

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
December 21, 2011**

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Wednesday, December 21, 2011 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

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

Attendees: Don Truskauskas, Sal Bonola, Candace Jones-Pacholski, Peter Thierry, Attorney Michael Rybak, Wes Seixas, and Bud Wilkinson.

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 December 7, 2011. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Public Participation

None

New Business

Amended Certified Resolution for Harwinton House:

Mr. Truskauskas made a motion to approve an Amended Certified Resolution Authorizing the First Selectman to sign documents for the Harwinton House. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Site location for Harwinton House:

Mr. Truskauskas noted the letter from Stansfield Environmental Services in which they referenced the first site as being to the east of Town Hall and the second being to the northwest of the library. Mr. Truskauskas requested a revised letter stating the first site is to the west of Town Hall and the second site being to the northeast of the library. Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the Harwinton House Committee to proceed with the site westerly to Town Hall contingent upon a corrected letter from Stansfield Environmental, a feasibility study and site plans be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for review. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Appointments:

Mr. Criss stated that Tax Collector, Mary Jane Tierney is retiring effective December 29, 2011 and has recommended Beth Hamel to replace her. Lydia Smith has agreed to be reappointed to the Conservation Commission. Joanne Herkimer has been recommended to fill the vacancy left by Sue Alender on the Conservation Commission. Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the appointment of Beth Hamel as the Tax Collector, term is 12/29/2011 to 11/10/2015. Lydia Smith to the Conservation Commission, term is 11/21/2011 to 11/21/2016. Joanne Herkimer to the Conservation

Commission, term is 11/17/11 to 11/18/2013. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule for 2012:

Mr. Chiaramonte moved to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting schedule for 2012 to meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Truskauskas seconded. All were in favor.

Formation of an Agricultural Counsel:

Mr. Criss read the following excerpt from an article by the Connecticut Department of Agriculture Legislative Report; 2011 Session which recommends that towns have an agricultural counsel or join a regional agricultural counsel for the purpose of providing information to local farmers, commissions and boards about the benefits of balancing agriculture and other land uses; educate municipal officials about agricultural laws and safety issues; identify grant sources for farmers and municipalities; enable a common understanding of agriculture among all municipal departments; provide information and guidance about agriculture-related zoning issues; support local, regional, and state vocational agricultural programs; provide conflict resolution and advisory services; identify innovative opportunities for agriculture; create a climate that supports agriculture's economic viability in the municipality. Under the bill (PA-11-188 signed 7/13/11, effective 10/1/11), agriculture includes soil cultivation; dairying; forestry. Mr. Criss acknowledged receipt of a letter from Planning Chairman, Michael Orefice which recommends establishing an Agricultural Committee to explore funding options including grants or preservation programs, as well as identify significant properties that may have potential as farmland, wildlife habitat and agricultural land. Mr. Chiaramonte made a motion to approve the formation of an Agricultural Counsel. Mr. Truskauskas seconded. All were in favor. Mr. Criss requested names of people who may want to serve on the Counsel from Mr. Orefice.

First Selectman's Report

Mr. Criss reported that Trooper Ian Nicholson has left the town to work for Governor Malloy's administration. Mr. Criss thanked Trooper Nicholson for all his hard work and for all his work with the children in town. He wished the best of luck and he will be missed. Trooper Bill Arbour is filling in.

Mr. Criss reported that information on STEAP funding should be available shortly.

Mr. Criss thanked the West Side Volunteer Fire Department for holding a toy drive that provided many area children with gifts for the holidays.

Mr. Criss reported that the flags along Burlington Road have been taken down as requested.

Mr. Criss reported that the tree on the green had been vandalized again (the lights and plugs were torn apart). He thanked Don Wilkins for fixing the tree again.

Mr. Criss reported that an FOI training session will be arranged for boards and commissions to attend as he would like everyone informed on FOI procedures.

Mr. Criss noted he would like to arrange a BOS/Land Use Commissions meeting for January.

Correspondence

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Fire Marshal's report for November.

Adjournment

Mr. Truskauskas moved to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes submitted by: _____
Melissa Santoro

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON, CT
ON 12-28-11 AT 4:09 PM
ATTEST: PATRICIA K. WILLIAMSEN, TOWN CLERK