

BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday January 15, 2019 7:00pm

A Special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 in the selectmen's conference room.

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, Selectman Evan Brunetti, Selectman Rick Fowler.

Attendees: Jackie Stoughton – Republican American, Atty. Michael Rybak – Town Attorney, Dan & Kathy Aquilante.

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Brunetti made a motion to approve the previous minutes. Mr. Fowler seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

Appointments and Resignations

The Planning Commission appointed Roland Perrault to their vacant seat which will expire November 30th, 2019. Mr. David Eylers from the Housing Authority stepped down. The Housing Authority will be sending their recommended appointment for that seat.

Public Participation

Discussion of the Wilcox Property ensued.

New Business:

Request for Tax Refunds – Mr. Brunetti made a motion to approve tax refunds. Mr. Fowler seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

Wilcox Property – There were 13 sealed bids. The bids ranged from \$10,000 – \$131,000. The winning bid was \$131,000. The next highest bid was \$80,000. A certified map recorded with the town was given to the winning bidders. DEEP gave the authorization to transfer the restrictive covenant. Mr. Criss spoke with Dave Stygar from DEEP sent an email to Mr. Criss to confirm that he is going to finalize those documents and that will be recorded with the town records. The DEEP did approve the conversion and the transfer of property to the Bentley Drive Property and to release the 3.18 acres. Contract of Sale accompanied the current high bid as well as the non-refundable \$13,100 deposit. Mr. Aquilante would like his LLC to be listed as the purchasers, Stone Cottage Hops, LLC. Mr. Aquilante stated that the property is suitable for growing the crops. They asked if the town would be interested in leasing the field (next to the property) in the open space for the growth of the crops. They also asked for a one (1) year tax deferment to help them with their first year of getting things going. Atty. Rybak stated that the assignment provision of the contract, paragraph twelve (12) allows the parties to sign the contract the way that it is. With the town's permission the title can be assigned to go to their LLC once it is signed. Atty. Rybak addressed the tax question; the property won't be assessed on the grand list until October 1, 2018 which is the list that we have right now. A tax bill will not go out until July 1st. There will be a prorated bill because we have already lost 4 months of the tax year that can be looked at as the 'tax break'; the Assessor doesn't have the ability to do anything more than to follow the statutes. Mr. Criss mentioned that there is a tax program available; the EDC has information available on the website. Atty. Rybak also stated that the decision for utilizing the field to the right of the property is

up to the selectmen, the Planning Commission and a town meeting to decide whether they wanted to settle on a lease for the open space.

Mr. Fowler made a motion to accept the bid of \$131,100. Mr. Brunetti seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

Mr. Brunetti made a motion to authorize the First Selectman sign and execute all closing documents and contract for the winning bid. Mr. Fowler seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

Mr. Brunetti made a motion for the First Selectmen to release all other bidders and return their checks. Mr. Fowler seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

Set the Annual Town Meeting – The Board of Finance did approve the \$1,410,000 dollars for the Shingle Mill Bridge with the 80/20 reimbursement. The seventh (7th) item on the call breaks it down. That is the only financial item that is on the call. A motion was made to set the Annual Town Meeting for Tuesday, February 19th, 2019 at 7pm in the Assembly Hall. The Annual Reports are in. The Annual Report does not appear to reflect the move of budgeted capital funds from the general fund to the capital accounts; the auditor will address this with the BOF directly. Mr. Fowler made a motion to set the Annual Town Meeting for Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Mr. Brunetti seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

First Selectman's Report – Mr. Criss has an updated MOA for the Homeland Security grant that needs approval. The conditions have not changed. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to approve the grant. Mr. Fowler seconded. All in favor. Motion carries. Mr. Criss updated the selectmen on the progress of the website revisions.

Correspondence – Before John Fredsall retired he typed a report for Perkins Hill Road about a culvert that collapsed. It will need to be repaired in the near future. Mr. Fredsall recommended that the road needs a 72" HDPE pipe; the job estimate cost is \$162,000 not including the contingency. This may be something that needs to be addressed at the May Budget meeting. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to cancel next week's BOS meeting (1/22/19). Mr. Fowler seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

Executive Session - Legal – None at this time.

Adjournment – Mr. Brunetti made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm. Mr. Fowler seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

Minutes submitted by _____
First Selectman's Office

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON CT
ON 1-24-19 AT 2:30PM
ATTEST TOWN CLERK

James Byers