

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING**  
**Tuesday February 6, 2018 7:00pm**

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 in the selectmen's conference room.

Members present: First Selectman Michael Criss, Selectman Rick Fowler, Selectman Evan Brunetti.

Attendees: Peter Thierry – Board of Finance, Josie-Albertson Grove – Republican American

**Call to Order**

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

**Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Mr. Brunetti made a motion to approve the previous minutes. Mr. Fowler seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Appointments and Resignations**

Mr. Criss received a letter from the Economic Development Commission stating that they have a vacancy. They recommended appointing Chip Booth to the seat. Mr. Fowler made a motion to accept their recommendation. Mr. Brunetti seconded. All in favor. Motion carries. The Agricultural Committee are all up to be appointed: Gene Heavens, Steve Camp, Mark Gauger, Corey Iacino, Gretchen Mathes, Mike Orefice and Pat Sederquist with an alternate Brooke Cheney. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to accept the appointments. Mr. Fowler seconded. All in favor. Motion carries. The Northwest Connecticut Transit District is looking for someone from our community to be appointed on their Board of Directors. They want to know if we have anyone that would be interested. Both selectmen will look within their parties to see if there is anyone interested.

**New Business**

**Request for Tax Refunds** – Mr. Brunetti made a motion to accept the request for tax refunds. Mr. Fowler seconded. All were in favor. Motion carries.

**Discuss Budget Workshops** – Mr. Criss updated the Selectmen that he is just about done putting the budget together and would like to start reviewing it at the next BOS meeting. All departments have their budgets in. Mr. Brunetti seconded. Mr. Criss suggested starting the Budget Workshops at 6:15, before the February 20<sup>th</sup> scheduled BOS meeting. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to approve starting the Budget Workshops at 6:15 before the next BOS meeting. Mr. Fowler seconded. All in favor. Motion Carries.

**Wilcox Sale** – Mr. Criss asked if the Selectmen wanted to do a sealed bid or have a real estate agent for the sale of the property. Sealed bid seemed favorable as we wouldn't have to pay commissions and real estate fees, then that money can be used to offset

the purchase of the Thierry Property. Mr. Brunetti made a motion to set the perimeters for the sealed bid with the town attorney. Mr. Fowler seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

**Policing Services** – The nighttime trooper got a promotion and will be going to Troop B. Mr. Criss explained that with the growing costs of the Resident State Troopers, one of the things discussed last year was possibly sharing troopers or instituting constables. Mr. Brunetti suggested going straight to public hearing. Mr. Criss feels that we have enough data to make a rational decision to go to public hearing. Mr. Fowler thought that a trooper and a constable make sense. Mr. Thierry mentioned that liability could be an issue; if a constable does something wrong the town is liable as he/she would be a town employee, right now the Resident State Trooper is employed by the state so there is no town liability. Maintenance, cost of vehicles, other costs change as the perimeters change. Mr. Criss explained that if we were to put in regular police we would have to put in a station, a chief, a cell and all those things. One trooper has to be on the books if we institute a constable program. Burlington had very little interest in sharing a trooper when discussed previously. Mr. Brunetti made a motion for Mr. Criss to provide informative packets to present the pros/cons to the BOS about the RST program.

**First Selectman's Report** – Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup> is the opening day at the Capitol. Mr. Criss explained the preliminary runs so far are about \$226,000. Mr. Criss had a concern with the \$113,000 that the DOT paid only half of our tar money. He also asked at the last northwest corner legislative meeting how can town aid money be held back when it is already bonded; does it violate the bonding agreement for that money? The answer he received is that they will have to look into it. He also asked for clarification about the MBR, which is the minimum budget requirement that the schools follow. The new legislation says that the towns can reduce their school budgets dollar for dollar for the amount of ECS (education cost sharing) money that is cut; the problem is that the regulation says that towns can, but in a regional school district we don't have the authority to reduce the spending, it's up to the BOE. Mr. Criss called the Office of Policy Management and they said it's the first time they have been asked this question so they will look into it and give us an answer. This question came up at a pre-budget meeting with Burlington and the Superintendent. There is anticipation for a very tough budget year especially with the interpretation by the State of who is a wealthy town and who is not a wealthy town. The Governor made his plea that wealthy towns would end up seeing a reduction but it depends how they are defining wealthy towns. Basically right now they are defining wealthy towns based on fund balances; if you have a healthy fund balance you are a town considered wealthy. The alliance districts are eliminated from those kinds of cuts as they are at a distressed level. Mr. Criss will update the selectmen regularly on the status of the state budget and how it will impact us.

**Correspondence** – There is correspondence from Inlands Wetlands, they provided their meeting schedule. Also, Connwood Foresters, Inc. went to the Inland Wetlands and asked permission to cut across the town's property to get to land owned by the Bristol Water Department off of Burlington Road to conduct a timber harvesting operation. Access to this property will be via land owned by the Town of Harwinton's Cook's Dam. John Fredsall, The Highway Supervisor, confirmed that he reviewed the plans and recommended that the Inland Wetlands Commission set a bond in the amount of \$5,000 to be held by the town ensure that the town-owned property used for access is restored and no damage has been done. Mr. Criss had some concerns about this; who is going

to secure it, who is going to make sure it is closed, potential issues with the CL&P right of ways. The City of Bristol is giving them tentative approval and putting together a plan. Mr. Brunetti suggested that if we want the town to remain the way that it is maybe we can somehow facilitate with the implementation of the plan. Mr. Fowler made a motion for Mr. Criss to write a letter on behalf of the Board of Selectmen to the Inland Wetlands requesting more information about this plan.

Received Fire Marshall's report.

**Executive Session** – Mr. Brunetti made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:29pm. Mr. Fowler seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.  
Mr. Fowler made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:43pm. Mr. Brunetti seconded. All in favor. No action was taken.

**Adjournment** – Mr. Brunetti made a motion to adjourn at 8:04pm. Mr. Fowler seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

Minutes submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Jen Minery

RECEIVED FOR RECORD AT HARWINTON CT  
ON 02/13/18 AT 11:18 AM  
ATTEST NANCY E. ELDRIDGE TOWN CLERK