

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
March 19, 2013

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, Selectman Jon Truskauskas.
Selectman Frank Chiaramonte absent with prior notice.

Attendees: None

Call to Order

Mr. Criss called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on February 19, 2013 and the meeting held on March 5th. Mr. Criss seconded.

Public Participation

None

Appointments and Resignations

None

New Business

Tax Collector- overpayments and refunds:

Tax Collector, Beth Hamel, seeks to utilize Ordinance #130 to retain overpayment of taxes if the overpayment is less than \$5.00. There are 45 taxpayers who have balances from \$0.01 to \$4.99 and to zero out the balances; adjustments equal to their overpayment amounts are to be made. Balances total \$78.63. Mr. Truskauskas moved to authorize the Tax Collector to retain overpayments less than \$5.00. Mr. Criss seconded.

The Tax Collector is seeking to utilize Connecticut State Statute Sec. 12-129, where application for refunds must be made within three (3) years of the due date of the tax. One taxpayer has a balance of \$6.60 prior to the 2008 Grant List. To zero out that balance, adjustments equal to their overpayment amount are to be made. Mr. Truskauskas moved to authorize the Tax Collector to zero out balance of \$6.60. Mr. Criss seconded.

Request for Refund of Property Tax:

Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the following tax refunds. Jason Emery, \$8.05. William or Mary Jane Doyle, \$289.84. Jeffrey Sederquist, \$2,716.58.

First Selectman's Report

Senator Witkos, Senator Welch, and Representative John Piscopo had to postpone the Legislative Update scheduled for tonight. They have rescheduled the meeting for Tuesday, May 7th, 2013, 7:00 p.m. in the Assembly Room in Town Hall. They will be

discussing the state budget. Mr. Criss encourages residents to attend and hear from legislators who represent the town.

Regarding the dedication of the food pantry program, Mr. Criss reported that Mr. Henry Camp is flattered and honored that the town wants to dedicate the pantry program to him and his late wife but he respectfully declined the offer. Mr. Camp stated he does what he can for the town because he loves the town and there's no need to name anything after him.

The Annual Report has arrived. This year's report is dedicated to retired Town Clerk, Pat Williamsen, who is pictured on the cover. The Annual Report will now be passed on to the Board of Finance.

Mr. Criss reported that summaries for the town's web page are being finalized this week.

The Town has added an "on-hold" feature on the phone system. When people are put on hold, they can now hear music and information on upcoming town events.

The Grand Opening of Harwinton's Food Pantry will be held this Friday, March 22, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. There will be a small ribbon cutting ceremony and acknowledgement of volunteers who have helped with the pantry.

Mr. Criss announced the Town is planning on four (4) movies nights this summer at Town Hall. The Town is currently seeking 3 more sponsors. The cost will be much lower than last year due to the Town's purchase of a municipal movie license which will save the town about \$400 in licensing fees per movie.

Budget Update- Mr. Criss stated that at the last Board of Finance meeting, it was suggested by Sandra Davis to increase the First Selectman's salary and to reinstate the stipends for the Selectmen. Mr. Criss is against the increases and feels it is not the proper time to increase salaries when the economy is still poor. He will not endorse the increase in pay and will not fund it.

Mr. Criss reported that he conducted interviews today for a highway maintainer. He will conduct preliminary interviews for a Zoning Enforcement Officer on Thursday. He will then refer names to Planning Chairman, Michael Orefice and IWWC Chairman, Bruce Burnett.

Mr. Criss is looking into D.O.T. trails grant to help restore some trails that were damaged by Hurricane Sandy and possibly installing a foot bridge over Leadmine Brook in order to continue the trail.

The Town has signed up with 40 other towns to fly a Donate Life flag during the month of April to raise awareness about organ donation. The town will also shine a blue light in Town Hall on April 2nd to raise awareness on autism.

The National Youth Service Day award ceremony will be held at Harwinton Town Hall, in the gazebo (weather permitting) on Tuesday, April 16, 2013, 4:00 p.m. Awards will be given to both Harwinton and Burlington youths.

A dinner will be held for Roger Plaskett, Harwinton's Outstanding Citizen of the Year recipient, on Friday, April 26th at 6:00 p.m. at Fairview Farm Golf Course. Tickets are \$35 per person. Mr. Criss stated there was no one more deserving and congratulated him.

On April 10, 2013, CCM is sponsoring a Day on the Hill. Members are invited to speak with their legislators, beginning at 9 a.m.

Mr. Criss announced he is now on the M.O.R.E. (Municipal Opportunities and Regional Efficiencies) Commission as a member of the Mandates Working Group. Mr. Criss feels it is important that Harwinton be represented.

Mr. Criss reported that nothing new has happened with the Kasznay property. Mr. Criss is waiting for the state budget to see where Harwinton will stand. He is not interested in purchasing any land at this time and is not interested in spending surplus money for land until he knows how much money we will lose from the State this year.

Mr. Criss commended Senator Witkos for passing senate bill 642; which will rename a section of Route 118 to the Route 4 intersection in Harwinton after George and Bob Oneglia who, along with their families have done much for the Town. The bill was passed unanimously.

Correspondence

The Selectmen reviewed the Fire Marshal's report for February, 2013.

Adjournment

Mr. Truskauskas moved to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. Mr. Criss seconded.

Minutes submitted by Melissa Santoro
Melissa Santoro

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON CT
ON 3-21-13 AT 10:59 AM
ATTEST NANCY E. ELDRIDGE TOWN CLERK