

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
April 16, 2013

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, Selectman Jon Truskauskas, and Selectman Frank Chiaramonte.

Attendees: Beth Hamel, Candace Jones-Pacholski, and Sal Bonola.

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 April 2, 2013. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Public Participation

None

Appointments and Resignations

On April 2nd the Harwinton House Committee voted to recommend the appointment of Matthew Szydlo to fill the vacancy left by Tom Schoenemann. Mr. Truskauskas made a motion to approve the appointment of Matthew Szydlo to the Harwinton House Committee. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Criss announced there is an opening on the Zoning Board of Appeals left by departing member Dave Christensen.

New Business

Request for Refund of Property Tax-

Mr. Chiaramonte moved to approve the following tax refunds. Gregory Martinotti, \$194.12. Glenn or Dianne Goyette, \$14.22. Mr. Truskauskas seconded. All were in favor.

Adopt Fair Housing Resolution-

Mr. Chiaramonte moved to adopt a Fair Housing Resolution for the Town. Mr. Truskauskas seconded. All were in favor.

Proposal from Tax Collector to amend Ordinance #130-

Tax Collector, Beth Hamel, proposed to amend Ordinance #130 from \$5.00 to \$10.00. Ordinance #130 references state statute 12.144c in Section 3 which reads: Any municipality may waive any property tax due in an amount less than twenty-five dollars by action of its legislative body before the date such tax is due. The proposal affects real estate taxes

only. Mr. Chiaramonte made a motion to approve the adjusted amount of \$10. Mr. Truskauskas seconded. All were in favor. The item will be voted on at a Town Meeting.

Proposal from Tax Collector to adopt Ordinance for Assignment of Liens-

Ms. Hamel noted there is a statute, section 12-195H concerning the assignment of liens that reads as follows: Any municipality, by resolution of its legislative body, may assign, for consideration, any and all liens by the tax collector to secure unpaid taxes on real property. As explained by Ms. Hamel, this is useful when her regular collection methods are unsuccessful. The Town is insured revenue on an account that, otherwise, would have been uncollectible. Mr. Chiaramonte made a motion to refer the proposal to Attorney Michael Rybak for the purpose of drafting an ordinance. Mr. Truskauskas seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Hamel gave an update on delinquent sewer use accounts. Six accounts have been placed with a Connecticut State Marshal for collection. Seven accounts have been forwarded to the banking institution associated with the corresponding real estate. All accounts were liened in April to protect the town's interest.

Currently, delinquent accounts total \$391,652.00. In 2009 the delinquent account total was nearly \$1 million.

First Selectman's Report

Mr. Criss reported on the public hearing for the town's budget. Only 2 motions were made. One motion was made by Board of Finance member, George Nashe, to zero out the volunteer benefits program. That motion was seconded by Don Truskauskas. Mr. Criss stated he is not in favor of eliminating the program. Another motion was made to keep the Region 10 surplus instead of spending it. Region 10 used the surplus to fund a school resource officer.

Mr. Criss reported that Ovation Benefits came to Town Hall and did a presentation on a health benefits savings plan. Another presentation will be done for the Board of Selectmen and employee union members.

A ceremony for Youth Service Day was held at Town Hall on April 11th. Awards were given to approximately 20 Harwinton and Burlington youths. State Representative, John Piscopo was in attendance.

The Town received \$10,900 from Litchfield Trust in a matching grant for the Harwinton House.

A donation of \$1,000 was received from the Upper Thrift Shop in Southbury for the Harwinton Food Pantry.

Mr. Criss spoke with Dave Stygar with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection regarding the Wilcox property and Kasznay land who recommended a yellow book appraisal on the Kasznay land. Mr. Stygar will look into restrictions on the Wilcox property and will report back later. The next round of grants for open space will be due in May, 2014.

Mr. Criss announced the property on Valley Road has received approval from all land use boards. The item is on the call for the April 23rd Town Meeting. An agreement was reached where paths will be installed through the old clock factory.

Mr. Criss reminded everyone about the Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 23rd, 7:00 p.m. Up for vote will be a Right to Farm Ordinance and an Ordinance regarding Board of Education elections.

Mr. Criss announced a fundraiser benefit dinner will be held at the Harwinton Rod and Gun Club on Saturday, May 11th, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. for the Ross family who lost their home and pets in a house fire in March. The Harwinton Rod and Gun Club is donating the food and venue. The Harwinton Women's Club is donating the soda. Tickets are \$10 per person.

Correspondence

None

Adjournment

Mr. Truskauskas moved to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes submitted by Melissa Santoro
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