

BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING

July 13, 2011

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Wednesday, July 13, 2011 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

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

Attendees: Recycling Coordinator Tracy Mirsky, Bud Wilkinson with the Republican American and Wes Seixas

Call Meeting to Order

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

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Criss moved to amend the minutes from the June 15, 2011 meeting and add: when asked, Ms. Emery affirmed that her husband is a volunteer member of the ambulance association and she has voted on the ambulance budget.

Mr. Chiaramonte noted that Pat Williamsen, Town Clerk did some research regarding the signing of minutes. She discovered that board members are not required to sign minutes of meetings they've attended and generally the clerk is the one who signs them. The Town's practice of having Selectmen sign the minutes began a long time ago. Since minutes are approved, corrected or amended at their next meeting, it is not necessary for the Selectmen to sign them. The signing of minutes by the Board of Selectmen will discontinue. Ms. Emery noted that corrections on the original minutes will still appear at the bottom of the page.

Public Participation

None

Appointments and Resignations

The Selectmen read a letter from Mr. Robert Ethier who is resigning from the Commission on Aging. Mr. Criss moved to accept the resignation of Bob Ethier from the Commission on Aging. Ms. Emery seconded and recognized Mr. Ethier for his years of service. All were in favor.

New Business

Review CRRA Agreement:

Mr. Chiaramonte asked the Selectmen to review their draft copies of the renewal contract with Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA) and explained that Harwinton along with many other towns is currently negotiating a new contract for waste removal as the current twenty (20) year contract expires in November, 2012. A company called Convanta is competing for this service. Mr. Chiaramonte expects Convanta's draft in early August and suggests inviting representatives from both companies to a selectmen's meeting. Approval at a town meeting will be required for a new 15 year contract effective January, 2013. The town has budgeted \$62 a ton for the fiscal year 2011 to 2012. However, CRRA will continue to charge the town \$69 per ton until the new contract becomes effective. At that time, the cost per ton will be lowered to \$59.50. Covanta's price may be lower. However, Mr. Chiaramonte explained, Covanta does not have access to the transfer station in Torrington as

CRRA does. This would increase fees for the private haulers who would then have to travel to Bristol's transfer station if Covanta cannot obtain access to a closer station. The private haulers may have to increase fees to residents based on added fuel costs, travel time and wear on trucks. Ms. Emery asked if single stream recycling would continue with Covanta. Ms. Mirsky confirmed that single stream would continue but is unsure of the details of Covanta's recycling service. To date they have only provided a general overview. To clarify the prices in CRRA's draft, Ms. Emery confirmed that the current price the town pays is \$69 per ton. From November, 2012 through June, 2013 the price drops to \$59.50 per ton, and \$57 per ton for fiscal year 2014 and 2015 and will then decrease by a modest amount. Mr. Chiaramonte noted that Covanta stated they will require a 2 ½ per cent cost of living increase each year. CRRA will not.

Approve Resolution Authorizing First Selectman to sign Memorandum of Agreement for 2010 State Homeland Security Grant Program:

The Memorandum allows the Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security to act as the agent of Harwinton and to administer grant funds in Region 5 which are shared with other towns in Region 5. Ms. Emery moved to approve the Resolution authorizing the First Selectman to sign the Memorandum of Agreement for the 2010 State Homeland Security Grant Program. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

Approve Resolution Authorizing First Selectman to sign grant contract with the Conn. State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant:

Mr. Chiaramonte explained that Pat Williamsen, Town Clerk, applies each year for this grant which allows the land records to be stored electronically. Mr. Criss moved to approve the resolution authorizing the First Selectman to sign grant agreement with the Conn. State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant. Ms. Emery seconded. All were in favor.

Request from Town Clerk to supplement the Vital Statistics Budget Line:

Mr. Chiaramonte read a letter from Town Clerk, Pat Williamsen, requesting a supplemental amount for the Vital Statistics budget, line item 5035. The budget was for \$965 and she has expended \$1079. The primary reason for the over expenditure was the increase in the number of marriage licenses issued this year (42 compared to 34 last year). She is requesting the supplemental amount of \$114. Ms. Emery moved to recommend that the Board of Finance supplement the Vital Statistics Budget line by \$114. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

Request to supplement Vacation Pay for Library:

Mr. Chiaramonte explained that per the union contract, employees can carry over a maximum of four weeks' vacation to the following year, or use their vacation time. If they decide not to take vacation or carry over the time, they have the option of being paid for it. This year, two library personnel decided to be paid for their unused vacation time. The library is requesting a supplemental amount of \$2,404.62. Mr. Criss made a motion to send the matter to the Board of Finance for their review. Ms. Emery seconded. All were in favor. Ms. Emery would like the Board of Finance to consider how this can be budgeted for in the future.

Discussion of Tax Abatements:

The Town's Tax Collector recently had a request from a resident to abate taxes. Mr. Chiaramonte explained that statute 12-124 gives towns the option to abate taxes and/or interest on delinquent taxes. The Selectmen agreed that they are not in favor of abating taxes. Mr. Criss moved to make it a policy not to abate delinquent taxes or interest owed to the Town of Harwinton. Ms. Emery seconded. All were in favor.

Request for Refund of Property Taxes:

Ms. Emery moved to approve refund of property taxes to Stephen Graboski, Signature Building, in the amount of \$6.70. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

CCM Energy Purchasing:

Mr. Chiaramonte explained that the town has contracted with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) to act as our consultant/broker for the purpose of purchasing energy for the town. The town currently has a contract with Integrys Energy Services. The cost of electricity has come down and CCM advised the town should go out to bid. CCM will solicit bids on July 20th. Acceptance by the Town will have to be made on the same day.

Mr. Criss made a motion authorizing Ms. Emery to execute the energy contract on July 20, 2011 providing that it will be a lower or blended price. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Unfinished Business

Regarding job descriptions, Ms. Emery suggested reviewing a few at a time at each meeting.

Ms. Emery would like to follow up on the Technology Assessment Report which is intended to be a planning tool for budgeting purposes. The Selectmen agreed to have members of the IT Committee review the report and share their comments at a Board of Selectmen meeting in August or September.

Regarding property owned by Drake Petroleum, Mr. Chiaramonte confirmed that paperwork has been submitted and he is awaiting word.

Update on Lake Lot Committee. Michele DaSilva, Assessor, set up a meeting for the Committee to be held on Wednesday, August 24, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Mr. Criss gave an update on the War Memorial. Mark Arigoni has volunteered to do the drawings and two contractors have signed on to do the landscaping labor at no charge. The Committee is now seeking a company to donate the granite. Then they will seek bids for the engraving. Roger Plaskett and Dan Deleppo have been helpful in finding names from the Revolutionary and Civil Wars.

Correspondence

The Selectmen reviewed report for month of June from the Fire Marshal and reports for May and June from the Animal Control Officer.

Adjournment

Ms. Emery made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 p.m. Mr. Criss seconded. All in favor.

Minutes submitted by: _____
Melissa Santoro