

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING**  
**November 19, 2013**

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

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, and Selectman Jon Truskauskas.  
Absent: Selectman Nancy Schnyer.

Attendees: Town Attorney Michael Rybak, Tax Collector Beth Hamel, and Maureen Litwin.

**Call to Order**

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

**Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 15, 2013 with the following amendment- the paragraph concerning the Harwinton Ambulance should say \$100,000 will be reimbursed back to the Town and not the Ambulance Association. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion passed.

**Public Participation**

None

**Appointments and Resignations**

Mr. Criss reported that Animal Control Officer Colleen Slason is resigning effective December, 2013. Assistant Animal Control Officer Thomas Mitchell will take over as the Animal Control Officer.

Re-appoint Tim Wyllie as an alternate on Zoning Board of Appeals. His term is November 5, 2013 through November 4, 2014.

A letter was received from Kerri Ouelette, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission announcing the resignation of Frank Mollo Hickey. Ms. Ouelette recommends the appointment of Donna Lubik Groccia to complete the term. Her term will run from November 20, 2013 through November 22, 2014.

A letter was received from Historic District Commission Chairman Carole Romano requesting the removal of Brian Nedley from the Commission. The Commission now has a vacancy to fill.

Peggy Shanahan's term expired November 18, 2013 on the Commission on Aging. A letter was received from Senior Center Director Sharlene Copeland recommending the appointment of Terry Sullivan to the Commission on Aging. Her term will run from November 18, 2013 through November 21, 2016.

A letter was received from Conservation Commission Chairman John Goodno recommending the re-appointment of Suzanne Barlow. Her term is November 18, 2013 through November 19, 2018.

Conservation Commission member Joanne Herkimer's term expired November 18, 2013.

A letter was received from Recreation Director Suzanne Stich recommending the re-appointment of Bruce Wilcox and Steve Graboski to the Recreation Commission. The term for Mr. Wilcox runs from November 19, 2012 through November 19, 2017. Mr. Graboski's term is November 17, 2013 through November 17, 2018.

John Fredsall term as Tree Warden expires November, 2013. The new term will be November 16, 2013 through November 16, 2015.

Thomaston Savings Bank and Farmington Savings Bank terms expire as the town's depository November, 2013. The new term will be November 18, 2013 through November 18, 2015.

Town Assessor Michele DaSilva's term expires November, 2013. The new term will be November 18, 2013 through November 18, 2015.

All terms for the Capital Equipment Committee have expired.

The terms for 2 (two) alternate Planning Commission members expires November 30, 2013. Need recommendations by the commission. The terms will run from November 30, 2013 through November 30, 2015.

Economic Development Commission members Steven Criss and John DiCarlo's terms expire November 22, 2013. The new term for Steven Criss will be November 22, 2013 through November 22, 2017. The new term for John DiCarlo will be November 22, 2013 through November 22, 2017.

Housing Authority member, Jean D. Johnson's term will expire December 1, 2013.

Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the above resignations and appointments. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion passed.

## **New Business**

### Board of Selectmen to sign Highway Union Agreement:

Negotiations regarding the contract are complete and the contract can be signed. The new hire was to fall under the new pension plan but opted for the current plan. This

extra expense was not figured into the budget, therefore, Mr. Fredsall will have to adjust some line items. Mr. Criss and Mr. Truskauskas both signed the contract. Ms. Shanley will sign at a later date.

Tax Collector to discuss Tax Sale:

Ms. Hamel provided letters of recommendation for Attorney Adam Cohen. She has chosen him to hold the town's tax sale. He has worked for other towns and has done a good job. Letters have gone out to the delinquent taxpayers in an effort to resolve the problems before properties go to the tax sale. Ms. Hamel stated she has had few responses. At this point there are 20 properties for the sale. The final list will be available December 31<sup>st</sup> and after that date it will be solely in the hands of Attorney Cohen. Mr. Criss would like Highway Supervisor, John Fredsall to review all properties prior to the sale. Ms. Hamel will provide the final list at the January 2, 2014 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Ms. Hamel informed the Board that the Lake Harwinton Association is interested in joining in the tax sale to resolve some of their lake lot issues. Mr. Criss stated he would like to meet with Assessor Michele DaSilva and John Fredsall regarding the lake lots. Ms. Hamel informed the Board of a new tax law that states that the Board of Selectmen cannot abate any taxes unless they have a standing abatement committee.

Board of Selectmen to Authorize Resolution for Emergency Management and Homeland Security:

The Resolution is done yearly. It confirms that the First Selectman is authorized to execute and deliver all agreements and documents. Mr. Truskauskas moved to authorize the Resolution for Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion passed.

Discuss Items for the Call:

Attorney Rybak reported that he is waiting for a formal written offer from the High Riders Club regarding the 79 acres on Bissell Road that the club would like to give to the Town when the group disbands.

The purchase of land of Valley Road for \$15,000 with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife grant.

Mr. Truskauskas made a motion to move forward with the land purchase. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion passed. This item may not be in time for the next town meeting.

The ordinance for a revised Peddlers Permit is complete.

The revision of the current junk car ordinance is still in progress. The revision may not be in time for the next town meeting.

Ordinance #65 regarding membership in Litchfield Hills Council of Elected Officials.

A new Ordinance has been drafted to join the newly formed Northwest Hills Council of Elected Officials.

An amended dog Ordinance increasing fees is needed.

An Ordinance stating the Town will adopt state statutes regarding dogs.

Request for Refund of Property Taxes:

Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the following tax refunds- \$85.73 to Brian L. Boucher. \$7.04 to James J. Breda, Jr. \$144.82 to Chase Auto Finance. \$142.39 to Vault Trust. \$39.48 to Karen Willey. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion passed.

**First Selectman's Report**

Mr. Criss spoke about the Ambulance Facility and the Harwinton House projects. He noted that both projects were underestimated before being presented at town meeting. Attorney Rybak added that the \$50,000 spent for insurance coverage was not factored into the cost even though he recommended it prior to referendum. The current administration is exhausting all options and grant opportunities in order to save taxpayers as much as possible. However, it does look inevitable that the projects will have to be presented at a town referendum in order for the projects to move forward while the town pursues other funding options. Attorney Rybak suggested the town obtain a letter of intent with regard to the \$100,000 that the ambulance association plans on returning to the town.

The Lions Club obtained a grant from Thomaston Savings Bank for improvements to the Conservation Area.

Plans are underway for the Holiday Hometown Celebration. Volunteers are still needed.

**Correspondence**

The Selectmen reviewed monthly reports for October from the Animal Control Officer and the Fire Marshal.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Truskauskas moved to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Mr. Criss seconded. All in favor.

Minutes submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Santoro

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON CT  
ON 11-26-2013 AT 3:58 PM  
ATTEST NANCY E. ELDRIDGE TOWN CLERK