

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING**  
**Tuesday February 4, 2020 7:00pm**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 in the selectmen's conference room.

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss - Selectman Evan Brunetti - Selectman Paul Honig - Selectman.

Public Participation: Dave Bousquet – Highway Supervisor, Jackie Stoughton – Republican American

**Call Meeting to Order**

Mr. Criss called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Mr. Honig made a motion to approve the minutes from the last BOS meeting. Mr. Brunetti seconded. All in favor; Motion carries.

**Appointments and Resignations** – Mr. Criss shared Terri Rout's formal resignation from the EDC. Kevin Case resigned from the Zoning Commission as an alternate. Mr. Honig made a motion to accept the resignations. Mr. Brunetti seconded. All in favor; Motion carries. One Appointment to the EDC, Leisa Zadrick. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to accept the appointment. Mr. Honig seconded. All in favor; Motion carries.

**Public Participation** – none.

**New Business**

**Request for Tax Refunds** – None at this time.

**Town Hall Hour Change** – The Harwinton Town Hall Staff had requested a Town Hall hour change. The consensus from each department is to switch the late night to Thursday night rather than Wednesday night so that the late night coincides with the local banks' late night. Instead of being opened until 6pm on Wednesdays, the departments would like to have the Town Hall be open until 6pm on Thursday nights. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to approve the Town Hall Hour change and for it to go into effect as of March 1, 2020. Mr. Honig seconded. All in favor; Motion carries.

**MIRA – Tip Fees** – Mr. Criss shared a letter from MIRA regarding their tip fees. The town originally signed a thirty (30) year contract with MIRA. It was a long-term agreement for the town to pay \$75/ton. The Recycling Coordinator has worked diligently to help homeowners eliminate the weight from their trash. MIRA had a catastrophic failure last year and the fee went from \$75/ton to \$84/ton. While this failure was happening, MIRA had to ship our trash out and had to charge us more. MIRA is allowed to do this if there is a failure and the state does not reimburse. MIRA is trying to work with legislators now to get bonding and assistance. They are also trying to negotiate the power that they send back to the grid that's less than the going rate. Now MIRA is looking to raise our rates to \$91/ton and could potentially go up to \$145/ton by 2025. Mr. Brunetti made a motion for the First Selectman to sign the non-binding survey with MIRA stating the tip fee could go up to the maximum \$145/ton until 2025 with the option to opt out. Mr. Honig seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Oil Tank – Town Hall & Library** – The Highway Supervisor, Dave Bousquet, presented the Board with the need for new oil tanks for both the Town Hall & the Library. Mr. Criss shared that the town would like to use LOCIP funds for this project, the Library & the Town Hall has in ground oil tanks that need to be removed; the Town Hall needs it removed and replaced. The project will cost \$70,000. Discussion ensued. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to move this project to the Board of Finance for approval and to be added to the Town Meeting. Mr. Honig seconded. All in favor; Motion carries.

**Harwinton Ambulance Request** – Mr. Criss shared an email from the Harwinton EMS stating that the Ambulance is in need of a \$55,000 stipend. The Ambulance has more volunteers but less hours. Their healthcare reimbursement rates went down; they have written off more this year than last year for Harwinton residents. Their fees are going up for the Vintech services and are being forced to pay for services in advance. Discussion ensued. Mr. Brunetti made a motion for Kevin Ferrarotti, Chief of the Harwinton EMS to come to the next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the selectman's conference room to discuss the contract with Vintech and to go over their financials with the Board. Mr. Honig seconded. All in favor; Motion carries.

**Town Meeting** – The Town meeting has thirteen (13) items on the call. Mr. Criss presented an updated draft of the call. The Board discussed a new date for the Annual Town Meeting, based on new information required. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to have the Annual Town Meeting tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 7pm. Mr. Honig seconded. All in favor; Motion carries.

**Budget Schedule** – The Budget needs to be ready for the Board of Finance for March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Discussion ensued about which dates to have the Budget workshops. Mr. Honig made a motion to have the Budget workshops on Monday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7pm in the selectmen's conference room and on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (will be included on the Agenda of the BOS meeting). Mr. Brunetti seconded. All in favor; Motion carries.

**First Selectman's Report** – This year quarterly employee engagement surveys have been instituted to get anonymous feedback from employees about the environment and what could be done differently or practices to be improved upon. An anti-bullying campaign and understanding defamation of character will be presented to the entire Town staff including highway and educational materials will be made available for all employees.

**Correspondence** – Fire Marshalls Report. Mr. Criss is working with the EDC to work with the businesses that we have in town as some are falling into disrepair. Mr. Criss commissioned the EDC to meet with the business owners first to fix up the places and find renters to help prevent potential blight complaints.

**Executive Session – Legal** – None at this time.

**Adjournment** – Mr. Brunetti made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. Mr. Honig seconded. All in favor; Motion carries.

Minutes submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

First Selectman's Office

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON CT  
ON 2-10-20 AT 2:00pm  
ATTEST TOWN CLERK

*James J. Byron*