

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

July 2, 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 and extended a very happy and healthy Fourth of July weekend to everyone. He then introduced himself and Selectmen Timothy Doheny and Sally Buemi. Following the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Freda asked if there were any public comments relative to the agenda.

Gary Amato, Pool Road, asked if Attorney Jeffrey Donofrio was being paid to be at the Selectmen's meeting. He then also asked why he was there when Mr. Johns was present to provide the update on the middle school building project. Mr. Freda responded that yes he was being paid and he was there in addition to Mr. Johns because of his experience and knowledge on the subject.

Moving on to the next item of business, Mr. Doheny motioned for the approval of the minutes of the regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting on June 4, 2015; Miss Buemi seconded the motion.

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

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded for the approval of the minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen's meeting of June 25, 2015.

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

Mr. Freda noted that there was no correspondence, and also stated that he would be dispensing with his overview for this meeting and will update everyone at the next meeting.

Mr. Freda welcomed Gary Johns, Chairman of the Middle School Building Committee, and Attorney Donofrio, to provide an update on the middle school building project. Mr. Johns shared that the Notwithstanding legislation was approved in special session. It allows the Town to receive a reimbursement rate

of 39.64% for an approximate total of \$31,000,000. He went on to say that all bids are in and the project is slightly under budget without any alternates included. Two trade packages (HVAC and plumbing) with revised scope are being rebid to try to reduce cost. Three contracts have been let out: site, concrete and electrical. He stated that construction of the new Middle School has started on June 29th and as a result, access to the area around the school will be restricted to construction personnel only and effective July 2nd all parking lots at the Middle School will be closed until August 20th. He also provided information on parking and access to the school during construction. Mr. Johns concluded by informing the Board that many trees have been identified as being necessary to remove to accommodate the new building, parking lots and athletic fields. There were two formal complaints made and both parties met with the tree warden and construction manager and now understand why removal is necessary and were satisfied with the plan. Mr. Freda added that there will be replanting of new trees upon conclusion of the renovation. He also thanked our State legislators, Len Fasano and Dave Yaccarino for their efforts in assisting us with the State reimbursement.

Miss Buemi had several questions and comments regarding the Notwithstanding legislation, including what she believed to be the change in the categorization of the project, eligible costs for reimbursement, and bonding approved at referendum. Mr. Donofrio discussed the issues with her.

Mr. Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive, asked if we take out the approximate \$5 million for financing from the total package of \$69 million, how do we get reimbursement of \$31 million by the State. Mr. Donofrio stated that the \$31 million is the grant, but reimbursement will only include eligible costs, so it does not necessarily mean that is the amount we will receive.

Mr. Gary Amato, Pool Road, thanked our legislators for representing us in Hartford. He also thanked the members of the MS Building Committee, and Mr. Mikos in particular, for asking so many questions at the meetings. He also had some concerns regarding the representative from Perkins Eastman and Customer Rep on the project as well as the installation of solar panels on the roof. Mr. Johns and Mr. Donofrio addressed Mr. Amato's concerns.

Mr. Doheny stated that he felt we were getting into quite a bit of detail regarding the middle school project and perhaps the Middle School Building Committee meetings would be the better place for these in depth questions.

At the conclusion of the middle school building project update, Miss Buemi moved and Mr. Doheny seconded the appointment of Ameer J. Lunn (U), 30 Melissa Drive to the Commission on Aging to fill the unexpired term of Anthony Pacileo expiring on December 31, 2015.

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

Miss Buemi moved and Mr. Doheny seconded the appointment of Michael Nappe (U), 315 Skiff Street to the Community Services Commission to fill the unexpired term of Marilyn (Kim) Karlin expiring on December 31, 2017.

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

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

- Acar Leasing LTD, 4001 Embarcadero Drive, Arlington TX 76014, in the amount of \$385.96.
- Daimler Trust, PO Box 685, Roanoke, TX 76262, in the amount of \$848.76.
- Nissan Infiniti LT, Box 650214, Dallas, TX 75265 in the amount of \$234.08.
- Sarro, Nicholas & Rachele, 3012 Ridge Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$110.16.

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

With no additional business before the Board, Mr. Freda stated that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, August 6, 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. Raymond Fowler, Todd Drive, thanked all the Town employees involved for their response and restoration efforts following the micro burst that occurred in his neighborhood. He detailed the event and concluded with presenting Mr. Freda with an American eagle statue in recognition of his service and dedication. Mr. Fowler also went on to talk about his decision to put roots in North Haven back in 1972 and the attributes that North Haven had which lead to that decision. He talked about the changes over 43 years and what kind of Town the residents want the Town to be. Although he feels Mr. Freda is doing a fine job of economic development, each administration before him has had their own ideas and vision. Although economic development is good for the Town, he thinks we need to consider the negatives and the point of diminishing return. Mr. Freda stated that the State mandates a Plan of Conservation and Development every 10 years and we are going to be working on this plan and our citizens may have a voice in that plan. He will be trying to balance all concerns including development and maintaining open space.

