

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

March 21, 2016

The special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:30 pm in the upstairs conference room 1 of the North Haven Memorial Town Hall, 18 Church, North Haven, CT.

Members Present

First Selectman, Michael J. Freda
Second Selectman, Timothy M. Doheny
Third Selectman, Sally J. Buemi

Mr. Freda called the meeting to order and introduced himself, second selectman, Timothy Doheny and third selectman, Sally Buemi. Mr. Freda welcomed Miss Buemi back and once again expressed the Board's sympathies on her father's passing. Miss Buemi expressed her thanks and appreciation.

Mr. Freda welcomed Attorney Jennifer Coppola to address the Board regarding the State's acquisition of a 995± square foot easement on Town property for transportation purposes by the Department of Transportation for the State of Connecticut for the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Corridor with compensation in the amount of \$3,000.00. Miss Coppola reiterated that this is an easement requested by the State Department of Transportation and approached the Board with a map showing the location. Mr. Freda commented that he has found the DOT to be easy to work with and is in favor of granting the easement. Miss Buemi motioned the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Doheny.

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

RESOLVED: First Selectman Michael J. Freda is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of North Haven the Acceptance Agreement and W-9 Form as it pertains to the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation Property Acquisition for the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Corridor. Compensation is in the amount of \$3,000.00 for a 995± square foot defined easement for Transportation Purposes, as shown on a map entitled "Right of Way Survey Town of North Haven Map Showing Easement Acquired from Town of North Haven by The State of Connecticut Department of Transportation New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Corridor" dated December 2015 signed by Robert J. Baron, P.L.S.

The Board then proceeded with a discussion regarding whether to recommend that the Town Meeting adopt amendments to the Soldiers' Memorial Ordinance at Chapter 67 of the Ordinances of the Town of North Haven to amend Section 67-1 to formally assume responsibility for the maintenance and preservation of all the

memorials and monuments on the Town Green and add Section 67-2 to establish certain eligibility criteria for future memorials and monuments. Attorney Coppola stated that the language has not changed since the last Board of Selectmen's meeting. She highlighted once again the prior changes regarding the amendment specifically the inclusion of all who served regardless of occupation, pacification, or humanitarian purposes regardless of whether or not a limited hostile fire is/was encountered. As well as the special designation next to the name of individuals who have the appropriate campaign medal listed on his/her Form DD-214 for the war or conflict claimed and did serve in conflict.

Miss Buemi motioned to approve the following resolution seconded by Mr. Doheny. Vote: Freda –Yes, Doheny –Yes, Buemi – Yes

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Town Meeting adopt amendments to the Soldiers' Memorial Ordinance at Chapter 67 of the Ordinances of the Town of North Haven to amend Section 67-1 to formally assume responsibility for the maintenance and preservation of all the memorials and monuments on the Town Green and add Section 67-2 to establish certain eligibility criteria for future memorials and monuments.

The Board once again thanked Attorney Coppola, and the Veteran's committee spearheaded by Colonel Raymond Fowler and including Commander Daniel Riccio, Senator Fasano and State Representative Dave Yaccarino for their efforts on this amendment. Mr. Freda also thanked Mr. Doheny and Miss Buemi for their input as well.

The Board proceeded with a discussion regarding whether to recommend that the Town Meeting adopt an amendment to the Taxation Ordinance at Chapter 184 of the Ordinances of the Town of North Haven to add Article X establishing an Ordinance Concerning Property Tax Freeze Relief for Certain Elderly Homeowners to improve the quality of life of the Town's eligible senior residents and encourage their continued residence and property ownership. Attorney Coppola went through in detail the recommendations made by the Senior Tax Advisory Committee. Miss Buemi thanked the Committee and asked Attorney Coppola to clarify § 184-41a subsection 2(c) if the language regarding 5 year residency requirement pertained to both single homeowners as well as married. Attorney Coppola stated it did, but she would amend the language to be clearer. Miss Buemi then went on to state that with regard to § 184-41a subsection 2(e) pertaining to the three levels of asset limits based upon length of residency was concerning. Although she understands the line of thinking, she feels that the ordinance is designed for the present and future and assisting elderly citizens who are now having difficulty paying their taxes and are similarly situated regardless of how long they have lived here. She would prefer one asset limit that pertains to everyone. She feels perhaps the \$200,000 single - \$250,000 married perhaps would be fair. She finds the length of residency arbitrary. Attorney Coppola did comment that the Committee originally had set the asset limit at \$150,000 single and \$200,000 married, but at their last

meeting, they decided to set the scaling. The Board discussed the scaling of the assets in greater detail along with Attorney Coppola and Assessor, Gary Johns. Both Mr. Freda and Mr. Doheny agreed with Miss Buemi that perhaps one asset limit, regardless of length of residency, may be appropriate. At the conclusion of a lengthy discussion, Miss Buemi suggested in due deference to the Advisory Committee, perhaps we could keep the scaling as is and re-examine next year after the program has been in effect, and modify the amendment if we find it prudent to do so. Mr. Doheny and Mr. Freda both agreed with that course of action. Attorney Coppola asked the Board if they were okay with charging the Board of Finance with determining a cap on the program. The Board discussed the cap and concluded it would be difficult at this point to determine that amount, but they were fine with the Board of Finance determining that amount. Mr. Freda summarized that we are one of the few towns and cities in Connecticut that has removed the lien and the reach back, and he thanked everyone involved in bringing forth this Senior Tax Freeze amendment.

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

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

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Town Meeting adopt an amendment to the Taxation Ordinance at Chapter 184 of the Ordinances of the Town of North Haven to add Article X establishing an Ordinance Concerning Property Tax Freeze Relief for Certain Elderly Homeowners to improve the quality of life of the Town’s eligible senior residents and encourage their continued residence and property ownership.

Mr. Doheny concluded with a motion, seconded by Miss Buemi to call the Special Town Meeting as described in the following resolution:

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

RESOLVED: To Call a Special Town Meeting to be held Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at the North Haven High School, 221 Elm Street, North Haven, CT, at 7:00 P.M., for the Town Meeting to consider and act upon the recommendations of the Board of Selectmen to amend the Soldiers’ Memorial Ordinance at Chapter 67 of the Ordinances of the Town of North Haven to amend Section 67-1 and add Section 67-2 and to amend the Taxation Ordinance at Chapter 184 of the Ordinances of the Town of North Haven to add Article X establishing an Ordinance Concerning Property Tax Freeze Relief for Certain Elderly Homeowners, as detailed above.

With no public comments Miss Buemi motioned and Mr. Doheny seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 pm.

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