

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
June 2, 2015

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

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

Attendees:

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s)

Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the minutes from the meetings held on May 5, 2015, May 13, 2015, and May 20, 2015. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

Public Participation

None

Appointments and Resignations

In a letter dated May 14, 2015, Christina Emery resigned from the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission appointed Debra Freidus to fill an alternate position through November 30, 2015.

New Business

Request for Refund of Property Tax

Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the following tax refunds- Brian Nickerson, \$162.11. Timothy Shea, \$6.00. Irmgard Tiedmann, \$375.00. Ally Bank, \$124.60. Frank & Laurie Caruso, \$6.55. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

8-24 Approval for Library Expansion and Improvements

Since the Library Expansion is a municipal project, the Board of Selectmen needs to submit application for 8-24 referral to the Planning Commission. Mr. Truskauskas moved to submit application for 8-24 referral to the Planning Commission. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

Review "Appointment of Alternate Members to Planning Commission" Ordinance

Mr. Criss read the following from Ordinance #60 – Appointment of Alternate Members to Planning Commission: Any alternate member of the commission who is absent from 3 consecutive regular meetings and any intervening duly called Special Meetings, shall be considered to have resigned from the Commission and that vacancy and all vacancies shall be filled by the Commission for the unexpired portion of the term. Mr. Criss would like the Zoning Commission and IWWC to adopt this policy as well. He also recommends an expiration date of 30 days to fill the position and after that it would become the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen to fill the position. The Selectmen would like to review all land use ordinances for possible amendments.

First Selectman's Report

Mr. Criss welcomed Alice Freiler as the new Librarian.

A retirement party for retiring Librarian, Stasia Motuzick, will be held Wednesday, June 3rd, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. at the Library.

Regarding the annual budget, Mr. Criss requested the Board of Finance to take \$125,000 from surplus in order to hold the mil rate at 26.9 so as not to increase property taxes. He noted that the Board of Selectmen has turned over surplus money since 2011 ranging from \$80,000 to \$200,000 each year. Mr. Criss did not want the mil rate increased by 4/10th of a mil when surplus money is available but the Board of Finance decided to increase the mil rate instead and refused his request. At the Board of Finance meeting on May 28th, Board of Finance member George Nashe made a motion to use surplus money. The motion was seconded by member Tim Bobroske. Members Edwin (Chip) Booth and Margaret Arigoni voted not to use surplus money. Member Sandra Davis suggested half of what was needed. Mr. Criss researched his numbers and found that Harwinton is the highest rated surplus percentage (19%) to operating expenses in the Northwest corner. Other towns average 11 to 15%. Mr. Criss felt there was no reason not to use surplus money. The mil rate will increase this year by 4/10th of a mil.

The Jamie Kirchner Memorial-Harwinton Wheels on Heels road race will take place this Saturday, June 6, 2015, 1:00 p.m., Valley Road, Harwinton.

Johnnycake Music Festival will take place this Saturday, June 6, 2015, 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Johnnycake Mountain Farm.

Mr. Criss would like to adopt some guidelines for the Community Garden. It will be presented as a policy and will be brought before the Board of Selectman for approval.

Correspondence

Two letters were received from the Tax Collector. The first letter zeros out combined balance of \$195.97 for refunds within 3 years of due date. The second letter zeros out balances of \$5.00 or less. The total is \$73.15.

Adjournment

Mr. Truskauskas moved to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. Mr. Criss seconded.

Minutes submitted by Melissa Santoro
Melissa Santoro

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON CT
ON 06/04/15 AT 10:35AM
ATTEST NANCY E. ELDRIDGE TOWN CLERK