

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
February 2, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Wednesday, February 2, 2011 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

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

Attendees: Jim Beland with the Republican-American.

Call to Order

Mr. Chiaramonte called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Ms. Emery moved to accept the minutes from the meeting held on January 19, 2011. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

Public Participation

None

Appointments and Resignations

None

New Business

Vote on Disposition of LaGanga Lot:

Mr. Chiaramonte said he spoke with Highway Supervisor, John Fredsall, regarding the LaGanga lot and he said the Town does not have a use for the property. Mr. Chiaramonte recommends that the Tax Collector sell the lot at a tax sale she plans on having in late spring. Ms. Emery asked if this was the only property Ms. Tierney was planning on selling at the tax auction, due to the cost of holding the auction. Mr. Chiaramonte said Ms. Tierney will have other properties to auction including Lake Harwinton lots and Mitral. Mr. Criss made a motion to not accept the LaGanga property and to continue through with the normal tax procedures by the tax office to collect any and all debt due to the Town. Ms. Emery seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Emery asked if the Lake Lot Committee has been meeting and was told that they are waiting for data from the Assessor's Office.

Form a Committee for the Harwinton House:

Mr. Chiaramonte said the Historical Society met and voted unanimously to do whatever they can to assist in bringing the house back to Harwinton. He also informed the Board that he was successful in changing the \$150,000 grant from the Wilcox house to the Harwinton house. They are waiting for an estimate and will obtain others. Mr. Chiaramonte said they need to form a committee and is compiling a list of potential members and would like to vote on that at the next meeting. Mr. Chiaramonte will go the Finance Board next week in order to get approval for the expenditure. The matter will then have to go before Planning, Zoning, Inland Wetlands, and a Town Meeting. Mr. Criss asked where the house will go. Mr. Chiaramonte explained that the Wilcox property was purchased with

a DEP grant for the purpose of recreation and open space. Since use of the land is restricted, Mr. Chiaramonte has contacted Dave Stygar with the DEP about the possibility of moving the Harwinton House to the Wilcox property. The current owners of the Harwinton house are willing to give the house to the Town but they need it moved soon in order to move into their new house in May. Ms. Emery stated that before going to a Town Meeting, we needed to know the budget, and plan for both storage and rebuilding.

First Selectman to Sign Statement of Interest for Covanta:

Mr. Chiaramonte explained that the Town's contract with Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority (CRRRA) is up and we will have to sign a new contract by June. The Litchfield Hills County of Elected Officials has a recycling committee. CRRRA would like to renew their contract with the Town. Mr. Chiaramonte thinks CRRRA is a good choice as they already have a facility in place and a transfer station in Torrington. Covanta is interested in taking over the seventy (70) towns CRRRA now serves. The Town needs to sign a statement of interest with Covanta. The Statement of Interest needs to be signed in order to find out what Covanta can offer. It does not commit the Town to anything. Attorney Rybak has reviewed the statement and recommended authorization to sign by the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Emery asked if the other towns were signing. Mr. Chiaramonte stated the other towns will be signing. Mr. Criss made a motion to authorize Mr. Chiaramonte to sign the Statement of Interest with Covanta. Ms. Emery seconded. All were in favor.

Sign Charities of Hope Revised Contract:

The Selectmen reviewed the revisions and agreed that Charities of Hope made the changes as requested. Ms. Emery made a motion to approve the revised Charities of Hope contract. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

Call for the Annual Town Meeting:

The Selectmen discussed when to hold the Annual Town Meeting and decided it will probably be held in March. Items on the call and date of meeting to be determined later.

Ms. Emery moved to add the following to the agenda: Authorize First Selectman to sign Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut, Dept. of Economic and Community Development for an EMS facility at 166 Burlington Road and refund of property taxes. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

Authorize First Selectman to sign Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut, DECD:

Mr. Chiaramonte explained that one the STEAP grants the Town has obtained goes back three (3) years and the second grant was obtained over two (2) years ago. The Department of Economic and Community Development needs to execute these agreements. The DECD has asked Mr. Chiaramonte to sign an Assistance Agreement for \$770,000 which will then secure the grant money for the Town. Ms. Emery confirmed that this is just an extension for the grants. Mr. Criss expressed concern about making plans without approval from the Town.

Mr. Chiaramonte explained that signing the agreement does not obligate the Town to do anything but it will secure the money for the Town. The money will not be spent until approval is obtained by the Board of Finance and the Town. He is waiting for an agreement with Drake Petroleum stating that Drake will clean the property before going the Finance Board and a Town Meeting. Ms. Emery made a motion to authorize the First Selectman to sign an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut, DECD, for the design, purchase and construction of an EMS facility at 166 Burlington Road pending the review and approval of town attorney, Michael Rybak. Mr. Criss seconded. All were in favor.

Refund of Property Taxes:

Mr. Criss approved the refund of \$271.31 to DCFS Trust. Ms. Emery seconded. All were in favor.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Criss asked about the meeting with Mike Orefice. Mr. Chiaramonte said Mr. Orefice never responded to his request to meet and the Land Use Boards are due for their quarterly meeting.

First Selectman's Report:

Mr. Chiaramonte reported that the lawsuit regarding buildable areas was appealed by the claimant and the appeal was lost. The Town's attorney will file the papers and the case will be closed.

Mr. Chiaramonte asked that the issue of speed on South Road be added to the agenda for February 16th.

Mr. Criss said he received data regarding Scoville Hill Road which showed the average speed to be 40 mph. The speed limit is 25 mph.

Ms. Emery asked if the Town's Computer Technology Committee has obtained the information requested regarding the cost of backing up the Town's emails. Mr. Chiaramonte reported that they have not.

Mr. Criss moved to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. Ms. Emery seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes submitted by:

Melissa Santoro

Approved by:

Francis J. Chiaramonte, First Selectman

Christina Emery, Selectman

Michael Criss, Selectman