Mr. Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive, stated that he has been here for 50 years and seen many POCD's over the years and many changes to the Town. He feels that economic development is necessary because the tax payers can't cover all the expenses, and open space is only good if we get grant money, not if we have to purchase it. He also stated that people need to educate themselves regarding solar panels before they make judgments. Mr. Katz also inquired about the

special Board of Selectmen's meeting regarding the Johnson Controls Performance Contract. Mr. Freda discussed the issue with him providing the overview that the savings per year will pay for the upgrades, and there is no financial liability to the Town.

Mr. John Heeran, Debra Lane, thanked those who came out to vote on the budget. He asked Mr. Freda if there was any money allocated for roads. Mr. Freda stated that there is about \$400,000 in this budget, but due to the high cost per mile, that won't do much. Mr. Heeran stated that with the bad winters our roads are suffering. He had some additional concerns about his road.

Mr. Raymond Sonazzaro, Elm Street, voiced his disagreement once again over the Health and Racquet Club being on what he believes is cemetery land.

Mr. Amato commented that he was unable to attend the last Board of Finance meeting because the elevator was out of order; he had something prepared for that meeting regarding the passing of the budget and felt it was sleazy. He questioned the voting signs being located at the schools, vs. the fire houses, the robo call, and what he feels were unethical tactics. Mr. Freda commented that Mr. Amato's statements contained inaccurate information. The Selectmen discussed the change of the decision to utilize the robo call as one more method for getting a message out to remind the voters of the referendum.

Mr. Heeran stated that he feels the voting signs should be out on the main roads. He also stated that he feels that he sees nothing wrong with the First Selectman getting the vote out.

Mr. Freda stated that Miss Buemi and Mr. Doheny can work together to identify locations for the signs and possibly increasing the number of signs.

Mr. Bob Burns, Kings Highway, thanked those involved with the storm damage. He also questioned Mr. Freda's presence on the scene. Mr. Burns then continued to question the structural changes to the chain of command of the DPW. He had several questions and comments regarding the Department and personnel. Mr. Freda stated he cannot discuss personnel issues. Mr. Doheny commented that we need to distinguish between honest and open government and Mike's obligation to run the Town in a prudent and responsible way.

Miss Buemi questioned the Board of Selectmen's involvement in making the decision to change the reporting structure. She questioned Chapter 8 of the Charter and if it was applicable to the realignment of the DPW. Attorney Donofrio stated that Mr. Freda is the Chief Elected Officer of the Town. He stated that Chapter 8 has to do with establishing position descriptions and nothing to do with hiring and firing and structure of established positions. Miss Buemi and Attorney Donofrio discussed it further and Miss Buemi stated she will do a little more research into the matter.

Mr. Burns asked if Attorney Donofrio was attending as a representative of the MSBC or general counsel. Mr. Freda indicated that he was there for the MSBC.

Mr. Al Warren, Charles Court, asked who made the robo call. Mr. Freda stated an outside company. He said he did not get the robo call, but did get calls from the BOE probably because his wife works in the school system. He then asked who makes decisions on open space. Mr. Freda stated we have a commission. He then asked about a tree that is on Town land that fell into his pool. Mr. Freda stated if the tree is located on Town property, then it's the Town's responsibility. He then commented on a friend who sold his house who had a letter from the Town a number of years ago regarding a survey for putting in sewers. He is concerned that this letter from 2013 estimating the homeowner's estimated financial cost for putting in sewers and could hinder the sale of his home. He never heard of any discussion on the subject. Mr. Freda explained some of the residents in that area asked about putting in sewers, so a survey was taken regarding interest. The residents were given an estimate as to what the costs would be in response to their interests. The responses came back against. Mr. Freda stated there is no plan to put in sewers at any time in the near or distant future.

Mr. Amato asked if Attorney Donofrio was being paid to be at the meeting. Mr. Donofrio offered to donate his time to the Town. Mr. Amato stated that he feels grant money for sidewalks for the school children is more important than purchasing open space. He also stated that the raises given are much more than our seniors have received over the last 4 years, and we are not helping them. He also brought up the taping of the middle school building committee meetings. Mr. Freda stated the Town will pay for the meetings and Mr. Amato no longer needs to do so.

Mr. Katz commented that he built his house and paid to put in the sewers. Others have purchased homes with septic and water issues and then later expect the Town to assist them.

Mr. Freda asked for additional public comment, hearing none, Mr. Doheny motioned to adjourn with a second from Miss Buemi at 8:58 pm.

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