be discussed during the Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 7, 2015. After some discussion whether the statistics Miss

Buemi asked for were a FOI request, Mr. Freda stated that Mr. Johns can clarify when he provides the Middle School Building Committee Update.

Following Miss Buemi's discussion topics, Mr. Freda welcomed Building Committee Chairman Gary Johns to provide an update of the Middle School Building Project. First addressing Miss Buemi's question, Mr. Johns explained that his supervisor is the Director of Finance, Mr. Swinkoski, who requested that all FOI requests go through him. Mr. Johns then proceeded to provide an update on the Building Committee. The construction drop documents are currently being worked on for review at the upcoming meeting with the Office of School Facilities on April 15, 2015. To expedite this, the Building Committee has authorized the construction manager Gilbane to complete an Interdisciplinary Document Coordination Review of the documents to confirm everything is in order prior to the April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Johns continued and stated that there is a Code Reviewer which the Building Committee has contracted with to review the documents as well. Mr. Johns informed everyone that the next steps will be have local officials, including the Building Official, the Accessibility Officer, the Fire Marshall, and the Sanitarian, review and sign off on the documents for approval. Mr. Johns then shared with the public that they're hoping the ground breaking for the Middle School project will take place June 30, 2015.

Following the update, Miss Buemi read and Mr. Doheny motioned the approval of the following resolution. Miss Buemi seconded the motion.

**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 or her right to equal housing opportunities.

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

Mr. Doheny read the call for the Annual Budget Town Meeting to be held on Monday, May 11, 2015 at 7: 00 in the auditorium of the North Haven High School, 221 Elm Street, North Haven, CT. Referendum to be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015. Miss Buemi motioned to approve the call, seconded by Mr. Doheny.

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

The Board continued with the following appointment:

Mr. Doheny motioned and Miss Buemi seconded the reappointment of Vincenzo Gallo (R), 168 Upper State Street, North Haven, CT 06473 to the Quinnipiack Valley Health District Board of Directors for a three (3) year term to expire May 1, 2018.

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, Buemi - Yes

- Daimler Trust – Box 685, Roanoke, TX 76262 in the amount of \$52.35
- Defrancesco, Susan – 18 Fox Hill Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$198.38
- Gui, Ping or Mu, Ling – 6 Summer Lane, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$99.20
- Honda Lease Trust – 600 Kelley Way, Holyoke, MA 01040-9681 in the amount of \$82.73, and in the amount of \$49.60, and in the amount of \$165.25, and in the amount of \$181.92, and in the amount of \$82.73, and in the amount of \$49.59, and in the amount of \$66.07, and in the amount of \$99.20, and in the amount of \$374.04
- Maynard, Gayle – 17 Upper State Street, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$66.07
- Morse, Timothy – 12 Boulevard Drive Unit 167, Danbury, CT 06810 in the amount of \$147.13
- Scott, Cathlynn – 1204 Yale Avenue, Wallingford, CT 06492 in the amount of \$107.34
- Toyota Motor Credit Corp – Box 105386, Atlanta, GA 30348 in the amount of \$158.04
- Trastsianka, Pavel – 59 Sackett Point Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$38.21

Mr. Freda stated that the next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 7:00 pm 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. Gary Amato, Pool Road had several comments/questions regarding the U.I. tree removal program. He also stated his disappointment that nothing is in place to provide additional financial relief for our seniors. He thanked the public for their donations for the taping of the middle school building committee meetings. Mr. Amato then had several comments regarding the budget. He then commented on the firehouses and feels that there should be a

forensic audit done.

Mr. John Heeran, Debra Lane, commented on the tree cutting program and stated that Asplund is a well-known company and North Haven has many trees in the wires that need to be tended to. He stated that DPW has trucks that are old and in need of repair and supports their replacement in the budget. He also commented on the firehouse and believes the footings were not put in place back in the 70's for the addition of a second floor. Miss Buemi commented on the firehouses and discussed the topic with Mr. Heeran. Mr. Heeran then stated that he supports the department head raises.

Mr. Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive, stated that many people have talked about the proposed budget and are concerned about an increase in taxes. He is also concerned about the seniors needing help with their taxes. He also thanked Mr. Fowler for his efforts on child abuse awareness. Mr. Katz also expressed his desire for the Selectmen to have an opinion on the turf fields. Mr. Freda stated that he thinks one of the three fields should be turf due to the number of sports teams that need fields and the inability to maintain them and discussed the reasons for his opinion. Mr. Katz urged the parents to become more involved in their child's academics versus sports.

Mr. Robert Burns, Kings Highway, asked if there has been a change to the chain of command in public works. Mr. Freda explained yes there has. Due to the number of increased responsibilities that Lynn Sadosky is involved with and responsible for, and the increase in services under Victor Palma's department in Streets and Roads, Mr. Palma is now reporting to Mr. Swinkoski. Mr. Freda stated that he is also directly involved with Victor and the residents, and there has been no change to the service level.

Mr. Amato commented that he would rather see the Town spend the money on two garbage trucks versus pick-up trucks. Mr. Amato also questioned the removal of the stumps in the Town right of way and the liability of any injury resulting from them. Mr. Freda stated that would be an insurance issue. Mr. Palma stated that by statute, the town is responsible to cut the stump down to grade level.

Mr. Burns asked for clarification, the Director of Finance is responsible for Finance and Community Services and Recreation and Public Works. Mr. Freda stated yes, Mr. Palma is now reporting to Mr. Swinkoski regarding streets and roads, sanitation and recycling.

At 8:55 pm, with no additional public comment, Mr. Doheny motioned to adjourn, Miss Buemi seconded the motion.

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