

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

September 3, 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. He introduced himself and his fellow 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, there being none, Mr. Freda moved onto the next item on the agenda.

Miss Buemi motioned for the approval of the minutes of the regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting on August 6, 2015; Mr. Doheny seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Freda introduced Boy Scout Brendan Myers, a young man who is working on a project toward earning his Eagle Scout Badge. Brendan addressed the Board and public sharing his passion for raising environmental awareness and preserving our waterways. He explained the ramifications and environmental impact of residents dumping various debris, trash bags, garbage and chemicals into our storm drains. He explained how these materials end up in our water and the effect on our environment and marine life. He explained his project entails raising awareness and tagging storm drains in Town with a decal that reminds residents not to dump into the storm drains. He stated that "It all leads to somewhere". Brendan answered several questions from the audience. Mr. Freda thanked Brendan for his presentation and stated how proud he was of him and thanked him for taking on this important project.

Mr. Freda provided a brief overview explaining that the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2015. This meeting is required by Town Charter to authorize the budget transfers. We came in \$400,400 under budget, but we still need to go to Town Meeting for the transfers. He explained it was his intent to include a Senior Tax Freeze but under advice of corporate counsel we will schedule another meeting in October to present this tax freeze which would

take effect July 1, 2016. It is a complicated ordinance, and needs additional research. Mr. Freda also advised that under State Statute we are allowed to increase our tax relief to Veteran's who are 100% disabled. He would like to take advantage of that and will be bringing that to the Board of Selectmen to vote on at the October BOS meeting. He also stated he will be providing a comprehensive economic update at that meeting as well.

Following Mr. Freda's overview, he turned to Miss Buemi to speak to the topics she had on the agenda for discussion. Miss Buemi provided a final report on amending 8-30g, the Affordable Housing Statute. She explained that she did do a lot of research on the issue and worked with State Representative Dave Yaccarino. She found that only 18% of municipalities are in compliance. Mr. Yaccarino did present the amendments, but unfortunately, no significant amendments occurred during this past legislative session. She believes they made great strides and got a lot of support and they will both continue to work on it and try again next year. Mr. Freda and Mr. Doheny both thanked Miss Buemi for her efforts.

Miss Buemi then proceeded with her next item discussing Mr. Sonazzaro's ongoing concerns about the Health and Racquet Club leasing land that he believes was left to the Cemetery Association for use as burial ground. She did very lengthy and exhaustive research on the subject and found there is nothing to support his contention that the racquet club is an improper or illegal use of the land. She found no deed, no conveyance, and no certificate of devise from any estate that limited the use of that property to cemetery purposes only. Although she respects his dedication to the Town and his right to his opinion, and feelings that it '*shouldn't*' be there, however there is nothing to support that it '*can't*' be there. She hopes this closes the issue. Mr. Sonazzaro had several comments and continues to state his belief that the land is restricted to cemetery land only.

Mr. Freda concluded the topic by restating some of the information that Mr. Doheny provided in his presentation of February, 2013 on the same subject. He reiterated that based on both Mr. Doheny's and Miss Buemi's extensive investigation on this issue, it is closed.

Mr. Freda invited Mr. Gary Johns, to provide the Middle School Building Committee Update. Mr. Johns stated that even with all the activity that has gone on over the summer the school opened on time as scheduled. Quite a bit has gone on with a lot of activity to relocate the parking lots and create new bus loops for both the middle and high schools. The guaranteed maximum price from Gilbane Building Co. was approved by the Building Committee on August 24th for \$53,830,061. The temporary fencing has been relocated to only the area of the new construction. They started work on the new structure; footings have been started and will begin to be poured this week. Miss Buemi inquired about the parking for football games. Mr. Johns stated that there are

new parking areas that have been constructed near the football field and believes there is potential for striping some of the grass areas in the practice field which may or may not happen.

