

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
February 16, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Wednesday, February 16, 2011 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

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

In attendance: Attorney Michael Rybak, Resident Trooper Ian Nicholson and several residents from town.

Call to Order:

Mr. Chiaramonte called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Mr. Criss made the following amendment to the minutes of February 2, 2011. Under the section "Unfinished Business" add the following: Mr. Criss inquired about the quarterly meetings of the Land Use Boards and whether or not a schedule is available. Mr. Chiaramonte replied he will give him the information when available. Ms. Emery moved to accept the minutes from February 2, 2011 as amended. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

Public Participation:

None

Appointments and Resignations:

Mr. Chiaramonte read the following letter from Recreation Director, Suzanne Stich: At the last meeting of the Recreation Commission, a motion was made to recommend the reappointment of Sabrina Janco to this commission. Mr. Criss made a motion to accept the reappointment of Ms. Janco to the Recreation Commission. Ms. Emery seconded. All were in favor. The length of term is November 16, 2010 through November 21, 2015.

New Business:

Vote on Committee Members for the Harwinton House:

Mr. Criss commented that he was okay with everyone on the list but wanted to make sure that the committee will now take over the project meaning that they will do the research and come up with their own bids, etc. Mr. Chiaramonte explained that he will be assisting and is currently working with Greg Farmer, a circuit rider and potential member of the committee to write a request for qualifications for contractors. Mr. Criss said he has a list of contractors he has worked with in the past that are professionals who move buildings that he will forward to Mr. Chiaramonte via e-mail. Mr. Criss asked if this would be a public bid opening and Mr. Chiaramonte replied that it would. Mr. Criss made a motion to accept the following names for the Harwinton House Committee: Mr. Roger Plaskett, Mr. Tom Rotondo, Mr. Brian Dunbar, Mr. Larry Connors, Mr. Dick Pacholski, Mr. Peter Thierry, Ms. Carole Romano, Ms. Nancy Schnyer, Mr. Greg Farmer (acting as a consultant), and Mr. Keith Golnik. Ms. Emery seconded. All were in favor.

Traffic on South Road:

Mr. Chiaramonte said the Town has received an anonymous gift to put up some small speed signs on South Road. As soon as weather permits, the signs will be installed. Ms. Emery asked if they were electronic. Mr. Chiaramonte replied that they are electronic and according to Trooper Nicholson, will be solar powered. The poles will be permanently installed but the machines will be moveable. Mr. Criss wanted to know if the troopers would be downloading information from the machines. He also asked when the machines will be installed. As previously agreed to earlier in the day, Trooper Nicholson was contacted by phone and joined the meeting via speakerphone. Mr. Frank Buonocore asked Trooper Nicholson if the sign being used on South Road could be used at other sites. Trooper Nicholson said two (2) will be put on South Road and two (2) will be mobile. Mr. Criss asked is there's a schedule as to when the signs will go up and how often they'll be checked. Trooper Nicholson said installation will happen when the weather breaks and he will give him a schedule when he can. Various roads were named as possible locations. Mr. Buonocore asked Trooper Nicholson if he was confident that the signs will make a difference. Trooper Nicholson stated he was very confident it will help and has been proven to help in other areas. Ms. Emery asked him if he has heard anything about getting resources for more enforcement in the town from the state. Trooper Nicholson explained that a new commissioner will be taking office next week and hopes to hear something about that within the next two (2) weeks. Mr. Buonocore asked if the citizens in town will be made aware of the signs going up and has there been any opposition. Mr. Chiaramonte replied that he hasn't heard any. Mr. Criss noted that he has heard some concerns about it affecting the rural character of the town but, overall, people seem to understand the signs are there to reduce speeds. Mr. Buonocore said he hopes this will be a long-term solution to a long-term problem. Mr. Chiaramonte stated that once people realize the machines will be backed up with enforcement, it should be effective.

