

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
December 7, 2011**

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

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

Attendees: Peter Thierry, Attorney Mike Rybak, Candace Jones-Pacholski, Bud Wilkinson, Ellie Woike, Girvice Archer, Bob Collins, Wes Seixas, and Don and Dawn Truskauskus.

Call to Order

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

Mr. Criss thanked all in attendance for being at the first meeting of the new Board and Mr. Chiaramonte and Mr. Truskauskus for being a part of the Board. He encouraged residents with questions or concerns to contact the Board or any member of the Board to address those concerns.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Chiaramonte moved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on November 10, 2011. Mr. Criss seconded. Motion passed.

Public Participation

None. Mr. Criss had explained that this portion of the meeting is to allow for those in attendance to comment on something related to items on the agenda.

New Business

Tax Overpayments and Refunds:

Mr. Criss noted a letter was received dated November 16, 2011 from the Tax Collector stating that in accordance with Ordinance Number 130 of the Town of Harwinton the Tax Collector is authorized to retain overpayments of taxes if such overpayment is less than \$5.00. There are currently thirty-three (33) taxpayers who have balances ranging from \$4.99 to \$0.01. To zero out the refund amounts, adjustments equal to their overpayments are to be made. The combined amount of these balances totals \$72.96. Another letter received from the Tax Collector dated November 16, 2011 states that applications for refunds must be made with three (3) years of the due date of the tax. There is a taxpayer with a balance of \$1,499.85 from the 2005 grand list. To zero out their balances, adjustments equal to their overpayment amounts are to be made.

Mr. Chiaramonte moved to approve the following tax refunds. \$223.47 to Lease Plan USA Inc., \$112.37 to Patrick M. Addison, and \$5.31 to Eugene G. Calverley. Mr. Truskauskus seconded. Motion passed.

Appointments:

Mr. Chiaramonte moved to accept the following appointments with Mr. Truskauskus seconding the motions. Mr. Criss approved all nominations. Motions passed.

Carole Romano to the Historic District Commission for a term of five (5) years: 6-30-2011 to 6-30-2016.

Susan LaPenta to the Housing Authority for a term of five (5) years: 12-1-2011 to 12-1-2016.

John Fredsall as the town's Tree Warden for a term of two (2) years: 11-16-2011 to 11-16-2013.

Attorney Michael D. Rybak as Town Counsel for a term of two (2) years: 11-16-2011 to 11-18-2013.

Thomaston Savings Bank and Farmington Savings Bank as the town's depository for a term of two (2) years: 11-16-2011 to 11-18-2013.

Michele DaSilva as the town's Assessor for a term of two (2) years: 11-22-2011 to 11-18-2013.

Mr. Criss explained there are many appointments to be made because many terms coincide with the Selectmen's terms. It is customary for the chairman of the committee with a vacancy to recommend a nominee. Mr. Criss noted that if anyone in attendance has recommendations for any vacancies that they may submit them to the Board for consideration.

Commission on Aging is a seven (7) member board. There are six (6) vacancies. Senior Center Director, Sharlene Copeland, will have nominees available for the next Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for December 19, 2011.

Economic Development Commission. This is a seven (7) member board. All terms have expired. Five (5) members have expressed an interest in serving again.

The Conservation Commission is a seven (7) member board with two (2) vacancies. The Board expects a letter with nominees after the Conservation Commission meets on December 19, 2011.

The Recreation Commission is a seven (7) member board with two (2) vacancies. The Recreation Commission will provide a letter with nominees to the Board after they meet in January, 2012.

The Capitol Equipment Committee is a five (5) member board. All terms have expired. The committee needs to be reinstated.

There is one vacancy for a Planning Commission Alternate. The Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Board after they meet on December 14, 2011.

The appointment of a Building Inspector will be addressed at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule for 2012:

Mr. Criss stated he would like to hold the Board of Selectmen meetings on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. rather than Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Chiaramonte was in favor. Mr. Truskauskus needs to check his schedule before committing. The schedule will be set at the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Community Hall and Town Pavilion Rental Rates:

Mr. Criss read a letter from Recreation Director, Suzanne Stich, which stated that the Recreation Commission recommends the Town charge a rental fee for use of the Pavilion at the Conservation/Recreation Area. As a base for comparison, the Community Hall is currently rented for \$150 for non-residents, \$50 for residents, and no charge for non-profit groups. The Commission is suggesting charging \$75 for non-residents, \$25 for residents, and no charge for non-profit groups. Mr. Truskauskus suggested a security deposit should be required and would like the Recreation Commission to set a fee for the amount of the deposit. The exact amount of fees to charge will be addressed at a future Board of Selectmen meeting.

First Selectman's Report

Mr. Criss thanked Mr. Chiaramonte for the donation of office furniture to Town Hall. It was very much appreciated.

Mr. Criss reported on the recent tax sale. The sale of all the properties totaled \$115,480.56. \$19,507.91 was paid to the marshal for his costs and fees. \$43,616.76 was the overage that will be paid to the Litchfield Court. The remaining \$52,355.89 paid taxes and interest and was deposited into the town's account. The yearly tax revenue returned to the rolls will be approximately \$14,000.

Mr. Criss commended the committee and all the volunteers for making the 1st Annual Hometown Holiday Celebration such a nice event with only three weeks to plan. He thanked all those who donated and reported \$3,200 was raised. The leftover money of \$2,100 will be put towards next years' event. He also thanked the fire departments and emergency volunteers. Mr. Chiaramonte thanked Suzanne Stich and the EDC.

Mr. Criss reported the Center tree will still be lit but it was out due to an electrical problem. He thanked Mr. Don Wilkins for fixing the problem.

Mr. Criss reported that the Local VFW has been dissolved and will be speaking with Jon Stolicny about resurrecting the group.

Mr. Criss received information regarding the possible storm on Wednesday. CL&P has 100% of their line crews at the ready, and are over prepared if needed. CL&P is requesting customers to call if they are experiencing a power outage.

Mr. Criss attended a meeting in Torrington about regionalizing animal control services. A proposed site has been identified in Torrington and they are seeking funding. Mr. Criss is questioning whether or not this would benefit Harwinton. He noted that the town has extra runs and would like to look into the possibility of renting a portion of the town's runs to other towns.

Correspondence

Mr. Criss received a letter from the Harwinton House Committee recommending a proposed site for the house. The location will be addressed at the next meeting.

Mr. Criss read a letter of resignation from Tax Collector, Mary Jane Tierney, stating her last day of work will be December 29, 2011. She has offered to serve as a consultant after her retirement. Mr. Criss commended Ms. Tierney for all her efforts and especially her work on the delinquent accounts. Mr. Chiaramonte moved to accept (with regret) Ms. Tierney's resignation. Mr. Truskauskus seconded. All were in favor.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the Fire Marshal's and Animal Control Officer's monthly reports.

Mr. Chiaramonte moved to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Mr. Truskauskus seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes submitted by: _____
Melissa Santoro

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON, CT
ON 12-14-11 AT 3:49 PM
ATTEST: PATRICIA K. WILLIAMSEN, TOWN CLERK