Mr. Freda thanked Mr. Johns for his update and Miss Buemi read the following item on the agenda for consideration regarding the recommendation of the Assessor to approve the draft Tax Incentive Agreement prepared in connection with the application of 453 Washington Avenue North Haven, LLC, dated August 5, 2015, submitted pursuant to the Economic Development Tax Incentive Program for real property improvements related to the development of 453 Washington Avenue, North Haven into a new self-storage facility, and to authorize the First Selectman, Michael J. Freda, to execute the Tax Incentive Agreement on behalf of the Town of North Haven. Mr. Freda explained some of the details about the project stating that it will be a modern brand new storage facility with office space, bringing about 25-50 jobs being constructed on a previously empty parcel of land that has been vacant for decades. Mr. Doheny commented that the program is working as it was intended, Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the following resolution to accept the agreement.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with the recommendation of the Assessor, the draft Tax Incentive Agreement prepared in connection with the application of 453 Washington Avenue North Haven, LLC, dated August 5, 2015, submitted pursuant to the Economic Development Tax Incentive Program for real property improvements related to the development of 453 Washington Avenue, North Haven into a new self-storage facility, is hereby approved and the First Selectman, Michael J. Freda, is authorized to execute the Tax Incentive Agreement on behalf of the Town of North Haven.

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

Miss Buemi read the call for the Annual Town Meeting to be held Monday, September 28, 2015 in the Auditorium of the North Haven High School, 221 Elm Street in North Haven, Connecticut, at 7:00 P.M., to consider and act upon the following:

- A. To consider and act upon a resolution in accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Finance to adjust appropriations of certain line items among the various departments in the fiscal year 2014-2015 Budget, transferring amounts over \$20,000 in the total sum of One Million Sixty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty One and 23/100 Dollars (\$1,068,781.23).

Mr. Doheny motioned to approve the call and Miss Buemi seconded the motion.

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

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

- Apuzzo, Sandra – 22 Gail Drive, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$6.44.
- Chan, Maytak – 47 Allen Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$7.06.
- Costanzo, Robert – 6 Musket Drive, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$100.47.
- Daimler Trust – PO Box 685 Roanoke, TX 76262, in the amount of \$131.27.
- Fantarella, David – 1125 Ridge Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$57.72.
- Gersz, Christopher – 467 Quinnipiac Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$37.72.
- Honda Lease Trust – 600 Kelley Way, Holyoke, MA 01040-9681, in the amount of \$155.86.
- Maresca, Michael – 1571 Hartford Turnpike, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$12.24, and in the amount of \$20.89, and in the amount of \$33.95.
- Melillo, Raymond – 30 Melillo Circle, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$16.01.
- Palazzi, Robert – 18 Davis Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$36.16.
- Rizza, Salvator – 31 Vista Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$25.30.
- Toyota Lease Trust – PO Box 105386, Atlanta, GA 30348, in the amount of \$140.04.
- USB Leasing LT – 1850 Osborn Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54902, in the amount of \$156.54.

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

At 7:40 pm Miss Buemi motioned for the Board to move into executive session to discuss police personnel issues and upcoming negotiations. Mr. Doheny seconded the motion.

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

At 7:55 pm Mr. Doheny motioned with a second from Miss Buemi for the Board to reconvene, followed by Mr. Doheny's motion to approve offering a non-discriminatory retirement plan as discussed in executive session for police personnel. Miss Buemi seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Freda followed by stating that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 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. John Heeran, Debra Lane, commented that although you can't put them out for bulk pickup, television sets and electronics can be brought to the recycling center for disposal.

Mr. Richard Prunier, Cindy Lane, commented that he is frustrated with the condition that the roads are left in following various construction projects in Town that require the utilities to dig up roads for installation and repairs of water and gas lines. The manner in which they are patched deteriorates after just a few months. He feels that the Town should require cash bonds and hold them for several years. He does not feel that the taxpayers should have to foot the bill for these repairs, and incur the damage to their vehicles. Mr. Freda agreed with Mr. Prunier regarding the condition of the roads and stated that he has been working on a solution to this problem. He invited Mr. Prunier to visit him in his office to discuss further.

Mr. Robert DeMauro, Lincoln Street, stated that he had several observations regarding the situation with public works and the realigning of responsibilities. Mr. Freda and Mr. DeMauro talked about the issue in detail. Miss Buemi asked why the Director of Public Works, Ms. Sadosky, no longer attends the BOS meetings. Miss Buemi noted that the Director of Public Works attended all the BOS meetings up until a few months ago, and that she often answered questions during public comment. Mr. Freda stated that he does not require department heads to attend BOS meetings.

Mr. Freda asked for additional public comment, hearing none, Mr. Doheny motioned to adjourn with a second from Miss Buemi at 8:20 pm.

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