

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

February 4, 2016

The 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. Mr. Gary Amato, Pool Road, asked to approach the Board. He then presented Mr. Freda with a gavel to use when presiding over the Board meetings. Mr. Freda thanked Mr. Amato for his gift and was very appreciative of the gesture.

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the approval of the minutes of the Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting of January 14, 2016.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned and Miss Buemi seconded to amend the agenda to include correspondence from Mr. Michael Fusco of Fitch Street.

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

Mr. Freda noted that for the record, Mr. Fusco was a relative of his. Mr. Doheny read Mr. Fusco's correspondence which in summary requested that the Board of Selectmen consider a serious reduction of property taxes for retired senior citizens, in addition to the proposed senior tax freeze and the existing senior tax credit.

Mr. Freda then proceeded with the Selectman's update, which included an overview of several ongoing projects and updates around the Town, including economic development – progress and problems, financial and budget updates, and community programs including our Substance Abuse Action Counsel and Solar initiatives.

Miss Buemi, had several comments following Mr. Freda's overview. She stated that with regard to state funding, she has had many conversations with Representative Yaccarino, specifically pertaining to education cost sharing (ECS) and that it does go up every year, maybe not as much as we like, but it does increase. She asked

Mr. Freda if he anticipates the cut back in the municipal funding that he mentioned to be a reduction in our current aid for FY 15/16 or in the increase. Mr. Freda stated we have already been told to expect a cutback non ECS related by approximately \$145,000 - \$150,000 and next year CCM is projecting what the reductions will be for all municipalities, but not ECS.

Miss Buemi also commented that she feels one of the biggest issues regarding the property on the corner of Quinnipiac Avenue that Mr. Freda spoke of is related to the westbound traffic issues with there being only one lane which does not expand to two lanes until further down approaching 91. She stated it is two lanes eastbound, but not westbound, causing traffic issues. Mr. Freda agreed that is a problem and why we could not support a Dunkin Donuts going into that location.

Miss Buemi then provided her final comments on the previous lawn mowing issue regarding a citizen complaint that a public works employee mowed a private lawn on town time. She stated that she went back to the citizen and provided the pictures and explanation from the prior Board meeting. The citizen is confident that the individual, whom he believed to be a town employee, was in fact mowing the lawn and not doing any leaf service. Although he is frustrated with the explanation, he was satisfied with Miss Buemi's efforts on bringing the issue forward before the Board. He prefers to remain anonymous.

Mr. Gary Johns provided a middle school building project update. He stated that construction is continuing and going as planned. The weather has cooperated and they have had more than 150 days without lost time/injuries. The concrete decks have been poured. Masonry is in process for stairs and elevator. Roofing installation will begin soon. Furniture, fixtures and equipment is a challenge, we are currently above our budget and the committee is working to minimize the impact. They will need approval from the BOE and State OSF before going out to bid.

Following Mr. John's update the Board continued with the following resolution. Mr. Freda explained that the resolution is procedural in nature and will enable the Town to proceed with entering into a PSA with the State to move forward with the grant that was awarded for the Vanacore complex.

Mr. Doheny motioned and Miss Buemi seconded the approval of the following resolution.

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

RESOLVED: That Michael J. Freda, First Selectman of the Town of North Haven, be and hereby is authorized to execute on behalf of this municipal corporation a Personal Service Agreement with the State of Connecticut for financial assistance to the Vanacore Recreation Complex, STEAP 2016-03.

IN ADDITION, that Michael J. Freda, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to enter into such agreements, contracts and execute all documents necessary to said grant with the State of Connecticut.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that Michael J. Freda, First Selectman, was elected, First Selectman. His term of office began on December 1, 2009 and will continue until November 30, 2017. As the First Selectman, Michael J. Freda serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Town of North Haven and on February 4, 2016 had both the authority and the office to sign on behalf of the Town of North Haven a Personal Service Agreement for financial assistance to the Vanacore Recreation Complex, STEAP 2016-03.

The Board then discussed consideration of acting upon a resolution to establish and appoint a nine (9) member ad-hoc advisory committee to be known as the “Senior Property Tax Freeze Advisory Committee” for the purpose of recommending to the Board of Selectmen an asset limit(s) and related eligibility requirements to be included in a proposed Ordinance which will provide property tax freeze relief to elderly homeowners residing in North Haven to be recommended by the Board of Selectmen to the Town Meeting. Attorney Jennifer Coppola addressed the Board. She commented on the correspondence that was read earlier in the meeting. She stated that the Board of Selectmen can only act in accordance with the Statutes and guidelines of the State of Connecticut. The property tax system was created by the State and the authority for same comes from the State. The Town of North Haven is limited in what we can offer, even in terms of the proposed senior tax freeze ordinance. Attorney Coppola went on to discuss in detail the proposed nine member committee and their responsibilities. Attorney Coppola also discussed the limited time frame involved in order to bring forth recommendations to Town meeting and afford residents an opportunity to apply for the program. Following their discussion Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the approval of the following resolution:

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

RESOLVED, that:

(1) the Senior Property Tax Freeze Advisory Committee is hereby established for the purpose of recommending to the Board of Selectmen an asset limit(s) and related eligibility requirements to be included in a proposed Ordinance which will provide property tax freeze relief to elderly homeowners residing in North Haven to be recommended by the Board of Selectmen to the Town Meeting;

(2) the Senior Property Tax Freeze Advisory Committee shall consist of the

following individuals:

- Donald Clark, 32 North Hill Road
- Sandra Foley, 2179 Whitney Avenue
- Stephen Gifford, 230 Clintonville Lane
- George Guertin, 5 Pierpont Court
- Sherman Katz, 40 Sherwood Drive
- Deborah Moore, 155 Ridgewood Avenue
- Regina Najarian, 11 Highland Park Road
- Joseph Solimene, 2 Jennifer Drive
- Joseph Villano, 43 Highland Park Road

(3) the meetings of the Committee shall be held at 4:00 PM in Conference Room #1 on the Second Floor of the North Haven Town Hall on the following Tuesdays: February 9, 2016; February 16, 2016; February 23, 2016; and March 1, 2016.

