

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
August 17, 2011

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Wednesday, August 17, 2011 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Members present: First Selectman Frank Chiaramonte, Selectman Christina Emery, and Selectman Michael Criss.

Attendees: Paul Nonnenmacher with CRRA, Peter Egan with CRRA, Recycling Coordinator Tracy Mirsky, Board of Finance Chairman Peter Thierry, and Zoning Enforcement Officer Karen Nelson.

Call or Order

Mr. Chiaramonte called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Ms. Emery moved to approve the minutes from the Board of Selectmen meeting held on August 3, 2011. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

Public Participation

None

Appointments and Resignations

None

New Business:

PowerPoint Presentation by CRRA:

Mr. Chiaramonte explained that the Town's twenty (20) year service agreement for trash disposal with CRRA will expire November 15, 2012. Area towns, including Harwinton, are renegotiating their contracts. The Board wanted to talk with CRRA and a competitor, Covanta, to see what each company has to offer. Peter Egan with CRRA offered a PowerPoint presentation on their company and services summarized as follows:

CRRA was created in 1973 with a mission to modernize the state's solid waste system. CRRA is a quasi-public agency. They do not receive money from the state as they are self funded. CRRA currently services seventy (70) cities and towns with a trash to energy plant in Hartford, a recycling processing center in Hartford, transfer stations in Ellington, Essex, Torrington and Watertown, and a trash museum in Hartford.

The refuse-derived fuel plant in Hartford can process 3,000 tons of municipal solid waste per day and the power block facility in Hartford burns 2,400 tons of fuel per day. CRRA processes approximately 750,000 tons of trash per year. Non-burnable waste equals about 105,000 tons per year and is trucked to a private landfill in Chicopee, Massachusetts. Approximately 160,000 tons of ash is trucked to a private landfill in Putnam, Connecticut. Harwinton generated 2,260 tons of municipal solid waste in fiscal year 2011, all of which was billed directly to private haulers. The Town generated 548 tons of recyclables in 2011 which produced a rebate of \$2,740 to the Town. CRRA's net cost of operation- Expenditures such as operational expenses and transportation costs less Non-Disposable Fee Revenues such as the sale of electricity, metal sales,

etc. equals Unfunded Expenditures equals Disposal Fee Revenues. CRRA explained its financial balancing act as follows: Too little trash equals too little power. A revenue shortfall forces a disposal fee increase in the following year. Too much trash forces CRRA to export which can cost up to \$90 per ton (CRRA collects \$69 per ton). New municipal service agreements have different terms and options to choose from:

MSA	Item	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Tier 1	opt-out	\$61.00	\$61.00*	\$62.00	**	**
Long Term	disposal fee	\$59.50	\$59.50	\$59.50	\$58.00	\$57.00
Tier 1	opt-out	\$63.00	\$63.00*	\$64.00	**	**
Short Term	disposal fee	\$61.50	\$61.50	\$61.50	\$60.00	\$59.00
	opt-out fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tier 2	disposal fee	\$63.50	\$63.50	\$63.50	\$62.00	\$62.00
	opt-out fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tier 3	disposal fee	\$59.50	\$59.50	\$59.50	\$58.00	\$57.00
	opt-out fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Tier 4	disposal fee	\$61.50	\$61.50	\$61.50	\$60.00	\$60.00

* Plus any additional opt-out costs.

** Previous year plus inflation adjustment plus any additional opt-out costs.

Tier 1 long term is for fifteen (15) years and will expire June 30, 2027.

Tier 1 short term is for five (5) years and will expire June 30, 2017.

Tier 2 is for three (3) years and will expire June 30, 2015.

Tier 3 is for fifteen (15) years and will expire June 30, 2027.

Tier 4 is for six (6) years and will expire June 30, 2018.

CRRA will seek assistance from towns if it finds garbage being diverted from them to make sure the haulers are bringing the waste to the proper facility.

All contracts have a fuel surcharge. It becomes effective after the first year if diesel goes above \$5 per gallon. For example, if diesel is \$6, it would cost the town an additional 65 cents per ton.

CRRA is also renegotiating to renew their contracts with CL&P and Constellation Energy for electricity produced at their Hartford plant.

Mr. Egan recommends the Town look at the Tier 1 agreement because it does not require a minimum of tons and if CRRA sets a tip fee above the opt-out price, the Town will have the option of exiting the contract.

Review Procedures for Zoning Enforcement Officer:

The Zoning Enforcement Officer, Karen Nelson currently has no set hours at Town Hall. Mr. Chiaramonte explained that the Zoning and Inland Wetlands Commissions wanted to have a better idea of Ms. Nelson's hours and the procedures she follows. They have requested that she have set hours at Town Hall. Ms. Emery said she has heard from residents that she is difficult to reach and asked how to contact her during the day. Ms. Nelson replied she checks her messages remotely and Polly, the Land Use Coordinator, fields a lot of her calls and emails her. Ms. Nelson stated she works for

several other towns and has set hours with them and prefers not to conduct Harwinton business on other towns' time. Mr. Thierry stated that she should have set hours if she was issuing permits but since she does not, he feels it would be unnecessary. The Board recommends not having set hours for the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Everbridge Grant:

The Selectmen received verification from the Town Treasurer that the funds to pay for the Everbridge system (reverse 911) will be paid for out of the EMS capital account. When COGCNV reimburses the Town, the funds will be deposited back into the same account. Ms. Emery made a motion to authorize the First Selectmen to sign the agreement with Everbridge. Ms. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

Request for Refund of Property Tax:

Mr. Criss made a motion to approve the following tax refunds: \$61.19 to Thomas or Sabra Rabinko, \$209.32 to Gelco Corp., \$251.67 to William or Nancy Mellow, \$3597 to Peter Thierry, \$56.53 to Peter Thierry, \$145.20 to Peter Thierry, and \$31.41 to Barbara Pierson. Ms. Emery seconded. All were in favor.

First Selectman's Report

Mr. Chiaramonte stated that a meeting needs to be set up for a Pension Trustees Meeting to review the account. The date was set for September 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

A meeting of the Land Use Commissions has been set for September 21, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. The Board of Selectmen would like to invite Bob Petricone to the meeting.

Correspondence

The Selectmen reviewed the Fire Marshal's report for July, 2011.

Adjournment

Mr. Criss moved to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Ms. Emery seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes submitted by: _____
Melissa Santoro

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON, CT
ON 8-24-11 AT 12:32 PM
ATTEST: PATRICIA K. WILLIAMSEN, TOWN CLERK