Set Call and Date for Annual Town Meeting:

Attorney Rybak reviewed items to be placed on the call with the Selectmen. Mr. Chiaramonte explained that the Harwinton House will need to go before the Board of Finance. The \$150,000 in funding will come from a STEAP grant (small town economic assistance project). The appropriation is for dismantling and transportation of the house from New Canaan to Harwinton. Mr. Chiaramonte said the Harwinton House Committee needs to meet and work on a budget. Mr. Rybak said the Town needs an agreement with the current owners of the house stating that the Town will move the house by May. Mr. Criss and Ms. Emery voiced concern over whether or not there will be enough time to obtain quotes for the project and approval from the State to locate the house on the Wilcox property. They asked if it will be leased by the Historical Society to which Mr. Chiaramonte replied that it will be leased to them. Attorney Rybak said if a proposed budget for the house will be ready by the annual town meeting, the house could be put on the call. Attorney Rybak suggested that Mr. Chiaramonte get the Harwinton House Committee together as soon as possible and talk to the Board of Finance. Also, an agreement has to be made with the owners of the

house. It will have to go before the Planning Commission for siting the structure on town property. Mr. Chiaramonte said he has much of the information and is expecting more soon. Ms. Emery said they also need to know if it will be stored at the town garage or in a separate trailer. The Selectmen agreed to set the annual town meeting for March 29, 2011. Mr. Criss moved to set the date for the annual town meeting for March 29, 2011. Ms. Emery seconded. All were in favor.

Foodshare Mobile Bus Pantry:

Social Services Coordinator, Melissa Santoro, presented the following information regarding Foodshare to the Selectmen. The Town of Burlington called Harwinton to see if we would be interested in the Foodshare Mobile Pantry for residents of Harwinton. Two meetings were attended in Burlington. The Town of Burlington agreed to be the host site with the mobile pantry to park at the rear of Burlington Town Hall. The Town of Canton has since joined. The mobile pantry will be available every other Monday starting April 11, 2011. People in need are encouraged to use this service. They only need to be there to pick up the food, or in some cases, send someone for them. There will not be any forms to fill out. Numbers of people attending will be taken at the site but names will not. Ms. Santoro would like to have flyers made to help get the word out. Mr. Criss volunteered to help with the printing. Volunteers will be needed to assist residents at the site. More information on this program will be available in the coming weeks and will be posted on the town's web site.

Ms. Emery moved to add the following to the agenda: 1) Authorize First Selectman to sign assistance agreement by and between the State of Connecticut acting by the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Town of Harwinton. 2) Refund of Property Taxes.

Refund of Property Taxes:

Ms. Emery moved to refund \$58.75 to Andrew or Chung Trykowski. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

Authorize First Selectman to Sign Assistance Agreement by and between the State of Connecticut acting by the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Town of Harwinton:

Regarding the purchase of property for an ambulance facility; Attorney Rybak explained that starting about a week ago, through emails with Nicholas Paindiris who is with the outside law firm of Cohen and Acampora who represents Amy Lopez and the Department of Economic Development, the State requested that the Town secure the grants with an Assistance Agreement because of their concern that the grants may be recalled because there is not a binding commitment currently. The matter went before the Board of Finance Thursday and they agreed it was okay to sign the agreement only but stated they have not approved the project yet. Attorney Rybak stated he received the final agreement this afternoon that includes the three (3) grants. Mr. Criss confirmed that the agreement is to secure the grants only. Attorney Rybak said the agreement is to

commit the Town to use the money for the purchase of the property if the Town reaches an agreement with Drake. In the event an agreement is not reached; the money would have to be reassigned to another property. Ms. Emery made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign the revised assistance agreement dated February 16, 2011, by and between the State of Connecticut acting by the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Town of Harwinton. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

Attorney Rybak said the emails he has received from Jeff Walker with Drake Petroleum and Cohen and Acampora have raised several questions. It was suggested that a conference call be arranged as soon as possible to discuss the issue further.

Mr. Criss asked if the Town can legally enter into an agreement with Drake without obtaining town approval first. Attorney Rybak replied that the contract would be subject to town meeting approval. Mr. Criss suggested when the purchase of the property goes to a town meeting that paper ballots be used for voting.

First Selectman's Report

Mr. Chiaramonte said he reviewed the Governor's budget for Harwinton that became available today and it appears the town remains flat which means it will receive the same amount of money as last year.

Correspondence

The Selectmen reviewed the Animal Control Officer's reports for December, 2010 and January, 2011. Mr. Chiaramonte said he replied to a letter received from Tammalene Mitman opposing the Harwinton House.

Ms. Emery moved to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes submitted by:

Melissa Santoro

Approved by:

Francis J. Chiaramonte, First Selectman

Christina Emery, Selectman

Michael Criss, Selectman