

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
December 18, 2012**

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on December 18, 2012 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, and Selectman Jon Truskauskas. Selectman Chiaramonte joined the meeting in progress.

Attendees: Sarah Bogues, Candace Jones-Pacholski, Dana Meinke, and Bud Wilkinson.

Mr. Criss called for a moment of silence for the victims of the Newtown School tragedy.

Call to Order

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

Mr. Truskauskas made a motion to add the following to the agenda, "Authorizing Resolution for Emergency Management and Homeland Security". Mr. Criss seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting(s)

Mr. Truskauskas made a motion to accept the minutes from the following meetings: Board of Selectmen regular meeting held on December 4, 2012; Board of Selectmen/Land Use special meeting held on December 4, 2012; and Board of Selectmen special meeting held on December 11, 2012. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Public Participation

None

Appointments and Resignations

None. Mr. Criss noted that an alternate for the Planning Commission is needed and if the Board has any recommendations they should bring them to the next meeting.

New Business

Presentation by RedFlex Traffic Systems

Dana Meinke with RedFlex began her presentation with a brief background of the company. The company began the Student Guardian program in Rhode Island in 2008 when legislation passed making it possible to install cameras on buses. Legislation passed in 2012 in Connecticut allowing the same. Nationally, approximately 24 children under the age of 19 are killed each year from motorists passing buses and a total of 1,400 deaths have occurred since statistics have been kept. A one day survey done by the National Association of Pupil Transportation with twenty-eight (28) states participating showed the number of vehicles passing buses is up to 29% in 2011 compared with 15% in 2011. RedFlex installs three (3) cameras on the bus with different views. The data collected, including video and still images of license plates and vehicles goes to a server where the information is verified. RedFlex uploads the information to law enforcement to determine whether a violation has occurred. RedFlex

then prints and mails the citations with instructions to access video evidence online. Seventy-nine (79) per cent of citations are paid by violating motorist with 90 days after reviewing their violation in video form on a secure website. Only 20% are contested thereby reducing court costs. Ms. Meinke stated that bus drivers like the system because it allows them to focus on the kids by providing a "second set of eyes" focused on traffic. Law enforcement likes it because fines are upheld due to the camera/video evidence. There are no upfront costs for the town. The fine for passing a bus in Connecticut is \$450. If the town agrees to have RedFlex install cameras on buses, the state would receive 20% of the fine paid which is split between the transportation fund and general fund. Of the remaining 80%, RedFlex receives 65% or \$235 from a \$450 fine. The Town will receive 35% of the 80% or \$125 from a \$450 fine. RedFlex will bill the Town on a quarterly basis. Mr. Criss stated if it saves one life- it's worth it. Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the RedFlex Student Guardian program pending approval from the Board of Education and law enforcement. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Resolution of Endorsement for the Regional Performance Incentive Program

Authorizing Resolution for Emergency Management and Homeland Security

Mr. Truskauskas made a motion to approve the "Resolution of Endorsement for the Regional Performance Incentive Program" and "Authorizing Resolution for Emergency Management and Homeland Security". Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Request for Refund of Property Tax

Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the following tax refunds- Supreme Industries, \$1,117.58. Supreme Industries, \$369.74. Christopher or Kathleen Urban, \$48.22. The refund total is \$1,535.54. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Land Discussion

Originally posted this segment as Executive Session but since the topic has appeared in the newspaper, Mr. Criss decided to open the discussion. Mr. Andrew Kasznay of Harwinton has 75 acres of land for sale. The asking price is \$1 million. Mr. Criss stated that both he and Mr. Truskauskas are very familiar with the land as both were raised in Harwinton and have walked the land many times. Mr. Criss noted its nice property in a good location. Mr. Chiaramonte stated the land borders the town's conservation and recreation land and since we have the opportunity, they should look at purchasing the land. He noted that there is not a need for recreation land currently but it will probably be needed in the future. Mr. Truskauskas does not think it's a good idea to buy now due to the financial climate in the state and the country. If Mr. Kasznay would like to donate a portion of the land to the town then he would be interested. Mr. Criss noted that he just received a legislative update from CCM stating future grants will be limited or some may be eliminated, elderly tax reliefs may be cut, social services, and other aid to towns. Mr. Chiaramonte said the town has a surplus and would like to look into purchasing the land and paying for it over several years. Mr. Criss does not want to be in Connecticut's position because it used their surplus money. Mr. Chiaramonte

suggests getting an appraisal and meeting with Mr. Kasznay and the Finance Board chairman. Mr. Truskauskas will meet with Mr. Kasznay but he is still not in favor of purchasing land. Mr. Criss is willing to meet to explore other options. Mr. Truskauskas moved to enter into Executive Session at the next regularly scheduled Board of Selectman meeting and to invite Mr. Kasznay, The Board of Finance and/or Chairman of the Board, and town attorney Michael Rybak. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

First Selectman's Report

There will be a candlelight vigil on Sunday, December 23rd, 4:30 p.m., Lewis S. Mills High School, for the victims of the Newtown school shooting. Donations of school supplies will be accepted.

Mr. Criss announced the Harwinton House Building Committee will meet on December 19th. The Building Committee and the Historical Society need to reach an agreement as to how the house will be used. Mr. Criss will attend the meeting to offer some guidance. The soil testing has been completed at the site location for the new ambulance facility. Everything looks good for construction in the spring.

Both Litchfield and Goshen's dog kennels have been closed. Litchfield has approached the town about using our facility. Mr. Criss would like Attorney Rybak to work on an agreement.

Regarding the replacement of the sidewalks at Town Hall, Mr. Criss noted there are some issues that need to be fixed before payment is made.

Mr. Criss announced the Economic Development Commission did a great job in producing a business directory of businesses in Harwinton and is on the town's webpage.

Correspondence

The selectmen reviewed the Fire Marshal's report for November, 2012.

Adjournment

Mr. Truskauskas made a motion to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes submitted by: _____
Melissa Santoro

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON CT
ON 12-26-12 AT 4:08pm
ATTEST NANCY E. ELDRIDGE TOWN CLERK