

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

November 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. He introduced himself and his fellow Selectmen Timothy Doheny and Sally Buemi. Mr. Freda then thanked the residents for their re-election of himself, Mr. Doheny, and Miss Buemi allowing them to continue to serve in their capacity as Selectmen.

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 progressed to the next order of business.

Miss Buemi motioned for the approval of the minutes of the regular Board of Selectmen's Meeting on October 1, 2015; Mr. Doheny seconded the motion.
Vote: Freda –Yes, Doheny –Yes, Buemi – Yes

Mr. Doheny motioned for the approval of the minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting on October 5, 2015; Miss Buemi seconded the motion.
Vote: Freda –Yes, Doheny –Yes, Buemi – Yes

Miss Buemi motioned for the approval of the minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting on October 13, 2015; Mr. Doheny seconded the motion.
Vote: Freda –Yes, Doheny –Yes, Buemi – Yes

There being no correspondence, Mr. Freda continued the meeting with an overview. During his overview, Mr. Freda shared several ongoing projects and updates around the Town, including bulk leaf pick up, the STEAP grant awarded for the Vanacore Concession Stand and Field House, and the solar park near Universal Drive.

Mr. Freda then opened the floor to Miss Buemi. Miss Buemi wanted to follow up from her report on the racquetball club and cemetery issue per the request of Mr. Raymond Sonazzaro. Following her September report, Miss Buemi found Mr. Stile's will from the archives at the Connecticut State Library. After reviewing the will,

Miss Buemi shared that there is no provision in Mr. Stile's will requesting that the land be used for cemetery use. From this, Miss Buemi is confident that there is no merit to Mr. Sonazzaro's argument, and that the Town had in fact purchased the land. Mr. Doheny and Mr. Freda thanked Miss Buemi for her thorough research in the matter.

Mr. Freda then provided an update on the Middle School Building Committee on behalf of Mr. Gary Johns. Mr. Freda reported that the construction has started and they are making good progress. The project is still on track to be completed late August of 2017.

Mr. Doheny read the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town of North Haven may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Michael J. Freda, as First Selectman of the Town of North Haven, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of North Haven and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

Mr. Doheny motioned and Miss Buemi seconded the resolution.

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

Miss Buemi motioned to amend the agenda to reflect that the following bond was released with the recommendation of the Inlands Wetlands Commission not the Planning and Zoning Commission. Mr. Doheny seconded. Miss Buemi motioned for the approval of the following bond release, seconded by Mr. Doheny.

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

- #115-02 – 177 Mill Road, William Leonardo – release the entire bond balance in the amount of \$2,500.00 with the recommendation of the Inlands Wetlands Commission.

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

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

- Battalene, Thomas and Linda – 867 Middletown Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$106.67.
- Bujalski, David F. Jr – 1875 Ridge Road, North Haven, CT 06473, in the amount of \$90.44.
- Dockendorff, John – 488 Quinnipiac Avenue, North Haven, CT 06473, in the

Haven, CT.

Mr. Freda opened the meeting to public comment.

Mr. Jay Bard, Sherwood Drive, raised his concerns regarding the resolution the Board had just passed, feeling that the language was too broad. Mr. Freda explained that the language is intended to meet any potential emergency needs and furthermore that the language itself came from the State.

Mr. Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive, addressed his concerns with the milling and paving of roads. Mr. Freda explained that within the annual budget, between \$350-\$400,000 is allocated for paving. However, this is enough money for less than two miles of roads. From this, Mr. Freda shared that the Town needs approximately 40 miles of roads repaired, which would cost approximately \$8 million. Mr. Freda further shared that the frequent storms in previous years greatly contributes to the deterioration of roads. However, Mr. Freda explained that he intends to organize and present to the public a list of needs of the Town that would require bonding, including roads, windows in the Police Department, and Open Space.

Mr. Katz continued to state that in regards to affordable housing, he does not believe there is anything wrong with density if it is done correctly. Mr. Katz then asked if the elevator at Vanacore Field works. Mr. Freda said he would have to check with the Board of Education to find out.