(4) the Committee shall issue a report of its recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for the Board's March 3, 2016 Meeting (or at such later date in March to which said Meeting may be rescheduled);

(5) the First Selectman will attend the first meeting of the Committee to oversee the election of a Chairman and Secretary of the Committee; and

(6) the Assessor, the Tax Collector/Town Clerk, and the Finance Director will attend the meetings of the Committee as available to offer their input and support of the work of the Committee based upon their specialized knowledge but will not be voting members of the Committee.

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded for the appointment of Mark Genovese, 1322 Ridge Road, as the Department of Motor Vehicle Hearing Officer for a two (2) year term to expire December 31, 2017.

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

Mr. Doheny motioned and Miss Buemi seconded the reappointment of Pasquale Nuzzolillo, 7 Mansfield Road, to the Volunteer Fire Department Benevolent Association, Board of Governors, for a two year term to expire December 1, 2017.

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

Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded the approval of the following Property Tax Refunds:

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

- Cab East LLC – Ford Credit Personal Property Tax in the amount of \$523.24.
- Hyundai Lease Titling – Property Tax Refunds, 4000 MacArthur, Newport Beach, CA 92660 in the amount of \$138.03, and in the amount of \$248.82, and

in the amount of \$115.66, and in the amount of \$76.71, and in the amount of \$167.42, and in the amount of \$141.63, and in the amount of \$141.09, and in the amount of \$47.29, and in the amount of \$287.18.

- Mello, David – 84 Blue Hills Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$8.68.
- Nissan Infiniti LT – Box 650214, Dallas, TX 75265 in the amount of \$113.59.
- Oconnor, Thomas – 35 Todd Drive, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$57.51.
- Puzone, Alfonse or Norma – 36 Corey Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$9.45, and in the amount of \$31.95.
- Rehman, Habib – 15 Park Road, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$63.25.
- Russo, Elizabeth – 2007 Hartford Tpke, North Haven, CT 06473 in the amount of \$14.45.
- Vault Trust – Ally Financial, Louisville PPC, PO Box 9001951, Louisville, KY 40290 in the amount of \$173.66.
- VW Credit Leasing LTD – 1401 Franklin Blvd, Libertyville, IL 60048 in the amount of \$769.63.

Mr. Freda stated that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the community room of the North Haven Memorial Library, 17 Elm Street, North Haven, CT.

Mr. Freda then opened the meeting to public comment. Mr. Sherman Katz, Sherwood Drive, had several comments. He thanked Mr. Freda for the explanation during his overview of the voluntary payment from Quinnipiac University; he found the newspaper article misleading. He also commented on the property that Mr. Freda mentioned in his overview located on the corner of Quinnipiac Avenue and Montowese Avenue with regard to the traffic flow on the west side approaching 91 needing a second lane.

Mr. John Heeran, Debra Lane, also commented regarding the same property and the need for a second lane, but feels that would take away from the property making it even harder to market.

Mr. Gary Amato, Pool Road, stated that when he previously brought up solar panels to the middle school committee it was met with disapproval, but he now sees that they are discussing it. He also inquired about the superintendents assigned to the project. Mr. Johns, Building Committee Chairman, clarified that the first superintendent never started because he took a promotion, the second was on the job from the beginning and has now left and there is another superintendent who has taken over the project. Making this the second acting SI in the position. Mr. Amato also mentioned that he does not want to see the subject of the turf fields get sidetracked. Miss Buemi commented that it is the BOE's decision, but that it was agreed at the last BOS meeting to have some type of

informational meeting for the public. She has already contacted Senator Blumenthal. She reiterated that her original suggestion of a ballot question is not viable, and the final decision is with the BOE. Mr. Amato then had several comments regarding a Planning and Zoning meeting that he viewed on NHTV. He stated that the Commission members were inquiring with an individual representing Quinnipiac University as to how many students were living in residential homes in North Haven. He felt that the number provided of 29 could not be accurate, and that Quinnipiac's response that it was a privacy issue could be dangerous. He felt our Police Department should have a list of all off campus housing. Mr. Amato also inquired about our DPW resources being used for tree stump removal. Mr. Amato then stated his desire for the Town to address a potential hazard on Pool Road to the right of the intersection of St. John St. There is a brook there and small bridge that goes over the embankment. He feels there needs to be a guardrail installed. Mr. Freda advised we will look into it. Mr. Amato concluded with noting that the insurance company only funded \$1,000 of the \$2,000 that was missing from the Tax Office in 2013.

Mr. Freda asked if there were any other public comments, hearing none, Mr. Doheny motioned and Miss Buemi seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm.
Vote: Freda –Yes, Doheny –Yes, Buemi – Yes