

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
November 20, 2012

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, November 20, 2012 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss and Selectman Jon Truskauskas. Selectman Frank Chiaramonte joined the meeting in progress.

Attendees: Sal Bonola, Candace Jones-Pacholski, Attorney Michael Rybak, Beth Hamel, Stasia Motuzik, Leslie Flowers and members of the Library Board.

Call to Order

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

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 16, 2012. Mr. Criss seconded.

Public Participation

None

Appointments and Resignations

The Commission on Aging recommends the appointment of Joan Cominotti. She replaces Bob Eithier. Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the appointment of Joan Cominotti to the Commission on Aging. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor. Ms. Cominotti's term will be November 19, 2012 through November 16, 2015.

New Business

Discuss Library Expansion

Members of the Library Board spoke of their interest in expanding the library. Focus groups have discovered the library is not meeting all the needs of the community. Space is limited for programs and study. They noted the Town Hall complex is becoming more of a town center; events are expanding to the library. They would like the library to have more of a community feel to it and would like to keep up with current trends such as study rooms, home business space, scheduled tutoring, etc. They have attended programs for funding and have selected an architect. They will pay for preliminaries and a presentation to the town. They are looking for support from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Criss stated he is a big advocate of the library and would like to meet with the Library Board after the holidays.

Vote on Union Contract

The final copy of the union contract had a couple of minor changes which the Selectmen discussed. Mr. Truskauskas moved to accept the agreement between the Town of Harwinton Town Hall and Library employees and Local 1303-355 of Council #4, AFL-CIO. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

November 20, 2012

Page 2

Tax Department Update

Tax Collector, Beth Hamel stated she is still having issues with her server. Mr. Criss has spoken with PC Wiz to correct the problem. Ms. Hamel announced Point and Pay is up and running. To date, she has collected 54% of the 2011 grand list. \$201,817.59 has been collected through the use of alias tax warrants. Ms. Hamel expects to hold a tax auction in the spring of 2013. Mr. Criss spoke of selling some town owned property possibly through sealed bids. He will speak to John Fredsall about drainage easements for those properties. Mr. Criss thanked Ms. Hamel for the phenomenal job she and her assistant are doing.

Blight Update

Mr. Criss reported that a draft of a blight ordinance was sent to Attorney Rybak for his review. The town is receiving more and more calls about potential blight and he feels the Selectmen should look into having an ordinance.

Request for Refund of Property Taxes

Mr. Truskauskas moved to accept the following tax refunds. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor. Honda Lease Trust, \$102.14. Financial Services Vehicle Trust, \$586.07. Debra or Christopher Ravlin, \$30.64. Mark Augelli, \$68.39. Leonard or Christine Day, \$10.36. Bender Builders, \$34.69. Rebecca Ransom, \$40.35. DJ Tree Experts, \$8.41. Holly Durstin, \$27.55. Joseph Laganga, \$8.49.

First Selectman's Report

Mr. Criss reminded everyone that the Hometown Holiday Celebration will be held Saturday, December 1st from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Truskauskas reported that Lee Hall volunteered to provide the sound system for the event; Bell Electric donated a bucket truck to help decorate. Mr. Criss appreciates all the help for the event.

Candace Jones-Pacholski offered an update on the Harwinton House. Town Historian, Roger Plaskett received a call from Litchfield Preservation Trust asking him to write a prospectus. The Trust is willing to donate \$12,000 if the committee can match it with grant funds. To obtain grant money from HIPTAC, the committee needs to submit a pre-application. If accepted, the committee will be invited to submit a grant application in February, 2013. If money is received, the committee plans to use it for a feasibility study, design, and an A2 survey.

Mr. Criss gave an update on improvements at Town Hall/Library. The cost of the sidewalks is \$27,000. The small section of the library's roof will be done this week. An RFP was put out for overlays of the Town Hall and Library parking lots, possibly for next year. These projects may be factored into next year's budget.

Thomaston Savings Bank donated \$1,500 to the War Memorial Fund.

November 20, 2012
Page 3

Mr. Criss informed the Selectmen that it's time to schedule a Board of Selectmen/Land Use meeting. He would like to schedule the meeting for December 4, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. with the Board of Selectmen meeting to follow at 7:00 p.m.

Correspondence

The Selectmen reviewed the Animal Control Officer's report for September. Mr. Criss informed the Selectmen that ACO, Diane Dodge, was bitten on the leg by a pit bull at the pound. She received treatment and is recovering.

A letter of thanks was received from John Monroe with the National Park Service for our participation in "Explore the Naugatuck" with a special thanks to Joan Kirchner for setting up the press event. Mr. Criss also thanked Ms. Kirchner for her work on the Naugatuck River Greenway Project.

Adjournment

Mr. Truskauskas moved to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes submitted by: Melissa Santoro
Melissa Santoro

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON CT
ON 11-27-2012 AT 3:05 PM
ATTEST NANCY E. ELDRIDGE TOWN CLERK