Mr. Katz then asked in regards to streets cracking after being paved if there would be any recourse for the companies responsible. Mr. Freda stated that oftentimes roads that were paved were later torn up by the Gas Company to install gas for the residents at their request. Mr. Freda commented that we have been trying to work to coordinate with the gas company to prevent roads being torn up after being paved whenever possible. Mr. Katz asked if the Town owned machine used to patch roads is being utilized. Mr. Freda stated it has, most recently on Trumbull Place.

Mr. Katz then asked in regards to the solar park what the kilowatt rate per hour would be. Mr. Freda stated it would be roughly 4.5 cents less than what the utility or energy provider offers.

Ms. Miriam Brody, Elm Street, reminded everyone that there will be a Middle School Building Committee Meeting on Monday at the Gilbane Trailer. At the meeting, they will be determining whether to use solar panels as well as what types of bricks to be used. The meeting begins at 8:15 am for those interested.

Mr. Joe DiMartino, Papa Lane, first expressed his congratulations to the undefeated football team. Mr. DiMartino addressed Ms. Buemi in regards to the Town Meeting held on October 19, 2015. Miss Buemi has spoken in favor of the Soldiers Memorial resolution as it was written. During her statement, Miss Buemi had referenced her father, a WWII veteran, who lived in New Haven during the time of his service. Miss Buemi shared that she felt it was appropriate that he would be

on a memorial in New Haven rather than North Haven. Mr. DiMartino asked where this New Haven monument was located. Miss Buemi explained that she had misspoke, and had stated so later at the Town Meeting, saying that 'if' there were a New Haven monument, that is where her father would be recognized. Mr. DiMartino then asked Miss Buemi how many times a person misspeaks, and further shared that he never misspeaks. Miss Buemi reminded the audience that the residency was not the major issue at the Town Meeting, but rather to include all veterans who served, regardless of type of service. Following some truculent statements by Mr. DiMartino, he sat down. Mr. Freda then shared that they are considering revising the Soldiers Memorial resolution to include North Haven veterans who served, regardless of location of service but to identify in some manner those that have served outside of the country in conflict.

Ms. Joan Mazurek, Cloudland Road, asked if the committee to address a senior tax freeze had been established yet. Mr. Freda shared that the committee has not been formed yet; and he intends the committee to comprise of seven people. Mr. Freda further stated that he has decided to remove the lien and payback from the plan. Ms. Mazurek said that she felt there should be no income level restrictions for seniors. Ms. Mazurek cited Guilford's Senior Tax Freeze program as an example. Mr. Katz made some statements regarding the Senior Tax Freeze program. Following some discussion, the Board agreed that the goal is to help seniors stay in Town and will work to bring together a committee for the cause.

Mr. Bob DeMauro, Lincoln Street, congratulated the Board for being reelected. Mr. DeMauro reminded everyone that he had spoken at the September 3rd Board of Selectman meeting to voice some of his concerns. Mr. DeMauro asked if there was any progress made regarding his allegations shared two months ago. Mr. Freda maintained that there were no ongoing issues; any complaint has been vetted thoroughly per Town policy. Mr. DeMauro then inquired briefly about the change in command at Public Works. After being reminded by Mr. Freda that this topic has been explained thoroughly, Mr. DeMauro transitioned to discussing a 2012 study completed by HD Segur at the Grover Wyman Park. The study said the wood used for the park had been treated with CCA.

Mr. Freda explained that the residents who built the park strongly opposed tearing down the park. As a compromise, the park has been, and is being updated to comply with the recommendations from the study. Following more discussion, Mr. DeMauro continued to ask more questions about the Public Works chain of command, sexual harassment allegations, and back again to Grover Wyman Park. Mr. Doheny, Miss Buemi, and some residents asked questions about the study and the park renovations. Mr. Freda said that he would review the report again, and look into retesting the wood.

Mr. Freda asked for additional public comment, hearing none, Miss Buemi motioned to adjourn with a second from Mr. Doheny at 8:30 pm.

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