

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING

April 2, 2013

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2013 in the Selectmen's Conference Room.

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, Selectman Jon Truskauskas, and Selectman Frank Chiaramonte.

Attendees: Town Attorney, Michael Rybak.

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the minutes from the meeting held on March 19, 2013. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

### **Public Participation**

None

### **Appointments and Resignations**

None

### **New Business**

#### Request for Refund of Property Tax

Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the following tax refunds- Richard and Denise Crosby, \$107.64. Josef Chowaniec, \$274.38. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

#### Approve Right to Farm Ordinance

The final draft of the Right to Farm Ordinance now just refers to the state statute rather than writing the entire statute. If the statute changes, since the ordinance refers to the statute, the ordinance will not have to be changed. Mr. Chiaramonte moved to approve the Right to Farm Ordinance. Mr. Truskauskas seconded. All were in favor.

#### Set Call and Date for Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Truskauskas moved to approve the call and set date of Tuesday, April 23, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. for the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

#### Possible Land Acquisition- Executive Session

Mr. Truskauskas made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:22 p.m. for the purpose of discussing possible land acquisition. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. Attorney Rybak was invited into Executive Session. Mr. Truskauskas moved to exit Executive Session at 7:28 p.m. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. No action taken.

### **First Selectman's Report**

Mr. Criss gave a budget update. The Board of Finance has called in West Side Volunteer Fire Department to discuss their budget this Thursday as well as the Capital Equipment Committee. The Finance Board is questioning the need for a new town vehicle. Mr. Criss stated he learned that if employees use their own car to do town

business, the employee is not covered under their insurance and that is a risk most employees are not willing to take.

The Board of Finance is unwilling to increase hours for the administrative assistant and the bookkeeper who will be losing assistance from the assistant bookkeeper. The assistant bookkeeper will be taking on treasurer duties in July and will no longer be able to assist the bookkeeper and administrative assistant. Both Mr. Criss and Mr. Chiaramonte acknowledged that the current staff performs more work and has more responsibilities than the old staff. Against the wishes of the First Selectman, the Finance Board wants to reinstate stipends for selectmen and raise the pay of the First Selectman. Mr. Criss stated it is not the right economy for pay increases. The Finance Board did approve the volunteer benefits for this year.

There will be a pasta dinner at the Harwinton Rod and Gun Club on May 11, 2013 to benefit the Ross family who lost their home in a fire in March. The Rod and Gun Club was nice to offer use of their facility and will pay for the food.

Brett Stone donated over \$500 of materials to the Senior Center and also volunteered to paint the Center using money supplied by a Thomaston Savings Bank grant.

The Food Pantry opened today and there were about 20 visitors. The volunteers have been busy stocking shelves. Everything went well for opening day.

Youth Service Day is April 11<sup>th</sup>. The Town will hold a ceremony on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. at the Gazebo at Town Hall. There will be 20 children receiving awards.

The Town has three sponsors for Movie Night at Town Hall this summer. The Town is looking for one more sponsor. To help keep costs down, the Town has purchased a municipal license to show movies.

Super Saturday will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall. Many organizations such as The Harwinton Women's Club, HYSA, the Library, etc. will participate. Some of the events planned are a plant and bake sale, kids tag sale, shred-it truck, etc.

STEAP grant applications will be due soon. Mr. Criss is thinking of a generator for both the Firehouse and the Ambulance Facility. Mr. Criss asked the Selectmen if they have any ideas on projects.

### **Correspondence**

The Selectmen reviewed the Fire Marshal's report for March, 2013.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Truskauskas moved to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. Mr. Chiaramonte seconded. All were in favor.

Minutes submitted by: Melissa Santoro  
Melissa Santoro