

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
May 19, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Members present at the meeting were First Selectman Frank Chiamonte, Selectman Christina Emery and Selectman Michael Criss.

Attendees: Scott Kellogg, Mary Jane Tierney, Kari Banach, Justin Clifford and Austin Hoyt.

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Criss made a motion to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on May 5, 2010. Ms. Emery seconded. All were in favor.

Public Participation

None

Appointments and Resignations

Ms. Emery moved to establish the Ambulance Facility Building Committee with the following members: Bob Collins, Jack Baer, John Fredsall, Todd Matiello, Jason Emery, Bill Gordon, Brian Dunbar, Peter Thierry and Dan Fiore. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

New Business

Emergency Services Committee Charter: Scott Kellogg, chief of the Harwinton West Side Fire Department explained that the Harwinton Emergency Services Committee was formed approximately 15 years ago. About two years ago he spoke with Mr. Chiamonte about revitalizing the committee due to developments and the need for a new ambulance facility. A new charter was written and approved by the Selectmen. The committee was to act as a liaison to the Selectmen and make recommendations regarding development plans that have an effect on emergency services, evaluate equipment, review regulatory compliance, administer the Volunteer Benefit Plan and any other assignments requested by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Kellogg stated that their monthly meetings lack agenda items, the committee does not feel they have the power to act and a majority of the members are associated with emergency services organizations. Mr. Kellogg recommends expanding and restructuring the committee and implementing additional activities. The Selectmen requested Mr. Kellogg compile a "pros and cons" list of the advantages of having the committee or not and will review it at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Communications Interoperability Agreement with City of Torrington: Mr. Kellogg explained that an opportunity is available for the Town to acquire equipment at no cost. He produced a draft of an agreement with the City of Torrington and Town of Harwinton that would transfer certain communication frequencies and equipment between the two towns. The Town would transfer ownership of two radio frequencies to the City of Torrington. The City of Torrington would transfer ownership of a radio frequency to the Town and provide the Town with equipment, installation, programming, and operating costs for twelve months that will enable increased communications coverage in the Town on the existing Harwinton repeater. The equipment and installation will include a minimum of: Two remote receivers to be installed at the Center firehouse and cell tower located at the Harwinton Rod & Gun Club; a comparator to be located at the Harwinton West Side Fire Department; relocation of the existing antenna at the Harwinton West Side Fire Department to the top of existing tower at same location; all associated licensing and frequency coordination fees and all associated programming of communications equipment including portable and mobile radios. Mr. Kellogg said this would be advantageous to the Town because more coverage is needed and the equipment will allow for expansion as well. Town coverage with new equipment would bring it up to approximately 95% from 60%. The City of Torrington will draw up an agreement that will be reviewed by Town Attorney Michael Rybak.

Mr. Criss stated he received a complaint from Judy Pleau regarding billing by the Harwinton Ambulance Association. Mr. Kellogg said he looked into the matter and it has been resolved.

Tax Collector Update on Delinquent Taxes: Tax Collector, Mary Jane Tierney stated that of the 43 delinquent real estate properties on her list, four have paid in full; six have made payment plans and one made a large payment. The 32 remaining have been issued warrants that were turned over to a marshal. The Mitral property remains on the list as unpaid. Of the 38 delinquents in personal property taxes, sixteen have paid in full, one is making payments and one is expected to be paid by the end of the month. She would like to send the remaining delinquents to a collection agency but needs to further research collection agencies. Mr. Criss asked how much the remaining 33 delinquent real estate properties represented and was told \$705,222.05. She also sent one warrant for sewer use fees for \$2,188.25. The marshal has sixty days to collect. The properties that remain uncollectable will most likely be subject to a tax sale. Ms. Tierney will be attending a workshop on tax sales to learn the procedure. Mr. Chiaramonte informed Ms. Tierney that he plans on looking into the Harwinton Lake Association taking control of Town owned lake lots.

Ms. Emery moved to add Request for Refund of Property Taxes to the agenda. Mr. Criss seconded and all were in favor.

Request for Refund of Property Taxes: Mr. Criss made a motion to refund Kim Wyman \$9.78. Ms. Emery seconded. All were in favor.

First Selectman's Report

Mr. Chiaramonte reported that the money requested from LOCIP (Local Capital Improvement Program) has been received in the amount of \$102,176.

Correspondence

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Fire Marshal's report for April and the Animal Control Officer's report for April. Regarding the ACO's report, Mr. Criss asked who pays for stray dogs that are picked up and was told the owners of the strays are billed.

Ms. Emery spoke of the need to establish an Economic Development Commission and the importance of supporting businesses in town. She distributed a paper listing the goals and objectives of such a commission and requested the Selectmen to review it. The Selectmen agreed to discuss this item at their next regular meeting.

Mr. Criss reported that he had a very good turnout for the Neighborhood Watch Program. He has set up and funded a website called Harwinton Watch Group.com which brings all the organizations together on one site and will be launched May 28th. The website will be linked to the Town's website. Mr. Criss noted that Trooper Nicholson has been very helpful with the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Ms. Emery noted everyone did a good job for the recreation fields opening ceremony.

Adjournment

Mr. Criss made a motion to adjourn at 8:44 p.m., seconded by Ms Emery. All were in favor.

Minutes submitted by:

Melissa Santoro

Approved by:

Francis J. Chiaramonte, First Selectman

Christina Emery, Selectman

Michael Criss, Selectman